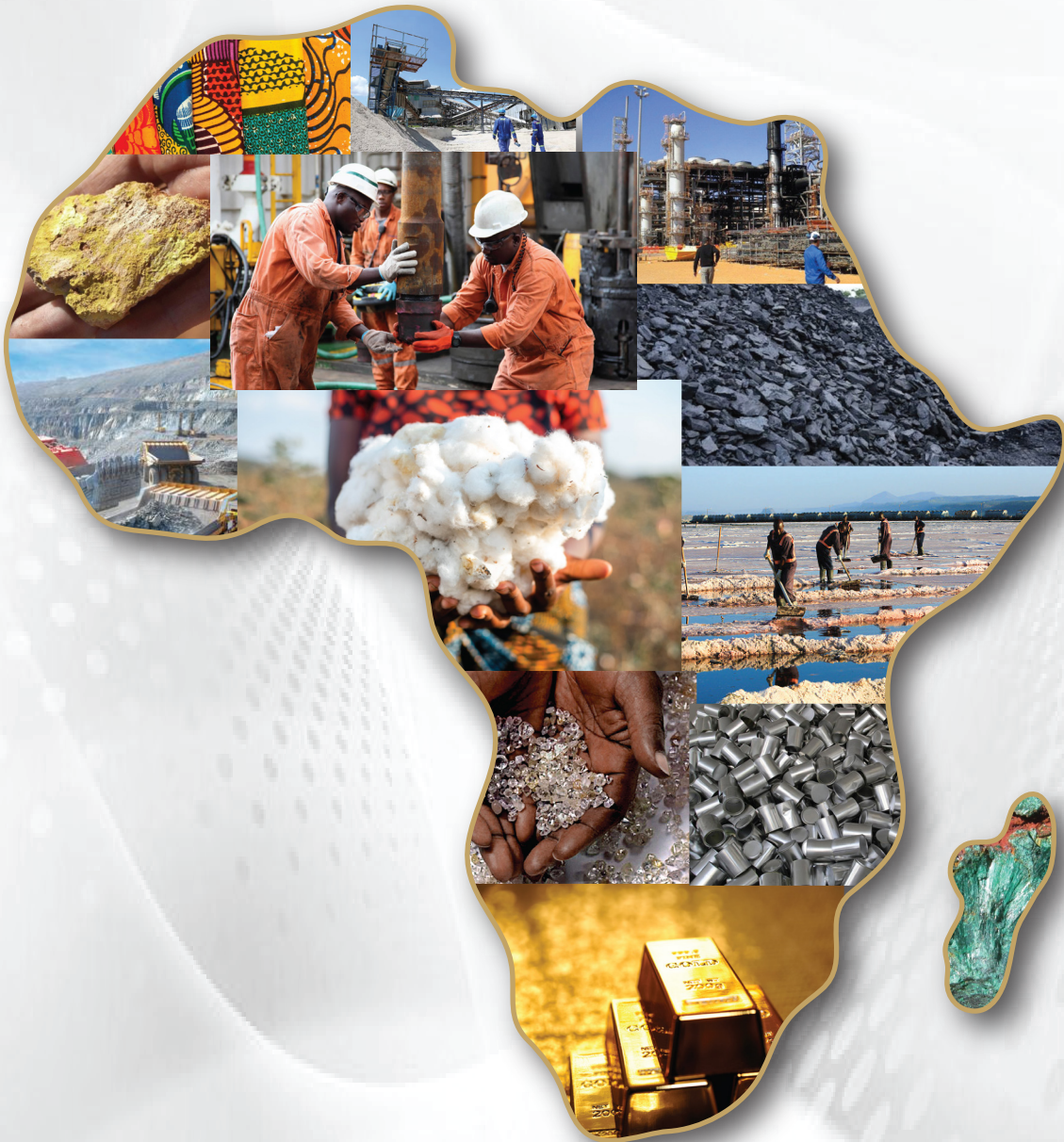


# Report on the Launch of AMDC Phase II and the Second African Forum on Mining, Addis Ababa

## 3rd & 4th October 2022



# The Africa Mining Vision in the Time of the Green Energy Transition and Digitalization: Challenges and Opportunities



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## Abbreviations

**IEA** - International Energy Agency

**PPE** - Personal Protective Equipment

**AMV** - Africa Mining Vision

**AfCFTA** - African Continental Free Trade Area

**AfDB** - African Development Bank

Afreximbank - African Export Import Bank

**AGMO** - African Green Minerals Observatory

**AGMS** - African Green Minerals Strategy

**AMREC** - African Minerals and Energy Resources Classification Framework and Management System

**AMGC** - African Minerals and Geosciences Centre

**AMDC** - African Minerals Development Center

**AUC** - African Union Commission

**ETTIM** - African Union Commission Department of Economic Development, Trade, Tourism, Industry and Minerals

**AWIMA** - African Women in Mining Association

**UMA** - Arab Maghreb Union

**ASM** - Artisanal and small-scale Mining

**CSOs** - Civil Society Organizations

**COVID-19** - CoronaVirus Disease 2019

**COMESA** - Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa

**ECCAS** - Economic Community of Central African States

**EVS** - Electric Vehicles

**ESG** - Environmental Social and Governance(ESG)

**EPRM** - European Partnerships for Responsible Minerals

**EU** - European Union

**GDP** - Gross Domestic Product

**GMIS** - Geological and mineral information systems

**ICT** - Information and Communications Technology

**LIBs** - Lithium-ion Batteries

**OACPS** - Organisation for African, Caribbean and Pacific States

**OECD** - Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

**REEs** - Rare Earth Elements

**RECs** - Regional Economic Communities

**SADC** - Southern African Development Community

**STC** - Specialized Technical Committee

**AMGF** - The Africa Minerals Governance Framework

**UNCTD** - United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

**UNECA** - United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

It has been thirteen years since the African Union Heads of State and Government adopted the Africa Mining Vision (AMV) to create a transparent, equitable and optimal exploitation of mineral resources to underpin broad-based sustainable growth and socio-economic development. In the Vision, the continent's considerable mineral endowments were recognized as a key driver for structural transformation, industrialization and sustainable growth. In 2013, the African Minerals Development Centre (AMDC) was launched as a project under the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) to coordinate and oversee the implementation of the Africa Mining Vision and its Action plan to enable the minerals resources sector to play its role in the social and economic transformation, inclusive growth and sustainable development of African economies, in conjunction with the AU Member States, Regional Economic Communities, the private sector, civil society organizations including women and youth organization, collaborating institutions and other key stakeholders. In 2019, the AMDC was officially handed over to the African Union by UNECA and in 2021 a Host Agreement was signed between the African Union and the Government of the Republic of Guinea. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and political changes in Guinea, the Center was not able to relocate to Guinea. Since May 2022, an Interim AMDC Secretariat was established to oversee the Centre's establishment and operationalization. AMDC is being supported through the ACP-EU Development Minerals Programme (Phase II), initiated by the Secretariat of the Organization for African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS). Over the years, the AMDC strived to establish the brand of the Center of Excellence to become a facilitator of choice for a sustainable minerals' industry in Africa. It developed several knowledge products and AMV implementation tools, namely the AMDC Five Years Business Plan and its Theory of Change; the Country Mining Vision (CMV) guidebook; the Geological and Minerals Information System (GMIS); the AMV-Private Sector Compact, the Africa Minerals Governance Framework (AMGF), and the African Minerals and Energy Resources Classification Framework and Management System and the Pan-African Reporting Code (AMREC-PARC).

The launch of the African Minerals Development Centre (AMDC) phase II and the second African Forum on Mining was held from 3rd to 4th October 2022, under the theme ***“The Africa Mining Vision in the Time of the Green Energy Transition and Digitalization: Challenges and Opportunities”***. The objectives of the Forum and the re-launch of the AMDC were: to re-energize the AMDC stakeholders towards a changing narrative with a view to creating a renewed momentum for the implementation of the AMV towards Africa's structural transformation through the dynamic use of minerals; to call upon the African Union strategic partners and stakeholders to support the operationalization of the Centre; to update and engage Member States and other stakeholders on the work of the AMDC and its operationalization plan, and to call for the signing and ratification of the AMDC Statute.

The Forum was attended by more than 150 participants, including representatives of the African Union Commission, the AMDC, and AU Member States represented by Ministers in charge of Minerals Development and Mines, including the Minister of Industry from the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Ministers of Mines from the Republic of Senegal, the Republic of South Sudan, and the Republic of Zimbabwe, as well as the Deputy Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania, the State Minister of Mines and Petroleum from the Federal



Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, and a representative from the Ministry of Mines. Additionally, participants to the Forum included representatives from the European Union, OACPS, AfDB Regional Economic Communities (RECs), UNDP, UNECA, UNCTAD, and other African Union stakeholders and strategic partners including the private sector, academia, international organizations, think tanks, research institutions and representatives of women in the minerals industry (see list of participants in Annex I).

