



High Level Side Event on the Kimberley Process,
Sustaining Peace and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
Speech by Hilde Hardeman, KP Chair
New York, March 7, 2018

Honourable Minister Julie Bishop,
Honourable Minister Sadique Kebonang,
Excellences,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honoured to participate as Kimberley Process Chair in today's event. Striving for a better world, based on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and sustaining peace, are goals for us all. For the European Union, these goals are truly core business.

Sometimes in the course of history, decisive action by the international community sparks change. The Kimberley Process stands out as an example. Its creation by states, civil society and industry acting together, was a strong expression of the indignation we all felt in the face of wars fuelled by illicit diamond trade in the 1990s. For several of you here present, these wars had direct consequences, for your country, your community, your daily life, your loved ones.

Looking back, the record of the Kimberley Process is impressive. It has been a driving force for peace and prosperity, tying in closely with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Together, we demonstrated that the Kimberley Process can fulfil its role as a unique tool for conflict prevention. Together, we demonstrated that the Process can act decisively in the face of conflicts which risk to be fuelled by illicit diamond trade. We demonstrated that the Kimberley Process can provide the conditionality and oversight to allow for honest diamond trade and economic development. We demonstrated that we can gradually strengthen the KP's implementation tools: review visits, annual reports, statistical data. By helping to promote transparency and good governance, these tools help to channel diamond revenues to those who are entitled to them, first and foremost the diamond communities themselves. Finally, the Kimberley Process also helped to change our mind-set and paved the way for other, complementary, initiatives in natural resource governance.

However, we cannot be complacent. As the Kimberley Process turns 15, we must ensure that it remains fit for purpose in a changing world, with further increased transparency. This is what consumers expect. This is what diamond producer communities deserve.

How can we contribute more and better to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through the Kimberley Process? How can we help sustain peace?
For the European Union, as chair of the Kimberley Process in 2018, two points are of particular concern.

1. Firstly, Artisanal and small-scale mining. The Artisanal and small-scale mining sector represents almost 20% of the world total production. It is challenging to regulate. It presents tremendous opportunities.

The Moscow Declaration set out recommendations to improve internal controls in this sector. In the Washington Declaration we set the goal to realise the sector's development potential. This is crucial. The Working Group on Artisanal and Alluvial Production has set an ambitious work programme to take this agenda forward. Let me name just a few. Valuation training can empower diamond producing communities to obtain a fair price. National taskforces with government, industry and civil society actors can improve transparency and accountability. Capacity-building can support authorities and empower communities.

2. Let me come to the second of particular focus for the European Union. We need to strengthen the effectiveness of the Kimberley Process and reinforce regional cooperation. These two components go hand-in-hand. Especially in artisanal diamond producing countries, strengthening the effectiveness of the Kimberley Process requires us to think and act regionally. Looking at tax levels, policies, cooperation between law enforcement agencies; these are just a few examples of why regional cooperation matters. The Mano River countries, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone and Guinea, have made significant progress in implementing a Kimberley Process Regional Action Plan. I am proud to say that the EU supports these efforts, together with many others, including DRC and South Africa. I am confident that plans for further regional cooperation in the Central African region will be equally productive. The European Union will support. Let us join forces.

Honourable Ministers, Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Strengthening the effectiveness of the Kimberley Process for conflict prevention and promoting in-country due diligence are key aspects of the Kimberley Process reform process that was launched under Australia's helm. You can count on the European Union to help forge consensus around an ambitious agenda.

Tomorrow I will meet the Chairs of the Kimberley Process Working Bodies to discuss our common workplan for this year. As we gather for the Intersessional meeting in Antwerp and the Plenary meeting in Brussels later this year, I am confident we can come a step closer to making diamond trade a vector for truly sustainable development, transforming lives and sustaining peace. The European Union counts on your support.

I thank you for your attention.

Hilde Hardeman
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