

RAPAPORT.

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Rapaport Issues Statement at U.S. State Department Meeting and will make Keynote Address at London TBLI Conference.

PRESS RELEASE, October 19, 2011, New York: Martin Rapaport, Chairman of the Rapaport Group issued a statement at the recent U.S. State Department meeting on "The Feasibility of Direct Marketing of Artisanal Diamonds."

Mr. Rapaport's remarks focused on two key solutions for the empowerment and legitimization of artisanal miners:

1. Regional Auction Markets. "We must provide artisanal diggers with access to fair markets that provide cash liquidity at transparent and competitive, fair market value prices. I believe that this can and should be accomplished through the establishment of regional tender-auction markets in artisanal mining areas," said Mr. Rapaport.
2. Ethical Certification Systems. "We must track diamond and gem production from the source - artisanal digger cooperatives or small business units - to finished jewelry products," he said.

Attached is the full text of Mr. Rapaport's remarks which are also available at <http://www.diamonds.net/news/NewsItem.aspx?ArticleID=37491>

Mr. Rapaport will make a keynote presentation entitled "Development Diamonds – Challenges and Opportunities" at the TBLI Conference (Triple Bottom Line Investing) to be held in London, on November 10, 2011. Additional information about the TBLI conference is available at www.tbliconference.com

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About the Rapaport Group: The Rapaport Group is an international network of companies providing added value services that support the development of free, fair and competitive global diamond markets. Established in 1978, the Rapaport Diamond Report is the primary source of diamond prices and market information. Group activities include publishing, research and marketing services, internet information and diamond trading networks, global rough and polished diamond tenders, diamond certification, quality- control, compliance, shipping, and financial services. Major activities of the group include the development of markets for Fair Trade Diamonds and Jewelry as well as the creation of diamond futures markets. Additional information is available at www.Rapaport.com

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