

Kimberley Process

Diamonds of Conflict are rough diamonds from areas controlled by rebel movements, notably in Africa. Their sale has helped to finance the purchase of armaments and, consequently, to encourage conflicts.

The Security Council of the United Nations has paid great importance to trade in rough diamonds; including efforts to end the civil wars in some African countries stimulated by the illegal sale of rough diamonds also known as Blood Diamonds or War Diamonds.

Despite the actions undertaken by the UN, the rebel movements continued, sometimes with success, introducing its diamonds on the legitimate market. Reason why the international community understood that additional measures should be taken, to contain the trade in conflict diamonds.

As a result, the main producing countries and those that sell the diamonds gathered in order to put in place a global system of certification for rough diamonds, mined and traded. This process of informal negotiations started in May 2000 and it is known as the “Kimberley Process Certification Scheme – KPCS”.

The discussions were led by South Africa which has immediately brought together 30 participating countries and this number is constantly growing. Representatives of several NGOs and the diamond industry are also becoming associated with the efforts undertaken by members of the KP.

This is an action in which governments, civil society, NGOs, state and private companies are involved. Since then, this initiative has grown and evolved to currently 75 countries, including European Union member countries involved in the production, export and import, but also trade in rough diamonds.

The system envisioned by the Kimberley group recommends that no diamond trade will be implemented without an appropriate certificate of origin. Every consignment of rough diamonds, imported and exported,

must be accompanied by the legitimate certificate of Kimberley.

Countries that are not members of the Kimberley group will be excluded from trade in rough diamonds, as well as being seen as supporters of rebel civilian's movements.

In summary, the PK was created to:

- interrupt the flow of rough diamonds, used by rebels to finance armed conflict, aimed at undermining legitimate governments, thereby contributing significantly to international peace and security;
- protect the legitimate diamond industry, which many countries are dependent to implement its economic and social development.

Brazil, from the beginning, participated in most meetings of KP, however, only in November 2002 at Interlaken, Switzerland, was officially declared his adherence to the procedure as Participant, committing to fulfill all the necessary requirements to become a full member, what actually happened on 30 October 2003.

Nationally, it was agreed by consensus that all relevant activities would be coordinated by the Ministry of Mines and Energy, with the participation of the Ministry of Development, Industry and Foreign Trade, Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The plenary meetings of the KP are held annually and are being attended by delegates from all member countries, as well as observers and representatives of governmental, private and NGO's from around the world.

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