

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Remarks from IMPACT (formerly Partnership Africa Canada)
Kimberley Process Plenary
December 14, 2017
Brisbane, Australia

Honourable Kimberley Process Chair Robert Owen-Jones,
Kimberley Process colleagues,

We have seen a number of reform cycles come and go.

As a Kimberley Process civil society member, our calls for change were always welcomed, debated—and then time and again, real, effective, and meaningful change has evaded the Kimberley Process.

This year was no different, despite our calls that the time to act was now. After careful evaluation over the past year and this past week, we have come to the decision that we cannot wait any longer to act.

We at IMPACT are announcing our organization's withdrawal from the Kimberley Process.

We have come to the conclusion that the Kimberley Process has lost its will to be an effective mechanism for responsible diamond governance.

The Kimberley Process—and its Certificate—has lost its legitimacy.

The internal controls that governments conform to, do not provide the evidence of traceability and due diligence needed to ensure a clean, conflict-free, and legal diamond supply chain. Consumers have been given a false confidence about where their diamonds come from. This stops now.

We are dismayed by a growing tolerance for personalized attacks against civil society members of the KP and attempts to undermine the independence and credibility of the Coalition. These attacks have caused irreparable damage to the foundation of what was once celebrated as a strong collaboration between governments, industry, and civil society.

IMPACT will continue working with the Kimberley Process members who genuinely seek to end the trade of conflict and illicit diamonds, through traceability and due diligence, whether through the KP or other initiatives. The organization will collaborate with civil society members in diamond producing countries. In particular, IMPACT will work in

continued solidarity with KP Civil Society Coalition members on the effective implementation of internal controls for diamonds and other conflict-prone minerals, as well as support countries to implement measures to end illicit trade.

Our decision to leave the KP was not made lightly. But consumers are being sold something that is not real and respect for independent civil society has been eroded.

Dear colleagues in government, in industry. Money laundering, synthetics, human rights violations, illicit trade, formalization of artisanal miners—you risk being overtaken by these emerging issues if you keep clinging on to the idea of the KP from 2003. That KP is obsolete. Your failure to reform has made it so.

The world has shifted and consumers want confidence in their supply chain. We will continue to work towards bringing them evidence of full traceability and due diligence for diamonds.

Thank you.