



Statement to Members

3 August 2010

RESPONSIBLE JEWELLERY COUNCIL WELCOMES THE KIMBERLEY PROCESS AGREEMENT ON ZIMBABWE DIAMONDS

The Responsible Jewellery Council welcomes the agreement reached by the Kimberley Process (KP) that will enable the renewal of rough diamond exports from the Marange diamond fields in Zimbabwe. The agreement was reached during the World Diamond Council Meeting in St. Petersburg on July 15th.

The RJC, like all other stakeholders, is encouraged by this agreement and looks forward to its full and complete implementation by all relevant actors.

RJC congratulates all participants on this outcome which was reached after many hours of diligent negotiation at KP meetings in Tel Aviv and St Petersburg. RJC particularly acknowledges the efforts of the KP Chairman, Boaz Hirsch, the World Diamond Council's Chairman, Eli Izhakoff, the President & CEO of Jewelers of America and Chairman of the RJC, Matt Runci, Rio Tinto's General Manager of External Affairs and RJC's Vice Chairman, John Hall, the CEO of the Jewelers Vigilance Committee, Cecilia L. Gardener, the WFDB President, Avi Paz, the IDMA President, Moti Ganz, as well as the government and civil society delegations to the St Petersburg meeting, for their joint efforts in achieving this successful result.

"The RJC Code of Practices includes four provisions requiring conformance with the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) for rough diamonds. Full compliance with the KPCS is vital for RJC Members and for the entire jewellery industry. As part of the RJC Certification process, RJC Members will undergo independent, third party auditing of their relevant business practices to evidence their conformance with the RJC's requirements for KPCS compliance," says Michael Rae, RJC's Chief Executive Officer.

RJC has established a Consultative Panel of external stakeholders to engage in ongoing standards development activities with the Council. Of particular relevance to the recent KP decision is the focus the RJC and its Consultative Panel will bring to investigating the feasibility of chain-of-custody certification for the diamond, gold and platinum jewellery supply chains. A voluntary RJC chain-of-custody certification for eligible products would be complementary to the RJC's existing system for the independent third party certification of its Members' responsible business practices and a logical next step for the Council.

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“We are grateful for the positive responses received from the many stakeholders who have expressed enthusiasm and interest in participating in the RJC Consultative Panel. Participants in the Consultative Panel include leading non-government organisations, standards/supply chain associations, research institutions, and companies that operate product tracking systems. Future standards for chain-of-custody certification in the jewellery industry can only benefit from this broad multistakeholder engagement,” says Michael Rae.

For more information about the RJC chain-of-custody certification initiative, see:

<http://www.responsiblejewellery.com/chain-of-custody.html>

For more information about the RJC Consultative Panel, see:

http://www.responsiblejewellery.com/downloads/RJC_Standards_Consultative_Panel_July2010.pdf

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About RJC

The Responsible Jewellery Council is an international not-for-profit organisation bringing together more than 240 member companies committed to promoting responsible ethical, human rights, social and environmental practices in a transparent and accountable manner throughout the jewellery industry from mine to retail. Their commitment aims to reinforce consumer and stakeholder confidence in diamond, gold and platinum group metals jewellery products. The Council has developed the RJC System, a certification system – which will apply to all Members’ businesses that contribute to the diamond, gold and platinum group metals jewellery supply chain. All Commercial Members of the RJC are required to be audited by accredited, third party auditors to verify their conformance with the RJC’s Code of Practices and become certified under the RJC System. A full list of its Members can be found on the web at www.responsiblejewellery.com

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