



## FACT SHEET

The **World Diamond Council (WDC)** is not-for-profit trade association, registered in New York, whose mission is to protect the integrity of the diamond distribution chain, and specifically support efforts that eliminate the trade in “conflict diamonds.” Its membership includes businesses and organizations from around the globe, engaged in all sectors of the diamond industry and trade, from rough diamond producers through to retail jewelers.

The WDC is the diamond and jewelry industry’s official representative in the tripartite coalition of the **Kimberley Process (KP)**, which also includes representatives of 86 governments and members of civil society. In this respect, WDC’s primary objective is to represent the industry in the development and implementation of regulatory and voluntary systems to control the trade in diamonds embargoed by the United Nations or covered by the **Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS)**.

Additionally, using the resources of the diamond industry, WDC supports the Kimberley Process through technical, financial and other means, including the Administrative Support Mechanism (AMS), which provides ongoing logistic and managerial assistance to the KP Chair and officers.

To help ensure that the polished diamonds being sold originate from rough diamonds that were responsibly sourced, the WDC created the **System of Warranties (SoW)** to complement the KPCS. In essence, the SoW requires buyers and sellers of rough diamonds, polished diamonds and jewelry set with diamonds to include a warranty statement on B2B invoices and memos each time a diamond change hands, assuring the next buyer that it originated from sources in compliance with the KPCS and essential responsible business practices, including those relating to human and labour rights, anti-money laundering and anti-corruption.

Unlike the KPCS, the SoW covers not only the trade in rough diamonds, but also the trade in polished diamonds and jewelry set with diamonds, and it must be applied each time diamonds are sold, and not only when they are exported from one country or region to another.

The WDC is committed to the fulfillment of the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals, contending that the elimination all instances of violence in the mining areas, and especially where artisanal and small-scale (ASM) miners are operating, supports the processes of formalization of ASM, the improvement of working conditions, increased revenues for miners, sustainable economic opportunities for surrounding communities, improved environmental management, and capacity building in general.

The WDC champions the work of organizations working to support the interests of artisanal diamond miners, and the initiation of both public and private projects that help turn precious stones and minerals into sources of sustainable community development.

The WDC cooperates and collaborates with other industry associations, governments and civil society to protect the integrity of the diamond distribution chain, and the wellbeing of countries and communities reliant on income generated by the diamond trade.

## HISTORY

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 KPSC 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).

## **STRUCTURE**

The WDC currently has 40 members representing the entire diamond industry from miners to jewelers and associations, making it the only diamond body where the supply chain is represented in full. The world's largest diamond miners and jewelry retailers are members, as are numerous smaller companies.

The bulk of members of the international diamond industry is represented through the national and international associations that are WDC members.

Any commercial or not-for-profit organization or any individual company engaged in any sector of the diamond trade, from producer to retail, or any entity (commercial or not-for-profit) or individual engaged in providing professional services to the diamond industry, who has applied and meets the membership criteria, may become a WDC member.

The WDC is financed through paid membership fees. These are calculated according to the member's size and its station in the industry, so as to encourage the participation of both larger and smaller players from across the value chain. The association members, which are all NGOs, pay reduced rates.

The governance of the WDC is vested in its 20-member Board of Directors, which is structured to represent the diversity the diamond value chain. Four directors each represent companies or organizations engaged in the mining of diamonds, the retail sale of diamonds or diamond jewelry, the wholesale trading of diamonds, the cutting and polishing of diamonds, and other industry stakeholders. Permanent seats on the Board of Directors are assigned to representatives of the WFDB, IDMA and CIBJO, the World Jewelry Confederation.

The officers of the WDC are the President, the Vice President, the Secretary and the Treasurer. The President serves for a nonrenewable term of two years and is automatically succeeded by the Vice President at the end of the period. The President and Vice President are always from different industry categories, so as to ensure fair representation of the diamond value chain.

All officers and members of the Board of Directors serve on a voluntary basis. The WDC's professional staff is headed by the Executive Director.

The WDC President in 2022 is Edward Asscher. The WDC Vice President is Ferial Zerouki. The WDC Secretary is Udi Sheintal and the WDC Treasurer is Ronnie VanderLinden. The WDC Executive Director is Elodie Daguzan.

Much of the work and discussion in the WDC take place in five standing committees, which include the Technical Committee, the Kimberley Process Task Force, the Finance Committee, the Audit Committee, the Nominating Committee and the Communications Committee.