



THE VIRTUAL CIBJO CONGRESS 2021

SPECIAL REPORT RESPONSIBLE SOURCING COMMISSION



CIBJO's Commitment to Responsible Sourcing Continues through the COVID Pandemic

By Philip Olden, President
CIBJO Responsible Sourcing Commission

Since the last special CIBJO report on Responsible Sourcing in 2019, we have all endured a period of unprecedented turmoil. During this time, the attention of consumers, media, governments and civil society in the jewellery industry, its responsible practices

and the integrity of its supply chains has continued unabated. Our stakeholders justifiably continue to hold us to the highest possible levels of integrity and expect that, not only are we doing no harm, but that we are a force for good in the world.

In 2019, CIBJO produced the first edition of the Responsible Sourcing Blue Book, which was a departure from the norm for CIBJO, which had originally developed



Philip Olden, President of the CIBJO Responsible Sourcing Commission.

its Blue Book system to provide sets of harmonised standards and nomenclature for product categories, such as diamonds, coloured gemstones, pearls, precious metals and precious coral. The Responsible Sourcing Blue Book differed from its predecessors in that it dealt with standards of practice that could be applied throughout the jewellery sector, and looked mainly at the people involved in the industry and the way they behave, rather than at the product itself.

During the COVID pandemic, CIBJO allowed free online access to all the Blue Books, and the Responsible Sourcing Blue Book was downloaded more than any other CIBJO Blue

Book, demonstrating the need in the industry for guidance and support in this important area.

CIBJO continued to use its unique position as the first and only jewellery industry body to gain special consultative status in the United Nation's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to support the adoption and implementation in the jewellery industry of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, in partnership with the Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC).

The development of Responsible Sourcing guidance by CIBJO and the certifiable standards in the RJC's Code of Practices represent a real watershed moment for the jewellery industry, because for the first time in its industry it is being provided with consistent guidance and benchmarked standards of practice that companies should use to ensure the integrity of their company practices and their supply chains.

PROGRESS THROUGH THE PANDEMIC

The Responsible Sourcing Online Toolkit

In April 2021, CIBJO launched an online Responsible Sourcing Toolkit designed to enable all members of the jewellery and gem sector to do due diligence on their supply chains in accordance with the CIBJO Responsible Sourcing Blue Book. The digital files of which the toolkit is comprised can be downloaded at no cost from a dedicated mini-website, located at www.cibjo.org/rs-toolkit.

The Toolkit was developed by CIBJO over two years, with the collaboration of the Coloured Gemstone Working Group, which is a forum of leading gemstone and jewellery companies and gemmological laboratories, dedicated to helping businesses in the gemstone supply chain be more



Erik Jens, Vice President of the CIBJO Responsible Sourcing Commission.



Tiffany Stevens, Vice President of the CIBJO Responsible Sourcing Commission.



CIBJO RESPONSIBLE SOURCING TOOLKIT

CIBJO's Responsible Sourcing Toolkit, developed with the support of the Coloured Gemstone Working Group, facilitated by TDI Sustainability, was made available at no cost to the industry in April 2021. With digital files that can be downloaded from a dedicated mini-website, it enables all members of the jewellery and gem sector to do due diligence on their supply chains.

sustainable, and making responsible sourcing part of the way they operate. The work of the Coloured Gemstone Working Group is facilitated by TDI Sustainability, an advisory firm specialising in the jewellery, gemstone and mining industries.

The Toolkit comprises nine modules, each one of which relates to a specific section of the Responsible Sourcing Blue Book. Each module provides a detailed explanation of that section, and also a number of downloadable files in MS Word or PDF format, which can be used to do the due

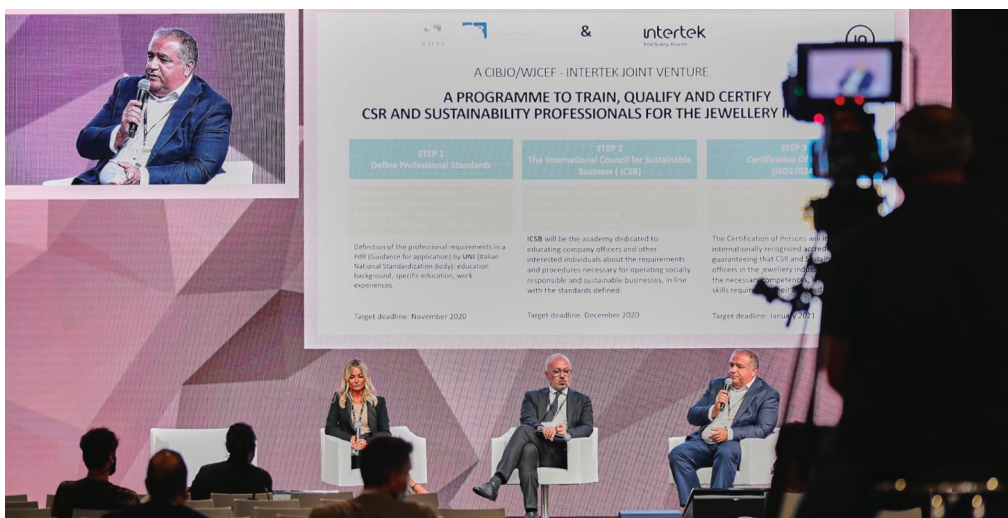
diligence described. They include templates, forms, sample declarations and additional information to help the industry start the process of continuous improvement of responsible sourcing.

