



Africa-Europe High-Level Policymakers Interactive Panel Discussion on Energy Transition Minerals

----- Finance in Common Summit -----

Revamping international Cooperation on Energy Transition Minerals: A mutually beneficial opportunity for Europe and Africa

Hosted by the Africa-Europe Foundation (AEF) and the Paris Peace Forum (PPF)
28 February | 10:45 AM – 12:45 PM – Foyer Auditorium 1
Interactive Panel Discussion

Programme:

At COP28, over 130+ governments agreed to triple renewable energy capacity and double energy efficiency by 2030. Achieving these ambitious goals hinges on a significant increase in the supply of energy transition minerals (ETMs).

The evolving geopolitical landscape, pushed by increasing demand of ETM, necessitates a re-evaluation of Europe's approach to transition minerals in Africa. By recognising the continent as a market rather than merely an exporter, Europe can foster more equitable and mutually beneficial partnerships. This strategic shift is not only timely but essential for enhancing Europe's competitiveness in the global economy while supporting Africa's development goals, including South Africa's G20 Presidency and vision.

Africa, endowed with large reserves of ETMs, stand at a crossroads of opportunity and responsibility to transform and diversify its economies, create green jobs, while fostering locally led industrialisation. Meanwhile, Europe's climate ambitions to decarbonize its economy depend on securing a stable supply of these essential resources, crucial for achieving its green and digital transitions.

As the world races towards a climate compatible future, the demand for ETMs will skyrocket. However, without proper reconsideration and redesign of the existing system, Africa will remain largely as a raw exporter perpetuating commodity dependence from partners, with minimal value-added activities such as processing and refining taking place within the continent.

At the same time, resource-rich countries face significant challenges in mobilizing the necessary financing for responsible mining projects and mineral value chain, which pose an additional barrier to economic growth and value creation. Despite the clear economic and developmental potential, high project risks, long payback periods, and infrastructural deficits



deter private sector involvement. Development finance institutions (DFIs), Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) and Public Development Banks (PDBs) are well-positioned to address these gaps, but innovative approaches and collaborative efforts are needed to unlock sustainable investments.

This calls for a reimagined international collaboration, including Africa-Europe partnership - one that goes beyond mere extraction but that inevitably involve supporting Africa in taking control of the narrative around its rich-resources to ensure the opportunities of the global energy transition are pursued with equity and justice.

This Finance in Common Summit (FiCS) high-level policymakers meeting will focus on how Africa's vast reserves can be harnessed to build local value chains and manufacture clean technologies for Africa's own demand and export needs. It will explore how fostering private investments can support value creation goals and in what ways DFIs, MDBs and PDBs could contribute. It will also dive into how redefining international cooperation on ETMs, especially between Africa and Europe, can address current challenges while unlocking new opportunities, including for driving locally led industrialisation and investment.

Hosted by the Africa-Europe Foundation (AEF) and the Paris Peace Forum (PPF) ahead of a "super year" for revamping Africa-Europe cooperation and embedding minerals firmly in the global agenda, the Interactive Panel Discussion will lay the foundation for a renewed approach to cooperation on ETMs and related investment in sustainable mining and processing projects on the African continent.

Guiding questions may include:

- How can Africa leverage its vast reserves of ETMs to move beyond raw material exports and foster value-added activities, such as refining and processing, for energy for development, locally led industrialization, and job creation?
- What policy frameworks and investments are necessary to secure Africa's access to clean technologies and energy infrastructure, ensuring that the continent can meet its energy needs to achieve SDG7 and industrialization goals? What key barriers, including structural, geopolitical, financial and operational, are hindering investments and delaying Africa's development goals?
- What role can DFIs, MDBs and PDBs play in fostering responsible investments in the African continent? How can partnerships between governments, DFIs, MDBs and PDBs, private sector and civil society actors strengthen the capacity of DFIs, MDBs and PDBs to invest in ETM supply chains while ensuring alignment with sustainability criteria?
- What mechanisms can be established to ensure Africa-Europe cooperation on ETMs is grounded in equity and justice principles, empowering Africa in its own energy



transformation and strengthening mutually beneficial economic collaboration with Europe's green ambitions?

Background:

With the steering of AEF and PPF, this Interactive Panel Discussion serves as a second step in discussing how a just and equitable energy transition highlights the need to strengthen ties on equal terms between producer and consumer countries. It builds on a [process initiated by AEF jointly with SEforALL at COP29 in Baku](#) alongside the [interim report of the Paris Peace Forum's Global Council for Responsible Transition Minerals](#), released simultaneously. .

Conversations will continue during ministerial discussions at the SEforALL Global Forum in Barbados on 12-13 March 2025, setting the stage for significant announcements and progress leading up to COP30 in Brazil and in the context of the South African Presidency of the G20+1.

The discussions will build on the recent (1) UN-convened panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals' report – Resourcing the Energy Transition: Principles to Guide Critical Energy Transition Minerals Towards Equity and Justice; (2) the launch of the AEF-SEforALL cross-continental platform to unlock cooperation on critical minerals for energy transition ; (3) the launch of the Paris Peace Forum's Global Council for Responsible Transition Minerals Interim Report featuring seven key recommendations for better global governance of mining and minerals.