The Forum included a moderated high-level ministerial panel discussion under the theme “Leveraging Africa’s Battery and Technology Minerals for Development of Battery and Electric Vehicle Value Chains”, moderated by the Acting Executive Secretary of the UNECA, involving all Ministers present and country representatives, a representative from the private sector and one representing civil society. The Forum also featured key presentations and deliberations on the current trends in the price reporting and exchange of critical metals and further conducted eleven breakaway sessions, and workshops on different topics including African green minerals, minerals-based Industrialization, mineral policies and regulatory frameworks; institutional and human capacities in the mineral sector, low-carbon materials, geological and mineral Information systems; legacy and environmental issues in the mining sector, Artisanal and Small-scale Mining; and African women’s roles in the mining industry.

Conclusions of the launch of the AMDC Phase II and the second African Forum on Mining 2022 included: a strong recommendation for the development of the African Green Minerals Strategy (AGMS); the development of an African Green Minerals Observatory (AGMO) by the first quarter of 2023 to advance minerals development in Africa; for promoting local content policies to ensure job creation and employment, local ownership and the use of local suppliers, as well as to achieve high-value goods and link the mineral sector with other sectors of the economy. Furthermore, the AMDC Interim Secretariat was encouraged to continue working on the development of a roadmap for ratifications of the AMDC statute by African Union member States, with a view to reaching the quorum of 15 AU member States that would allow the AMDC to become a full-fledged Specialized Agency of the African Union.

## **Key recommendations that emerged from the 2nd African Forum on Mining and Launch of the AMDC Phase II:**

- ✘ The AMDC to promote sustainable investments in strategic green minerals with a view to taking advantage of the global EV Battery value chain which is estimated to reach about 8.8 trillion by 2025 through encouraging more African entrepreneurs and local-based exploration companies to invest in the upstream mineral value chain of these critical minerals;
- ✘ Promote the development of policies that would create the necessary supportive infrastructure to incentivize local private exploration and project development in strategic green minerals.
- ✘ Promote participation of the local entrepreneurs and exploration companies that will lead to the expansion of wealth retained locally which can be reinvested into other sectors to diversify economies. For Africa to harness its significant potential in the era of the energy transition, battery revolution and

technological minerals value chain, the continent needs to take control of its exploration and project development potential which is underdeveloped and under-valued. This is an opportunity to build a greener and more prosperous world and Africa must not miss it.

- ❖ As mining exploration is at the front-end of the mining value chain and the active participation of local entrepreneurs and exploration companies would lead to the expansion of wealth retained locally which can be reinvested into other sectors, AMDC to encourage African countries to take control of its exploration and project development potential which is clearly underdeveloped and under-valued.
- ❖ Build an African lithium-ion battery electric vehicle (BEV) value chain with inputs of strategic green minerals from across the continent and through supporting a special economic zone, centers of excellence, and other vital building blocks for an industrial base that can fabricate cathodes and move into battery cell assembly and eventually electric vehicles.
- ❖ Ensure that the green minerals boom benefits Africa and spurs industrialization through proactive industrial policy that plans the allocation of resources and setting up of incentives that are a prerequisite to building new competitive advantages.
- ❖ Embrace collaboration between governments, businesses, labor groups, communities, development partners and financiers to outline a new approach to industrial policy for mineral value-addition. This is actualized by the establishment of the AMDC Futures expert group.
- ❖ Promote local content policies to achieve high-value goods and high-level employment, to ensure local ownership of suppliers and links with other sectors. This is backed by support to local suppliers to develop skills and capacities.
- ❖ Leverage on the comparative advantages, expertise, and knowledge of its strategic partners to coordinate and oversee the implementation of the Africa Mining Vision, its Action plan, AMV implementation instruments, and other existing developmental frameworks to enable the mineral resources sector plays its role in the social and economic transformation, inclusive growth and sustainable development of African economies.
- ❖ Develop a ratifications' roadmap for the African Union Member States to achieve the ratification of the AMDC Statute by the quorum of AU member states (15) founding members. This will ensure the establishment of the Center's governing organs; the Conference of States Parties, Minerals Advisory Board; and the permanent Secretariat.
- ❖ Accelerate intra-African trade, skills building and research to unlock innovation along the battery electric vehicle (BEV) value chain leveraging the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), and ensuring a socially, environmentally responsible and sustainable BEV value chain, which improves the lives of women and the youth; and encourages local and African champions to invest in the BEV value chain and in the mineral sector in general.

- ❖ Develop the African Green Minerals Strategy (AGMS), and the African Green Minerals Observatory (AGMO) by the first quarter of 2023 to advance minerals development in Africa.
- ❖ Encourage African investors as mining is capital intensive and improve policies on access to sustainable finance and de-risk the sector for African mining industries and this will be further supported by organizing Mining Investment Forums to bring together the financial institutions and relevant stakeholders.
- ❖ Develop a platform or mechanism to map the activities of women in mining in collaboration with AWIMA, the Africa Business Council, and other private sectors.
- ❖ Establish regional steering committees to work in harmonizing policies in line with the Africa Mining Vision and regional value chains.
- ❖ Re-skill and upskill the industry players to adapt to the energy transition and new technology “linking academic institutions to the priorities of the mining industries”.



# INTRODUCTION

The world in the last two years is very different as it witnessed several disruptions. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a tremendous impact on value chains and has demonstrated the importance of diversification and of producing locally. Over the past decade, climate change induced by carbon emissions from the use of fossil fuels has been recognized as a major threat to the earth and livelihoods, and as a result, it has become imperative for the world to transition to a decarbonized system to reduce global emissions and keep the rise of global temperatures below 1.5°C. As the world shifts to a zero-emissions pathways, the demand for low carbon technologies such as solar Photovoltaic technology, and energy storage such as lithium-ion batteries (LIBs) is increasing. Therefore, providing opportunities for Africa to be at the forefront of this market as it is significantly endowed with these critical minerals. This provides the African Minerals Development Center (AMDC) the prospect to regain momentum and seize the opportunity of the increased demand in strategic minerals to shift the narrative on sustainable minerals development in Africa.

The continent of Africa has its vision for sustainable minerals development. The vision recognized the mineral endowments as a key driver for structural transformation, industrialization and sustainable growth . Since its adoption in 2009, several developments have occurred on the continent to spur Africa's development, notably the launch of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), which provides an opportunity to boost regional value chains. Cognizant of the challenges in domesticating the Africa Mining Vision, the first edition of the African Forum on Mining (AFM) was organized in 2019 under the theme **“Africa Mining Vision at 10: Looking Back, Moving Forward”**. The Forum provided the opportunity for the AUC, the AMDC, and key strategic partners to stimulate a reflective discussion about key achievements and milestones accomplished by the AMDC towards the implementation of the AMV. Among the recommendations of the Conference in 2019, was the need to strengthen the overall research and think-tank of the AMDC to be able to provide the AU Member States with sound advice as the international commodities market evolves and the international development agenda morphs. The participants called for a stronger AMDC, improved communication and outreach, and stronger consultation with all stakeholders (including women and youth). The continuation of these efforts resulted in the launch of the AMDC Phase II and the second Africa Forum on Mining that was held at the African Union's Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

## Objectives of the Second Launch of the AMDC Phase II and Second African Forum on Mining

The main objective of the re-launch of the African Minerals Development Centre (AMDC) was to increase the enthusiasm of the African Union's stakeholders towards a changing narrative and create momentum for the implementation of the Africa Mining Vision. The AMDC presented its strategic plan for the institutionalization and operationalization as a full-fledged specialized Agency of the African Union.

Furthermore, the African Union Commission and the AMDC had called upon the AU Member States to accelerate the ratification of the AMDC statute and requested all the stakeholders to support the operational phase of the Centre.

On the other hand, the Forum was held to define a strategic way forward in the energy transition that requires critical minerals. It further looked at the revitalization of the commitment of all stakeholders along the green minerals and renewable energy supply chains that have a vital role to play in the transition to cleaner energy systems. Furthermore, it addressed the question of mobilizing the African Governments, private sectors, civil societies, and local communities to engage with broader mineral sector governance, specifically on the priority work streams of the Centre, including the policy and minerals resources governance, geology and mineral information systems, artisanal and small-scale mining, capacity building, and environmental and social considerations, especially on women. Finally, it raised the need for minerals-led technology and the establishment of an African Green Minerals Observatory (AGMO) that will serve as a repository of African green minerals information, including their location and trading.

## Opening Statements

The African Union Commissioner for Economic Development, Trade, Tourism, Industry and Minerals (ETTIM), **H.E. Albert Muchanga**, in his opening remarks stated that Africa's vast mineral wealth remains an important driver for the continent's structural transformation as enshrined in the Agenda 2063, as it represents 30% of the mineral deposits in the world. He added significant quantities of the minerals needed for the energy transition and green industries are also found in Africa and this positions the continent to play a central role in the energy transition.

Commissioner Muchanga highlighted the AMDC Business Plan and the African Mining Vision's value proposition of exploiting minerals for sustainable development throughout the value chain. He stressed that the continuous improvement of internal governance, building capacities, capturing the more lucrative links in the value chain such as manufacturing and the related support services such as research and development are critical to boosting innovation in the mineral value chain.

