



FACT SHEET THE KIMBERLEY PROCESS

The **Kimberley Process (KP)** is a joint initiative by governments, industry and civil society to eliminate conflict diamonds from the world trade. Established in 2000 and endorsed by both the United Nations General Assembly and the United Nations Security Council, the tripartite coalition aims to protect individuals and communities living in conflict-affected areas, thereby facilitating the conditions necessary for social and economic development.

The KP's Core Document defines **conflict diamonds** as rough diamonds used by rebel movements to finance wars against legitimate governments.

The KP's key mechanism for eliminating the flow of conflict diamonds is the **Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS)**. Within its framework rough diamonds can only be traded between parties in KP Participant countries. International shipments of rough diamonds must be accompanied by a KP certificate, issued by an authorized KP Authority in the country or region (in the case of the European Union) from which they are being exported, ensuring that they are conflict-free.

While the KPCS exclusively covers the trade in rough diamonds, and is enforced at official points of exit and entry in any KP Participant country, it is supported and complemented by the **World Diamond Council's System of Warranties**, which is applied at all stages of distribution chain, including rough diamonds, polished diamonds and jewelry set with diamonds, and which also is applied each time a transaction takes place and diamonds change hands.

If any rough diamonds are found by customs officials throughout the world to be without proper KP documentation, they are seized and all KP Participants are alerted.

HISTORY

The KP was established in May 2000 when representatives of diamond-producing states, industry and civil society met in Kimberley, South Africa, to discuss ways to end the trade in diamonds that were financing civil conflicts in Africa. The goal of the meeting was to collectively consider methods of ensuring that sales of rough diamonds could not fund violent activities by rebel movements and their allies seeking to undermine legitimate governments.

In December 2000, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a landmark resolution supporting the creation of an international certification scheme for rough diamonds, and by November 2002 successful negotiations within the KP resulted in the creation of the KPCS.

The KPCS came into force on January 1, 2003, when Participant countries began to implement its rules. Before then, each Participant country or region had been required to approve the necessary legislation and regulations that allowed for the implementation of the system in their territories.

Before the launch of the KPCS, the incidence of conflict diamonds in the distribution chain was estimated to be in excess of 4 percent. Within just five years of its rollout, the number of conflict diamonds in the legitimate trade has fallen to less than two-tenths of 1 percent.

In January 2021, the only country still subject to KP sanctions is the Central African Republic. These date back to 2013, when the KP embargoed exports of rough diamonds from the nation after rebels seized control. In July 2015, the organization agreed that the CAR could resume exports, as long they originated from monitored “green zones” that are compliant with KP rules.

STRUCTURE

As of January 2022, there are 59 Government Participants in the KP, representing 85 countries, with the European Union and its member states counting as a single Participant, represented by the European Commission.

Only Government Participants hold decision-making rights within the KP, where resolutions need to be passed by absolute consensus. Industry and civil society are non-voting Observers, but they participate in all KP’s working groups and committees. The **World Diamond Council (WDC)** is the diamond industry’s representative in the KP.

To be confirmed as a KP Participant state, a country must meet “minimum requirements,” which include passing national legislation to formalize the KPCS within its territory, and creating institutions that regulate rough diamond exports and imports, and implement internal controls. Participant states also commit to transparency and the exchange of relevant statistical data.

Participants that are judged not be meeting minimum requirements are placed under KP sanctions, and the rough diamond trade with those countries may be fully or partially suspended until the sanctions are lifted. Extended failure to comply with minimum requirements can lead to a country being expelled from the KP, although if it meets the requirements again re-admittance is possible.

The KP is governed by the Chair, who is an official appointed by the government of a designated Participant country. Heading and directing the management of the KP administration, the Chair serves for a full calendar year, starting on January 1, and oversees the worldwide implementation of the KPCS, as well as the operations of the KP working groups and committees.

At the beginning of the following calendar year, the position of Chair is assumed by the outgoing KP Vice Chair, who is a representative of a government earlier selected and ratified by the KP Participants.

On January 1, 2021, the Chair of the KP was a representative of the Government of the Russian Federation and the Vice Chair was a representative of the Government of Botswana.

Each year, the KP Chair hosts an Intersessional Meeting and a Plenary Meeting, although in 2020, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the transition from one KP Chair to the next was suspended for a year, and neither the Intersessional nor Plenary meeting were held.

An Administrative Support Mechanism (AMS) provides ongoing logistic and managerial assistance to the KP Chair and officers, which is operated and financed by the WDC. The KP is currently planning to replace the AMS with a Permanent Secretariat.

Much of the ongoing work of the KP takes place within its working groups and committees. These include:

- **Working Group of Diamond Experts (WGDE)**, which is chaired by the WDC and charged with providing solutions to technical challenges and problems in the implementation of the KPCS
- **Working Group on Monitoring (WGM)**, which deals with issues relating to the implementation of the KPCS and is responsible for the peer-review mechanism
- **Working Group on Statistics (WGS)**, which ensures timely reporting and analysis of statistical data on the production and trade of rough diamonds from all KP-member countries, with the aim of being able to identify anomalies and ensure the effective implementation of the KPCS
- **Working Group on Artisanal and Alluvial Production (WGAAP)**, which is charged with developing effective internal controls on the production and trade of alluvial diamonds, enabling artisanal and small-scale diamond miners obtain legal access into the chain of distribution.
- **Committee on Participation and Chairmanship (CPC)**, which assists the Chair of the Kimberley Process in handling the admission of new participants, and consults in cases of non-compliance by other participants
- **Central African Republic Monitoring Team**, which oversees oversee the legal exports of diamonds from KP-compliant green areas in the CAR.

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