



HISTORY OF THE WDC

The WDC was established in July 2000 by a resolution passed at the World Diamond Congress in Antwerp, Belgium, by the World Federation of Diamond Bourses (WFDB) and the International Diamond Manufacturers Association (IDMA). The decision to create the body was prompted by civil wars raging in several African countries, in which rough diamonds were being used to finance guerrilla campaigns by rebel forces.

Within weeks of its creation, a broad coalition of key participants from the diamond and jewelry industries was formed, bringing into the new body representatives of national and international industry organizations, major jewelry manufacturers and retailers, mining companies, gem labs and bank representatives.

The WDC became the industry's official representative in the United Nations-mandated Kimberley Process, which had been launched in May 2000 by governments from diamond-producing, processing and consuming countries. Holding Observer status, along with representatives of civil society, WDC has played a key role in the various KP working groups and committees, as well as regularly participating in review visits to KP member countries.

Within the KP, the WDC was among the primary architects of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS). It was developed from a working paper presented by the WDC. Within its framework, governments would implement safeguards on shipments of rough diamonds and certify them as "conflict free."

Ahead of the launch of the KPCS on January 1, 2003, in 2002 the WDC introduced its **System of Warranties (SoW)**, which is a system of industry self-regulation. It requires all buyers and sellers of rough diamonds, polished diamonds and jewelry containing diamonds make an affirmative statement on all B2B invoices and memos that the goods being sold were originally KP-certified, and thus were purchased from legitimate sources not involved in funding conflict and in compliance with United Nations resolutions.

Since 2013 the WDC has hosted the KP's **Administrative Support Mechanism (ASM)**, by which the KPCS is supported through the development of a user-friendly website; the facilitating of communications to and among KP Participant member states, Observers and other stakeholders; the providing of logistical support to the KP Chair and working group and ad-hoc committee chairs in planning Intersessional, Plenary and other working meetings.

In June 2018, the WDC Board of Directors approved a revised SoW, which now also includes a commitment that the buyers and sellers of diamonds are adhering to WDC Guidelines, which support universally accepted principle of human and labor rights, anti-corruption and anti-money laundering (AML).