Executive Summary of the proposed RJC Chain-of-Custody Certification System

On June 24, 2011, the RJC released a third round of discussion papers on a proposed Chain-of-Custody Certification System. The papers include a draft Chain-of-Custody Standard, a draft Certification Handbook, and draft Chain-of-Custody Standard Guidance.

Following is a summary of the key elements.

Standard Development Process: A formal and transparent multi-stakeholder processes is being followed, overseen by the RJC Standards Committee, in consultation with the RJC Consultative Panel, and supported by a series of public comment periods. The RJC aims to conduct standards development in conformance with the ISEAL Code of Good Practice for Setting Social and Environmental Standards.

Certification Eligibility: To support the RJC's mission for responsible business practices, certification eligibility would be open to Members of the RJC, who could voluntarily seek certification against the CoC Standard through independent auditing by accredited auditors. Non-members would be free to use the Standard but would not be eligible for RJC CoC Certification. RJC Membership is open to all businesses that contribute to the gold, diamond and platinum metals jewellery supply chains.

Eligible CoC Materials: Includes only Diamonds, Gold and Platinum Group Metals that are one of the following:

- Mined: produced under responsible mining practices, as defined by the RJC Code of Practices or a comparable standard recognised by the RJC, and conflict-free as demonstrated by Due Diligence.
- Recycled: from Recyclable materials sourced from suppliers screened according to Know Your Customer requirements to avoid illegitimate sources.
- Grandfathered: historical stocks with records that demonstrate they were produced before a set date.
- Mix of Mined, Recycled and/or Grandfathered: to accommodate bulk-commodity chain-of-custody models.
- Laboratory-Grown diamonds: Synthetic diamonds produced by a research or manufacturing facility.

Scope of the supply chain: The CoC Certification System covers all parts of the supply chain, from mine to retail.

Contents of the CoC Standard: The Standard covers management systems, internal material control systems to ensure physical segregation of CoC Material, requirements for the declaring and transferring CoC Material, consumer claims, and sourcing from conflict-affected areas.