



No remedy for a broken Kimberley Process: Talks in Dubai end again without reform

2025 Kimberley Process Plenary Meeting

Civil Society Coalition Closing Remarks

21 November 2025

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Ladies and gentlemen,

We have come to the end of the 2025 KP plenary and the current KP review and reform cycle. While not unexpected, it is obviously a massive disappointment for civil society that, once again, the KP has **failed to expand the conflict diamond definition**. We know we sound like a broken record, and we really wish it were otherwise.

To **start with the positive**: after more than eight years of pushing, we were relieved to see that our language on “systematic or widespread violence” finally seemed close to consensus within the KP. We sincerely thank the subgroup chair, Kele Mafole of WDC, for her diligent facilitation and patient moderation in helping us get that far.

But this was **not enough to break the broader deadlock**. As some have tried from the outset to frame this discussion so they could blame others for the outcome, we feel it is our duty, as watchdog of this process, to set the record straight. There was not one single group blocking progress. Vetoes came from all sides, leading to a fundamental impasse.

Civil society continues to urge transparency and honesty. This week often felt like the world turned upside down. Suddenly, **everyone claimed to speak for and defend communities** – including, and especially, those who consistently resisted any form of state accountability for conflict and violence. A large number of participants effectively argued for special treatment: violence is only a problem if it is *not* caused by state actors – not when it comes from governments waging war, or from the police or the army using excessive force against communities. Try explaining that to communities who bear the brunt. It is beyond cynical to use their suffering to defend positions driven by self-interest.

While debates about the definition are important, they are far from enough to repair a broken KP. That **requires a serious rethink of how the KP is implemented and how decisions are taken**.

Firstly, how does the KP determine when diamonds are conflict diamonds? In the current system and context, any such decision would simply be vetoed.

Secondly, what happens if the KP does identify conflict diamonds? The case of the Central African Republic showed that embargoes, without strong accompanying measures, are counterproductive. They fuel smuggling and violence instead of stopping them.

And finally, how does the KP deal with the many other challenges it already recognized in the 2021 Declaration on Responsible Diamond Sourcing? So far, this recognition has not led to any change in how the KP works.

The result is **a KP that remains detached from reality** at a time when challenges are overwhelming and the KP refuses to take responsibility. Its scope remains a needle in a haystack. Communities affected by diamond mining are left wondering how this scheme can possibly be relevant to the many problems they face.

KP participants and observers,

The Civil Society Coalition wants to stress again the importance of review visits. They are not simply a formality. They are the only way to check if countries are really meeting their commitments under the KP. Together with annual reports and data analysis, they should help protect the integrity of the diamond supply chain.

But we see serious problems. Some countries have not requested a review visit, or have gone 10 to 15 years without any review visit at all. Others do not submit annual reports, leaving us without even basic statistical data.

Another major problem is the narrow scope of these reviews. Many key concerns of communities and consumers are simply ignored; corruption, environmental damage, and insecurity that fuels the illegal diamond trade.

Today, too many review visits have become “tick-box” exercises. We need them to be honest, serious assessments of the real challenges, if we truly want a conflict-free and responsible diamond supply chain.

KP participants and observers,

The Civil Society Coalition thanks WGAAP and its Chair, Maurice Miema of the DRC, for making the implementation of Frame 7 on Principles for Responsible Diamond Sourcing a priority, and for developing a guide to support its implementation, monitoring, and reporting.

At the same time, we are worried by efforts from some participants to limit civil society’s input, reduce our role in oversight or overall prevent the KP from moving forward on this. Let us be clear: civil society monitors the diamond sector and provides independent information, especially on human rights and environmental impacts. We will continue, inside and outside the KP, to represent affected communities, bring field realities to this process, monitor implementation, and push for better governance, greater transparency, and respect for human rights in the diamond industry.

To conclude, I want to inform the KP Plenary that I have come to the end of my mandate as the Coordinator of the Civil Society Coalition. With a lot of confidence, I am delighted to announce today that the Coalition will be transitioning to a new leadership. I am thrilled to introduce you to our newest Coordinator, Abu Brima.

With his strong background on KP issues, I am confident that Abu will continue to bring his wealth of experience and fresh ideas to the Civil Society Coalition and to the KP.

I want to thank my colleagues in the Civil Society Coalition, the KP Chair and his team, and all KP participants and observers for the collaboration we had during my tenure as CSC Coordinator.

With those remarks, I thank you all for your attention.

Jaff Bamenjo
KP CSC Coordinator