

## IGC 2023: Highlights Part 2

# Gold Industry Declaration of Sustainability Principles



**Mr Shivanshu Mehta, MCX presenting momentos to the speakers  
Mr John Mulligan WGC, Ms Sakhila Mirza LBMA, and Mr Albert Cheng SBMA**



**Mr John Mulligan**

### **Mr John Mulligan, World Gold Council**

The Gold industry has been evolving and revolutionising itself for many years together, with many different initiatives and innovations taking place time and again. Topics like sustainability are vaguely addressed, but what it means to the various supply chain participants is not completely understood. The basic foundations which the industry is set

on must be adhered and followed to the fullest. The WGC along with the LBMA decided to bring the market participants together. Some of the signatories of the declaration are LBMA, WGC, SBMA, CGA, ASFCMP, DMCC, IBJA, IIBX, IGPC, RJC and so on.

**Question – What can be the evolutions that can be brought about to the industry from these principles?**

**Ms Sakhila Mirza LBMA –**

As there are several competitors amongst group of companies within the declaration, there must be market integrity which should be given utmost importance. The ultimate goal of protecting the integrity of the market should not be lost amongst the various other initiatives brought in. This collective responsibility of sustainability will inturn help us work together and bring the industry leaders closer from all over the world. Communication and transparency is key for these principles. As Mr David Tait mentioned technology will be another key aspect to make all these initiatives and principles to work. In terms of responsible sourcing which has been scaling up since its

inception in 2012, has become far more diverse since the beginning.

**Question – How do you think this declaration will impact or change the way business is implemented in the gold industry?**

**Ms Sakhila Mirza LBMA –**

These sustainability principles are essentially very easy to understand but equally difficult to implement. These principles are broadly the same but can vary from place to place as the market conditions are different in different places. The Gold principles will remain the same throughout but the way these principles are implemented can vary due to the location or any other discrepancies.

From the LBMA perspective, the need for education from the regulatory side is a must as they



**Ms Sakhila Mirza**

need to understand the underlying wants and needs from the industry. Having one united voice for this cause is mandatory to be heard by all the governing bodies across the world as it might not be effective if we the industry do not stand tall and together.

**Question – How do you think this declaration will impact or change the way business is implemented in the gold industry?**

**Mr Albert Cheng SBMA –**

According to the SBMA these declarations and principles are a way forward to bring all the gold industry associates together in a global platform especially two recognised leaders like WGC and LBMA leading the way and helping the industry to work together can be the best possible start to these principles. Speaking from the Singapore perspective which has a lower population when compared to others, we think of the other countries like fore-fathers. We play a big role in the gold industry as Singapore is the hub for many Bullion banks and traders. We also have other facilities

like security vaults and storage facilities. Singapore is always looked at as a hub to connect the ASEAN region to the rest of the world. The SBMA is not run by a specific person but a committee is set which decides the trajectory. We also exchange ideas and insights between the other ASEAN countries to develop and help each other.

**Question – How do you see the interaction between stakeholders and governments, as none of these principles can be addressed by one entity alone?**

**Mr Albert Cheng SBMA –**

The framework is not fully discussed, but the main principles, which are sustainability and responsible sourcing are being addressed all across the ASEAN region even to the small



**Mr Albert Cheng**

time refiners present in this region. As Ms Sakhila stated the WGC and LBMA who are a big part of the Gold industry must be a leader and demonstrate how to abide and follow these principles.