



# Critical Minerals

## Selected Online Resources

[Critical energy transition minerals](#) 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 critical minerals is set to [almost triple](#) 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](#).

Source: <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/critical-minerals>

### UN Entities

- **The UN Secretary-General's Initiative on Critical Energy Transition Minerals**  
<https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/critical-minerals>
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
  - Critical Minerals: <https://unctad.org/topic/commodities/critical-minerals>
- United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
  - Global Alliance for Responsible and Green Minerals: <https://www.unido.org/global-alliance>
- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
  - Critical Raw Materials: <https://unece.org/unece-and-sdgs/critical-raw-materials>
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
  - Critical Energy Transition Minerals: <https://www.unep.org/topics/energy/renewable-energy/critical-energy-transition-minerals>
- United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)
  - Crimes associated with critical minerals: <https://unicri.org/crimes-associated-critical-minerals>
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
  - Minerals crime: <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/environment-climate/minerals.html>
- World Trade Organization (WTO) & Asian Development Bank (ADB)
  - Trade in Critical Minerals Database: <https://critmin.org/>

## UN Events & Conferences

- **Security Council, 10200th Meeting, 22 July 2026: Maintenance of international peace and security - Natural resources governance: the foundation of peace, security and prosperity**
  - Critical Minerals Explainer: <https://www.un.org/en/explainers/critical-minerals>
  - Concept Note: <https://docs.un.org/S/2026/552>
  - Press Release: <https://press.un.org/en/2026/sc16419.doc.htm>
  - News Centre Stories: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2026/07/1167995> and <https://news.un.org/en/story/2026/07/1168024>
  - Meeting Records: <https://docs.un.org/S/PV.10200>
  - Webcasts: <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1s/k1sa86m4dn> and <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k13/k13v1mba1m>
- **Security Council, 10114th meeting, 5 March 2026: Maintenance of international peace and security - Energy, critical minerals and security**
  - Press Release: <https://press.un.org/en/2026/sc16310.doc.htm>
  - News Centre Story: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2026/03/1167084>
  - Meeting Records: <https://docs.un.org/S/PV.10114>
  - Webcast: <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k12/k12uy13vbi>
- **High-Level Meeting on Critical Energy Transition Minerals, 14 July 2026**  
<https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/critical-minerals>
  - Webcast: <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1d/k1dz6fpspm>
- **Expert Group Meeting: The Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including those in voluntary isolation and initial contact in the context of the extraction of critical Minerals, 2-4 December 2024**  
<https://social.desa.un.org/issues/indigenous-peoples/events/egm-2024>

## Further Information

- UN News Centre on "Critical Minerals": <https://news.un.org/en/tags/critical-minerals>
- Minerals must benefit countries, communities, not finance criminals, conflict (UNECA, 6 August 2026): <https://www.uneca.org/stories/minerals-must-benefit-countries%2C-communities%2C-not-finance-criminals%2C-conflict>
- Video - Critical Minerals: DRC's vision for Peace (31 July 2026): <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1n/k1nvw5qd7w>  
In this interview, Professor Jean-Marie Kanda, Senior Advisor to the President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) for Mining, Energy, and Hydrocarbons, explains why critical minerals have become a global strategic issue and outlines the country's vision for a more transparent, traceable, and responsibly governed mining sector.
- Video - Critical Minerals - Who pays the price? (29 July 2026): <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k12/k12igiet6p>  
Kaveh Madani, Director of the UN University Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH), explains what critical minerals are, why supply chain disruptions carry major economic and security consequences, and how the absence of global governance risks creating new "sacrifice zones" - communities left with pollution and human rights violations while the benefits flow elsewhere.
- Video - The Hidden Cost of Critical Minerals (21 July 2026): <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k19/k19wbbww4i>  
The digital revolution depends on critical minerals—but who benefits, and who pays the price?
- Critical minerals: The hidden resources powering the clean energy future (22 June 2026): <https://news.un.org/en/story/2026/07/1167990>
- 5 Facts on Critical Minerals and the Waste We Can't Afford (United Nations University, UNU-EHS, 28 April 2026): <https://unu.edu/ehs/article/5-facts-critical-minerals-and-waste-we-cant-afford>
- Mining companies must obtain free, prior, informed consent, partner with indigenous peoples to ensure responsible, ethical land use, speakers tell Permanent Forum (HR/5491, 23 April 2025): <https://press.un.org/en/2025/hr5491.doc.htm>

