

Kimberley Process Civil Society Coalition Statement
Kinshasa Intersessional Meeting
23 June 2011

The civil society coalition is deeply concerned about the direction that the Kimberley Process Rough Diamond certification scheme has taken in recent years.

The scheme is not meeting its most basic commitments:

- it is unable to hold to account participants that break the rules
- it does not prevent diamonds from fuelling violence and human rights violations
- it does not provide guarantees to consumers that they are buying 'clean' diamonds
- respect and support for the tripartite structure of the KP is being eroded

We are appalled by the lack of respect shown to KP members by the Zimbabwean Minister and shocked by the KP membership's silence in response - not just yesterday but for the past three meetings.

The agreement between the Kimberley Process and Zimbabwe being discussed this week falls far short of what is acceptable to maintain the credibility of the Kimberley Process, protect civilians and civil society members living and working in Marange or prevent substantive quantities of illicit diamonds from infecting the global diamond supply chain.

We have not come to this meeting to endorse a weak agreement or a scheme that does not deliver on what it was designed to achieve.

We represent communities that have suffered from diamond fuelled violence, and communities that hope to benefit from diamond wealth. Do you expect us to go back to them, look them in the eye and tell them that the Kimberley Process is working to protect their interests?

In short, today, the Kimberley Process is presenting itself to the world as something it is not.

We are here to work constructively on effective solutions to the problem of conflict diamonds. We will continue to work to prevent conflict diamonds from entering international markets, and remain willing to work with all partners on credible solutions to the problems we face.

We will continue to be a voice for communities in diamond producing countries and consumers, who look to the KP for protection and assurances that diamonds will not cause human suffering.

But today, we note with bitter regret that there is a significant gap between our expectations of the scheme, and what it is actually achieving.

For that reason we are expressing a vote of no confidence in the Kimberley Process.