



# African Youth on Mining and Environment

## A CIVIL SOCIETY STANDPOINT ON THE KIMBERLEY PROCESS – A NEW BEGINNING

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# Aim

This presentation is set to bring out the relevance of African Civil Society in the Kimberley Process (KP) and the African Youth on Mining and Environment's position on KP as an African Civil Society Organisation.

# Introduction

The African Youth on Mining and Environment notes the relevance of the KP since it was launched in 2003 to combat trade in blood diamond and prevent diamond from being used as war budget which makes it a laudable initiative.

The challenges in pushing to achieve its objectives does not prevent KP from continuing its endeavour which has led us to this period in Perth. And these challenges have served as motivation and have also provided strength to the initiative since it was launched.

However, there are rooms to develop the KP further to achieve its objectives.

# About AYME

The African Youth on Mining and Environment started off in 2012 as a student-based youth organisation at Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone. Its founding members are of the belief that though mineral resources present enormous opportunities for sustainable development they have widely become sources and economies of violent conflict...

# Vision and Mission

To address the paradox of plenty and promotes sustainable and responsible use of natural resources and actively involving young people in mining and environmental governance.

# What we do domestically and internationally

## Large scale and small scale mining

### Large scale:

- \* Transparency and compliance with laws
  - Publish what you pay and earn
  - Tax compliance
  - Open Contracts
  - Compliance with the Community Development Agreement (CDA)
  - Effective implementation of the Environmental Impact Assessment
  - Domestication of International mining regulations

- Formulation of a national resettlement / Relocation policy

- \* - Improving social performance and strengthening conflict prevention and resolution mechanism



# Strategies

## \* Advocacy:

- Round Table Discussion
- Press conferences and releases
- Naming and shaming
- Appreciation
- Sight visit
- Radio Discussions
- Partner with other CSOs locally and Internationally

## Small scale mining (Artisanal Mining):

### \* Transparency and Compliance with Laws

- Publish what you earn
- Records of diamond sales to legal/licensed entities
- Formation of cooperatives
- Mitigating Child Mining
- sustainable Environmental consideration

# Strategies

- \* Advocacy
- \* Researches
- \* Community Conferencing/Dialoguing

# Challenges

- \* Finance and logistics
- \* Neglect
- \* Bottleneck in accessing information
- \* Inadequate personnel
- \* Capacity building

# Kimberley Process

- \* An intergovernmental diamond certification scheme that was launched in 2003
- \* To prevent the sale of blood diamonds or prevent diamonds from being used as economy of wars
- \* Negotiating platform that demands participating governments to confirm the legality of diamonds being exported
- \* Criminalises the sale of blood or conflict diamonds...

# AYME'S Position to the KP

- \* AYME appreciates the formation of the KP so that Africa could have excellent share of its diamond resources
- \* **Lack of substantive opportunities for African CSOs to demonstrate their usefulness in the KP**
- \* Youth active participation in the KP
- \* Environmental and human rights neglect
- \* Sustainable developmental focus
- \* Boycotting stance of existing CSO coalition

# Why African Civil Society in the Kimberley Process

Civil Society occupies the space between the state and the ordinary citizens as ‘advocacy unit’.

- \* KP’s work is vital to the purpose of CSO
- \* Diversity
- \* Smooth flow of information
- \* Effective and efficient monitoring
- \* Transparency and accountability
- \* Ownership of the process
- \* Boycotting stance of existing coalition

# Africa and the Diamond Trade

- \* Africa as a celebrated diamond producing continent has not been able to maximise the value and development contribution of its resources .
- \* African diamonds have been used to support instability in many African countries
- \* Every year millions of dollars are lost through illicit trade in diamonds
- \* Great environmental consequences and human rights issues
- \* Underdeveloped mining communities and countries



# Challenges

- \* The absence of **AFRICA FIRST** in the approach of the Current CSO coalition
- \* Doing business with illegal dealers/buyers who are dodging KP protocols
- \* Price disparity at buying country level
- \* **Variation in export charges across producing countries**
- \* Lack of proactive African CSO in the KP
- \* Porous borders

# Recommendations

- \* Africa civil society substantive representation in the KP
- \* Transparency and independence in KP CSOs funding
- \* Youth consideration in the KP process
- \* Price harmonisation
- \* Enhance fairer valuation of diamonds from African producers
- \* Play a part in preventing/resolving violent conflicts in diamond countries

# Cont. Recommendations

- \* KP should act on environmental governance
- \* Human rights should also be considered as part of its work
- \* Horizontal communication led by policy makers and locally based actors
- \* For these reasons there is need for a new beginning of the KP if it is to achieve its objectives.

# Conclusion

KP is an excellent initiative established to ensure sustainable peace and mineral-based development. For this reason, Africa as the source of more than half of global rough diamond supplies, should start experiencing inclusive benefits from the exploitation of its diamond resources. This is important to maintain the legitimacy of the KP itself, and substantive African CSOs participation in partnership with government and industry will help to reach this goal.



\* I thank you

\* God bless Sierra Leone

\* God bless Africa.