- United Nations-Convened Panel releases recommendations for governments, industry to guide global energy transition (EN/332, 11 September 2024): <https://press.un.org/en/2024/en332.doc.htm>
- UN Secretary-General appoints Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals (SG/A/2286, 26 April 2024): <https://press.un.org/en/2024/sga2286.doc.htm>

## Selected Statements and Speeches by UN Officials

- Put stop to exploitation, plundering of natural resources, Secretary-General Urges Security Council, calling for strong governance grounded in justice, transparency (SG/SM/23228, 22 July 2026): <https://press.un.org/en/2026/sqsm23228.doc.htm>
- Deputy Secretary-General's remarks at the High-level meeting on Critical Energy Transition Minerals (14 July 2026): <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/dsg/statements/2026-07-14/deputy-secretary-generals-remarks-the-high-level-meeting-critical-energy-transition-minerals-prepared-for-delivery>
- UN High-Level Meeting on Critical Energy Transition Minerals / Statement by Pedro Manuel Moreno, Deputy Secretary-General and Acting Secretary-General of UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD), 14 July 2026: <https://unctad.org/osgstatement/un-high-level-meeting-critical-energy-transition-minerals>
- As earth nears tipping point, time to replace fossil fuels with renewable energy to protect people, planet is now, Secretary-General tells London Climate Action Week (SG/SM/23189, 23 June 2026): <https://press.un.org/en/2026/sqsm23189.doc.htm>
- Time to supercharge clean energy transition, Secretary-General tells London Summit, urging more investment in modern systems, stronger international cooperation (SG/SM/23191, 23 June 2026): <https://press.un.org/en/2026/sqsm23191.doc.htm>
- Fair and responsible harnessing of critical minerals can help promote peace, USG DiCarlo tells Security Council (5 March 2026): <https://dppa.un.org/en/speeches-and-statements/fair-and-responsible-harnessing-of-critical-minerals-can-help-promote>
- 'We must ensure critical mineral resources in developing countries benefit them', says Secretary-General, in Remarks to Group of 77 (SG/SM/22520, 13 January 2025): <https://press.un.org/en/2025/sqsm22520.doc.htm>
- Action for justice and equity must surge alongside demand for minerals critical to energy transition, Secretary-General tells Meeting at Baku Climate Conference (SG/SM/22454, 13 November 2024): <https://press.un.org/en/2024/sqsm22454.doc.htm>
- We must safeguard rights of resource-rich states 'to benefit from their minerals while protecting their communities, ecosystems', says Deputy Secretary-General (DSG/SM/1951, 4 November 2024): <https://press.un.org/en/2024/dsgsm1951.doc.htm>  
UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed's remarks to the Member States briefing on the outcomes of the Secretary-General's Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals
- 'Deliver renewable energy that powers a fairer, more just future for all', says Secretary-General, on launch of Energy Transition Minerals Report (SG/SM/22361, 11 September 2024): <https://press.un.org/en/2024/22361.doc.htm>
- Stressing race to net-zero carbon emissions cannot trample on poor, Secretary-General, at Panel launch, urges fair management of critical minerals during energy transition (SG/SM/22205, 26 April 2024): <https://press.un.org/en/2024/sqsm22205.doc.htm>  
UN Secretary-General António Guterres' remarks at the launch of the Secretary-General's Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals

## Selected UN Documents

- **A/HRC/62/30** (8 April 2026): Panel discussion on the rights of Indigenous Peoples: report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights: <https://docs.un.org/A/HRC/62/30>  
Panel held during the 60th session of the Human Rights Council, under the theme "the rights of Indigenous Peoples in the context of a just transition to sustainable energy systems, including in relation to critical minerals".

