



Agenda Item 5
Wednesday 26 April 2023, 15.00-16.30 hours CEST
Tempus Meeting Room, Palais des Nations and Zoom

Concept Note

Collaboration for Critical Raw Materials: Activities of the Working Group on Transforming the Extractive Industries for Sustainable Development

The session will focus on the importance of critical raw materials (CRMs) for sustainable development and the transition to a green and circular economy. The extractive industries have great potential to drive growth and reduce poverty, while also posing financial, economic, governance, social, and environmental concerns. The session will discuss how the Working Group on Transforming the Extractive Industries for Sustainable Development can coordinate extractives-related work, serve as an information and knowledge hub, provide policy advice and technical assistance to stakeholders in the sector, and integrate work on the extractive industries into other UN-wide initiatives such as Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond (FfDI). The session will showcase collaborative efforts to transform the extractive industries and ensure they contribute to the green transition.

Key questions:

- I. How can collaboration among stakeholders in the extractive industries be enhanced to promote sustainable development and reduce the environmental and social impacts of these industries?
- II. How can the Working Group on Transforming the Extractive Industries for Sustainable Development help countries attain economic and social benefits from their extractive activities while protecting the environment and assuring the needed global supply of critical energy transition minerals?
- III. What policy advice and technical assistance can the Working Group provide to stakeholders in the extractive industries to support the transition to a green and circular economy, including development of renewable energy resources, industrialization, mobility, and urbanization?
- IV. How to coordinate efforts to mobilise resources to support the work on capacity-building and policy advice for UN Member States?

Moderator: Dario LIGUTI, Director, Sustainable Energy Division, UNECE

Panelists:

- Elisa TONDA, Chief, Resources and Markets Branch, Industry and Economy Division, UNEP
 - Stefanie HELD, Energy Hub, UNDP
 - John SLOAN, Economic Affairs Officer, Technology, Climate Change and Natural Resource Management Division, UNECA
 - Hari TULSIDAS, Economic Affairs Officer, Sustainable Energy Division, UNECE
 - Rodrigo FURTADO, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, Natural Resources Division, UNECLAC
 - Matthew WITTENSTEIN, Chief of Section, Energy Division, UNESCAP
 - Radia SEDAUI, Chief of Energy Section, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster, UNESCWA
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