

## Responsible Jewellery Council - Communications on Progress Report

<b>Company Name</b>	Responsible Jewellery Council	<b>Date</b>	15 January 2010
<b>Unit (if applicable)</b>			
<b>Address</b>	First Floor, Dudley House 34-38 Southampton Street	<b>Membership date</b>	15 January 2009
<b>Country</b>	London WC2E 7HF United Kingdom	<b>Number of employees</b>	5
<b>Contact name</b>	Mila Bonini	<b>Sector</b>	Corporate Social Responsibility in the gold and diamond jewellery supply chain
<b>Contact Position</b>	Communications Manager		
<b>Contact telephone no.</b>	+39 02 48002801		

### Brief description of nature of business

The Responsible Jewellery Council is an international not-for-profit organisation bringing together over 150 member companies committed to promoting responsible ethical, human rights, social and environmental practices in a transparent and accountable manner throughout the industry from mine to retail. Their commitment aims to reinforce consumer and stakeholder confidence in diamond and gold jewellery products.

The Council has developed the RJC System, a certification system – which will apply to all Members' businesses that contribute to the diamond and gold 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.

The Responsible Jewellery Council and a full list of its Members can be found on the web at [www.responsiblejewellery.com](http://www.responsiblejewellery.com)

### Statement of support

The RJC was officially registered as Participant to the United Nations Global Compact on January 15th, 2009. The RJC strongly supports the Global Compact initiative and has embedded its ten principles in the Code of Practices of the RJC Certification System. Through the RJC's engagement with the jewellery supply chain, and its stakeholders, we promote the Global Compact as part of our commitment to improve business practices in the areas of human rights, labour and social responsibility, environment and anti-corruption. We look forward to continued progress on our shared goals as the RJC System moves into implementation in 2010.

**Signature**



**Position**

Michael L. Rae  
Chief Executive Officer  
Responsible Jewellery  
Council

## Commitments, Systems and Actions - 2009

### Commitments

The primary vehicle for RJC's support of the Global Compact is the RJC's standards, with which RJC Members must comply. The following table highlights the influence of the Global Compact principles in the RJC's Code of Practices. Furthermore, the RJC Code of Practices addresses additional consumer confidence issues such as accurate product disclosure; employee health and safety, working hours and remuneration; and community development.

Global Compact Principle	RJC Code of Practices – Related Provisions
<b>Human Rights</b>	
1. Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and	COP 2.1 Human Rights COP 2.4 Freedom of association and collective bargaining COP 2.5 Discrimination COP 2.8 Working Hours COP 2.9 Remuneration COP 2.11 Community Engagement and Development 2.13 Indigenous Peoples
2. make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.	COP 1.3 Kimberley Process COP 2.2 Child labour COP 2.3 Forced labour COP 2.7 Discipline and Grievance Procedures COP 2.12 Use of Security Personnel COP 4.3 Business Partners 2.14 Artisanal and Small-scale Mining
<b>Labour</b>	
3. Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;	COP 2.4 Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining
4. the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;	COP 2.3 Forced Labour
5. the effective abolition of child labour; and	COP 2.2 Child Labour and Young Persons
6. the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.	COP 2.5 Discrimination
<b>Environment</b>	
7. Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;	COP 3.1 Environmental Protection COP 3.2 Hazardous Substances COP 4.4 Impact Assessment
8. undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and	COP 3.3 Wastes and Emissions COP 3.5 Biodiversity COP 4.5 Mine Closure Planning
9. encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.	COP 3.4 Use of Energy and Natural Resources
<b>Anti-Corruption</b>	
10. Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.	COP 1.1 Bribery and Facilitation Payments COP 1.2 Money Laundering and Finance of Terrorism COP 1.6 Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative

The RJC's Code of Practices, and related guidance and assessment questions, are available at <http://www.responsiblejewellery.com/certification.html>

