



**МИНИСТЕРСТВО ФИНАНСОВ
РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ
(МИНФИН РОССИИ)**

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На/To № _____

Chair of the Kimberley Process,
Minister of Mines
and Mining Development
of the Republic of Zimbabwe

H.E. Hon. Zhemu Soda (MP)

Dear KP Chair,

Fellow KP Participants and Observers,

Ahead of the forthcoming KP Plenary Meeting the Russian Federation considers it important to communicate the following “Note 10” position.

1. Over more than 20 years of its successful functioning the Kimberley Process has proved to be an effective multilateral mechanism of combating conflict diamonds in full compliance with its mandate. Its achievements are obvious and well-acknowledged – the reduction of conflict diamonds in global trade from 15% to 1% by 2022; balanced functioning of the diamond market; open tripartite dialogue between the governments, the industry and the civil societies; stable economic growth in the producing and processing countries; steady improvement of social conditions within the local communities; introduction of advanced best practices in the industry, etc.

On the whole **the Kimberley Process has proved to be a success story in its present form** and up till now this fact has been widely taken for granted.

2. Unfortunately, **the years 2022-2023 have been marked by consistent irresponsible attempts to undermine these achievements** – the context of KP's field-specific activities is being aggressively politicized, with the principles of constructive cooperation as well as the tripartite interaction being intentionally compromised. The Western countries aspire to blur KP's scope of competence, distort its relevant goals and objectives, as well as to adjust the existing rules and procedures to their own unilateral interests at the expense of the others. It directly threatens the genuine work of the KP, carried out for the good of the member states, local communities and the entire diamond industry.

Despite the refusal of KP's absolute majority to accept these onerous initiatives the Western countries are stubbornly pushing the deformation of the KP.

3. Blatantly proclaiming their own exceptionalism and civilizational supremacy **the Western countries** consider it untenable for themselves to accept the existence of a multilateral mechanism that truly operates on the principles of pluralism, consensus, equality of participants and does not serve their geopolitical interests. They have therefore **set a course for the distortion of the Kimberley Process in its present form.** It is a complex campaign entailing massive anti-Russian propaganda, intentional defamation of KP's role and achievements and the introduction of their own tailor-made regulating mechanism on the global diamond market.

Attempts to discredit the Kimberley Process have already been taken at the level of the United Nations. During consultations held in February-March 2023 on the annual UNGA draft resolution on the role of diamonds in fueling conflict, Western countries made consistent efforts to amend the document, deliberately downplaying KP's achievements and questioning its effectiveness. An artificial narrative about the need to review the foundations of the Process with an emphasis on introducing an explicit political component into it, including in interpreting the concept of conflict diamonds, was forced upon UN Member States. Loose wording was actively promoted with a direct risk of substitution and outright distortion of the essence of the KP's work.

4. Thus, the **Western countries have launched a hatred campaign against Russia within the Kimberley Process**, unscrupulously abusing the KP's principle of open dialogue. All forms of communication within the KP – be it the exchange of letters or speeches at the plenaries and working-body meetings – are packed with slanderous clichés, obsessively repeated by the Western countries in an effort to create the appearance of their significance. At that they are applying their immutable assumptive tone and cunning moral teaching. These primitive propaganda-carrousel, as well as the double-hearted rhetoric in “support of Ukraine” are no more than a cover-up for their subversive activities.

5. **In line with this destructive logic come the attempts to sabotage the agenda of the plenary meetings, as well as to block the nomination of Belarus** for KP vice-chairmanship and chairmanship in 2024-2025 correspondingly. We therefore strongly object to the attempts to distort the agenda of the forthcoming plenary (particularly those contained in the Ukrainian letter of September 7, 2023) and resolutely condemn the discrimination of Belarus – a fully complaint KP Participant and the only nominee, that submitted its candidacy in due time.

6. A clear manifestation of the course taken by the Westerners to break the existing balanced and transparent format of functioning of the global diamond industry is clearly reflected in the “sanctions” (already imposed and yet to be announced) on its Russian segment, overtly designed to restrict market competition. **The discriminative measures of the G7, if implemented, will essentially take the form of a structure parallel to the KP** and substitute the unambiguous and equal for all parameters of regulation of the diamond industry, as it was enshrined in the UNGA resolution A/RES/55/56 of January 29, 2001 (“3.a ... creation and implementation of a simple and workable international certification scheme for rough diamonds”) for their own restrictive mechanism based on biased political approach.

7. **The introduction of restrictive measures against the largest global supplier will inevitably lead to massive market distortion**, which will hit the most vulnerable most severely. For many countries and local communities the achievements reached by the virtue of the Kimberley Process will be crossed out. Unprecedentedly aggressive interference

in the global market presumes the expansion of harsh market practices with unpredictable outcomes. The Western countries are playing with a Pandora box – it comes easy to them since the prosperity and wellbeing of others is at stake. This was also clearly articulated by our fellow diamond producing nations from Africa through a joint statement issued by the members of the African Diamond Producers Association (ADPA) that calls on all KP participants to uphold the integrity of the KPCS as the only universal certification scheme.

8. The Western countries (“G7” and the EU) bear full responsibility for the grave consequences of the intended distortion of the global diamond market and the consistent disruption of the Kimberley Process, which in line with the development of alternative market practices and their economic implications may entail the rise of social unrests and insurgency in certain regions, bringing suffering to the local communities of the producing and processing countries.

This fact must be well noted and remembered.

9. The Russian Federation will meanwhile exert its best efforts to mitigate the shattering impact of the malicious actions of the West. If the malicious erosion of the Kimberley Process by the Western countries will be ignored, then the diamond community will irretrievably lose the unique multipartite regulatory mechanism it is used to and rightly values. We therefore call on the willing and committed parties to join efforts in maintaining the effective operations of the Kimberley Process in the interest of the sovereign countries and local communities concerned, as well as the whole diamond market – miners, cutters, traders and consumers, who value gems, compliant with highest industry standards.

10. Any attempts to accuse Russia of non-compliance with the requirements of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme are completely groundless. The Russian system of state control over the production, import and export of rough diamonds formed the basis of KPCS. Moreover, today the system is imbedded in the regulatory framework of the Eurasian Economic Union, which includes five member states also participating in the Kimberley Process. This system in place has shown its efficiency in not allowing “conflict diamonds” appear on the territory of the Union since the inception of the KP.

Thus, in order to once again demonstrate to the KP Participants the full compliance of the Russian Federation with the KP minimum requirements, we would like to inform you of **our readiness to host a review visit to Russia in 2024.**

To sum up – Westerners have already made a fundamental decision for themselves that they are not satisfied with the current transparent format of the Kimberley Process. In this regard, they seek either to distort the foundations of its work in favor of their geopolitical interests, or to destabilize and eventually destroy the KP in order to replace it with their own control mechanism.

Given these considerations the forthcoming Plenary will in many ways be a watershed. The Kimberley Process will either prevail as an efficient and well-balanced broad-based regulatory mechanism as we have known it – or we might see its regrettable decay in fading into obscurity or becoming yet another geopolitical instrument in the hands of the West.

We therefore would like to take this opportunity to wish the whole KP Family constructive cooperation throughout the coming Plenary for the good of the Kimberley Process.

Yours sincerely,



Alexey V. Moiseev