



## NEWS RELEASE

**Embargoed until 18 March 2016**

### **RJC ANNOUNCES COLOURED GEMSTONES EXPANSION TO ITS CERTIFICATION SCOPE**

**Basel, Switzerland** – The Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC), the global standards setting and certification organisation for the jewellery supply chain, is pleased to announce a review of its scope to include coloured gemstones. An expansion of its material scope, which currently includes diamonds, gold and platinum group metals, is the focus of a major study launched later this month.

This is the result of much discussion and collaboration with RJC's current membership, external stakeholders and the coloured gemstone sector over the past 5 years.

"We've had an enthusiastic response from our valued membership, industry and external parties about going ahead with this initiative," says Charles Chaussepied, Chairman of the Board of directors of the RJC.

RJC will undertake this at a key time in its standards development. The next revision to the code of practices will take place through the 2017 R&D phase, so adding the scope expansion will be timely.

The Standards work stream under the management of Anne-Marie Fleury, Standards and Impacts Director, has struck a multi stakeholder task force to undertake this work, effective immediately. This task force will provide regular reporting to the Standards Committee.

"It made perfect sense to announce this key initiative at the Baselworld Fair," says Andrew Bone, RJC Executive Director. "RJC enjoys a strong Supporter status with the Fair and to have the opportunity to present this announcement in the foremost transparent and ethical trading environment is important to RJC."

###

For further information please contact:

Gerhard Humphreys-de Meyer, Communications Coordinator, Responsible Jewellery Council  
Telephone +44 (0)207 321 0992, [gerhard.humphreysdemeyer@responsiblejewellery.com](mailto:gerhard.humphreysdemeyer@responsiblejewellery.com)

#### **About RJC**

The Responsible Jewellery Council is an international not-for-profit standards and certification organisation. It has more than 700 Member companies that span the jewellery supply chain from mine to retail. RJC Members commit to and are independently audited against the RJC Code of Practices – an international standard on responsible business practices for

[www.responsiblejewellery.com](http://www.responsiblejewellery.com)

The Responsible Jewellery Council is the trading name of the Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices Ltd.  
The Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices Ltd, 9 Whitehall, First Floor Front, London, SW1A 2DD, United Kingdom.  
The Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices Ltd is registered in England and Wales with company number 05449042.

diamonds, gold and platinum group metals. The Code of Practices addresses human rights, labour rights, environmental impact, mining practices, product disclosure and many more important topics in the jewellery supply chain. RJC also works with multi-stakeholder initiatives on responsible sourcing and supply chain due diligence. The RJC's Chain-of-Custody Certification for precious metals supports these initiatives and can be used as a tool to deliver broader Member and stakeholder benefit.

The RJC is a Full Member of the ISEAL Alliance – the global association for sustainability standards. For more information on RJC Members, Certification, and Standards please visit [www.responsiblejewellery.com](http://www.responsiblejewellery.com)

[www.responsiblejewellery.com](http://www.responsiblejewellery.com)

The Responsible Jewellery Council is the trading name of the Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices Ltd.  
The Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices Ltd, 9 Whitehall, First Floor Front, London, SW1A 2DD, United Kingdom.  
The Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices Ltd is registered in England and Wales with company number 05449042.