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# 31<sup>ST</sup> WORLD DIAMOND CONGRESS

OCTOBER 17-20, 2004 • NEW YORK CITY

WORLD FEDERATION OF DIAMOND BOURSES – INTERNATIONAL DIAMOND MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

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## PRESS RELEASE

### **WORLD DIAMOND CONGRESS TO BE HELD IN NEW YORK OCTOBER 17-20 2004 MAJOR CENTERS TO PLAY KEY ROLES**

Diamond Dealers Club President Jacob Banda announced that the 31<sup>st</sup> World Diamond Congress, sponsored by the World Federation of Diamond Bourses and the International Diamond Manufacturers Association, will be held from October 17-20, 2004 at the landmark Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York.

This special three day event, co-hosted by the Diamond Dealers Club and the Diamond Manufacturers and Importers Association, will represent all the mining producing countries as well as all the most important manufacturing centers and financial institutions, all sponsored by our major sponsor ABN Amro.

According to Banda, “The World Diamond Congress, the first held in New York in twenty years, is distinctive in that each of the leading diamond centers is sponsoring a major Congress event that will highlight the unique role it plays.”

Three distinguished industry leaders will be honored at the Ambassadors Gala Dinner, scheduled to take place at the United Nations Delegates Lounge on Tuesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, sponsored by the Dubai Metals & Commodities Centre. The honorees, Lev Leviev, Chairman, Leviev Group of Companies; Eli Izhakoff, Chairman, World Diamond Council; and Peter Gross, Global Head Diamonds, ABN Amro Bank, have had an enormous positive influence on all spheres of the industry.

Congress Co-host, Ronald J. Friedman, President, Diamond Manufacturers and Importers Association of America, said that the general program for the event will begin with a grand opening at the Waldorf Astoria, sponsored by the Antwerp Diamond High Council, followed by a special Indian Luncheon Festival sponsored by IDCA & GJEPC, concluding with a special Dinner Event by the Israel Diamond Institute. Other event sponsors include GIA and JCK.

Mr. Friedman stated that, “The Congress will address the key issues affecting all of the industry, including the new environment and dynamics of the rough supply and the implementation of the Kimberley Process.”

Mr. Banda reported that one of the highlights of the Congress would be the admission of two new centers to the WFDB, the Dubai Diamond Exchange and the Shanghai Diamond Exchange. “These bourses have emerged as key diamond centers and their role in our industry will surely increase.”

The World Diamond Congress headquarters will be at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel.

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