

## Summary Notes

### RJC Standards Committee Meeting

24 Jul 18

**Participants:** Charles Chaussepied and Ainsley Butler (Co-Chairs), Purvi Shah, Didier Backaert, Tim Carter, Claire Piroddi, Anouchka Didier, Natasha Coutinho (for Tehmasp Printer), Michael Geelhand de Merxem, Felix Hruschka, Assheton Stewart Carter, Cecilia Gardner, Jennifer Horning

**RJC Management Team:** Anne-Marie Fleury (Director, Standards), Andrew Cooper (Manager, Standards), Peter Dawkins (Assurance and Standards Coordinator), Maria Mursell (Senior Manager, Member and Stakeholder Training), Mikaela King-Stevens (Manager, Certifications)

**Apologies:** Jennifer Hillard, Estelle Levin-Nally

**Materials circulated prior to meeting:** Meeting slides and minutes from previous meeting

#### 1. Opening remarks

Co-Chair Charles Chaussepied welcomed participants to the meeting and introduced the agenda. Co-Chair Ainsley Butler reminded participants of the RJC anti-trust policy and noted action points from the last meeting as complete:

- no comments were received on the stakeholder engagement benchmarking study and this is now proceeding;
- comments on the proposed COP changes from Elevate were received and have been incorporated.

Minutes were approved by Claire Piroddi and Didier Backaert.

#### 2. Update from the diamond expert group

Didier Backaert (member of the expert group) provided an update, observing that positive progress has been made and that further discussions are required before the group can present its final conclusions to the Committee. One member asked for clarification on the goals of the expert group: this is to provide input to the approach on due diligence for diamonds in the COP, specifically the application of the OECD Due Diligence Guidance .

One committee member emphasised that there is already an expectation amongst stakeholders that the RJC will be including OECD aligned due diligence requirements in the next version of the COP.

The Co-chair remarked that OECD representatives are part of the expert group and the intention is to bring a consensus conclusion to the Standards Committee. An extraordinary meeting of the committee was agreed to discuss the conclusions of the expert group.

**Action: Doodle poll to be circulated on dates for an extraordinary Standards Committee meeting to discuss the conclusions of the expert group.**

#### 3. COP review round 2 update

Proposed changes to the COP were released for public consultation in mid-April through to 1 July 2018 as part of round 2. During this time, a number of consultation workshops and webinars were held. A lot of good feedback and comments were received, particularly from the face-to-face workshops which were attended by approximately 200 participants. Over 200 written comments were also received from 17 diverse submitters. The Standards Director provided an overview of topics that had generated the most feedback, noting that due diligence received the most comments overall and that

feedback on this topic has been quite polarised. The high number of comments received on disclosure requirements was also highlighted, particularly in relation to coloured stones.

The Standards Manager then presented a summary of key comments received. The joint letter from 18 NGOs to the Standards Committee was noted. One member asked about the need to review the recently published Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance (IRMA) standards. Plans to do a gap analysis were confirmed.

There was a question on reactions to the proposed limited scope of coloured stones (rubies, sapphires and emeralds). Some of the submitters of written comments lobbied for a broader scope of stones to be included in the COP, however in the face to face meetings most participants supported the proposed stepwise approach (starting with a limited scope and expanding that over time). Committee members shared differing views on the pros and cons of a limited scope. The overall feedback will be considered as part of the revision of proposed COP changes.

The Standards Director observed that – apart from due diligence – the criteria for triggering round 3 have not been met: ie, there is sufficient feedback and (apart from on due diligence) there are no substantive unresolved issues that require further public consultation. On due diligence, further consultation may be required, and the conclusions of the expert group will need to inform this. A committee member asked if a third round of consultation is therefore ruled out. The recommendation is for the standards committee to oversee the revised changes to the COP without a full additional public comment period, and, for additional targeted consultation on unresolved topics to be considered by the committee. There were no objections to this approach.

A full analysis of the comments and revised proposed changes to the COP is now being carried out by the management team and will be shared with the Standards Committee for discussion at the next meeting and for confirmation of next steps (including further targeted consultation). The need to complete the COP review within the agreed timeframe was emphasised.

A committee member noted a clash between the next Standards Committee meeting in September and the ASM conference in Zambia.

**Action: Alternative dates for September teleconference to be proposed via Doodle.**

#### **4. Standards Committee resignations**

The Standards Director confirmed that both Marco Quadri (Argor-Heraeus) and Hany Besada (Diamond Development Initiative) have resigned from the Standards Committee as they have changed roles. The Standards Director thanked them for their contributions to the committee and wished them well. The Management Team will seek to fill the resulting industry casual vacancy, and DDI have confirmed they will appoint an individual to take the permanent DDI seat by the end of the summer.

#### **5. Next meetings and any other business – none raised**