

Standards Committee Meeting

19 June 2019

Summary notes

Standards Committee participants: Purvi Shah (Industry Co-Chair), Inna Dolgoplova, Damain Gagnon, Claire Piroddi, Kesha Frank, Marijke Achten, Nick De Vlamink (alternate for Karla Basselier), Ainsley Butler (Non-industry Co-chair), Yves Bertran, Jennifer Hillard, Jean-Baptiste Andrieu, Dianna Culillas, Jean-Claude Michelou, Marianna Smirnova, Sara Yood

Apologies: Didier Backaert, Joelle Ponelle, Fabiana Di Lorenzo

RJC Management Team: Andrew Cooper (Manager, Standards), Anne-Marie Fleury (Director, Standards, Assurance and Impacts)

Materials circulated in advance of call: Presentation slides, minutes from previous meeting

1. Introduction

The Standards Manager carried out a roll call, a reminder of the RJC anti-trust policy and welcomed participants to the meeting. Participants were reminded that this was primarily an introductory call for new Standards Committee members, but that the 2019 standards workplan would also be covered.

Purvi Shah, of De Beers Group, was introduced as interim Industry Co-Chair of the Standards Committee until her appointment is approved at the upcoming RJC Board meeting. Purvi provided an overview of the meeting agenda and then each of the Co-Chairs and the RJC Management Team representatives introduced themselves.

2. RJC and Standards Committee background

The Standards Manager provided an overview of RJC's work and also provided some up to date figures and statistics on RJC membership. He also provided an overview of the recently updated 2019 Code of Practices, and 2017 Chain-of-Custody standard. The non-industry co-chair described RJC's governance structure, noting the unique multi-stakeholder nature of the Standards Committee. The Standards Manager then outlined the role of the committee and decision-making approach. The Standards Director emphasised that the committee is the decision-making body on RJC standards, making recommendations to the Exco and Board as outlined in the [RJC Governance Handbook](#).

Members of the newly constituted Committee were listed, noting that non-industry members participate as individuals and do not represent their organisations, apart from ARM and DDI who both have permanent institutional seats on the committee. The Standards Manager pointed out that there were still some non-industry vacancies, and that these positions would be filled either this year or early next year.

Action – Jennifer Hillard asked that 'Consumer Interest Alliance' be listed on her background.

3. Recent milestones and 2019 standards workplan

The Standards Manager outlined the most recent milestones of the committee, notably the recently published 2019 COP as well as the 2017 CoC. Key projects for the Standards Committee starting in 2019 and continuing into 2020-2021 were also outlined. These are:

- a Due Diligence pilot project to ensure that the 2019 COP due diligence approach is fit for purpose for the diamond and coloured gemstone industry;

- updates to RJC's standards cross-recognition and harmonisation program;
- application to become a recognised scheme under the upcoming EU Conflict Minerals Regulation.
- further developing the RJC's Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) program.

There was a question on whether RJC would be harmonising with IRMA. The Standards Director responded that although there is collaboration with IRMA and other standards for general harmonisation, there are no plans to develop recognition with IRMA at this time as IRMA is not yet a standard with any active certifications.

4. Next meeting and any other business

The Standards Manager noted that the next meeting would take place by teleconference on 18th July 2019 and that details of the agenda would be shared ahead of the call.

The Standards Director then shared the news that this was her last Standards Committee meeting as she and her family have decided to extend their stay in China by 14 months and that consequently she will be stepping back from her role as Director. The non-industry co-chair thanked the Director on behalf of current and previous co-chairs, noting the significant achievements of the last 4 years and applauding her passion and dedication to the job.