

March 17, 2022

Remarks of Stephen D'Esposito, President & CEO, RESOLVE and the Diamond Development Initiative

Mr. President, distinguished colleagues, friends. There are at three essential ingredients to supporting artisanal and small-scale miners as they seek to participate in and benefit from the trade in responsible minerals: 1) standards that are practical on the ground and align with global norms and the needs of downstream companies and investors, 2) capacity building and training in the early stages which can be delivered locally, and 3) a commitment to post-mining restoration as too often these sites are left abandoned.

Standards can be applied at a site, regional or country level. We encourage countries to adopt standards on a national basis. DDI's Maendeleo Diamond Standard, the CRAFT Code, and FairMined are examples.

Capacity building works best when it is local, supports training-of-trainers, and includes incentives like access to market. The Gem Fair program launched by De Beers is an example of a market solution.

At a global level post-mining restoration is a priority, it is no longer good enough to walk away from these sites leaving behind scars on the earth and community health hazards. We are honored to be working with the Government of Sierra Leone with support from the Tiffany and Co. Foundation on a program, the Peace Diamonds Restoration Initiative, to help communities restore abandoned diamond mining pits creating farm land and other uses, strengthening biodiversity, and improving public health. We are now ready to scale this program across the country and into any counties with abandoned artisanal mines. Healing the land helps heal communities. We ask companies in the jewelry sector, mining, and governments to join us. We also thank the Anglo America Foundation for their support during the early pilot phase.

Thank You

Stephen D'Esposito

Stephen D'Esposito | President and CEO | [RESOLVE](#)
+1 202-255-2717 | sdesposito@resolve.ngo | www.resolve.ngo