

WDC Board extends terms of elected officers through to 2023



WDC President Edward Asscher (center), flanked by WDC Vice President Ferial Zerouki (left) and WDC Treasurer Ronnie VanderLinden.

NEW YORK: JUNE 19, 2022 – Meeting in video-conference on June 16, 2022, the Board of Directors of the World Diamond Council (WDC) has decided that, in light of the unusual set of circumstances currently prevalent, including those precipitated by the COVID pandemic, the terms of President Edward Asscher, Vice President Ferial Zerouki and Treasurer Ronnie VanderLinden, which were scheduled to terminate this year, will continue into 2023.

According to WDC Bylaws, the President serves one term of two years, after which he or she is automatically succeeded by the serving Vice President. Mr. Asscher, who currently is in the second year of a two-year term as President, was scheduled to hand over to Ms. Zerouki, and the Board of Directors would have elected from among its members the next Vice President.

With the Kimberley Process suspending regular activities in 2020 because of COVID, meaning that the term of the current WDC leadership coincided with the term in office of one rather two KP Chairs, the WDC Board of Directors agreed that in the present situation it was appropriate to suspend the scheduled transition and election of new officers on an extraordinary basis until June 2023. This means that Mr. Asscher, Ms. Zerouki and Mr. VanderLinden will continue in their current positions uninterrupted through to next year.

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About the World Diamond Council

The World Diamond Council (WDC) is an industry organization focused on preventing conflict diamonds from entering the global supply chain and on preserving the value attached to natural diamonds. Formed in 2000, it is the only organization where the diamond trade is represented in full, from producer to retailer, and includes the most influential commercial businesses, not-for-profit organizations, and individual companies in the industry today. The WDC is the voice of the international diamond industry in a tripartite collaboration with governments and civil society known as the Kimberley Process (KP). The KP secures and manages monitoring processes that have virtually eliminated the trade in conflict diamonds to ensure that the world's supply of diamonds is from sources free of conflict. Visit www.worlddiamondcouncil.org to learn more.