



Ibrahim Governance Weekend (1- 3 June 2025)

Revamping Africa-Europe Cooperation on Transition Minerals: A mutually beneficial opportunity

Africa-Europe High-Level
Policymakers Meeting on Transition
Minerals

PROGRAMME

3 June 2025

9:30 – 11:00 AM

Room Fes 1
Palais des Congrès

Marrakesh, Morocco



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#MIFMarrakesh

3 JUNE 2025

Session Background



The growing demand for Transition Minerals is reshaping the geopolitical landscape and necessitates a strategic reassessment of Europe's approach to sourcing from Africa and cooperation between Africa and Europe. With abundant reserves of Transition Minerals, Africa stand at a critical juncture- facing both the opportunity and responsibility to transform its raw material wealth into diversified, well governed, and structured value-chains. This transformation could drive socio-economic growth, create jobs, and improve infrastructure, transport, and energy access across the continent. Meanwhile, Europe's climate and security ambitions to decarbonize its economy and rearm depend on securing a stable supply of these essential resources, crucial for achieving its green, digital and defence transitions.

To fully capitalise on Africa's vast reserves of TMs, a paradigm shift is required from the traditional "pit to port" model—where raw materials are extracted and exported without value addition—to a more sustainable and inclusive approach that emphasizes local beneficiation, value creation, and equitable partnerships. This strategic shift is not only timely but essential for enhancing Europe's competitiveness in the global economy while supporting Africa's industrialisation and development goals, including the recently adopted Africa Green Minerals Strategy (AGMS) as well as South Africa's G20 Presidency and vision.

Without a comprehensive re-evaluation and redesign of current systems, African countries risk remaining primarily raw material exporters, perpetuating their dependency on external sources of capital and technology while gaining minimal value-added from processing, refining, semi-manufacturing, and manufacturing within the continent.

If African countries are to get a better deal from rising demand for their transition minerals and increased local value addition, it needs increased domestic resource mobilisation to invest in local transition mineral value-chains. In the same vein, European countries need to re-think what they can “offer” to maximize benefits for both regions and help transform Africa's role in the global value-chain of transition minerals.

Background

Anchored within the Ibrahim Governance Weekend (IGW), this high-level dialogue will convene prominent figures from Africa and Europe, including policymakers, representatives from international organisations, the private sector and civil society, including experts and eminent personalities attending the IGW.

As 2025 marks a “super year” for redefining Africa-Europe cooperation and transition minerals play an increasing role in the cross-continental and global agenda, the meeting will provide a unique moment to take stock of cooperation to date and seek opportunities for a new beginning, grounded into the principles and recommendations of the UN Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals (CETM), as well as the recently adopted African Green Minerals Strategy (AGMS).

The meeting will also discuss the latest findings from AEF on transition minerals, including its Scoping Paper: ‘**The Regional Dimension of Transition Minerals: A Strategic Agenda for the Africa-Europe Partnership**’. As such, the dialogue will lay the groundwork for a renewed approach to Africa-Europe collaboration on transition minerals, emphasizing the need for a business case to be made for EU industries to invest across Africa, and for Africa to



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leverage its unique mineral endowment in a competitive manner.

Laying the ground for improved cooperation in the lead-up to the 2nd Africa Climate Summit, COP30, and the 7th AU-EU Heads of State Summit, the meeting's outcomes will be directed toward leaders from both continents, providing strategic insights and recommendations, in the form of an 'Africa-Europe Action Agenda on Transition Minerals', and informing the new AU-EU institutional cycle and associated actors from all sectors.

Guiding questions may include:

- How can European investment and policy frameworks be restructured to support the Africa Green Minerals Strategy (AGMS) value-chains Venture Capital Fund (VCF), and shift from raw material extraction to higher-value processing and manufacturing?
- What mechanisms and governance support are needed to advance the Africa Minerals Governance Framework (AMGF), and how to balance Africa's industrialization and economic sovereignty with Europe's demand for secure and stable access to transition minerals?
- How can Africa and Europe co-develop financial, technological, and infrastructure solutions that enable local beneficiation and value-chain integration, reducing dependency on external capital and technology?

