



# Embedding Transition Minerals Governance in COP30 Outcomes for Implementation of Climate Action

---

Background.....	1
Why COP30 should address transition minerals .....	2
Elements for inclusion in COP30 outcomes .....	6
Annex 1: Relevant resources .....	7
Annex 2: The UN CETM Panel’s Guiding Principles and Actionable Recommendations .....	8

---

## Background

This document summarizes relevant background information, proposals, and key discussion points that emerged from, “Strengthening transition minerals governance at COP30 & beyond” – a meeting organized by ENDA Energie, Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI), and Zimbabwe Environmental Law Organization (ZELO), and attended by UNFCCC delegates, civil society representatives, and experts from multilateral institutions during Climate Week 2 (Addis Ababa, 1-6 September 2025). It reflects the broad consensus among participants that it is Important for COP30 outcomes to address the need for equity In transition minerals, including to secure just energy access for all; articulates key arguments made by participants in support of such an outcome; links to resources participants can reference to situate COP30 negotiations relating to transition minerals within a broader context; and offers a set of proposals shared in the meeting for participants’ consideration as they shape their positions and strategies in the run-up to Belém.



## Why COP30 should address transition minerals

### Transition minerals are key to climate action

- **Climate commitments are driving exponential increases in demand for minerals** needed to accelerate deployment of clean energy technology – including cobalt, nickel, lithium, bauxite and a wide range of other minerals. The International Energy Agency has estimated that **mineral production for clean energy technology will need to quadruple to meet Paris-aligned scenarios**. Rapid mineral production growth will be necessary even sooner to meet the targets of **tripling global renewable energy capacity and doubling energy efficiency by 2030** (from the “UAE Consensus,” or Global Stocktake (GST) outcome, COP28, 2023, Dubai).
- **This presents an opportunity for mineral-producing countries.** With the right governance systems, resources, and accountability, mineral demand can drive **jobs, economic diversification, clean energy infrastructure, and fairer benefits** for people in low- and middle-income countries. Minerals already generate a significant share of public revenues in many countries across the Global South, and governments see the surge in demand for minerals associated with clean energy as an opportunity for growth and development.
- In particular, there is a growing push among producer countries to **integrate mineral equity into national and local just transition efforts**. This means not just exporting raw materials, but identifying **value addition opportunities**, linking to broader **green industrialization strategies**, identifying **shared-use energy** and other infrastructure that can increase resilience, boosting **national electromobility supply chains** and **directing mining revenues to climate resilience efforts**. And it requires close and concerted, multi-sectorial coordination and planning across relevant government authorities in host countries to ensure that line ministries, agencies, and bodies contributing to minerals development strategies, just energy transitions, delivery of national climate objectives, and related sustainable development goals (SDGs) are united behind this objective.
- Success in delivering on these opportunities is far from guaranteed. Many past efforts to use mining as a driver of sustainable development have failed or faced huge equity related challenges. Poor environmental and social policies or practices, weak corporate accountability, abuse of the rights of communities and Indigenous People can create



**conflicts and instability in mineral supply chains**, putting all these national development objectives at risk – and undermining national and international climate targets.

- **The rush for critical minerals cannot repeat the mistakes of the past**, a costly and deeply unfair result that is a very real prospect given the current geopolitical context and the rush by high-emitting, consumer countries to grab and control many “critical mineral” flows. However, if well governed and managed properly, transition mineral value chains could be a **chance to build more just and sustainable economies** by driving Paris-aligned development and inclusive, green industrialization strategies that address urgent energy access needs and priorities.
- **Governance of minerals is thus fundamental for just energy transitions.** Urgent action is needed to avoid perpetuating unequal benefits or “sacrifice zones”. As the world transitions away from fossil fuels, fair and equitable minerals value chains are an opportunity to create opportunity and shared prosperity for the hundreds of millions of people who live in low- and middle-income countries that produce minerals as part of a just energy transition.

