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## CONCEPT NOTE

# COP 28 SIDE EVENT: Responsible and inclusive management of critical energy transition minerals

6 December 2023, 11:30 – 13:00 (GMT+4)

Hybrid, in person in SE Room 4 (Blue Zone), online via COP28 virtual platform

### Background

Energy transition minerals are vital inputs for technologies like solar panels, wind turbines, batteries and electric vehicles. Their supply and demand face geopolitical uncertainties, environmental impacts, market distortions, and technological gaps.

Under the International Energy Agency's (IEA) net-zero emissions scenario, demand for these critical materials will more than triple by 2030. For producing countries, the potential economic benefits of this increased demand come with potential social and environmental risks, including increased encroachment on sensitive lands, potential conflicts with the need to preserve biodiversity and carbon sinks, and ensuring a just and inclusive energy transition.

Ensuring a sustainable supply of these critical energy transition minerals (CETMs) for the low-carbon energy transition requires diversification, innovation, effective governance, transparency, financing and investment, a circular economy, and a just transition. For policy makers, there is an increasing need to better understand the link between energy transition and the extraction and processing of CETMs.

In 2021, the UN Secretary General launched the 'Working Group on Transforming the Extractive Industries for Sustainable Development', with a view to support a just energy transition through sustainable minerals development. The Working Group is co-organized by the UN Regional Economic Commissions, UNDP and UNEP, and is intended to support efforts at the global, regional, and local effort to enable the sustainable development of extractive industries, with a focus on CETMs.

### Objectives

This event is intended to stimulate discussion and obtain feedback from a broad range of stakeholders, including policy makers, civil society, financial institutions, and research institutes, on key issues to be considered in order to ensure that policy measures and investments made in the extractives industries drive the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Representatives from the UN Regional Economic Commissions will present the main activities and outputs of the Working Group since its inception and the relevance of this topic to their respective regions, and relevant stakeholders will be invited to discuss efforts to promote the sustainable development of CETMs within the context of the broader energy transition.

The following guiding questions will guide the discussion:

1. What policies and best practices can help improve the sustainability of CETM production?
2. What are the challenges faced by policy makers when considering national mineral resource development plans that take into account CETMs?
3. How can countries strengthen mineral resource governance and improve data transparency?
4. How should countries ensure the equitable distribution of resource revenues and enable a just and inclusive transition, in particular for impacted communities?

5. What are relevant policy mechanisms and best practices to enable country efforts towards value addition and participation in global supply chains?
6. How can countries collaborate to develop more resilient and sustainable supply chains for CETMs and renewable energy technologies?
7. What current developments in research and development, emerging resource efficient, circular economy practices and options exist to raw mineral extraction that countries should consider when acquiring or producing renewable energy technologies?
8. What mechanisms exist to enable technology transfer and financial assistance to developing economies, and how can these mechanisms be improved?
9. How can public, private and climate finance be mobilized towards more sustainable mineral extraction and the development of renewable energy technologies?

### Expected Outcomes

The outcome of this event is to identify and share best practices with participating stakeholders, provide and explore opportunities for future engagement and development of policy dialogues to strengthen multilateral cooperation, and inform the programme of work of the Secretary General’s Working Group on Transforming the Extractive Industries for Sustainable Development.

### Tentative Program:

Time	Agenda
<b>11:30 – 12:00</b>	<p><b>Welcome and opening remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) [Video Message]</li> <li>• Mr. Antonio Pedro, Deputy Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) [Video Message]</li> <li>• Mr. José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) [Video message]</li> <li>• Ms. Tatiana Molcean, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)</li> <li>• Ms. Rola Dashti, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA)</li> </ul>
<b>12:00-12:55</b>	<p><b>Panel Discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Benedict Oramah, President, African Export Import Bank</li> <li>• Dr. Ahmed Mohina, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Electricity and Renewable Energy, Egypt</li> <li>• Representative from ASEAN Secretariat [TBC]</li> <li>• Representative from IMF [TBC]</li> <li>• Ms. Jodi-Ann Wang, Member Resource Management Young Member Group (RMYMG), UNECE Expert Group on Resource Management, and London School of Economics Grantham Institute on Climate Change and the Environment</li> </ul> <p>Moderated by Hongpeng Liu, Director, Energy Division, ESCAP</p>

<b>12:55 – 13:00</b>	<b>Closing remarks</b>
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**Notes:**

- Meeting language is English
- Interpretation will not be provided
- Online participation will be facilitated via COP28 video conferencing platform
- Event will be livestreamed on the COP28 YouTube channel