

# COP 29 SIDE EVENT CONCEPT NOTE

## Harnessing Critical Energy Transition Minerals for Sustainable Development

19 November 2024, 13h15 – 14h45

Hybrid, in person, Side Event 5 (Blue Zone) online via COP29 virtual platform

### Background

[Critical energy transition minerals](#) (CETM) such as copper, lithium, nickel, cobalt and rare earth elements are essential components in many of today's rapidly growing clean energy technologies – from wind turbines and solar panels to electric vehicles and battery storage. Demand for CETM is set to [grow by three and a half times](#) by 2030 as the world transitions from fossil fuels to [renewable energy](#) in order to reduce global carbon dioxide emissions to [net zero by 2050](#). Without proper management, the [increasing demand](#) for CETM risks perpetuating commodity dependence, exacerbating geopolitical tensions and [environmental and social challenges](#), including impacts on livelihoods, the environment, health, human security and human rights, and can undermine efforts towards the energy transition.

As extraction of CETM accelerates to match the needs of the energy transition, it is crucial to ensure that the countries and local communities endowed with these resources reap the benefits and manage/minimize impacts.

The Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals was launched by the United Nations Secretary-General in April 2024 to develop a set of global and common voluntary principles on issues which are key to building trust between governments, communities and industry, enhancing transparency and investment, and ensuring just and equitable management of sustainable, responsible and reliable value chains for CETM. The Panel released its report entitled '[Resourcing the Energy Transition: Principles to guide critical energy transition minerals toward equity and justice](#)' on 11 September 2024. The Secretary General asked the UN system to support the implementation of the principles and actionable recommendations proposed in the report.

### Objectives

1. Socialize the Principles and Actionable Recommendations included in the above-referenced report.
2. Showcase UN efforts to advance Global Principles on Critical Energy Transition Minerals.
3. Discuss with CETM stakeholders, follow-up needed to implement the principles and recommendations from the above-referenced report.

### Guiding questions

1. How is the United Nations supporting the implementation of the Panel's Principles and recommendations? Where is more action needed?
2. What key on-going efforts could be leveraged at the regional and national level to embed and implement the seven principles proposed by the Secretary-General's Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals?

3. What could be effective mechanisms for multi-stakeholder cooperation to promote the principles and/or to operationalize the actionable recommendations proposed by the Secretary-General's Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals?

## Agenda

Time	Agenda
13:15 – 13:35	<p><b>Moderator:</b> <b>Matthew Wittenstein</b>, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP</p> <p><b>Introduction:</b> <i>Overview of the event, introduce the Secretary-General's Panel on CETM recommended Principles and actionable recommendations, and the objectives of the session.</i></p> <p><b>Welcome and Opening Remarks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chantal Line Carpentier</b>, Head of the Trade and Environment Branch of the Division on International Trade and Commodities (5 minutes)</li> <li>• <b>Mirey Atallah</b>, Chief of the Adaptation and Resilience Branch, UNEP (5 minutes)</li> <li>• Video Messages (around 4 minutes each) from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana</b>, Executive Secretary, ESCAP</li> <li>○ <b>Rola Dashti</b>, Executive Secretary, ESCWA</li> <li>○ <b>José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs</b>, Executive Secretary, ECLAC</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
13:35-14:25	<p><b>Panel Discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dmitry Mariyasin</b>, Deputy Executive Secretary, UNECE</li> <li>• <b>María José Torres</b>, UN Resident Coordinator in Chile</li> <li>• <b>Nassim Oulmane</b>, Acting Director of the Climate Change, Food Security and Natural Resources Division, ECA</li> <li>• <b>Ana Paula Sosa</b>, human rights officer, OHCHR</li> <li>• <b>Damião Victor Namuera</b>, Head of the Renewable Energy Department, Ministry of Mineral Resources and Energy</li> <li>• <b>Denis M. Gyeyir</b>, Africa Senior Program Officer, Natural Resource Governance Institute</li> </ul>
14:25 – 14:40	<b>Q&amp;A and reactions from speakers</b>
14:40 – 14:45	<b>Closing remarks by moderator</b>

### Notes:

- Meeting language is English
- Interpretation will not be provided
- Online participation will be facilitated via COP29 video conferencing platform