An industry first in CSR training and certification.

In September 2020 at the VOICE VicenzaOro trade event, CIBJO announced a joint initiative with Intertek Italia SpA, the Italian subsidiary of the Intertek Group to educate,

train and certify CSR, sustainability and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) compliance officers, specifically for the gemstone and jewellery industries. It will be the first dedicated programme of its sort worldwide.

CIBJO is working on a three-track programme, beginning with the defining of professional qualification standards for several levels of jewellery industry CSR/sustainability/SDG compliance officers, specifying what each requires in terms of educational background, standards proficiency and work experience. These different officers would include



CIBJO and Intertek Italia's joint initiative to train and certify CSR, sustainability and SDG professionals for the jewellery and gemstone industry is presented at the VOICE VicenzaOro trade event in Vicenza, Italy, on September 12, 2020. Alessandro Ferracino (right), Regional Director of Italy & France Intertek, describes the programme.

Sustainability Managers, CSR Managers, Sustainability & CSR Auditors, SDG Action Managers and SDGs Users.

The second step will involve the creation by CIBJO's educational arm, the World Jewellery Confederation Education Foundation (WJCEF), of the International Council for Sustainable Business (ICSB), which will be an academy providing educational programmes that provide prospective compliance officers with the knowledge and skills necessary. Potential candidates for the courses provided through ICSB would be employees of companies operating in the jewellery and gemstone industries, or individuals seeking employment as compliance officers in the sector.

The third step, which will be carried out by Intertek, will be the certification of persons for the various levels of compliance officers, according to an internationally recognized accreditation process. Certification will ascertain that the CSR, sustainability and SDG compliance officers have achieved the necessary competences, knowledge and skills required for their assigned tasks.

The CIBJO Jewellery Industry Voices webinars

Throughout the pandemic, CIBJO ensured that it did not lose contact with its membership and the industry in general, and conducted a highly successful series of webinars, as part of the Jewellery Industry Voices programme, hosted by Edward Johnson and Steven Benson, and featuring some of the jewellery industry's leading figures. Many of these webinars covered content relating to Responsible Sourcing and Sustainable Development, including;

- "Diversity and Design," June 3, 2021.
- "The Positioning of the Pearl as the Sustainable Gem," on July 9, 2020.
- "Gemstone Traceability, Viable Objective or Unrealistic Challenge," on June 18, 2020
- "The COVID Effect: Impact on Mining and Mining Communities," May 21, 2020



- "Sustainability: More Relevant Post-COVID than Ever Before," May 14, 2020

The series itself was created as a support to the industry during the COVID lockdown, and many of the webinars dealt with impacts and practical issues being dealt by the industry. Links to recordings of the webinars can be found at www.cibjo.org/webinars/.

Educational programmes

CIBJO has for several years conducted an ongoing programme with the Italian Exhibition Group, which has been formally endorsed by ECOSOC, to run CSR and sustainability educational programmes for the jewellery industry. This has been done through a series of seminars at IEG events in Vicenza, Italy.

Over the past two years these have included:

- January 17, 2021: A seminar entitled "Does Size Matter," which provided practical guidance and viable solutions geared for SMEs operating in the international jewellery sector, outlining what is required today in the industry in terms of responsible sourcing, supply chain integrity and environmental sustainability.



A sizeable proportion of the webinars and hybrid live-and-streamed seminars conducted as part of the Jewellery Industry Voices programme featured subjects related to sustainability and responsible sourcing.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

MEETING THEIR CHALLENGE

PART 1



THE ROLE AND THE INFLUENCE OF WOMEN IN THE MINING OF PRECIOUS MATERIALS

PART 2



SUSTAINABLE JEWELLERY IN THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY



A HYBRID SEMINAR/WEBINAR

Conducted in person at VICENZAORO September 2021 and streamed live worldwide

Sunday, 12 September 2021: 2:30 PM-4:30 PM Central European Time



CIBJO's hybrid live and streamed seminar in Vicenza on September 2021, 12, examined the jewellery industry's efforts to implement Sustainable Development Goal 5, which covers gender equality, and Sustainable Development Goal 12, dedicated to responsible consumption.

