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The Kimberley Process plenary meeting in Zimbabwe has reached a bitter ending after concluding with a deadlock over the definition of 'conflict diamonds'. | Source: Kimberley Process

# Conflict diamonds: Chaos at Kimberley Process meeting

Posted November 14, 2023 | By Samuel Ord

**The Kimberley Process plenary meeting in Zimbabwe has reached a bitter ending after concluding with a deadlock over the definition of 'conflict diamonds'.**

According to reporting by [IDEX](#), after a week of debate, the closing communique took more than 12 hours longer than expected.

The disagreement concerned a proposal to broaden the definition of conflict diamonds to include 'rough diamonds used to finance wars against governments'.

Russia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan and the Central African Republic have argued that this proposal is [politically motivated](#) and beyond the remit of the Kimberley Process.

The Kimberley Process currently [defines](#) blood diamonds as 'diamonds sold to finance rebel groups'. The proposal sought to expand this definition to include 'state actors' to include diamonds mined in Russia.

The Kimberley Process Civil Society Coalition is a non-governmental organisation that acts as an observer to the KPCS. Coordinator Michel Yoboué released a [statement](#) airing his frustrations over the lack of progress.

"We have been pushing tirelessly to break the links between diamonds and conflict. We want to see action, but we can't even agree on simple words," he said.

"This plenary can't even note the simple fact that it received a letter from Ukraine on the role of diamonds in financing Russia's war against Ukraine. We can no



**"We have been pushing tirelessly to break the links between diamonds and conflict. We want**

longer observe this sad spectacle that continues to erode responsible diamond governance.

He added: "We have no confidence in these discussions and will now leave this meeting. We can only hope that a good crisis can serve as catharsis and will finally get some sense into this deadlocked process."

The Kimberley Process was established in 2003 and has 85 participants, including industry representatives and civil society organisations.

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MICHEL YOBOUÉ, KIMBERLEY PROCESS CIVIL SOCIETY COALITION



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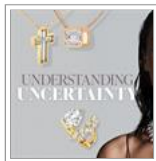
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