



PRESS RELEASE

African Diamond Producers Association Concludes 11th Ordinary Meeting of the ADPA Council of Ministers Held in Sierra Leone

Freetown, Sierra Leone — 21 May 2026 — The African Diamond Producers Association (ADPA) has concluded its 11th Ordinary Meeting of the Council of Ministers in Freetown, under the chairmanship of Hon. Julius Daniel Mattai, Minister of Mines and Mineral Resources of the Republic of Sierra Leone.

The high-level meeting brought together delegations from African diamond-producing nations, along with observer member states representatives, to adopt strategic policies to strengthen governance, enhance cooperation, and protect the future of the natural diamond industry.

Among the key outcomes, the Council approved the updated Communication and Marketing Strategy and adopted a common position to protect the integrity of the natural diamond industry amid growing competition from synthetic alternatives. The position of governments representing around 70% of global rough diamond production calls for the exclusive use of the internationally recognised “4Cs” grading system and weight measurement in carats only for natural diamonds, while synthetic stones should be measured in grams/kilograms and explicitly identified as “synthetic” as the sole worldwide descriptor in international trade and marketing.

On capacity building, the Council endorsed an operating framework allowing collaboration with institutions in ADPA member states and observer countries specialising in technical diamond skills to advance the institutional capacity of its member states. This reflects ADPA’s continued efforts to strengthen technical expertise, promote knowledge sharing, and facilitate capacity development and technical assistance across its membership, in line with the association’s broader objective of building a more resilient and competitive diamond sector in Africa.

ADPA also announced that it will celebrate its 20th Anniversary on 3–4 November 2026 in Luanda, Angola. The 13th Extraordinary Meeting of the Council of Ministers will be held alongside the ADPA@20 commemorations, providing a platform to showcase the association’s achievements over the past two decades and highlight progress across the diamond sector to protect the value of natural diamonds. The resolutions adopted in Freetown are expected to inform these milestone events and reinforce ADPA’s commitment to closer cooperation, institutional renewal, and sustainable sector development.

About ADPA

The African Diamond Producers Association (ADPA) is an intergovernmental organization dedicated to promoting sustainable diamond mining, trade, and development across Africa. Comprising of 22 member countries, fifteen (15) Effective Members and seven (7) Observers, including key diamond-producing nations, ADPA advocates for collaboration and cooperation among its members, and works to promote beneficiation and value addition, transparency, and fair market access for African diamonds.

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Together Empowering the Brilliance of the African Diamond; One Vision, One Voice

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