- **E/C.19/2025/6** (3 February 2025): The rights of Indigenous Peoples in the context of critical minerals to ensure a just transition: note / by the Secretariat: <https://docs.un.org/E/C.19/2025/6>  
Transmits study by members of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim and Hannah McGlade.
- **E/C.19/2025/4** (30 January 2025): International expert group meeting on the theme "The rights of Indigenous Peoples, including those in voluntary isolation and initial contact in the context of critical minerals: note / by the Secretariat: <https://docs.un.org/E/C.19/2025/4>
- Further documents on "Mineral Resources": <https://tinyurl.com/mtycaucs>
- Further documents on "Minerals": <https://tinyurl.com/59ape5mj>

## Selected Publications from the UN System

- Minerals Crime in the Andean–Amazon Region: Regional Cooperation as a Governance Response (UNICRI, May 2026): <https://unicri.org/Publication-minerals-crime-Andean-Amazon-region-regional-cooperation-governance-response-May-2026>
- Critical Minerals, Water Insecurity and Injustice (UNU-INWEH, April 2026): <https://unu.edu/inweh/collection/unu-inweh-report-critical-minerals-water-insecurity-and-injustice>
- Critical Minerals, Critical Decisions: Industrial policy for the energy transition (UNCTAD, March 2026): <https://unctad.org/publication/critical-minerals-critical-decisions-industrial-policy-energy-transition>
- Africa Redefining Critical Minerals for a Shared Future: South–South Solidarity in Action (C-MINK/UNU-INRA, February 2026): <https://unu.edu/publication/africa-redefining-critical-minerals-shared-future-south-south-solidarity-action>
- Financing the Responsible Supply of Energy Transition Minerals for Sustainable Development (UNEP, October 2025): <https://www.unep.org/resources/report/financing-responsible-supply-energy-transition-minerals-sustainable-development>
- UN Guidance for Action on Critical Energy Transition Minerals: A document of the UN Secretary-General's Working Group on Transforming the Extractive Industries for Sustainable Development (June 2025): <https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2025-08/UN%20Guidance%20for%20Action%20on%20CETM%20%28final%29.pdf>
- Building a global minerals trust for a just green Transition (UNU-INWEH, June 2025): <https://unu.edu/inweh/collection/building-global-minerals-trust-just-green-transition>
- Minerals Crime: Illegal Gold Mining (UNODC, May 2025): [https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/Crimes%20on%20Environment/ECR25\\_P2b\\_Minerals\\_Crime.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/Crimes%20on%20Environment/ECR25_P2b_Minerals_Crime.pdf)
- UN DESA Policy Brief No. 171, February 2025: Leveraging Critical Energy Transition Minerals: policy pathways for sustainable development: <https://desapublications.un.org/policy-briefs/un-desa-policy-brief-no-171-leveraging-critical-energy-transition-minerals-policy>
- Resourcing the Energy Transition: Principles to Guide Critical Energy Transition Minerals towards Equity and Justice (September 2024): [https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/report\\_sg\\_panel\\_on\\_critical\\_energy\\_transition\\_minerals\\_11\\_sept\\_2024.pdf](https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/report_sg_panel_on_critical_energy_transition_minerals_11_sept_2024.pdf)
- Strategic Response Framework for Tackling Crimes Linked to Critical Minerals (UNICRI, September 2024): <https://unicri.org/sites/default/files/2024-09/Strategic-Response-Framework-Tackling-Crimes-Critical-Minerals.pdf>
- Critical Minerals for Sustainable Energy Transition: A Guidebook to Support Intergenerational Action (UNECE, April 2024): <https://unece.org/sustainable-energy/publications/guidebook-critical-minerals-sustainable-energy-transition-support>