

Closing remarks Kimberley Process Chair  
Friday June 22



Honourable Minister Mboli Fatran  
Honourable Minister Blackie,  
Honourable Minister Oteng-Gyasi,  
Dear Mr Deputy Mayor,  
Honourable Participants and Observers,  
Distinguished guests,  
Ladies and gentlemen,  
Dear KP friends,

The days we have spent together here in the city of Antwerp, in the heart of Antwerp's diamond district, have been days of intensive work and discussion, of listening to each other, of learning and sharing experiences, of looking together for solutions. We have also shared moments of beauty and joy, we sang and danced together. That was great.

We are now concluding this 2018 intersessional meeting.

The Kimberley Process family can look back on a fruitful meeting here in Antwerp.

Let me thank you all for your efforts and engagement to make this Intersessional really worthwhile. Let me thank you also for the excellent spirit in which we have spent the week together.

To paraphrase Louis Armstrong, to say it like Boogie Boy with whom we spent such a great evening on Wednesday: "what a wonderful week"!

We did a lot of meaningful work together.

The interaction was high.

Already on Monday, the meeting on regional cooperation in Central Africa proved that working together among neighbouring countries has big potential. The experience from the Mano River Union will be most helpful in further developing cooperation among the countries in Central Africa.

Throughout the week, the Chairs of the different Kimberley Process Working Bodies worked closely together, looking at issues from different perspectives, bringing new insights and joint solutions. We agreed to focus on things that really matter.

Thank you colleagues chairs for your commitment, your hard work! And thank you all for your active contribution and involvement.

A range of working sessions, bilateral and trilateral meetings, formal and informal discussions, allowed us to tackle many issues.

We had frank and open exchanges.

I would like to focus on three strands in particular.

First, I would like to thank all concerned for the fruitful work this week on helping the Central African Republic to address the challenges it is facing. This goes to the heart of what the Kimberley Process, of what the Kimberley Family, is about. Thank you all. We must make sure that we deliver.

Second, the Reform and Review agenda has taken a central place in our work this week, and will remain central for the months ahead. Reform must help ensure that the Kimberley Process remains fit for purpose in a changing world.

Thank you Mr Joint Secretary, thank you Manoj, for bringing this agenda forward. My thanks to all involved, for the progress made. The Ad Hoc Committee and its four sub-teams will continue their efforts in the weeks ahead. The tools and inputs that the different teams developed this week will be sent out before the end of June as a basis for further work.

The reflection on further enhancing the Peer Review is well advanced. I am confident that it will be possible to deliver results on this central aspect of the reform process in the near future. A well developed and sustainable Peer Review mechanism is crucial for the credibility of the Kimberley Process.

We further need to continue our work on developing a clear and convincing approach to responsible sourcing, as part of the review of the Core Document, which will cover the issue of the scope. The position of mining communities is central in this regard.

The effectiveness of the Kimberley Process also depends on how we organize ourselves. There are many opinions on how we should shape a future Permanent Secretariat, to take up and further develop the role that is currently played by the Administrative Support Mechanism. That is why the European Union has made it possible to conduct an independent needs assessment on a dedicated secretariat and a multi donor fund. The presentation earlier this week of the results of this independent study, based on your inputs, has been helpful in focusing the discussion. We need pragmatic solutions that respond to the real needs, that work and are sustainable, also financially. I look forward to the next steps by the responsible sub-teams.

Third, we have had the occasion this week to get expert views on issues of particular importance to the diamond community. As Kimberley Process Chair, we are paying a lot of attention to alluvial and artisanal mining. With the Special Forum at this Intersessional, the Kimberley Process confirmed its commitment to support efforts on exchange of best practices and lessons learned. With the Special Forum on innovation, we touched upon another important issue. Further research should help us in improving traceability, and should contribute to giving consumers the necessary guarantees. Both aspects will remain a focus in the time ahead.

Honourable Ministers,  
Dear Mr Deputy Mayor,  
Honourable Participants and Observers,  
Dear KP friends

We now must wrap-up our work and take it forward, building on what we have achieved together this week, so that we can come with tangible results at the Plenary in Brussels in November.

We need to deliver results that make a difference on the ground. We need to continue our work base on merit, in an open spirit.

We will continue to work hand in hand, together with civil society and industry.

Sustainability, inclusiveness, responsibility and dialogue, remain our points of reference.

We have agreed to meet again with the Chairs of the Kimberley Process Working Bodies after the summer. My thanks to Dr. Siphon Manese for kindly hosting the next meeting of Working Group chairs in South Africa.

We will keep you posted on developments.

Once again I would like to thank you all for your contribution to this 15th Intersessional. My thanks to the honourable ministers, who have shown with their presence and contribution how important this process is for their countries and their communities.

My thanks to the chairs of the Kimberley Process working bodies. I look forward to working closely together with them and their teams in the time ahead.

Thank you all for your active contribution and involvement.

My thanks also to the city of Antwerp, the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the World Diamond Council, the Antwerp World Diamond Centre, the Kimberley Process Administrative Support Mechanism and Elke Ceulemans in particular, the European Commission's support Service SCIC, our excellent interpreters, and last but not least, my wonderful colleagues.

Let me now wish you all a safe trip home, we will all meet again at the Plenary in Brussels which will take place from the 12th till the 16th of November 2018.

It was a pleasure having you with us, and we look forward to welcoming you again in Brussels.

Thank you all!

Hilde Hardeman

2018 EU Kimberley Process Chair