On the minerals value addition and industrialization, Commissioner Muchanga indicated that Africa is part of the global value chains for green minerals. However, this role is concentrated on the first phase of the value chain, exploration and extraction. He added, the task ahead is to move towards value addition and the African Commodity Strategy and its action plan will assist the continent in achieving this goal. He concluded by reiterating the African Union Commission's commitment to decarbonizing African industries through green industrialization and economic diversification.

Similarly, the Chairperson of the Forum, **H.E. Oumar Sarr**, the Minister of Mines and Geology of the Republic of Senegal, echoed the sentiment for the energy transition that is still a challenge to the African continent. He stated that the Member States of the African Union need to rethink the governance of mining resources, in a global context marked by a frantic race towards raw materials, while, at the same time, global warming remains, more than ever, a major challenge to be met. He further indicated that the Africa Mining Vision offers the continent an opportunity to accelerate industrialization and create value chains through an integrated approach based on human resources development and research. The Minister pointed out prioritizing support in infrastructures development, wealth creation and support to small and medium-sized enterprises that will develop an integrated mining value chains.

**Mr. Riccardo Mosca**, Deputy Head of the European Union Delegation to the African Union, in his remarks, indicated that the growing demand for critical raw materials to support the energy and digital transitions is a win-win opportunity for both the European Union and African Union to develop sustainable value chains and local value addition and capacities. He added, enhancing transparency in the extractive industries sector can help increase domestic revenue mobilization that in turn broaden the fiscal space and contribute to inclusive growth and a sense of ownership among the local communities. Mr. Mosca, further stated that the European Union strongly supports the development of local value addition through the expansion or creation of local refining, processing and recycling capacities in Africa. This is translated through the EU support to the African continent in building up its resilience and strategic autonomy as a way to address the current challenges and to promote a partnership that aims at creating linkages and not dependencies, he added.

**Mr. Escipion de Oliveira**, the Assistant Secretary General for Structural Economic Transformation and Trade of the Organization African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) stated that Members of the OACPS need to work together to develop new standards that are not barriers to trade and allow the private sectors to prosper. He further expressed optimism about trade integration through e-commerce and the development of green economies.

**Ms. Uyanga Gankhuyag**, the Programme Manager of the ACP-EU Development Minerals Programme in the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (BPPS) of the UNDP, stated that the extractive industry is not ended goal in itself, it is the means to the end goals of human development and sustainable development. She added that the demand for minerals is rising rapidly – especially critical minerals, which are key ingredients for electrification and the transition to clean energy. She underscored that the African continent need to start putting systems in place that bring knowledge, information and data together, such as the Green Minerals Observatory, to provide sound evidence to inform national and multilateral decisions. This also means, for example, bringing together experts and practitioners on common platforms, such as the Low-Carbon Materials Initiative.

**Mr. Antonio Pedro**, the Acting Executive Secretary and Deputy Executive Secretary (Program Support), UNECA, in his opening remarks indicated that Africa's mineral and other natural resources can be used to unlock new opportunities in manufacturing, advanced services, value-added agriculture, renewable energy, and the region's green economy in general. Mr. Pedro further stated that over the last two years, Africa has seen many innovations and successes – from community-based responses to COVID-19 in improving connectivity and manufacturing PPE, to successful Special Economic Zones in Ethiopia, Morocco and beyond, and to the large-scale discussions of local content requirements and windfall taxes in extractive sectors. These cases can provide blueprints for shifting African economic paradigms and the entire concept of how we innovate and harness commodities for development, he added.

Concluding his remarks, Mr. Pedro said that renewable and green energy sources will be central to meeting the targets of the Paris Climate Agreement and the SDGs, and in the emissions-heavy transport sector, this will rely on a shift to electric vehicles and this presents an immense opportunity not only for DRC and Zambia as the leading cobalt and copper producers but for the region as a whole to support a regional value chain built on inputs from across the continent.

# SESSION 1

## ❖ A reenergized AMDC: The Africa Mining Vision (AMV), AMDC's Vision and Strategic Plan and the Way Forward for Minerals in Africa.

Dr. Marit Kitaw, Interim Director, African Minerals Development Center (AMDC)

## ❖ Presentation and discussion on the status of ratification of AMDC Statutes.

Mr. Petrus Kauluma, Legal Associate, Office of Legal Counsel, African Union Commission

**Dr. Marit Kitaw**, Interim Director of the African Minerals Development Centre (AMDC), presented the AMDC's vision and strategic plan and the way forward for sustainable minerals development in Africa. She highlighted the AMDC Theory of Change (ToC) in implementing the Africa Mining Vision to ensure transparent, equitable and optimal exploitation of mineral resources to underpin broad-based sustainable growth and socioeconomic development. The AMDC Interim Director indicated that Africa Mining Vision (AMV) is the newest social contract towards the development of the continent. Therefore, it is Africa's own response to tackling the paradox of great mineral wealth existing side by side with pervasive poverty. She added, that the AMV is first and foremost a developmental mining approach that insists that the royal road to growth is through building economic and social linkages that benefit Africans themselves.

She presented the scenario of the AMV in the time of green energy transition and digitalization: She emphasized the following points that are trends in the minerals sector and described the relevance of the AMV: the mining sector in the age of disruption with technology, changing consumption patterns and environmental, social and governance (ESG) considerations. She conveyed that all these scenarios have the potential to create social disruption during the energy transitions that comes with both opportunities and threats.

The AMDC Interim Director also presented the trends in the minerals sector by highlighting the Global Decarbonization agenda indicating that countries accounting for more than 70% of today's global GDP and emissions have committed to net-zero emissions, implying a massive acceleration in clean energy deployment. She spotlighted energy systems that are powered by clean energy technologies, which need significantly more minerals, notably: The Lithium, nickel, cobalt, manganese and graphite for batteries; Rare Earth Elements (REE) for wind turbines and electric vehicles motors; Copper, silicon and silver for solar PV, and Copper and aluminum for electricity networks.

She further indicated that by 2050, low-carbon technologies will demand a higher percentage of the world's mineral production. To meet this demand, sustainable and reliable production will need to keep up – to feed the growth in demand for selected minerals for clean energy technologies. She reiterated that Africa is to benefit from these projected demands as it is hosting a large percentage of the world's reserves of strategic minerals.

**Dr. Marit** concluded her presentation by urging all the African minerals stakeholders to scale up the implementation of the Africa Mining Vision towards concrete results in terms of development and growth. She forwarded recommendations on the future of the operational AMDC, which will learn from the past; continue the movement of AMV champions; leverage partnerships; provide high-quality technical support and establish strong advocacy and communication strategy to build an outstanding Center of Excellence of Africa's Minerals for Sustainable Development. She said, "Africa can be prosperous and transformed through sustainable mineral and energy resource-based industrialization if all partnerships are leveraged".

**Mr. Petrus Kauluma**, Legal Associate at the African Union Commission's Office of the Legal Counsel, presented on the status of the ratification of the statute of the African Minerals Development Centre (AMDC), and organs of the Centre. He further elaborated on the membership and legal capacity of the center. He indicated that the membership of the Center as stipulated in the Statute is open to all Member States of the African Union.

The Member States that have signed and ratified the State before its entry into force will be regarded as the Founding Members of the Centre. He added, in order for the Centre to fulfill its objectives, it shall have the capacity to: Enter into agreements [contracts]; Acquire and dispose of movable and immovable properties and institute [and defend] legal proceedings. The fully flagged Center will have the three organs, namely the Conference of States Parties, the Minerals Advisory Board, the Secretariat.

The AMDC statute's article 12(11) provides the constitution of the Interim Minerals Advisory Board (MAB) that can be established pending the definitive entry into force of the Statute, the Chairperson of the AUC shall appoint members of the Advisory Board to undertake the functions of the Advisory Board. The MAB members shall serve on an interim basis until the Statute enters into force.

**Mr. Petrus** indicated that Article 23 of the AMDC Statute provides for the signing of the Statute. He further underscored that the signature provided is called a "simple signature" - no legal obligations but an indication of the intention to take steps to express consent to be bound later. The current AMDC Statute is signed by eleven (11) AU Member States to date, including Chad, Comoros, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Togo, and Zambia. Whereas, the ratification or accession is a concrete act by the State to demonstrate its willingness to undertake the legal rights and obligations contained in the treaty - thereby becoming a party to the treaty. This process is usually done through a document called an "instrument of ratification/accession". He indicated further that the ratification/accession to the AMDC is provided for under Article 23 (1) and (2) of the Statute.

**Mr. Petrus** concluded his presentation by bringing to the attention of participants the General Assembly Decision **No. Assembly/AU/Dec.589 (XXVI)** that Adopted the Statute and urged the AU Member States to expedite its ratification. He recommended that there is an urgent need to design a ratification strategy to accelerate the signature and ratification process. Further, the interim secretariat, civil society organizations, the private sector, and Member States (MS) that have ratified the statute can lobby/advocate for the ratification of the statute.

He urged the AMDC Interim Secretariat to consider carrying out advocacy missions to the AU Member States that have signed the Statute, to follow up and encourage the ratification progress. Finally, he indicated that the Interim Team can liaise with the Office of the Legal Counsel and Bureau of the Chairperson Office for necessary technical and political support respectively.

