

AUDA-NEPAD Africa Policy Bridge Tank

2024 Inception Conference: African Futures

Concept Note for Parallel Workshop On

Futures of Green Minerals in Africa: Building Anticipatory Governance and Regional Value Chains

Context

The climate-driven green energy transition provides opportunities for resource-rich developing countries to gain a first mover advantage in the green economy. This prospect requires leveraging the increased demand for green minerals while ensuring a socially and ecologically just transition.

The changing green minerals and metals ecosystem spurred by the global drive towards decarbonisation presents a unique opportunity for African countries to stimulate a paradigm shift away from a development model anchored on extraction, towards one in which mineral resources are harnessed to accelerate regional broad-based development and build resilient, self-reliant, diversified, and wellbeing economies (i.e. value beyond mineral revenues).

In order to achieve just regional green mineral futures, regional green minerals stakeholders should increase their capacity for anticipatory governance to: (1) mitigate the adverse effects of climate change in line with broader low carbon ambitions; (2) implement requisite policies to foster social inclusivity; (3) develop local and regional value chains and lower commodity dependence; (4) enhance regional collaboration to scale value chains and benefits.

Objective

This 90-minute strategic foresight workshop aims to collaboratively explore high-impact strategic priorities for the future of green minerals in Africa. The goal is to develop a draft strategic foresight framework that enhances anticipatory governance and foresight for regional value chains within the evolving global commodity and energy ecosystems. The resulting framework will serve as a practical guide for policymakers, development partners, member states, think tanks, and the African Union, especially the African Minerals Development Centre (AMDC). It will specifically support the mandate of the AMDC to

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implement the African Mining Vision, create advanced geological information systems, strengthen mining linkages and value addition, and the reconsider artisanal and small-scale mining, skills development, and community livelihoods (a new social contract) in alignment with the African Union's Agenda 2063.

Approach

The workshop will invite participants to a strategic conversation to interactively explore and co-create the draft strategic foresight framework to build anticipatory governance for African green minerals. It will start with a 10-minute introduction by SAIIA, providing the foundation for the policy dialogue. Following this, participants will be asked to discuss and share ideas about a more fit for purpose African mining ecosystem and what transformative innovations are necessary to navigate the future of green minerals challenges and opportunities.

Structure

1. Opening (5 minutes): Welcome and introduction to the workshop's objectives and format.
2. Overview & Setting the Stage (10 minutes): SAIIA presents a comprehensive overview of futures of green minerals and African mining, emphasising the role of strategic foresight and building anticipatory governance to navigate high impact key uncertainties and supporting the AMDC's mandate and the African Union's Agenda 2063.
3. The Voice of the Manager: (10 minutes): What ideas and policies supports the business as usual and are no longer fit for purpose?
4. The Voice of the Visionary (10 minutes): What visions and policies are there for the future system and might drive green minerals and mining to the future that we want?
5. The Voice of the Innovator (10 minutes): What innovations do you know about that might be growth points in the future system? What is already happening that is representative of the future system we want?
6. Interactive Policy Dialogue (45 minutes): Open, moderated discussion with participants, including small group discussions on the strategic priorities.

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Expected Outcomes

1. Enhanced understanding of the strategic priorities for futures of green minerals to build anticipatory governance and regional value chains.
2. Contribute to a nuanced understanding of the ideas and policies that keeps the current system locked in to maintain the business-as-usual.
3. Collaborate to envision alternative strategic plans and recognise the potential in the present moment to support growth points and policies that might drive the futures of green minerals that would be enable AU Agenda 2063 and support the AMDC to fulfil its mandate.
4. Develop long-term futures-informed thinking and explore strategic foresight options for transformative change to support the draft strategic framework, captured in an 800-word blog.