

Africa's Strategic Minerals

19th – 20th September 2023

Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire

African countries could be crucial for diversifying global supply chains of strategic minerals. However, despite this mineral potential, Africa as a continent receives low levels of exploration expenditure compared to global competitors due to perceptions of political risk, weak institutional and legislative environment, and infrastructure deficits. Furthermore, there are marked differences in stakeholders' expectations of the energy transition.

The responsibility of ensuring African countries truly benefit from the green commodity boom is shared between African governments and policy makers as well as investors and companies. Governments must create attractive investment environments, built on strong institutions that ensure participation of all stakeholders, and in the transparent and accountable allocation of resource rents.

International and local partnerships with key allies and organizations will be vital in delivering 'win-win' outcomes to companies and civil society. This will include bi-lateral partnerships on regional value chains, PPPs with companies to secure benefits, and broad partnerships with consumer countries to secure skills and knowledge transfers. As International government and companies put increasing attention on environmental, social, and governance (ESG) criteria, there is space for greater African determination of what their own priorities are. The global drive for environmental protection should not come at the cost of worsening social and governance in producer countries.

Day 1

09:00 – 09:10 **Welcome remarks**

09:10 – 09:40 **Opening keynotes**

09:40 – 11:10 **Session 1 – The geopolitics of strategic and critical minerals**

- *What are the implications for Africa of the demand for metals and minerals required for the global green transitions?*
- *What are international partners key critical mineral strategies?*

11:10 – 11:40 **Coffee break**

11:40 – 13:00 **Session 2 – New demand, new opportunities? An outlook on European-African cooperation in the sector of critical minerals**

National and regional critical mineral strategies

Priorities and possibilities for diversifying supply chains

International partnerships for critical mineral supply chains

African opportunities in the drive for critical minerals

13:00 – 14:00 **Lunch break**

- 14:00 – 15:30 **Session 3 – Regional value chain development**
- *What are the opportunities and outstanding obstacles to regional beneficiation programmes?*
 - *To what extent will the MoU for the development of battery value chains boost regional green and digital transformation?*

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee break

- 16:00 – 17:30 **Session 4 – Investment trends in African mining**
- National mining investment priorities*
Institutions and investment
Investor perceptions of Africa
Company experience: Nickel in Zambia and/or Tanzania

Day 2

- 09:00 – 10:30 **Session 5 – Overcoming perceptions of ESG risk**
- Climate sensitive mining in Africa*
Industry priorities in ESG
Environmental compliance
Engaging with ASM

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee Break

- 11:00 – 12:30 **Session 6 – Partnerships for just transition**
- International partnerships*
Company development partnerships
Local content and community economic linkages
The role of IFIs in supporting just transition
Securing sector green energy needs

12:30 – 12:45 **Concluding remarks**