

Responsible Jewellery Council appoints Iris Van der Veken as new Executive Director

LONDON, 9 April 2019 – The Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC), the jewellery industry's foremost standard setting and certification body, has appointed Iris Van der Veken as its next Executive Director, effective today.

A sustainability pioneer, with a career spanning the business and NGO sectors, Van der Veken has wide-ranging international experience in the diamond, gold, jewellery and fashion industries. Van der Veken is the first woman to become the organisation's Executive Director and replaces Andrew Bone who was appointed in June 2015.

She worked extensively on the Alignment Assessment of industry programmes with the OECD minerals guidance and the development of awareness programmes on the UN's Women Empowerment Principles (WEPs) in the UAE. Van der Veken was also a frontrunner in building partnerships in supply chain management and GRI reporting, chaired the Global Compact Network Belgium and initiated a forum on children's rights and the role of business.

With more than 1,100 members spanning 73 countries, she will work with the board of directors and management team to ensure operational excellence throughout the RJC – benchmarking against some of the world's leading accreditation bodies.

Iris Van der Veken, Executive Director, Responsible Jewellery Council, said: "The RJC's mission has never been more relevant for today's consumers and the industry. My focus is on serving our member companies and varied stakeholders to deliver long-term growth and value creation. As the industry changes, we can ensure that manufacturers, retailers and consumers are educated about the importance of responsible sourcing in all minerals.

"Across our diverse supply chain, I know that our members can continue to have further positive impacts on the communities around their operations, and believe in the significant contribution RJC can make as a leading standards organisation and its commitment to do so."

David Bouffard, Chairman, Responsible Jewellery Council, said: "The RJC Board is delighted to appoint Iris to the role. She is a strong, dynamic and value-driven leader, and her wealth of experience and expertise will be tremendously beneficial in strengthening our strategic decision-making and ensuring the organisation continues to deliver against our ambitious objectives for the next several years.

"We thank Andrew for his leadership and the excellent work he has overseen during his four years with the organisation."

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About Responsible Jewellery Council

The Responsible Jewellery Council is an international not-for-profit standards and certification organisation. It has more than 1,100 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 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 <https://www.responsiblejewellery.com/>.