

CIBJO CONGRESS
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HRH King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa,
HRH Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, Prime Minister,
HRH Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and
Deputy Supreme Commander, First Deputy Prime Minister,

Mr. CEO Bahrain World Trade Center,
Dr. Gaetano Cavalieri, CIBJO President,
Distinguished CIBJO Members and guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First let me thank the official organizers of this Congress, DANAT, the Bahrain Institute for Pearls & Gemstones and CIBJO for the privilege of be part of this event. Working in this area requires understanding of the great assets derived from diversity, inclusion and cultural interaction.

It is a great pleasure to be in beautiful Manama, Capital of the Kingdom of Bahrain also identified as the Bahrain Pearling Pathway and inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2012. With its pearl trade, Bahrain has long since supplied the jewelry industry with valuable raw materials.

Since 1971, when Bahrain became a member of the UN, it established an enduring partnership with the UN. As part of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) group, Bahrain has been an active and dependable partner. Bahrain's goals for Sustainable Human Development include the UN Goals, as well as the MDG's and SDG's. The Human Development Report of 2018 ranks Bahrain 43rd out of 189 Countries. Their international agenda includes these goals as well as launching their Economic vision 2030.

Let me remind you that " the SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) succeeded the MDG (Millennium Development Goals) are now the new UN Development Agenda, to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges we face, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice. Each goal has a list of targets that are measured with indicators. (139 targets and 232

Indicators) when you treat Gems and precious stones, it echoes your Scientifics Facts :

Weight Measurement, Shape, Cut, color, Species and variety to name a few!

The 17 Goals are all interconnected, and in order to leave no one behind, they have to be achieved by the year 2030!

The percentage of the population living in extreme poverty is zero. The Constitution of Bahrain guarantees gender equality, and public policy guarantees universal access to basic services. I had the honor to still be a staff member of the UN in 2006 and attend the 61st session when the GA was presided over by Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa, the third woman to ever lead the UN General Assembly. During her tenure she encouraged partnerships between UN Member States, the private sector and the Civil Society, recognizing this as vital to the success of the UN Goals.

Turning now to CIBJO's work, I am very pleased to remind you report that at the CIBJO Congress in Vancouver, Canada in 2006, it was officially announced that CIBJO had become the first and only organization in the jewellery industry worldwide to have special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council. In joining ECOSOC, CIBJO has shown great commitment through its activities to working with the international community to fulfill the United Nations Goals on Sustainable Development.

CIBJO has been instrumental in promoting transparency and openness, as well as strengthening partnerships established at local and global levels. CIBJO seeks solutions in the areas of **quality education** (Sustainable Development Goal 4), **clean water and sanitation** (Goal 6), **energy** (Goal 7), **economic growth** (Goal 8), **sustainable cities and human settlements** (Goal 11), **sustainable consumption and production patterns** (Goal 12) to name just a few.

CIBJO is also actively working to achieve SDG 14 and 15 for the protection of our oceans and our lands. We are all increasingly aware that responsible environmental management, especially of our oceans, is absolutely critical to the survival of our planet, and indeed, our species. In the jewelry and gemstones sector, sustainable use of the physical environment is essential to the quality of your products as well as to the economy and the industry of the countries that supply the raw materials.

Bringing together professional organizations from more than twenty countries, CIBJO enables the exchange of information and cooperation between its members, and the quest for progressive harmonization of

professional practices and regulations at the global level. CIBJO's mission is clear: to ensure that the jewelry industry works towards peace and sustainable resource utilization and the full realization of corporate social responsibility.

At the United Nations Conference on Oceans in New York, in June 2017, CIBJO joined a high-level delegation from the Republic of Fiji to present and promote the development of a sustainable pearl culture in Fiji. This includes ensuring the responsible management of marine areas reserved for pearl farming, which offers local populations employment opportunities. These initiatives, together with the assessment of progress at the local level, and the needs of local populations, have demonstrated that in order to achieve the SDGs by 2030, we need to encourage societies that are open, resilient, dynamic and sustainable.

Last September, The UN simultaneously launched 5 major Summits to tackle Global Challenges, aimed at new and transformative SDG actions, including innovative business solutions to accelerate Sustainable Development. They actually came at a time when the international community is faced with growing number of crises that threaten global stability.

Once again, I would like to commend Bahrain's commitment to solidarity and inclusion arrayed in the Kingdom of Bahrain Declaration. I quote: "We commit to working for a world where people of sincere belief join together to reject that divides us and concentrate instead on celebrating and expanding on that unites us."

We are gathered today in a country where the tradition of fine jewelry and pearling industry traces back to 4,000 years. Together, let us help jewelers to better and more efficiently integrate their social responsibility management methods. Let us ensure the well-being of all our players in this sector.

As we approach 2020 the UN will celebrate its 75 birthday, under the theme "The future we want, the Un we need: Reaffirming our collective commitment to Mutualism (A/RES/73/299)". I recall 5 years ago how Bahrain celebrated the 70 th Birthday of the UN: with remarkable achievements. As we are also celebrating the 20th anniversary of the accession of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa to the throne and the launch of his "Economic Vision 2030", we can just acknowledge the enduring partnership that will continue to grow between Bahrain and the UN.

We welcome a new age and we will reaffirm our collective commitment to multilateralism to prepare our world and ourselves for this emerging era. We must place sustainable development at the core of our agenda.

"No one must be left behind. We must continue to build a future we want shaping the UN@75 with Global DIALOGUE! And a life of dignity for all, (A/RES/73/299).

The 2030 has the potential to revitalize multilateralism. We will re-establish the Dialogue between governments and the people in light of the newly adopted a resolution submitted by Bahrain on the 5 th of April of each year to be an "**International Day of Conscience**". It will, God Willing, motivate the international community to resolve conflicts peacefully.

Thank you for bringing us here today,
"And learn to live together".