## SESSION 2

### ❖ Opportunities for Producing Battery Precursors in Africa and Emerging trends in Battery Electric Vehicles value chain in Africa

By Kwasi Ampofo- Bloomberg NEF

### ❖ High Level Panel Discussion on: Leveraging Africa's Battery and Technology Minerals for Development of Battery and Electric Vehicle Value Chains

#### ❖ Chair/ Moderator: Mr. Antonio Pedro (Acting ES and DES of UNECA) Panelists:

- H.E. Julien Paluku, Minister of Industry, Democratic Republic of Congo
- H.E. Martin Gama Abucha, Minister of Mining, Republic of South Sudan
- H.E. Minister Winston Chitando, Minister of Mines and Mining Development, Republic of Zimbabwe
- H.E. Million Mathewos, State Minister, Ministry of Mines and Petroleum, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
- H.E. Million Mathewos, State Minister of Mines and Petroleum, Ethiopia
- Mr. Tshepelayi Kabata (BADEA)
- Mr. Olivier Pognon (ALSF)
- Mr. Christian Ndikumagenge (Afreximbank),
- Mr. Tatenda Mungofa (CEO, Mureza)
- Mr. Claude Kabemba (SARW)

The session started with a presentation on the opportunities for producing battery precursors in Africa and emerging trends in the battery Electric Vehicles value chain in Africa. It was noted that transportation and electrification have a growing demand internationally and Africa has the potential to supply critical minerals to create linkages and boost energy transition, create jobs, and promote economic growth. Studies indicated that producing Battery Materials in the Democratic Republic of Congo could lower supply-chain emissions and add value to the country's cobalt.

The session witnessed a high-level panel discussion on ***“Leveraging Africa's Battery and Technology Minerals for Development of Battery and Electric Vehicle Value Chains”***. The panelists were, H.E. Julien Paluku, Minister of Industry, Democratic Republic of Congo; H.E. Martin Gama Abucha, Minister of Mining, Republic of South Sudan; H.E. Minister Winston Chitando, Minister of Mines and Mining Development, Republic of Zimbabwe; H.E. Million Mathewos, State Minister, Ministry of Mines and Petroleum, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia; and H.E. Million Mathewos, State Minister of Mines and Petroleum, Ethiopia.



Also, the ministers were joined by experts in the minerals industry, civil society, and finance institutions. The major discussion took stalled on the question of how can African resources be managed to transform economies given the comparative advantage of access to critical minerals that contribute to energy transition and manufacturing of electric vehicles. It was noted that African countries have the biggest responsibilities to operationalize the policies and laws that are promoting the energy transition. The panelists further added that the optimal plan is to add value and local content to the African raw minerals despite the geopolitical issues the continent is confronting.

These culminated in the urgent call for regional partnerships and country-to-country cooperation agreements to establish an electric vehicle industry that builds the capacity of the two states or more in the batteries industry. This is demonstrated by the establishment of the Battery Council in the DRC which is important to carry the vision as an institution that strengthens the capacity of the Congolese and other Africans to trade under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AFCFTA).

It was singled out that for the continent to industrialize there have to be avenues for enhancing mining regulations and policies to take advantage of green transitions and also a new partnership on technology transfer and creating linkages for minerals processing along the entire value chains. The policies have to be supported by proper implementation mechanisms, access to sustainable finance, and de-risking of the projects to encourage investment in electric batteries and provide more funding to the private sector to take advantage of the energy transition. On similar lines, African governments were encouraged to work towards creating a market and opportunities for EVs and promote STEM at the universities to address the gap in innovation and technology transfers.

The experts' interventions revolved around the role of the African private sector and civil societies that are making progress in the realization of the Africa Mining Vision which is essential for energy transition and commodities advancement. It was noted that the capacity of the African States needs to be enhanced to take care of human rights and environmental protections. In addition to opportunities for green minerals, the continent has another advantage in the production of fertilizers that the SMEs/ASM can capitalize on during the era of the energy transition. Some landlocked African countries have a potential for mineral resources that can contribute towards energy transition and the creation of regional value chains mainly on minerals such as zinc, manganese, lead, nickel, and cobalt, among others including the development minerals. The session concluded by urging all Africans to master the act of adding value addition into their minerals which is the fundamental drive for industrialization and economic diversification and its starts at the university level to train engineers on how minerals processing is being conducted.

Among the key issues raised in this session were on political-will of the AU Member States to adopt more forward-looking policies that consider the energy transition, partnership for minerals development, the responsibility of the government in the advocacy, and domestication of value addition regulations and laws. It was recommended that the inclusion of the social aspects will ensure the sustainability of the minerals sector and adherence to transparency and environmental protections.

## SESSION 3

### ❖ **Current trends in the Price Reporting and Exchange of Critical Metals.**

Key address: Mr. Folahan Malomo, Metal Exchange Expert (University of Sussex)

### ❖ **Discussion on African Green Minerals Strategy, African Green Minerals Observatory and AMDC Futures Expert Group**

#### ❖ **Presentations and discussions:**

**Chair/ Moderator: Dr. Marit Kitaw (AMDC)**

#### **Presentations:**

- Mr. Jerry Ahadjie (AfDB)- The tenets of an African Green Minerals Strategy (AGMS)
- Mr. Alex Berkenstein (SAIIA)- Towards an African Green Minerals Observatory (AGMO)
- Mr. Deon Cloete (SAIIA) - Anticipating Change in Complex Systems: Establishing an AMDC Futures Expert Group

#### ❖ **Discussants:** Mr. Kwasi Ampofo (BNEF), Mr. Stephen Yeboah (Commodity Monitor), Mr. Ben Boakye (ACEP), Mr. Folahan Malomo (University of Sussex), Mr. Arisekola Tunde (AMDC)

The session started with a discussion on the current trends in the price reporting and exchange of critical metals that are required globally for manufacturing clean energy technologies. It was noted that today's tense geopolitical situation, rising commodity prices, and supply chain bottlenecks have highlighted the need for serious actions to enhance the diversity and resilience of the critical minerals supply. It was indicated that most minerals and metals that are vital to the clean energy transition are increasing in price since 2021 exceeding by a wide margin the largest annual increases seen in 2010. This increase in price presents an opportunity for the African continent.

### **Discussion on African Green Minerals Strategy, African Green Minerals Observatory and AMDC Futures Expert Group**

The sessions tackled the question of whether Africa can withstand the pressure of green minerals. Further, it was noted that the demand for green minerals is expected to rise five times by 2030. As such, Africa's significant green minerals is an opportunity to be used as feedstock for LI-ion battery.

It was noted that the energy transition comes with barriers that includes absence of robust strategy to harness opportunities presented by the energy transition and investment. In addition, the speakers of the panel provided four strategic pillars to deliver the vision of an African Green Minerals Strategy which include: Developing People and Technological Capability; Building Key Value-Chains towards a unified financial system, and access to continental markets through AfCFTA and Mineral Stewardship. Further, the presenters noted the importance of the development of an African Green Minerals Observatory (AGMO) with the core mandate to implement the African Green Minerals Strategy and maximize the regional minerals value chains. This was also observed to ensure the proper implementation of the Africa Mining Vision and its action plan.

**Mr. Deon Cloete (SAIIA)** proposed self-organizing systems to cope with the ever-changing financial value chains, future studies, and strategic insights. This can be strengthened through the establishment of the AMDC Futures Experts Group.

The discussants reflected on the need for the continent to have focused laws and decisions to promote the private sectors and minerals institutions to produce more experts. Furthermore, the geological information is recommended to be critical in any successful mineral project and partnership is pertinent to sustainable minerals development in Africa.

**Key recommendations raised in this session are:**

It was recommended that there is a need to develop market exchange in Africa to convert mineral wealth into valuable commodities e.g. cobalt in Congo and this will be supported by knowledge hubs guided by minerals stakeholders.

## SESSION 4

### ❖ The AMV in the Time of Green the Energy Transition and Digitalization: Lessons on elaborating and implementing Policies and Regulatory Frameworks

Chair/Moderator: Mr. Charles Afeku (ALSF)

#### Panelists:

- Mr. Silas Olang (NRGI);
- Mr. Titus Gwemende (OSF)
- Mr. Alvin Mosioma (TJN-A)
- Mr. Edmond Shoko (AFRO-SAI);
- Mr. Yusuf Daya (Afreximbank)

This specific session was chaired by **Mr. Charles Afeku (ALSF)** who set the scene on the relevance of the Africa Mining Vision in the Time of Green Energy Transition and Digitalization and reflected on the lessons learned on elaborating and implementing Policies and Regulatory Frameworks in Africa.

The first speaker **Mr. Silas Olang (NRGI)**, indicated that for the AMV to achieve its goal of the optimization of the exploration of minerals resources – it has to deal with the current challenges of implementation that are lacking behind. He added that it is very clear that when the Government adopts any policy it will affect some parts of the communities; this is why the governments should make policy inclusive.

