



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **IDMA accepts Diamond Manufacturers Association of Namibia into its ranks as the organization's 16th member**

*Antwerp – November 30, 2009* – Members of the International Diamond Manufacturers Association (IDMA) voted to accept the Diamond Manufacturers Association of Namibia (DiaMAN) as the organization's 16th member. The decision was made at the 2009 Presidents' Meeting held in Antwerp in November. Namibia becomes the third African country to obtain membership in IDMA.

DiaMAN president Burhan Seber thanked the IDMA members for accepting his organization into IDMA's ranks. "IDMA was very welcoming and made us immediately feel part of the group," he noted.

IDMA president Moti Ganz said membership in IDMA was not only a clear indication of Namibia's growing power as a diamond manufacturing nation, but also solid proof that its diamond supply pipeline is tightly controlled and fully transparent.

"Namibia's membership adds yet another cornerstone to our organization, and by joining South Africa and Botswana, strengthens the African membership within IDMA," Ganz noted in welcoming the DiaMAN to IDMA. "Diamond manufacturers fulfill a crucial role in the diamond supply pipeline. Our association cannot, and will not, at any time and under any circumstances, allow rough diamonds to be manufactured by our members, or by anyone else if we can help it, unless they have been sourced and purchased in compliance with the KP certification system," he stated.

"If our industry is to grow its market share, diamond jewelry consumers need to be absolutely confident that the diamonds polished by us are indeed a significant means for growth, employment and prosperity in the regions where these diamonds are sourced," the IDMA president added.

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#### **About IDMA**

IDMA was founded and convened for the first time in 1946, in Antwerp. It is committed to fostering and promoting the highest ideals of honesty and best practice principles throughout the global diamond industry, as well as full compliance with all relevant national and international laws. The organization has developed and adopted a Code of Conduct, which is binding on all 15 member associations. IDMA also works to encourage fair and honorable practices and decent working conditions for industry employees; and to preserve, protect and promote consumer trust and confidence in diamonds. It encourages and supports social responsibility by the industry in respect to all citizens of the world. The Association has played an active role in establishing the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme and is a co-founder of the World Diamond Council.