



## KP CSC Closing speech

**Mumbai, India: 21 June 2019**

KP Chair,  
President WDC  
Working Group Chairs  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Dear Participants and Observers,

Firstly, let me thank India for chairing the 2019 intersessional meeting and for the hospitality.

On substantive matters I will start with the issue of expanding the scope.

### **Scope**

The CSC would like to commend the keen efforts of the EU Chair to push debate on the expansion of the KP's scope forward in the sub-team on that issue. We are thankful to those participants and observers that have sincerely expressed their ideas, concerns and expectations for expanding the scope. We also direct full attention to the 15 July deadline by which ADPA is to have provided its important contribution into this discussion. The KP CSC hopes for the sake of the continued health of the diamond sector that ADPA participants recognize what a serious threat violence in the sector will pose to the future diamond revenues as synthetics increasingly assert their ethical credentials. ADPA participants have everything to gain from an expansion of definition, including;

- The ability to protect their diamond revenues from the threat of synthetics on the basis of their development potential
- Better standing internally and internationally as they assert the rights of their citizens to freedom from violence in the diamond sector
- The ability to maximize the value of their stones by vouching for their ethical credentials in a credible manner.

We regret that several other participants in discussions on scope continue to hide behind obscure arguments and excuses to prevent this important topic from being addressed. As a consequence, after hours of discussions, it remains entirely unclear how the KP is to advance stemming the ongoing flow of blood diamonds onto the fingers, ears and necklines of unsuspecting women worldwide.

This will be a sobering message to bring to our communities, our civil society partners and ultimately to consumers. It remains cynical that the KP claims to stop the flow of conflict diamonds but does not want to take any responsibility in defining and monitoring what conflict actually is.

*Ladies and gentlemen,*

Diamonds are a narrative of love, beauty and worth. You as the so called “KP family” are all supposed to be guardians of that narrative. However, as the Diamond Producers Association’s generic marketing of diamonds goes into its third year by targeting women diamond consumers, the realities of the lives of these women could not stand in starker contrast to their counterparts in certain producer states. Whereas the former are to value diamonds as symbols of enduring beauty, love and self-worth, the latter have too often seen them embody enduring pain, suffering and degradation.

Where diamonds are not responsibly produced they are proffered with love by one hand whilst ripping it apart with the other. Heightened vulnerability to sexual violence, exploitation or the agony of seeing a son, father, husband or brother maimed or killed in their bid to support their loved ones by the only means available, betrays love. The KP’s continuing refusal to address this betrayal deepens that wound. It amplifies it into a betrayal of communities, into a betrayal of consumers, into a betrayal of all that is good.

Ladies and gentlemen, where the diamond sector has destroyed love and faith in producer states, it is incumbent on the Kimberley Process as a whole to restore it. Reform.

#### **Other reform subjects:**

##### **Permanent Secretariat**

However, we note the substantial progress that has been made by the sub team of the Permanent Secretariat to discussing the Expression of Interest and ToR. We only hope that participants will be committed to conclude on the proposal before Plenary for the creation of a model Secretariat.

##### **Multi-Donor Fund**

2,5 years in the reform cycle, discussions on the multi-donor fund are still in their infancy. CSC will take responsibility, to work with sub-team Chair Botswana and KP Chair India in fleshing out how this fund can fill some essential gaps expressed by various Participants and Observers on technical assistance, capacity building and support. We hope on this basis to facilitate and concretise discussions in the run up to the Plenary.

##### **Peer Review**

On Peer Review, we hope participants will understand that the changes we are trying to make are meant to improve the Peer Review system. CSC research demonstrated that the current system and methods are not working. We do not understand why some participants are afraid to facilitate access by the Review Team or Review Mission to all stakeholders relevant to the implementation of the KP Including; KP Focal Point, government institutions, civil society, industry among other stakeholders. Such stakeholders may include communities, experts, artisanal miners and labour unions.

**CPC**

The CSC acknowledges the draft questionnaire prepared by CPC, for organizations/individuals applying to becoming an independent observer. We look forward to seeing the 3 steps proposed to examine the eligibility of potential observers being duly followed.

**CAR**

As we said in our opening speech, we remain concerned with the situation in CAR where conflict diamonds are coming from. We are not convinced the CAR Government is doing enough to help the KP help it. The blame game should simply end. We hope CAR will address the concerns and proposals to help raised by the CAR Monitoring Team.

With these remarks I would like to thank you all.

Shamiso Mtisi  
KP CSC Coordinator