The second presenter **Mr. Edmond Shoko (AFRO-SAI)**, highlighted the need for policy coherence, accountability, and transparency in achieving the strategic goals of the Africa Mining vision. He indicated that the biggest challenge most African countries are facing is the poor financial management system that similarly does not address the environmental policy. On the green mineral policy and research development, he indicated that there is no ground-breaking research without backing from the state or funding from the government. He stressed that extraction is not a single-country issue - it is a continental matter. The solutions are that African countries can come together to boost the economy of scale by involving the private sector.

The third speaker **Mr. Titus Gwemende (OSF)**, underscored the inclusion of young African women in the process of the AMV implementation and for them to have an opportunity to share the challenges in the mining industry. On the digitization of the sector, he added that blockchain technology needs to be prioritized and utilized by all the mining stakeholders to boost innovation and learning during the era of energy transitions.

**Mr. Alvin Mosioma (TJN-A)**, the fourth speaker reiterated that the AMV should contribute towards commodities development through industrialization and this will ensure that minerals extraction benefits the African citizens. The session ended with a presentation by Mr. Yusuf Daya (Afreximbank), who provided an overview of the opportunities presented by the energy transition that the continent needs to capitalize on and for it to enter the global markets.

The major recommendation from this session is for the AMV to be relevant to energy transitional and digitization with an inclusive stakeholder.

### ❖ **Harmonization of policies at the sub-regional level (RECs)- progress towards Regional Mining Visions**

Chair/ Moderator: Mr. Oliver Maponga (UNECA)

#### **Panelists:**

- Mr. Calicious Tatalife (SADC)
- Mr. Innocent Makwiramiti, (COMESA)
- Mr. Ben Hadj Hamouda Imed (UMA)
- Representative (ECCAS)

The session was chaired by Mr. Oliver Maponga (UNECA), who highlighted the urgency of harmonizing mining policies at the regional level in line with the Africa Mining Vision that is trickled down through the country's mining vision. The first speaker Mr. Calicious Tatalife from the Southern African Development Community (SADC), stated that the SADC region has gone through the cycle of mining policies harmonization and it is now a leading REC in championing the mining reforms. He further, added that the AMV must be cascaded to the AU Member States' level to ensure minerals beneficiation.

The representative of the ECCAS stated that Africans need to move beyond extraction to add more value to their mineral resources and promote dynamic regional integration through value chains. He further urged the AMDC to work closely with the AU Member States to domesticate the Africa Mining Vision.

Mr. Innocent Makwiramiti, (COMESA), indicated that COMESA has a strategy for the industry with inclusive and sustainable economic growth, mining, and agro-processing to ensure industrialization and economic diversification. He added that as a region not much has been done in terms of domestication and harmonization of mining policies. Mr. Makwiramiti appealed to the AMDC and the AUC to assist the bloc in mobilizing financing, prioritizing value chains, geological information, and ASM development.

In the discussion, the need to halt the exportation of bauxite (iron) to china and Australia was raised for the continent to benefit from the beneficiation of raw minerals over time. Additionally, the AMDC is to consider bringing the right people (the policymakers, mineral stakeholders, and the governments) together to spearhead policy harmonization and domestication.

The significant recommendations from this discussion are to involve the African ministers responsible for minerals development, review the application of the existing laws and regulations; conduct participatory research, involve local communities in the domestication of the AMV; and understand the minerals geopolitics to enhance regional value chain developments.

## SESSION 5

### ⌘ Minerals-Based Industrialization in Africa

**Keynote presentation:** “Project viability of investment projects towards batteries, copper and mining inputs regional value chains” **Paul Jourdan, Minerals Development Expert.**

### ⌘ Moderator/Chair: Mr. Frank Mugenyi (MADI)

#### **Panelists:**

- Mr. Carl Oshodi (Africa Industrialisation group)
- Mr. John Sloan (UNECA);
- Mr. Frank Mugenyi (MADI);
- Ms. Helen Brume (Afreximbank)

The session started with a presentation from **Mr. Paul Jourdan**, on the opportunities that come with renewable energy in the batteries' value chains. He emphasized that the mining companies should switch from fossil fuel and conventional power to renewable as well as to reduce leakage and waste during battery production. Mr. Jourdan, called upon the African governments to work on a conducive environment for both domestic and foreign investment and to produce manufactured goods to be exported to foreign markets for the development of Africa. He anticipated the structural change that can be facilitated by removing obstacles and correcting market failure in promoting the green minerals industry.

**Mr. Carl Oshodi (Africa Industrialization group)**, highlighted the initiation of the green industry by utilizing the energy transition by upscaling the existing mining companies. **Mr. John Sloan (UNECA)**, presented the scenario of how Africa can increase the benefit of socio-environment and economic benefits in battery industries by lowering the costs and accelerating the adoption of batteries which can lead to increased battery demand by more percent and therefore double the economic value.

**Mr. Frank Mugenyi (MADI)**, in his presentation, suggested that the batteries stakeholders have to take sustainable steps toward eliminating child labor and forced labor and safeguarding human rights safely, environmental and social impact in the production and transportation of batteries. In addition, sustainability and responsible best practice should be in place to reduce socio-environmental impacts.

**Ms. Helen Brume (Afreximbank)**, indicated that the primary focus should be used to invest in global trade as Africa represents the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest minerals industry and this can be utilized for sustainable minerals exploration and production to stimulate Africa's economic growth. In the last five years, Afreximbank had almost spent over three hundred million dollars to support African mining institutions and will continue to support the mining sector in the continent.

### **Recommendations / key messages of programmatic or policy nature from the session.**

The major recommendation was for the African Heads of State and Government to encourage both public stakeholders and private companies to take concrete actions to increase public infrastructures to enable a smooth green economy transition in the mobility sector. Furthermore, the batteries companies should transparently operate within the accepted international practice that enables sustainable and profitable business models.

## **✂ Building Institutional and Human Capacities required for the energy transition and digitalization / the fourth industrial revolution**

Chair/ Moderator: Prof. Harmony Musiyarira (NUST - Namibia)

### **Panelists:**

- Mr. Jean-Marc Kilolo (UNECA)
- Mr. Charles Afeku (ALSF)
- Prof. Jochen Petersen (UCT)
- Mr. Bright Oppong Afum (UMAT-Ghana);
- Mr. Daniel Meshesha (AASTU)

The Chair and moderator of the session **Prof. Jarmony Masiyarara** posited questions about the challenges in terms of energy transition from an African perspective, institutional and human capacity building, and what should be done. Mr. Jean-Marc Kilolo (UNECA), suggested that Africa needs a resource-based diversification strategy to foster economic growth. He added, in 2014 the continent experienced economic hardship because of the fall in oil prices. This brought awareness of the urgency for economic diversification and structural change in the economy. He added that Africans need to create partnerships and joint initiatives as a prerequisite to leveling up our capacity and promoting regional value chains.

**Mr. Daniel Meshesha (AASTU)** referred to the capacity-building role that is being played by the Ethiopian government that established two science and technology universities that are working on two major tasks. The first is capacity building for the workforce both private and government institutions by giving training instead of the normal teaching-learning process. The second one is research and development through digitalization transformation tailored to the industry. In addition, the university established an artificial intelligence institute to support the sustainability energy center of excellency.

**Prof. Jochen Petersen (UCT)**, indicated that any successful development needs to be infused into the youth, and next-generation. This is to ensure that the knowledge base is not only theoretical but also practical skills that address the needs of the mining industry in Africa. Mr. Charles Afeku (ALSF) in his presentation, indicated that the private sector has to develop skills and invest in education for better industrialization in the continent.



The summary of the key issues were at diversifying the economy that will prevent African countries to rely on few commodities and development of human capacity to modernize the extractive sector by optimizing resources. Additionally, the investment in education is essential for industrialization by advancing training and basic education.

Recommendations / key messages of programmatic or policy nature from the session: The development of a strategy for effective institutions that build capacities, an initiation of multi-stakeholders' dialogues on science and technology to promote advancement in mining industry were recommended.

## ❖ Low-carbon Materials

### Chair/ Moderator:

- Ms. Uyanga Gankhuyag (UNDP)

### Panelists:

- Wolfram Schmidt (Institute for Materials Research and Testing, Germany)
- Kolawole Olonade (University of Lagos, Nigeria)
- Apollo Buregyeya (Eco Concrete Uganda)
- Ibrahim Djagra (AJDEC Cameroon)
- Laura Atienza (European Commission)
- Lacina Pakoun (UNDP)

The moderator, Ms. Uyanga Gankhuyag (UNDP) explained the importance of low-carbon materials in the African minerals industry. She said, the sector has a potential for higher productivity and income generation in different sectors, that includes mining, manufacturing, construction, agriculture, and retail trading. She added that the goal of this session is to raise awareness about Low-Carbon Materials and to put it on the radar of mining ministries and stakeholders.

Ms. Uyanga explained that the low-carbon materials sector is often neglected by mining ministries and institutions. However, it has great potential for industrialization and inclusive growth. The sector may not immediately bring large amounts of fiscal revenues unlike large-scale mining, but artisanal and small-scale mining employs large numbers of people – although with low productivity and just above subsistence.