### **There is multilateral momentum on transition minerals**

1. There has been **significant action at the international level** and within producer countries to establish a core set of principles to drive equitable transition minerals supply chains.
2. Last year, the **UN Secretary-General’s [Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals](#)** issued **[Guiding Principles and Actionable Recommendations](#)** on how to translate the opportunity of the energy transition into justice and equity for developing mineral producer countries. See Annex 2 for a full list of the Panel’s Guiding Principles and Actionable Recommendations.
  - The Panel was made up of governments from across the Global South and North, as well as non-state actors representing labor, Indigenous Peoples, the mining industry and civil society.
  - The seven Guiding Principles underscore the significance of human rights, biodiversity, benefit-sharing, value addition and diversification in mineral supply chains. Actionable Recommendations included a process to drive equitable benefit-



- sharing/value addition, a global traceability framework and creating a Global Legacy Fund for derelict mines.
- In the aftermath of the Panel report, several UN agencies, including **UNEP and UNCTAD**, are pursuing steps to roll out more concrete actions and establish the high-level expert group called for by the Panel. So far, though, the UN has not announced clear next steps to launch the group. In June 2025, a group of more than 150 civil society organizations sent an [open letter to the Secretary-General](#) to urge the UN to promptly establish the expert group.
3. The **UN Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)** launched the [Global Alliance for Responsible and Green Minerals](#). This multistakeholder alliance aspires to support a knowledge platform, design in-country projects, and help identify project funding opportunities.
  4. The **Government of Colombia** has been advocating for the upcoming [UN Environmental Assembly](#) (UNEA7) to promote **justice in mining** by negotiating **binding environmental international standards** for extracting and processing minerals.
  5. The **African Union launched its Green Minerals Strategy** earlier this year, which provides a road map for achieving the vision of “an Africa that harnesses green mineral value chains for equitable resource-based industrialization and electrification, creating green technologies and sustainable development to enhance the quality of life of its people.”
  6. Several African countries that coordinate through the Africa Group of Negotiators (AGN) at the UNFCCC including South Africa, Tanzania, and Zambia, have already adopted or are developing critical minerals strategies, efforts that also align with, and contribute to, nationally-determined climate, decarbonization, and energy transition goals (or could do if they don’t already).
  7. Other initiatives have set out principles and recommendations on equitable management of transition minerals as part of a broader push for just transitions, including by the [OECD](#), the [Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance](#), the [Global Investor Commission on Mining 2030](#) and others.

### **There is growing momentum to link transition minerals to the Paris Agreement**

There were an unprecedented breadth and depth of transition minerals mentions in interventions by both Parties & Observers during the Fourth Dialogue under the UAE Just Transition Work Program (JTWP) in Addis Ababa (1-2 September). Multiple calls from delegates



and observers – for **equitable benefit-sharing, value addition**, protection of minerals-impacted **communities** and developing **shared visions** for integration of minerals governance and just transition – set the expectation that these calls will be reflected in the Co-Chairs' summary of the session ahead of COP30.

- The African Group of Negotiators (AGN) called for a **just compensation mechanism** for countries that supply critical transition minerals in their [submission](#) to the dialogue.
- In their own [submission](#), AILAC countries explicitly referred to the UNSG Panel's conclusions and Biodiversity COP16 declaration about responsible mining practices, and stated that a just transition approach “could foster sustainability, biodiversity protection, gender equality, and the respect for human rights, labor rights, and the rights and ancestral knowledge of Indigenous Peoples along the entire minerals value chain, **contributing to the development of local economies, good practices and fair market within the framework of mineral-dependent sectors transitions.**”
- During the dialogue, **Colombia called** for an agreement on “**no go zones**” – regions or areas with special ecological value that humanity declares off-limits for drilling or mining.
- In their submissions, the [G77 and China](#) recognized energy transition minerals within the scope of the JTWP, while the [Least Developed Countries \(LDCs\)](#) also flagged the negative impacts of large-scale mining of these minerals on the environment and biodiversity in many of these countries as a specific circumstance to factor in when discussing just transitions.
- The International Labour Organization (ILO) [laid out](#) the opportunities for “local economic revitalization” that the exploration of new transition mineral deposits could create, while highlighting the challenges that still exist for these opportunities to contribute to a just transition at the territorial level.