## **Systems**

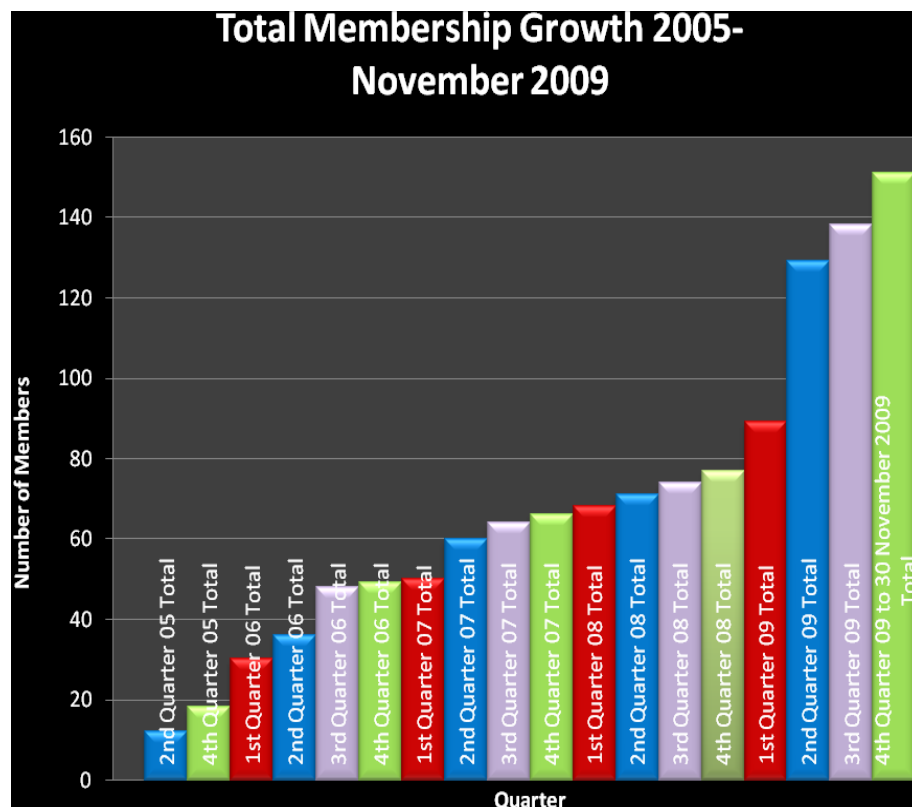
The above standards are applicable to RJC Members right across the diamond and gold jewellery supply chain. The RJC's certification system will require independent, third party verification of conformance with these standards.

The RJC will accredit auditors with appropriate competence and experience to verify Members' conformance with the above commitments. Auditors will carry out desktop reviews and site visits to Members' facilities, and submit a certification recommendation to the RJC based on the Members' level of conformance.

## **Actions**

In 2009, the following actions have been carried out or are underway to implement the above commitments and systems established by the RJC:

- **Training for RJC Members:** webinar training has been developed and is being delivered to Members on the RJC System and how it should be implemented. Modules for different parts of the supply chain highlight key risk areas around human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption areas, and provide examples of how to improve practices within Members' businesses. Over 100 managers in 40 Member Companies have already completed the Introductory Training Modules and these training sessions have enabled Member companies to discuss issues relating to the Global Compact 10 principles. Feedback from the 20 training sessions run in the first few months of RJC training has been very positive, and the training will continue throughout 2010.
- **Communication on the Global Compact:**
  - Articles: 'The RJC joins the UN Global Compact and its 10 Principles'; 'CEO Statement' published in the June Newsletter 'The Monitor' downloadable from [http://www.responsiblejewellery.com/downloads/RJC\\_Newsletter\\_Jun09.pdf](http://www.responsiblejewellery.com/downloads/RJC_Newsletter_Jun09.pdf)
  - Article: 'How RJC is supporting the UN Global Compact' published in the September RJC Newsletter 'The Monitor' downloadable from [http://www.responsiblejewellery.com/downloads/RJC\\_Newsletter\\_Sep09.pdf](http://www.responsiblejewellery.com/downloads/RJC_Newsletter_Sep09.pdf)
  - Article: 'UN Global Compact Leaders Summit 2010 and link to sponsorship opportunities' published in the December RJC Newsletter 'The Monitor' downloadable from [http://www.responsiblejewellery.com/downloads/RJC\\_Newsletter\\_Dec09.pdf](http://www.responsiblejewellery.com/downloads/RJC_Newsletter_Dec09.pdf)
- **Mining Standards:** During 2009, the RJC engaged with Members and stakeholders to develop additional standards for Members with mining activities. A multi-stakeholder Consultative Panel was established to provide input into the development of new mining standards that address issues such as resource transparency, community development, Indigenous Peoples, artisanal mining, tailings management, biodiversity and mine closure. The new standards, and associated system documentation, were incorporated into the RJC Certification System and published in December 2009. Please see <http://www.responsiblejewellery.com/supplement.html>
- **Growth in Membership:** This graph shows the rise in RJC Membership since its inception in May 2005 to 30th November, 2009. This very encouraging rise in membership numbers shows the growth in commitment to responsible business practices across the jewellery supply chain.



- Meetings with the UN Global Compact in New York:
  - On February 12<sup>th</sup>, RJC CEO Michael Rae and, RJC Vice Chairman John Hall, met Georg Kell, Global Compact Executive Director and Olajobi Makinwa, Global Compact Civil Society Coordinator at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City to discuss corporate social responsibility and RJC's pivotal role in advancing high ethical standards in the jewellery industry.
  - On July 27<sup>th</sup> Catherine Sproule, Chief Operations Officer, RJC, met with Olajobi Makinwa, Civil Society Coordinator, United Nations Global Compact, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City to report on the latest activities of the Responsible Jewellery Council.
  - On October 22<sup>nd</sup> John Hall and Michael Rae met with Georg Kell in New York to discuss the participation in the forthcoming UN Global Compact Leaders Summit 2010.

#### How do you intend to make this COP available to your stakeholders?

The Communication on Progress will be published on the RJC website:  
[www.responsiblejewellery.com](http://www.responsiblejewellery.com)

Stakeholders will be notified of its publication by the RJC quarterly newsletter.