Mr. Wolfram Schmidt (Institute for Materials Research and Testing, Germany), in his presentation, reflected on the need for materials solutions that are unavoidable in our daily life and existence. They are the only group of materials that are, sufficiently available on the planet to cope with the global demand, and they are made of those elements that make out the far majority of the outer earth's crust. Concrete is much better than its reputation and lowers embodied carbon and energy than any other mass construction material. Thus, using other materials in the same global volume would only aggravate the negative climate impact.

He further added that, to date, the focus of construction materials standards was put on safety and durability. The sustainable use of materials and resources has not been on the agenda when standards were developed. Therefore, everywhere in the world novel standards and concepts need to be developed.

**Kolawole Olonade (University of Lagos, Nigeria)**, emphasized the reduction of the global CO2 in major industries like cement and promote a greener material. He added, that Nigeria has a competitive advantage because of the population. As a result, an alternative cement material needs to be developed and recycling to be considered.

**Mr. Apollo Buregyeya (Eco Concrete Uganda)**, presented on developing skills of entrepreneurs to find their niche in low-carbon materials and construction technology. He highlighted that Africa has an advantage to affordable housing with cheaper labor inputs.

**Mr. Ibrahim Djagra (AJDEC Cameroon)**, explained that the stabilized bricks are opportunities for the majority of the ASM actors and contribute to low-carbon material productions. It is an attractive sector for employing youth and women by cutting stones that are eco-friendly to social infrastructure and housing, he added.

**Ms. Laura Atienza Urcelay (European Commission)**, emphasized the role of the private sector in the development of low-carbon materials particularly with the introduction of new technology, capacity building, and sustainable financial inclusion that enhance the digital skills of women.

**Mr. Lacina Pakoun (UNDP)**, explained the Low-Carbon Initiative which is supporting the development of construction materials, industrial minerals, dimension stones, and semi-precious stones. He said, locally mined materials and supporting small businesses in the development of minerals and construction value chains will create many jobs – and it can also help save carbon emissions.

The major outcome of this session is that Africa is the only region that has not “messed up” construction technologies and regulations, and thus it is the only region that can spearhead green construction technologies. This is a heavy burden, but also an important obligation to the entire world, even though the continent has the lowest contribution to climate gas emissions. The future relevant construction happens in Africa and not in Europe, where construction activities are limited to maintenance. At the same time, Europe has created an over-bureaucratic and over-standardized framework that is obstacle to the implementation of sustainable and future-oriented construction technologies.

## SESSION 6

### ❖ AMREC Implementation Strategies Across Africa (Workshop)

#### Chair/ Moderator:

- Mr. Hari Tulsidas (Chair) UNECE

#### Discussants:

- Mr. Tunde Arisekola (AMDC/ OAGS)
- Prof. Okunlola (GSAf)
- Mr. Felix Bob Ocitti (AMREC-Uganda)

A Brief introduction about the African Minerals and Energy Resource Classification and Management System (AMREC) was presented by the Moderator, Mr. Hari Tulsidas.

**Mr. Tunde Arisekola (AMDC/OAGS)**, further explained the journey towards the development of the African Minerals and Energy Resources Classification Framework and Management System and the Pan African Reporting Code (AMREC-PARC) that was endorsed by the 40th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of the African Union held in February 2022, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (**Decision EX.CL/Dec.1144(XL)**).

He added, the AMREC is a comprehensive system for the management of Africa's mineral and energy resources and it is aligned with the Africa Mining Vision (AMV), Agenda 2063, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Further, it was developed based on United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) Principles, Generic Specifications, and Guidelines. It also includes the Pan-African Resource Reporting Code (PARC) which is read together with AMREC as a single classification and management system.

**Mr. Felix Bob Ocitti (AMREC-Uganda)**, raised the basic idea behind AMREC is to harmonize the vision targeting the UN SDGs and agenda 2063 that is promoting Africa's growth and economic development by managing the mineral resources. He added, that the three pillars of responsible mining are mining information, technology, and sustainable finance.

The summary of the key points was on promoting the use of geological information systems and AMREC-PARC to optimize mineral exploitations, encouraging competency and specialization in all African countries, and investment on geology, responsible mining, and sustainable financing.

## ❖ Realizing Africa's Potential in Strategic Minerals Exploitation: The Challenges and Opportunities of Upstream Mining Project Development

### Chair/ Moderator:

- Mr. Kojo Busia (AMV RP)

### Panelists:

- Ely Katembo (Katembo Group)
- Mr. Veston Malango (Chambers of Mines – Namibia)
- Mr. Tresor Chovu (Chovu-international Holdings);
- Ms. Mmantlha M. Sankoloba (OACPS Business Forum)

**Ely Katembo (Katembo Group)**, indicated that Africa needs to capitalize on the strategic minerals and create more investors in the next few decades. He further, emphasized that there is an urgent call to empower African mining contractors to work in small, medium, and large-scale mining in the continent.

**Mr. Tresor Chovu (Chovu-International Holdings)**, said the stakeholders need to come together in different forums to discuss opportunities presented by the strategic minerals that are usually capital-intensive and requires a public-private- partnership to finance such projects. He further, indicated that the lack of implementation of policies will delay the mining.

industry to transit to a greener era. Therefore, governments and relevant stakeholders need to respect rules and regulations to boost investors' confidence.

**Mr. Veston Malango (Chambers of Mines – Namibia)**, provided a highlight on the importance of investment in exploration that the African Mining Chambers are struggling with. He further, added that the investment should focus on geological surveys to ensure the availability of geodata that enhance the visibility of sustainable mining. He stressed that African junior mining companies involved in exploration work need to be incentivized through legislation and policies.

**Ms. Mmantlha M. Sankoloba (OACPS Business Forum)**, presented on the SME's involvement in the mining sector to thrive under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), particularly the inclusion of youth and women that are part of minerals value chains (Upstream mining development). Also, she underscored the engagement of the African private sector, and logistical and procurement companies.

The major recommendation of this session narrated to the important element is a mineral resource that can attract investment within and outside the continent. It was also noted that the African minerals stakeholders shall focus on exploration in the mining sector and sub-sector, promote domestic supply chains, and development of upstream mineral value additions.

## SESSION 7

### ❖ Women in Mining: Opportunities and Challenges in the time of the Energy Transition and digitalization

#### **Moderator/Chair:**

- Ms. Balbine Pascaline MAKANI (AWIMA)

#### **Panelists:**

- Ms. Janet Adeyemi (Women In Mining In Nigeria, WIMIN)
- Ms. Georgette Barnes
- Ms. Amany Asfour (President ABC)
- Ms. Alaka Lugonzo, (Oxfam);
- Ms. Pauline VandePallen (TWN – Africa)

The session ascertained the opportunities and challenges faced in the time of the energy transition and digitalization whilst leveraging African Women in Mining experiences in the industry.

Ms. Balbine Pascaline MAKANI (AWIMA), raised issues on the view of the reality of African women in mining, she appreciated the theme of the panel to contribute to the discourse of Africa's minerals development. She further said, African women face gender inequality and related challenges in the critical minerals value chains. The women represent less than 1% percent in top management and out of 90 million engaged in the sector, women constitute 4 million, she underlined. Ms. Balbine further urged the participants, partners, and women's organizations present at the Forum to ensure women's participation in the era of the energy transition.

**Ms. Janet Adeyemi (WIMIN)**, gave a presentation that started with the openly accessible statistics on the current state of play of gendered energy access and in particular, electricity, and how the continent will need much more than what exists for development – let alone sustainable development and related metrics. With regards to energy transition, Engineer Janet suggested what may be considered as focus areas i.e. Source of energy - A quick shift from fossil fuel to renewable energy;

**Energy Infrastructure** - Introduction of digital energy and carbon-efficient technologies, solar panels and other renewable infrastructure, and backup energy storage, to the global energy network. One of the most significant barriers to the effective harnessing of renewables is a lack of capacity and proper connections from generation sources to sufficient storage equipment to handle it. Live monitoring of these assets is also critical to ensure you maximize their collection capabilities and take into account geographic and weather data to optimize their usage further. This also includes having the necessary resources in place to properly monitor existing fossil fuel-based energy assets, ensuring they are used as little as possible and only when necessary;

**Stakeholders** - Consumers must have access to accurate information regarding tariffs and services to help them reduce costs while being carbon conscious. Energy digitalization will also bring the advent of private individuals entering the energy market, selling their surplus from private solar or wind infrastructure to the grid. They will also be able to track peak use times and adjust their energy purchasing to focus on cheaper times of the day.

**Energy Providers** - Energy providers will need to make sweeping changes to their systems and management with the advent of private individuals, entities, and independent energy projects like micro grids. They will need to introduce tools that can intelligently track and predict energy load ebbs and flows and automate a wide range of traditionally manual and time-consuming processes like periodic site checks.

**Ms. Georgette Barnes** said that the pandemic of COVID-19 revealed the need to automate in energy transition and extracting sector through the digital era - which constitutes an opportunity for African women. She further, stressed that Africa's Mining situation was shared using key statistics which inform that 50 percent of women are working in ASM, extraction of copper, cobalt, large scale mines (e.g. nickel) and critical minerals; drilling and safety process.

