

## PROFILE OF THE WORLD JEWELLERY CONFEDERATION

A non-profit foundation registered in Switzerland, The World Jewellery Confederation (CIBJO) is an international confederation of national jewellery trade organizations from more than 45 countries, operating at stages of the chain of distribution from mine to market, as well as companies and other international organizations operating in the industry.

The World Jewellery Confederation's purpose is to encourage harmonisation, promote international cooperation in the jewellery industry, and to consider issues, which concern the trade worldwide. Foremost among these is to protect consumer confidence in the industry. It does so by promoting and enabling the harmonisation and regulation of technical standards, terminology and operating principles, sustainability, and responsible sourcing and supply chains.

Functioning as a centre of knowledge and education, the World Jewellery Confederation pursues its objectives through collaborative debate and discussion, research, learning and communication. It also develops and supports responsible sourcing and sustainable initiatives and programmes that address threats to the integrity of gemstones, precious metals and finished jewellery.

Founded in Paris in 1926 as BIBOA, an organization whose mission was to represent and advance the interests of the jewellery trade in Europe, it was restructured as CIBJO (Confédération Internationale de la Bijouterie, Joaillerie, Orfèvrerie des Diamants, Perles et Pierres) in 1961, with a global rather than a continental focus.

Over the years, the World Jewellery Confederation developed its Blue Book system to advance the goal of universal standards and terminology in the jewellery industry. Today it is the most widely used set of industry standards. There are Blue Books for diamonds, coloured gemstones, pearls, precious metals, coral, gemmological laboratories and responsible sourcing. It is also working on a guidance document for the laboratory-grown diamond industry.

A milestone in the history of the jewellery industry was recorded in 2006, when the World Jewellery Confederation became the first and only organisation in the diamond, gemstone and jewellery sectors ever to receive official consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations. That same year CIBJO joined the UN Global Compact.

In December 2008, the World Jewellery Confederation Education Foundation (WJCEF) was established. Its goal is to establish programmes that educate members of the diamond, gemstone and jewellery industries about the principles of Corporate Social Responsibility and sustainability, and how they may implement these principles in their businesses. The programme was designed together with the United Nations, which assigned a team of CSR experts to work on the project.

The World Jewellery Confederation was the driving force behind the establishment by UNITAR in Antwerp in May 2011 of a Centre of Excellence dedicated to CSR education in the international jewellery and gemstone sectors, and in 2013 introduced its Jewellery Industry Greenhouse Gas Measurement Initiative to reduce and neutralize the emission of carbon gases in the jewellery industry.

The World Jewellery Confederation has played a key role in the creation by ISO, the International Organization for Standardization, of standards for diamond nomenclature and grading, including ISO 18323 in 2015 and ISO 24106 in 2020.