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The Kimberley Process is facing unrest after the Central African Republic (CAR) reportedly requested the chair issue an administrative decision allowing the organisation to suspend the membership of countries promoting “competing certification systems.”

Diamond sanctions: Tensions mounting at Kimberley Process

Posted April 28, 2025 | By Samuel Ord

The Kimberley Process is facing unrest after the Central African Republic (CAR) reportedly requested the chair issue an administrative decision allowing the organisation to suspend the membership of countries promoting “competing certification systems.”

In a report by [JCK Online](#), it's been revealed that the CAR has written to Kimberley Process chair Ahmed bin Sulayem urging the organisation to “remind these member states of the importance of fully adhering to the Kimberley Process principles and highlight the inherent risks of any competing initiative.”

The letter from CAR spokesperson Rufin Benam Beltoungou suggested that when countries support alternate certification schemes, such as that [proposed](#) by the G7 countries, it sends a ‘contradictory message’ concerning the KP’s status within the industry.

“Sources tell *JCK* that CAR’s proposal is highly unlikely to pass, as KP decisions require absolute consensus and G7 members would almost surely block it,” writes editor Rob Bates.

“But the sources note that the move shows how divided the KP is on the issue of Russian diamonds.”

The report continued: “This proposed rule would require countries that promote alternate systems to ‘submit a formal explanation’ to the chair, according to

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“If countries ‘persist in promoting or implementing G7 certification despite warnings and requests for clarification’ the

Beltoungou's letter. If countries 'persist in promoting or implementing G7 certification despite warnings and requests for clarification' the chair should consider suspending them."

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The Kimberley Process suspended the CAR's membership in 2013 amid concerns that its diamonds were funding rebel violence. In November, it was [readmitted](#) as a full participant in the organisation after an 11-year hiatus.

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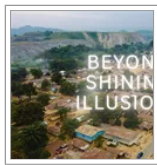
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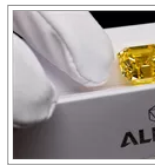
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