



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Statement on the Central African Republic

Robert Owen-Jones
Chair of the Kimberley Process, 2017
Australia

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Conflicts fuelled by illicit trade in conflict diamonds have impacted on the peace, safety and security of people in affected countries. The core objective of the Kimberley Process is the prevention of conflict diamonds from entering the diamond trade. The Kimberley Process continues to effectively address conflict diamonds.

Since 2015, the Kimberley Process Monitoring Team on the Central African Republic has been working assiduously and methodically with the Government of the Central African Republic, United Nations (including its Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic) and other stakeholders toward the careful and selective recommencement of Kimberley Process-compliant exports of legitimate rough diamonds from designated compliant zones in the country. As part of its work, the Monitoring Team is also preparing for an independent forensic audit of stockpiles of rough diamonds.

As Chair of the Kimberley Process in 2017, I welcome the continuing commitment of the Government of the Central African Republic to work collaboratively with the Monitoring Team on the selective export of rough diamonds from the compliant zones.

I appreciate the enormous contribution that the legitimate diamond industry makes to the livelihoods of the people of the Central African Republic.

I appreciate also the active participation of civil society in the Kimberley Process and am highly supportive of greater civil society engagement in the Process.