**Ms. Amany Asfour (President AfBC)**, presented a summary of the African Business Council's purpose, its key objectives, and function. The AfBC was established following an AU Assembly Decision. Currently, it is comprised of 20 clusters that seek to ensure Africa's competitiveness in trade and industrialization. The AfBC aims to strengthen women-led small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and ensure women's empowerment through capacity building, awareness raising, and the private sector's participation.

**Ms. Alaka Lugonzo, (Oxfam)**, emphasized the inclusion of women in the conversation to upskill and re-skill them and to be competent in the mining sector. She highlighted access to finance, investment, and technology for African women to be able to produce and contribute towards the industrialization of the continent.

**Ms. Pauline VandePallen (TWN - Africa)**, raised the misunderstanding in knowledge and structures of the issues faced by women. There is a wrong perception of women in the mining sector and this eliminates all the opportunities for funding and investment in SMEs owned by women. She added, that there is a need for more capacity building of women in mining and to strengthen knowledge generation and sharing mechanisms.

Key issues raised in this session were on the inclusion of women in mining sector, promotion of an inclusive policies, and capacity building of women in mining sector and its leadership. The major recommendations emerged were on the need to create greater sensitization and awareness of the current trends of Africa's mining and promoting women participation through investment on their technical skills, and formalize women business and enforce quotas.

## ✂ **Harmonized geological information on Strategic Minerals of Africa**

### **Chair/ Moderator:**

- Mr. Alex Nwegbu (Chair);

### **Discussants:**

- Mr. Tunde Arisekola (AMDC);
- Prof. Okunlola (GSAf);
- Ms. Rokhaya (OAGS);
- Ms Maideyi Lydia Mabvira-Meck
- Mr. Jerry Ahadjie (AfDB);
- Mr. Ibrahim Shaddad (AMGC);

**Mr. Alex Nwegbu**, the chair of the session explained the importance of the collection of integrated geological information from offshore and onshore mining areas. This will help the continent to have strong data based on geological surveys and promote the proper use of knowledge of geoscience.

**Mr. Arisekola Tunde** from the AMDC explained that the success of the minerals sector in Africa will be led by proper implementation of the Africa Mining Vision (AMV) that aspires to harmonize minerals strategies, policies, instruments, and best practices in developing regional value chains. He added the Geological and Mineral Information Systems (GMIS) of the AU Member States must endorse the African Minerals Resources and Energy Classification Systems which is in line with the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC).

**Ms. Rokhaya (OAGS)**, highlighted the benefits of the GMIS strategy and its outcome that will particularly allow for a better assessment of the environmental impact and sustainability of mining projects and other related activities. She outlined the advantages of the GMIS application to improve minerals policies, regulations, and fiscal regimes for the mining sector and facilitate price discovery for governments, and support decision- making in contract negotiation through information on the quality and quantity of ores in the subsoil.



**Ms. Maideyi Lydia Mabvira-Meck** presented on the improvement of the exploration license acquisitions and storage geological information by keeping standardization of data and availability of data in place. She further stressed on the availing of the investment and coordination of the geological information at different levels including national, regional, and continental.

**Mr. Jerry Ahadjie (AfDB)**, indicated that there has been a rise and fall in the price of commodities in many years, and when the commodity price of metals is down it affects the exploration and expenditure budget. He added though Africa is under high exploitation of the minerals resources across its surface - the lack of funds for minerals exploration and development become a serious problem that affects the sustainable development of mineral industries. To overcome these funding constraints the development finance institutions like African Development Bank, World Bank, and other financial institutions should play an important role by providing funding in form of loans to the minerals exploration and geological survey authorities in order to generate the regional data.

**Mr. Ibrahim Shaddad (AMGC)**, stated that the AMGC is ready to coordinate jointly with the AMDC the ratification process through its existing members. The AMGC is providing a series of regional and global training, workshops, geological digitalization technique, database management, and resource estimation of the development minerals. He further, indicated that the areas of harmonization of geological knowledge and data interpretation are the main ones for promoting sustainable mineral development in Africa.

Key recommendations of this session were on the improvement of the geological and geospatial information and its use in mining and broad development process in African countries, and to strengthening the African countries' geological survey institutions in the blue economy sector, artisanal mining, industrial minerals, underground water, natural hazard, infrastructure, geo-heritage, ecotourism, agriculture, environment, waste management and others.

## SESSION 7

### ❖ Addressing Legacy and Environmental Issues to ensure climate-smart mining

**Presentation by Mr. Rachid Amui (UNCTAD),**

**“Recycling in the context of rising demand for Critical Battery Materials and changing battery technologies”**

**Moderator/Chair:**

- Mr. Yao Graham (TWN - Africa)

**Panelists:**

- Mr. Mtuso Dhliwayo (ZELA);
- Vusi Mabena (CEO of MIASA);
- Mr. Mukasiri Sibanda (StoptheBleeding);

The session pointed out the major focus that was on the negative environmental and social impacts of mining on the environment and mining communities. These impacts are normally experienced or felt long after the mining activities have ceased to exist and this is where the legacy emanates from.

The presenters raised the need to introduce lithium-ion battery recycling as the power source for electronic devices. Further, added that Africa needs to strategize in taking advantage of the energy storage in stationary or electric vehicle applications as the world is transitioning to greener energy. The first presented concluded by indicating the need for improving the “recycling technology” of lithium-ion batteries which is a continuous effort and recycling is far from maturity today, particularly in Africa.

It was recommended that the AMDC and other stakeholders to conduct researches that are influencing the legal, policy and institutional reforms related to natural resources governance and environmental protections to ensure that natural resource exploitation in Africa promotes sustainable development.

**Mr. Vusi Mabena (CEO of MIASA)** added that the clean energy transition will be significantly minerals intensive and Africa must take advantage of this opportunity to exploit minerals in a responsible manner. The private sector entities have a great role in promoting the emerging climate-driven clean energy transition.

**Mr. Mukasiri Sibanda (StoptheBleeding)** stressed that African leaders need to play an important role in managing the minerals driven economy by providing the Africa Mining Vision’s implementation oversight, coordinating and implementing Environmental and Social Governance (ESG) policies and embarking on Africa minerals industry reform that ensures fulfilling the needs of the current and future generations.

The major recommendation is for African countries to promote the implementation of the effective environmental laws and regulations for the smart and clean mining industry. The African Minerals Governance Framework (AMGF) provides a framework for addressing the environmental and social impacts of mining so that they do not leave a negative legacy. What is most important is to ensure that ongoing and proposed legal reforms are guided by the Africa Mining Vision (AMV) and the AMGF on environmental and social issues. If these reforms are anchored on the implementation of the AMV and AMGF - then mining can leave a positive environmental and social legacy.

## SESSION 8

### ❖ Resource-Based Industrialization in Green Minerals Value Chains: The Case of Solar Power Systems and EVs

#### Moderator/ Chair:

- Mr. Emmanuel Bensah, Deputy Executive Director, AfCFTA network

#### Panelists:

- Mr. Tatenda Mungofa (MUREZA-SA)
- Mr. Nyasha Chasakara (SolarPro-Zim);
- Mr. Francis Kojo (Katanka-Ghana);
- Mr. Eddy Sebera (MaraPhones - Rwanda)

The key issues raised during the session are policies that encourage manufacturers to venture into green mineral value chains and utilize innovation in the mining industry.

The first speaker **Mr. Tatenda Mungofa (MUREZA-SA)** stated that the quest for a made-in-Africa car is challenging particularly during this era of technological advancements. The dynamics of the global auto industry have excluded Africa from the development process of electric vehicles. The first step is to identify the initial product and formulate a design that speaks to the target consumer. Secondly, and most importantly, finding the right team to work on this design until it is a physical product ready for production. Mr. Tatenda expressed himself while referring to his adventures in founding MUREZA-SA.

**Mr. Nyasha Chasakara (SolarPro-Zim)** proposed the efficient use of mineral resources on how to produce more with less while caring for environmental degradation using the new technologies. He further emphasized collective work from stakeholders, particularly the private sector to develop a manufacturing capacity in solar panels and batteries to cut the over-reliance on expensive equipment imports.

**Mr. Francis Kojo (Katanka-Ghana)** stressed on the need to develop capacity in the continent for local production and manufacturing by empowering the ASM communities. This was supplemented by **Mr. Eddy Sebera (MaraPhones - Rwanda)** who proposed the development of standards that can promote sustainable mining in Africa and enhance partnerships and investments.

The key recommendations were on the current global advancement and that Africa needs to attempt to find technological advances which can efficiently transform this renewable energy into mechanical energy and this can transform the transportation sector shifts to renewable energy utilization, and this also can reflect on a good amount of greenhouse gases (GHG) being minimized.

