

## RJC Standards Committee meeting

Date: 28 January 2026

### Standards Committee Attendees:

Industry	Non-industry	Guests
Eduard Stefanescu (Co-Chair) Alexander Gul Ben Ronca Donald Bray Marie-Charlotte Melanie Mater Noora Jamsheer Philippe Telouk Raluca Angel Silvia Bezzone Valerie Michel	Sara Yood (Co-Chair) Abbi Buxton Antonino Serra Cambaceres Chris Vandome Marcin Piersiak Maggie Gabos Monica Barcellos Harris Gavin Hilson	Francesco Giunta Kim Wenzel Laure Williams Marco Quadri

### RJC Management Team:

- John Hall, Suzanne Brooks, Effie Marinos, Caroline Watson, Megan Gannon, Lyon Tetteh, Jasmeet Kaur, Richard Williams

### Apologies:

- Kesah Trowell, Laurent Massi, Alethea Inns, Wafa Jaffery

### Introductions and Welcome:

- Meeting opened by Eduard Stefanescu, Industry Co-Chair and attendance was noted for those present online.

### Standards Committee Updates:

- The RJC detailed the composition of the Standards Committee and confirmed that there are 2 industry seats (LGM Producers), and 6 non-industry seats still available within the committee. Work is ongoing to identify appropriate representatives for the non-industry seats.
- The Standards Committee were reminded of the Terms of Reference that they were provided outlining the responsibilities of industry, non-industry and guest seats.

### Interim Executive Director Update:

- The Interim Executive Director told the committee that preparations for the RJC Annual General Meeting (AGM) are commencing in March, with Vice Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary positions approaching renewal. The RJC uses an external management company called Lumi to manage nominations and voting. Committee members who are members of the RJC were reminded to monitor communications and encouraged to nominate. The Committee was reminded that the new Executive Director is starting on the 9<sup>th</sup> February.

### December in-person roundup:

#### Engagement Model and Sub-Committees

- The RJC clarified that sub-committees sit within the Standards Committee and are made up of Standards Committee members. These will work alongside the full committee to develop recommendations. If the need for a working group is identified to support a project, this would be

presented to the Executive Committee and the board for agreement first, before establishing the terms of reference and engaging external experts. The Standards Committee were reminded sub-committee and working group recommendations will be presented to the Standards Committee for review and will retain oversight of the output from both groups.

#### **Sub-Committee & Strategic Task-Force priorities:**

- The RJC reminded the Standards Committee that the underlying authority remains with the committee. Initial consolidation and scoping is to begin for the relevant workstreams of Coloured Gemstone Scope expansion, Diamond Traceability, and expansion of eligible COC mined material. The Standards Committee was asked for their preference regarding which sub-committee to work in. It was noted that following feedback, work on ESG & Regulation will be an internal project for the RJC, beginning with benchmarking and then be presented back to the Standards Committee.
- A query was raised asking if there is any overlap between members of the Standards Committee and the Strategic Task-Force (STF). The Interim Executive Director confirmed that the Co-Chairs of the STF are invited to the Standards Committee to provide updates and information when required. The Interim Executive Director is also a member of the STF working groups, and members of the RJC Standards team are also represented on specific STF working groups. These are the primary direct dialogues between the STF and the Standards Committee.

#### **Education & Knowledge:**

- Following feedback, the RJC confirmed they will provide further training for the Standards Committee on RJC including ISEAL, history of the standards, and standard development timelines. Dates will be provided to the Standards Committee in due course.

#### **2026 Key Activity Area and Workplan**

##### **Diamond Traceability Toolkit:**

- It was agreed that the toolkit is needed to support the supplementary guidance issued in December, particularly in light of the information released by the EU on the 17<sup>th</sup> December on supporting guidance expectations for diamond traceability. A question was raised regarding the EU's statement on this. The RJC confirmed the information would be considered, together with any other relevant external regulations and standards.
- The toolkit is intended to support members to follow the traceability pathway, but will be designed to avoid duplication with existing COP requirements. Applicability to the LGMS will also be reviewed.
- The Standards Committee was provided with an overview of the draft timeline and process for the Diamond Traceability sub-committee and key deliverables. This will be discussed further in the sub-committee, and an updated timeline will be circulated.

##### **Coloured Gemstones Scope Expansion:**

- The Standards Committee was reminded that this work is not starting from scratch, but begins by consolidating and contextualising existing RJC work, lessons learned, and identified risks related to coloured gemstones. This will be Phase 1, and a position paper will be developed, supported by a dedicated sub-committee. Phase 2 will focus on sub-committee reporting back to the Standards Committee with a clear and aligned recommendation on how to proceed. Phase 3 will seek board direction and next steps, based upon a clear risk-based proposition informed by phases 1 and 2 and pending board support, input into establishing a working group with broader external engagement.
- A short discussion was held on how this work aligns with other existing initiatives in the watch and jewellery supply chain and that the RJC will consider relevant external tools, resources, and guidance as part of the phase 1 work. It was noted that the priority for this workstream will be to understand

the impact of expanding the COP to include additional coloured gemstones, and a key consideration of this will be an assurance system that is realistic and workable for the ASM.

#### **Expansion of COC Mined Materials:**

- The Standards Committee was reminded of the reasons for expanding eligible material for COC mined materials, which will begin with benchmarking of CRAFT code and Swiss Better Gold. An assessment of the due diligence on eligible sources will be evaluated to accept ASM materials.
- A sub-committee will be formed to develop a revised due diligence and present this to the Standards Committee for review.

#### **Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (ASM):**

- Following discussions, it was agreed that the initial focus will be on clarifying the RJC's role in the industry in relation to ASM supply chains. To support this, the RJC will share a position paper with the Standards Committee for input.
- A member noted that RJC could improve communication on the impacts and engagement between RJC members and ASM, which will demonstrate leadership in responsible practices.
- In response to a question, it was noted that the ASM work does not currently focus on specific materials but is currently looking at the overall strategic position of the RJC regarding ASM. The team recognises the overlap between ASM work and the coloured gemstone scope expansion.

#### **Programme updates and AOB:**

- An overview was provided of the current Standards Team workplan. The RJC also noted that their audit for ISEAL will begin shortly. The Impacts team thanked the Standards Committee on their input into the Theory of Change and reminded them to provide any remaining feedback.
- A query was raised on whether benchmarking would be undertaken against ASM initiatives. The RJC confirmed that phase 2 will involve prioritisation of other standards, however for recognition by RJC, these standards will need to be aligned to ISO 17065; however, ways to recognise harmonised provisions would continue.
- A member requested to have a technical help sheet of the workings of the RJC and what could impact its workings, e.g. alignment to the ISO 17065 standard, to which RJC noted a training session will be held for the Standards Committee.
- The Standards Committee were reminded that the RJC will ensure communications are clear on expectations such as where documents need to be reviewed as well as providing notification of any occurrence where voting is required from the Standards Committee, with materials circulated in advance.

Meeting closed by Sara Yood, non-industry Co-Chair with thanks provided to the Standards Committee.