Expected Outcomes from IGW's session on Transition Minerals:

The expected outcomes from the Ibrahim Governance Weekend's (IGW) 'Africa-Europe High-Level Policymakers Meeting on Transition Minerals' include:

- Africa-Europe Action Agenda on Transition Minerals: Development of an action agenda for the Africa-Europe Partnership, focusing on tangible opportunities to revamp the partnership on equal terms.
- AEF Added Value and Priority Areas of Focus: Identification of AEF added value on transition minerals, along with up to five key priority areas for collaboration between Africa and Europe regarding transition minerals.
- Key Messages: Formulation of key messages to guide leaders from both continents in preparation for the upcoming 7th AU-EU summit (building the narrative emphasizing the need for revised and new joint positioning)
- Testing Recommendations: Use the Policymakers Meeting to test and gain buy-in on recommendations stemming from the Scoping Paper and early draft of the Action Agenda.
- Enhanced Cooperation: Strengthening cooperation between Africa and Europe by addressing the geopolitical, policy, market, climate trends related to transition minerals.
- Expert Engagement: Gathering insights from a diverse group of stakeholders and experts to inform the discussions and recommendations.

These outcomes aim to ensure that the partnership evolves in a direction that aligns with Africa's own vision and EU's strategic goals.



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Confirmed participants already include:

- **Adrien de Bassompierre**, Head of EIB Representation to Morocco, European Investment Bank (EIB)
- **Birgit Pickel**, Africa Director, German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
- **Donald Kaberuka**, Chairman and Managing Partner at South Bridge; and Former President of the African Development Bank (AfDB)
- **Hanan Morsy**, Deputy Executive Secretary and Chief Economist, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)
- **Kandeh Yumkella**, Chairman of the Special Initiative on Climate Change, Renewable Energy and Food Systems Sierra Leone; and Chair of the AEF Strategy Group on Energy
- **James Hermanson**, Policy Advisor, Global Relations and Cooperation Directorate, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- **Mithika Mwenda**, Executive Director Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PAJCA)
- **Nafi Chinery**, Africa Director, Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI)
- **Ndidi Okonkwo Nwuneli**, Chief Executive Officer, ONE Campaign
- **Ousmane Cisse**, Director General, Société des Mines du Sénégal (SOMISEN S.A)
- **Igor Shishlov**, Head of Finance, Perspective Climate Research
- **Sarah Logan**, Visiting Fellow - Africa programme, European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR)
- **Paul Jourdan**, Senior Fellow for Transitions Minerals, Africa-Europe Foundation (AEF)

AEF positioning on Transition Minerals:

Following the orientations of the AEF High-Level Group, the Africa-Europe Foundation (AEF) has continued to focus during 2024/5 on unlocking cooperation in strategic domains which hold the most promise for a transformative, win-win Africa-Europe Partnership (from our work on Energy, Agri-Food, Health and Sustainable Infrastructure Financing, to bringing in focus on Domestic Resource Mobilisation and Illicit Financial Flows).

While AEF continues to unpack these critical domains, we consider that this is the right moment to bring into focus cross-continental cooperation on transition mineral value-chains (a domain which has consistently emerged on the geopolitical and geoeconomic agenda, and across our work-streams).

On one hand, AEF is able to build on proven methodologies when it comes to impactful convening and action research. On the other, through our established partnerships and multi-stakeholder Strategy Groups, we have cultivated relations with experts and leaders at the nexus of climate, trade and economic development (including in energy access/transition, infrastructure financing, economic and regional integration, and blue economy).

Moving forward, AEF is well-positioned to initiate a combination of actions, from its Scoping Report (to aggregate the existing data, analysis and advance concrete recommendations in this TM value-chains domain of cooperation) to a series of closed-door dialogues bringing together experts and leaders from its partnerships and platforms.



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In that context, AEF's will seek to organise a first 'Africa-Europe high-level Policymakers Meeting on Transition Minerals' in the context of the Ibrahim Governance Weekend (1-3 June), building on its recent Interactive Panel Discussions at COP29 in Baku, the Finance In Common Summit (FICS) in Cape Town, and the SEforALL Global Forum in Bridgetown.

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