



ORAL STATEMENT TO ECOSOC HLS

The World Jewellery Confederation (CIBJO), which represents the international jewellery industry in its entirety, in countries across the globe and along its long and complex supply chain, has held special consultative status in ECOSOC since 2006. We are fully committed to the stated theme of the 2024 ECOSOC High Level Segment, to reinforce the 2030 Agenda and to eradicate poverty during these times of multiple crises, through the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions.

There is no contradiction in a luxury product industry committing itself to helping solve the world's most pressing economic, social and environmental challenges. Our raw materials are sourced predominantly in economically under-developed regions of Africa, South America, Asia and the South Pacific, as are many of our key stakeholders. We have an overriding strategic interest in partnering with governments and the international community to supporting the stated goals and principles of the Declaration on Future Generations, and in particular to help eliminate the intergenerational transmission of poverty and hunger, while providing a safe, healthy, and sustainable environment.

CIBJO has long supported a paradigm-change in our industry, by which those countries, communities and individuals who for centuries have supplied our essential raw materials become empowered as key decision-makers, able to contribute and benefit equitably from the planning and management of the jewellery business in general, so as to support their own economic and social development.

The 2024 ECOSOC call to action to reinforce the 2030 Agenda and to accelerate progress towards the SDGs is a recognition of the need for innovative solutions to the challenges our world is facing. With only seven years left to meet the goals of the 2030 Agenda, we all need to scale up.

CIBJO has promoted an industry-wide campaign in support of the SDGs, through a global educational programme, and the organisation of live seminars at events in different countries. These are live streamed globally and then made available for viewing afterwards, via our website and social media.

A little more than year ago we restructured our Responsible Sourcing Commission as the Sustainable Development Commission, broadening its role of activity to cover the involvement of the jewellery, precious metals and gemstone industries in achieving the 17 SDGs, and supporting the United Nations' Agenda 2030.

More frequently, we have focused efforts on the elements required to develop structured ESG models, rather than more the aspirational CSR models that earlier had driven our

approach, and in January of this year released a guidance document outlining environmental, social and governance (ESG) principles. We currently are working on designing measurable and quantifiable activities and benchmarks to reflect a company's external impact on society and the environment.

Our ESG guidance document, which is available online at no cost, presents 14 specific principles, five of which relate to environmental policy, four to socially responsible policies, and five to governance. Each principle includes a set of recommended actions, and an indication of its relevance to specific UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Our world faces unprecedented challenges, but together we still have the opportunity to construct a better future for all, building resilience and leaving no one behind.

Dr. Gaetano Cavalieri
President, World Jewellery Confederation (CIBJO)
July 18, 2024