- September 12, 2020: A seminar entitled "CSR and Sustainability in the Post-COVID Era," which looked at what is expected to be a greater emphasis on responsible sourcing, ethical business principles and sustainable environmental practices, reinforced by consumers' growing understanding that natural processes need to be respected, and any disregard for society and the environment cannot be tolerated. The seminar included participation by representatives of the United Nations, the UN Global Compact, RJC, WDC and industry.
- September 12, 2020: A seminar entitled "Africa is Rising," which focused on a new generation of African jewellery designers and manufacturers, who are intent on changing the paradigm by which almost all raw materials mined on the continent are exported and processed elsewhere.
- September 12, 2021: CIBJO organised a seminar entitled "Sustainable Development Goals: Meeting Their Challenge." It focused on industry strategies to support actualization of two of the 17 SDGs. Divided into two sections, the first focused on SDG 5: Gender Equality, and looked at the growing role of women in the mining and extraction of precious materials for the jewellery industry, and considered the significance of their increased involvement. The

second part concentrated specifically on SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production, addressing a growing movement within the jewellery sector to adopt the principles of a circular economy, addressing global challenges like climate change, biodiversity loss, waste and pollution.

Getting the name right

In October 2020, the CIBJO Board of Directors approved the creation of the Jewellery Industry Supply Chain Nomenclature Committee, and Feriel Zerouki, Senior Vice President, Corporate Affairs at

the De Beers Group, was appointed as its chair.

The committee is charged with developing a universally understood and used set of terms and concepts related to traceability and responsibility in the jewellery supply chain, especially the use of terminology such as "responsible," "sustainable" and "ethical," or related but distinctly different terms like "source," "origin" and "provenance."

CIBJO and the United Nations

In April 2021, as is required by its special consultative status in ECOSOC, CIBJO submitted its written statement



Volkan Bozkır (left), President of the UN General Assembly, during the special session to discuss the international impact of COVID, which took place in December 2020, and at which CIBJO's report was presented. He is joined at the podium by Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary General. (Photo: UN media services)

to the UN ECOSOC High Level Segment, which took place in July. Reporting on relevant activities within CIBJO and by its members, CIBJO expressed support for the theme of the 2021 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), "Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, which promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: Building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development."

CIBJO was invited to participate in a virtual special session of the United Nations General Assembly, which took place on December 3 and 4, 2020. It looked at the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on people, societies and economies, and discussed the multifaceted and coordinated response required to address the crisis. CIBJO delivered a written statement that was presented to the body on December 3 and posed a question that was addressed in the panel discussions that took place on December 4. In the statement, CIBJO pointed out that hundreds of millions of people, mainly living in sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America, are dependent upon the revenues generated by the extraction of precious metals, diamonds and coloured gemstones for their livelihoods. Many of them are involved in artisanal and small-scale mining, and lack the protections afforded to employees of the larger, industrialized mining operations. These communities have been particularly hard-hit during the past year, both health-wise and economically.

CIBJO contributed to the publication in July 2020 by the Office of the United Nations Secretary General of CIBJO to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Only 179 statements from the more than 5,400 NGOs affiliated to ECOSOC were published. The CIBJO statement referred specifically to the coronavirus pandemic and its impact on communities dependent upon revenues generated by jewellery, precious metals and gemstones.

Additional activity by the CIBJO President

CIBJO president, Gaetano Cavalieri, in addition to his role on the board of the Responsible Jewellery Council, has participated in a great many industry events during the past two years, and was a partner supporting RJC's program promoting SDG 5 (gender equality). Among the events related specifically to Responsible Sourcing, Environmental

Social Governance and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals were the following:

1. June 15, 2021: RJC-event, entitled Jewellery, Watches & Sustainability: Leading Action Towards the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
2. May 5, 2021: RJC-organized event entitled "Deepening Consumer Confidence in the Decade of Action"
3. December 7, 2020: RJC Generation Equality SDG 5 in Action Roundtable
4. November 13, 2020: First Global Pearl Development Conference
5. August 20, 2020: Jewelry Industry Summit webinar, entitled "Organizations that Inspire"
6. June 5, 2020: RJC organized deep-dive session during UN Global Compact Leaders' Summit

OUR CONTINUED COMMITMENT

CIBJO remains committed to providing guidance, support and education relating to Responsible Sourcing and Sustainable Development in the global jewellery and gemstones industry, and recognises that this is a process of continuous improvement.

The Responsible Sourcing Commission invites all members of the jewellery industry to use the comprehensive materials such as the Responsible Sourcing Blue Book and the associated Online Toolkit, available at no cost from the CIBJO website.

Please read these materials carefully so you can assess to what degree its recommendations parallel those that you have already introduced in your businesses, and how you may improve.

CIBJO CONGRESS 2021

The CIBJO Congress will take place this year for the first time in a virtual format. It will take place over a period of two weeks, from November 1 through November 4 and November 15 through November 18.

The Responsible Sourcing Commission Session will be held on the first day of the Congress, Monday, November 1, 2021, and will begin immediately after the Opening Ceremony, which will begin at 3 PM, Central European Time.

The session will open to the public, and registration for it will begin on October 1, on the dedicated CIBJO Congress website at: www.cibjo.org/congress2021/.

We hope that you will be able to join us.

PHOTO CREDITS

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