Additionally, under the Response Measures track of UNFCCC negotiations, [the G77 and China submission](#) on “topics for the global dialogues on the impacts of the implementation of response measures in 2025” also includes a section titled, “Equitable Approaches to the Global Demand for Critical Minerals.” This confirms the idea that **there are multiple active negotiating tracks that could plausibly reference minerals-related priorities at COP30, starting with the JTWP but also including the Response Measures Forum, the Mitigation Work Program (MWP), and even the UAE Dialogue on Global Stocktake (GST) Implementation.**



## Elements for inclusion in COP30 outcomes

COP30 should end the UNFCCC's silence on transition minerals and show political will to **connect the dots between governance improvements for the minerals sector and the just transitions required to drive climate action.** To that end, COP30 should:

- Recognize that implementing the **outcomes of the first global stocktake (GST) set out in decision 1/CMA.5 will require a rapid scale-up of energy transition minerals** which, without proper governance, will exacerbate environmental and social challenges, including impacts on livelihoods, the environment, health, human security, and human rights. Conversely, well-governed extraction, processing, and recycling of energy transition minerals represent important opportunities for value addition and economic diversification central to just transitions in many developing countries with mineral endowments;
- Welcome the work of the UN Secretary-General's Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals, and **endorse the Panel's [Guiding Principles and Actionable Recommendations](#)**, which represent a starting point for ensuring that energy transitions are resourced in a way that is in line with just transition pathways;
- Call on Parties to contribute to improved governance of transition minerals through inclusive multilateral action that seeks to **center voices from low- and middle-income producing countries.**

Under the **JTWP**, Parties should:

- Establish of a **Global Just Transition Mechanism** as a platform designed to drive implementation of just transitions, including through **knowledge sharing, coordination and concentrating finance on just transition priorities** of developing country Parties, and designate this mechanism as a vehicle for integrating fair trade in transition minerals into just transition planning and delivery, among other priorities.
- Build **synergies and linkages – including periodic check-ins – between JTWP / UNFCCC discussions on transition minerals and UN processes** set up to carry forward the work of the UNSG Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals and other related initiatives.

As part of the **Response Measures Forum**, Parties should likewise recognize the importance of, and endorse the call for, a more equitable governance of transition minerals as a key ingredient of response measures that deliver positive outcomes for resource rich countries – including key elements identified above.



## Annex 1: Relevant resources

Party Submissions to the Fourth Dialogue under the Just Transition Work Program:

- [African Group of Negotiators](#)
- [AILAC](#)
- [G77 + China](#)
- [LDCs](#)

Non-Party Submissions to the Fourth dialogue under the Just Transition Work Program:

- [Climate Action Network](#)
- [Natural Resource Governance Institute \(NRGI\)](#)
- [Publish What You Pay Asia Pacific - Transition Mineral Accountability Working Group](#)

Party Submissions to the Workstream on the Impact of Implementation of Response Measures:

- [G77 + China](#)

Core Principles and Guidance:

- [Report of the UN Secretary General's Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals: Principles to Guide Critical Energy Transition Minerals Toward Equity and Justice](#)
- [African Green Minerals Strategy](#)



## Annex 2: The UN CETM Panel's Guiding Principles and Actionable Recommendations

### Guiding Principles:

1. Human rights must be at the core of all mineral value chains.
2. The integrity of the planet, its environment and biodiversity must be safeguarded.
3. Justice and equity must underpin mineral value chains.
4. Development must be fostered through benefit sharing, value addition and economic diversification.
5. Investments, finance and trade must be responsible and fair.
6. Transparency, accountability and anti-corruption measures are necessary to ensure good governance.
7. Multilateral and international cooperation must underpin global action and promote peace and security.

### Actionable Recommendations:

1. A High-Level Expert Advisory Group to accelerate greater benefit-sharing, value addition and economic diversification in critical energy transition minerals value chains as well as responsible and fair trade, investment, finance, and taxation.
2. A global traceability, transparency and accountability framework along the entire mineral value chain – from mining to recycling – to strengthen due diligence, facilitate corporate accountability and build a global market for critical energy transition minerals, though the framework should not be used as a unilateral trade barrier.
3. A Global Mining Legacy Fund to build trust and address legacy issues as a result of derelict, ownerless or abandoned mines, and strengthen financial assurance mechanisms for mine closure and rehabilitation.
4. An initiative that empowers artisanal and small-scale miners to become agents of transformation to foster development, environmental stewardship and human rights.
5. Equitable targets and timelines for the implementation of material efficiency and circularity approaches across the entire life cycle of critical energy transition minerals.