



ALLIANCE FOR
RESPONSIBLE MINING



Memorandum of Understanding
between the
Alliance for Responsible Mining
and the
Responsible Jewellery Council

29 February, 2016

1. Participating Organisations:

The **Alliance for Responsible Mining (ARM)** is an independent, global-scale, pioneering initiative established in 2004 to enhance equity and wellbeing in artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) communities through improved social, environmental and labour practices, good governance and the implementation of ecosystem restoration practices. ARM is committed to social justice and environmental responsibility as the values driving the transformation of ASM.

ARM's mission is to set standards for responsible ASM and to support and enable producers to deliver "Fairmined" certified metals and minerals through economically just supply chains to the markets, in order to contribute towards the transformation of ASM into a socially and environmentally responsible activity, and to the improvement of the quality of life of marginalized artisanal miners, their families and communities.

ARM's vision is for ASM to become a formalised, organised and profitable activity that uses efficient technologies, and is socially and environmentally responsible, that increasingly develops within a framework of good governance, legality, participation and respect for diversity, it increases its contribution to the generation of decent work, local development, poverty reduction and social peace in our nations, driven by a growing consumer demand for sustainable minerals and ethical jewellery.

The **Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC)**, the trading name of the Council for Responsible Jewellery Practices Ltd., is an international, not-for-profit standard setting and certification organisation established to reinforce consumer confidence in the jewellery industry by advancing responsible business practices throughout the diamond, gold and platinum group metals jewellery and watch supply chain. Membership is open to all businesses and associations participating in the diamond, gold and platinum group metals jewellery and watch supply chain and/or engaged in activities that have a potential impact on consumer confidence. Member companies span the jewellery and watch supply chain from mine to retail.

RJC's mission is to strive to be the recognised standards and certification organisation for supply chain integrity and sustainability in the global fine jewellery and watch industry. Our vision is a responsible world-wide supply chain that promotes trust in the global fine jewellery and watch industry. Our values guide our decisions and actions: we are respectful and fair; we practice honesty, integrity and

accountability; and we engage in open collaboration.

2. Rationale:

ARM and RJC wish to collaborate to advance their shared objectives of:

- improving social, environmental and labour practices, good governance and the implementation of ecosystem restoration practices in ASM;
- enhanced relationships between large-scale mining and ASM;
- facilitating the participation of the jewellery industry in both certification systems; and
- increasing market access for responsibly mined jewellery and watch raw materials (precious metals) produced by ASM communities.

3. Goals and Objectives:

ARM and RJC will collaborate to ensure the standards and modalities of their respective activities are mutually supportive. To that end, RJC will provide input through membership of ARM's Standards Committee and ARM will provide input through membership of RJC's Standards Committee.

ARM and RJC will collaborate on the following as prioritized by both groups:

- Harmonising assurance and certification approaches between the two standards systems to allow combined RJC and Fairmined audits.
- Increasing market access for precious metals from responsible ASM. For example, through the creation of social investment opportunities into the ASM sector for RJC members or through the development of joint communications materials to increase market awareness.
- Jointly recruiting private, governmental and intergovernmental sponsors to fund project to improve social, environmental and labour practices in ASM.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

The Executive Directors at ARM and RJC (Lina Villa-Cordoba and Andrew Bone respectively at the time of this MoU update) will provide high-level oversight to the MoU. The execution of the MoU will be managed at the director level; by the ARM Deputy Director and RJC Standards Director (Marcin Piersiak and Anne-Marie Fleury respectively at the time of this MoU update). Other members of each organization will be involved identified by the directors. Under the MoU the following will be developed:

- An annual work plan which identifies joint activities, timelines and resource requirements.
- A schedule of meetings for regular updates, to review progress against the work plan and identify and address areas of concern. Meetings will normally be held quarterly and supported administratively (eg, setting agendas, taking notes) in turn by each organization. Decisions will be made by consensus (i.e. members are satisfied with the decision even though it may not be their first choice).

On an annual basis, the Executive Directors will review the MoU in order to assess progress and the effectiveness of the collaboration, to discuss priorities and review the work plan accordingly. As input to the review, ARM and RJC will consult with internal and external stakeholders to obtain feedback as to their perception of the effectiveness of the MoU. Where possible, data will be collected on the success rates and reassessments of activities undertaken pursuant to the MoU.

The outcomes of this will be reported to the respective Board of Directors of ARM and RJC.

Both ARM and RJC shall bear their own costs incurred in relation to this MOU.

5. Communication, information sharing and consultation processes:

ARM and RJC will seek to maximise communication and information sharing on all issues relevant to the MoU at all relevant levels of the organisations.

Any information either party considers to be of a confidential nature, i.e. not to be shared beyond the other organisation, will be clearly described as such prior to its communication.


The parties commit to consulting with each other before making public comments about the MOU and/or its effectiveness.

6. Conflict Resolution:

ARM and RJC will seek to resolve any conflict that may arise. In the unlikely event of an irreconcilable conflict, the Board of Directors of either organisation may determine to dissolve the MoU.

7. Authorisation:

The signing of this MOU is not a formal undertaking and it is not legally enforceable. It implies that the signatories will strive to reach the objectives stated in the MOU, to the best of their ability.

ARM	Lina Villa-Córdoba	Executive Director	
RJC	Andrew Bone	Executive Director	