









**CONCEPT NOTE** 

# Sustainable CRM Management Strengthening Policy, Technology, and Accountability

29 October, 09:00 - 17:00 (Skopje/Geneva)

Link for online participation

#### **Background**

The accelerating global shift towards low-carbon, digital, and circular economies is increasing demand for critical raw materials (CRMs) such as lithium, cobalt, rare earth elements, and nickel. These materials are vital for clean energy technologies, electric mobility, and advanced digital infrastructure. However, their extraction, processing, and trade often cause environmental damage, social conflicts, and governance issues—especially if there is a lack of institutional, technological, and regulatory capacities. With climate change impacts intensifying, meeting the urgent need for a faster energy transition will require rapidly scaling up CRM extraction and processing. Therefore, the sustainable management of CRMs has become a key area in aligning resource governance with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

While the potential for economic transformation through CRM development is significant, the risks of mismanagement are equally serious. Extractive industries have historically caused tensions between economic growth and environmental protection, as well as between national interests and local rights. In this context, building capacity across the policy-technology-transparency interface is not only a technical challenge but also a governance necessity. Achieving this requires a deliberate and inclusive approach that brings together government officials, private sector actors, local communities, and civil society to co-develop sustainable and fair resource utilisation pathways.



















Recognising this momentous urgency, the United Nations Regional Commissions have launched a coordinated initiative under the 16th Tranche of the UN Development Account to improve country-level capacities for sustainable CRM production. Rooted in the voluntary guiding principles and actionable recommendations of the Secretary General's Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals, and the principles of the United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS), the project supports national efforts to strengthen governance frameworks, incorporate circular economy principles, promote green technologies, and ensure social inclusivity and gender responsiveness in the CRM value chain. Accountability, transparency and regional value addition are key pillars of this work, along with a commitment to human rights and intergenerational equity.

Under this project, this full-day capacity-building session offers a dedicated forum for addressing these critical and multifaceted challenges. Drawing on lessons from various regions the session aims to equip participants with knowledge, tools, and peer networks to implement sustainable CRM management. In doing so, it supports broader regional and global efforts to ensure that the transition to net-zero and digitally-enabled futures is not only rapid and resilient but also responsible and inclusive.

### **Objectives**

- Enhance understanding of the United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS), Secretary General's Panel on CETMs and other international frameworks and standards for sustainable CRM governance.
- Strengthen national capacities to develop legislation, establish robust regulations and institutions, and implement coherent policies that support responsible extraction, local value-addition, innovation, and circularity in the CRM sector.
- Introduce emerging technologies and best practices for environmentally sound and resource-efficient mining and mineral processing.
- Promote transparency and accountability across the CRM value chain, including tools for traceability, due diligence, and certification.



















• Foster inclusive stakeholder engagement, with a focus on genderresponsive governance, social safeguards, and benefit-sharing mechanisms.

#### **Target Group**

The session is designed for representatives from ministries responsible for mining, energy, environment, and industry; private sector actors across the CRM value chain; financial institutions supporting extractive projects; international and regional organizations; and civil society groups engaged in transparency, environmental stewardship, and community rights. Participants from academia and research institutions are also encouraged to join and enrich the evidence-based policy dialogue.

#### **Provisional Programme**

| Time          | Session   |
|---------------|---|
| 09:00 - 09:15 | <ul> <li>Opening Session</li> <li>Opening remarks</li> <li>Overview of objectives and structure of the session.</li> </ul>  |
| 09:15 – 10:15 | <ul> <li>Session 1: Strengthening Global Resource Governance</li> <li>Moderator: John Sloan, UN ECA</li> <li>Speakers:         <ul> <li>Karen Hanghoj, Director, British Geological Survey and Chair, Expert Group on Resource Management - Strengthening Global Governance of Critical Raw Materials: The Role of UNFC and UNRMS</li> <li>Teresa Ponce de Leão, President, Laboratório Nacional de Energia e Geologia, Portugal - Integrating Artificial Intelligence in Sustainable Resource Management: A UNRMS Perspective</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
|               | <ul> <li>Radia Sedaoui, Chief of Energy Section, ESCWA -         Critical Raw Materials and the Energy Transition in the         Arab Region: Policy Pathways for Resilience, Equity,         and Value Addition</li> <li>Discussions</li> </ul>  |



















| 10:15 – 10:45 | Coffee Break  |
|---------------|---|
| 10:45 – 12:00 | <ul> <li>Session 2: Transforming Critical Mineral Value Chains: Intelligence, Innovation, and Regional Strategies for Sustainable Development         Moderator: Radia Sedaoui, UN ESCWA     </li> <li>Speakers:         <ul> <li>Simon Michaux, Geological Survey of Finland - How Mineral Intelligence is changing and how it might be used</li> <li>Hari Tulsidas, UNECE - Bridging the Gap: Mid-Stream Value Addition for a Resilient and Equitable CRM Supply Chain.</li> <li>Chokan Laumulin, Professor, Kazakh-British Technical University &amp; Vice Chair, UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy - Strategic Raw Materials for the Future: Advanced Materials and the Quantum Technology Frontier</li> <li>Adrian Bylyku, General Director of the Albanian Geological Survey - Geological Readiness for the Energy Transition: Critical Raw Materials in Albania</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
|               | • Discussions   |
| 12:00 – 14:00 | Lunch Break   |
| 14:00 - 15:15 | <ul> <li>Session 3: Aligning Resource Strategies for the Energy Transition: National Pathways and Strategic Partnerships in CRM Development         Moderator: Charlotte Griffiths, UNECE         Speakers:</li></ul>   |



















|               | <ul> <li>Arkady Rogalsky, Adviser of Minister of Natural<br/>Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision of the<br/>Kyrgyz Republic- Critical Raw Material Potential in<br/>Kyrgyzstan: National Priorities and Geological<br/>Perspectives</li> <li>Discussions</li> </ul>   |
|---------------|--|
| 15:15 – 15:45 | Coffee Break   |
| 15:45 - 16:45 | <ul> <li>Session 4: From Geology to Growth: Advancing Critical Raw Materials through Stakeholder Engagement and Resource Readiness</li> <li>Moderator: Karen Hanghoj</li> <li>Speakers:         <ul> <li>John Sloan, UN ECA - Engaging Stakeholders in mineral-based Special Economic Zones: Lessons from DRC, Zambia and SADC</li> <li>Adekunle Sunday Makinde, Co-chair of the Nigeria Energy Forum - Lithium mining and processing</li> <li>Marina Gil, Natural Resources Division, ECLAC - Status and evolution of foreign direct investment in critical minerals in Latin America and the Caribbean</li> <li>Rustam Khalmatov, Rustam Khalmatov, Uzbekistan - Geochemical Characteristics and Modes of Occurrence of Critical Raw Materials</li> <li>Discussions</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| 16:45 – 17:00 | <ul> <li>Closing Session</li> <li>Key takeaways, participant reflections, next steps, and access to follow-up learning materials.</li> </ul>   |

## **Mode of participation**

The workshop will take place in a hybrid format (in-person and online).





















#### **Contact**

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