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SUSTAINABILITY AND THE GOLD INDUSTRY

As the global advocate for gold, the World Gold Council (WGC) is committed to playing a key role in the development of a truly sustainable gold mining industry. WGC provides a forum for education and dialogue that helps to address the range of sustainability issues faced by the industry, our membership and society at large. By expanding our membership we facilitate a broader participation by the gold mining industry in addressing these issues.

World Gold Council is an active member of both the International Council on Mining & Metals (ICMM - www.icmm.com) and the Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC- www.responsiblejewellery.com) and fully endorses the principles and mission statement of both organisations in regard to sustainability.

The ICMM has committed corporate members to implement the ICMM Sustainable Development Framework (http://www.icmm.com/sd_framework.php), including leading global standards, public reporting, independent assurance and sharing good practice.

The RJC's objective is to promote responsible ethical, social and environmental practices throughout the diamond and gold jewellery supply chain, from mine to retail (<http://www.responsiblejewellery.com/what.html>).

It is important to take into account the broader positive economic and social benefits gold mining brings to many developing countries. A WGC report issued in 2005, entitled a "Touch of Gold", demonstrated how gold has become one of the most important exports for heavily indebted poor countries and illustrated the benefits that gold mining brings to developing countries.

World Gold Council is committed to its advocacy of sustainable development throughout the gold industry, and will continue to support improvements and education regarding the social, environmental, human and ethical aspects of our industry.

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