## ❖ Addressing ASM issues in the mining sector, especially on green minerals: Pathways to transforming the ASM sub-sector into a viable agent for sustainable economic development

### Moderator/ Chair:

- Prof Nellie Mutemeri (MutConsult)

### Session Discussants:

- Mr. Mkhululi Nkosilamandla Ncube (AMDC);
- Mr. Evans Rubera (FADev);
- Ms. Hannah Wang'ombe (AWEIK);
- Mr. Aliga Bethsmith William (South Sudan)
- Mr. Godwin Amarh (Ghana Small Scale Mining Association)
- Mr. Lyapa Manza (AMDC)
- Mr. Lacina Pakoun, UNDP

In light of the rather unique nature of ASM on the continent, it was initially planned that the panelists would be giving PowerPoint presentations, followed by a session of questions and answers. This would have been followed by a mini-workshop with a couple of plenary break-out sessions. The intention was to have specific outcomes and clear next steps on the Artisanal and small mining sector in Africa – in light of the need to draft a continental ASM strategy aligned to the AMV. To adapt to the changes in the programme, this forum report will be circulated to participants interested in being part of the on-going ASM discussions and eventually be part of the ASM group of experts that will work with the AMDC. Therefore, this report will serve as first communication on the aforementioned and going forward, specific issues and interventions will be addressed to transform ASM in Africa.

The key question about ASM development in Africa is, “why after all the efforts made does ASM appear still not to contribute to sustainable development in the continent?” Is it possibly because artisanal miners are ignored in most agendas even though they are the most populous actors in the African mining sector. Meanwhile, the role of the communities that host mining activities, including ASM also seem to be largely ignored. Fortunately, the Africa Mining Vision (AMV) specifically provides for the artisanal and small-scale mining sector and there is a specific tenet and pillar that refers specifically to ASM, recognizing the potential of ASM to improve livelihoods and integrated rural development and national economies of African countries.

Since 2009, when the AMV came into effect, some work has been done and there appears to be a “coalition of the willing” driving domestication and implementation. There may not be reports that specifically talk about the progress that has been made, and about things that have been done in the name of the AMV, but because the AMV is owned by everyone, a lot has been done in the course of other interventions. There may be no documented evidence about what has been done, but some countries have done a lot to align with the AMV. Other developments include an **ASM Knowledge Hub** that is under development (it is in the early stages).

**Mr Aliga Bethsmith William** stated that in South Sudan, there are two different types of miners in ASM. The artisanal miners are treated as informal and the small-scale miners as formal. As such, the subject of financial inclusion is talked about under the formalized system. For artisanal miners who are regarded informal it is a challenge to make it relevant, no bank will give money to an individual who is not registered or not known by the government. The main challenge is that banks do not even have a mining desk in them, hence they usually do not know much about mining. Artisanal miners, also do not know that they can ask for financial services from the banks. As such, artisanal miners and the small-scale miners need to be sensitized so that they know they need to be able to access money from the banks and the banks need to be educated so that they can have a mining desk where they can be able to give access to finances, financial services like capital for investment, payments or credit. Mr. Smith noted the importance of miners registering their companies to access money that they can use to procure tools and for their operations. The main challenge is that banks do not have the mechanisms for that. In general, the issues facing the artisanal and small-scale mining sector need to be addressed, so as to transform the sector, to access finance and increase productivity. Another issue that Mr. Smith noted as needing redress, is the disadvantage of exporting raw materials within ASM, hence priority should be given to value addition in the ASM sector.

According to **Mr Evans Rubara**, the ASM sector is unfortunately known for environmental pollution, deforestation, and a lot of safety and health concerns. Considering the energy transition in the context of ASM sector activities brings different dimensions within the social, economic and environmental perspective. The majority of African countries where such activities take place suffer from unstructured systems to ensure the environmental integrity and health and safety for the mining communities. There is a lack of financial resources, to enable the sector to operate businesses with expertise that will enhance mining technology for optimum productivity and value addition to attract diverse market landscape, particularly when one refers to the whole value chain in the sector.

The introduction of critical minerals will bring with it the need to recalibrate the artisanal and small-scale miners and their communities and in the process there might be some repercussions such as loss of livelihood and a need to acquire new knowledge. Therefore, there is a need to establish new structures to facilitate new knowledge transitions as well. There are steps that leaders need to take to make sure that the ASM sector is productive, inclusive and responsible. There is also a need for specific policies and regulatory frameworks to cater for the ASM economic sub-sector to engage in the energy transition processes meaningfully and effectively, and a need to consider ASM production to cater for local rural consumption. Currently the ASM sector operates under a policy that focuses on controlling and facilitating large scale mining. For example, in Tanzania, they do not have financial institutions which can actually lend money to artisanal miners. A lot of African countries have legalized ASM activities for the purposes of government revenue collection. Miners are caught in the cycle of poverty, yet governments sometimes actually claim that they are collecting a lot revenue, however, the communities where these activities take place are still very poor. It is important to know how many artisanal miners are out there to determine how to approach and address the challenges that face this economic sub-sector. One also needs to actually challenge the speed at which the energy transition agenda is being pushed and be clear about whose agenda it is.

There is need for self-assessment at the national level, regional economic community level, to understand whose interests are served by the urgency to implement major projects in critical minerals toward green energy. There is also needed to consider the environmental repercussions that will actually accompany the rush to access critical minerals.

**Mr Godwin Amar** of the Ghana Small-Scale Mining Association, and a successfully growing miner within the sector started by stating that approximately 35% of Ghana's annual gold output comes from the small-scale mining sector, which brings in about USD 3 billion in terms of foreign exchange earnings, however the sector is troubled by negative environmental impacts. Capacity building or skills enhancement is very important in the ASM operations because it will go a long way in improving the natural environment. And also, by the use of effective and efficient mining methods, it will also improve the health and safety aspect of the mining in the whole community. Capacity and skill gaps on the continent should be addressed by identifying the appropriate learning needs, whilst policy interventions may be used to support building the institutional, human and the logistical capacity for stakeholders. There is need to draw up a deliberate policy in growing the artisanal and small-scale miners from where they are now to medium-scale and from medium to large scale operations. It is

also important to come up with strategies to link up the ASM operators to producers of finished products (e.g. the jewellery industry) for local value addition, resulting in job creation.

There is need to have assessments of the institutions that regulate the mining sector and look at what the capacity gaps are, and then build capacity in those gaps accordingly. For example, Ghana developed a process to reduce the time it takes to acquire licences by introducing the Mineral Cadastral administration system where applications for licenses can be done fully online.

Academics should be partners in skills capacity development. They can do research in better mining and processing methods and support the development of training programmes for miners.

The miners' associations can also work in partnership with civil society organisations (CSOs) and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), to develop the capacity of their associations and their members. They can also support addressing specific issues, e.g. child labour, gender-based violence and responsible sourcing of minerals. It is important to sensitise communities about the impact of ASM on their livelihoods and also the benefit to the community is crucial. Whilst in local equipment manufacture – it is important to develop local fabricators of equipment as this will create opportunities for local people and firms.

**Ms Hannah Wang'ombe** started with stating at how when one looks at equality and equity it is about looking at the interest and the people. When one talks about equality, one is acknowledging that men and women have different strengths. African governments should do more to recognise women as economic agents.

Some of the challenges that prevent achieving equality include historical biases, e.g. some countries still subscribe to the ILO convention of 1935 that prohibits women from work in underground mines. There are also discriminatory laws and frameworks that exacerbate issues around gender equity and gender equality. When thinking about engaging women especially at ASM level, it is often not considered that women have the burden of unpaid care work, which may lead to being excluded from influencing decisions.

An important factor to bear in mind is that mining is an enclave, the mining sector is one of the industries whose multiplier effect is the least into other sectors. Though ASM is where there is higher employment, it has very low productivity, and in that mix exclusion and inequality is exacerbated.

Agenda 2063 of the African Union (AU) talks about “Aspiration number 6”, which emphasises that development should be people driven, that women and the youth and children should participate in the agenda; but things on the ground are very different and especially when it comes to ASM.

Policies must be intentional around ensuring gender equitability, and this includes in ASM programming. For example, in capacity building, skills programmes need to deliberately focus on women, e.g. implement programmes where women are able to effectively participate and benefit. The importance of gender mainstreaming needs to be emphasised, for the whole mining value chain.



The AMDC theory of change takes gender mainstreaming as a thread that runs through everything that is done. An example from Zimbabwe shows that women are increasingly becoming more involved in managing the finances of ASM operations because they are considered to be more honest and trustworthy. This may be linked to better treatment and respect for women resulting from the enactment of the new law on gender-based violence. The transformation appears to also extend to how mining activities are becoming more beneficial to communities because of more responsible spending patterns.

**Mr Lyapa Manza** had contributions emanating from how some commodities including critical minerals are only available to exploitation through artisanal and small-scale mining. It is noted that artisanal small-scale miners have some access to large deposit of critical minerals.

Increased demand on the global market for the energy transition commodities, has been associated with a corresponding increase in production from artisanal and small-scale miners, implying that, the artisanal small-scale miners are filling the supply gap.

However, the miners are not getting just rewards or benefits from these increased demand patterns, they remain poor. They cannot sell their commodities at favourable prices, they cannot access the suitable mining rights etc. Corporates, middle men and the final users are getting the benefits of this.

There is need to consider formalisation and put in place the formalisation strategies to improve the contribution of commodities from the artisanal small-scale miners to the economy. Formalisation should look at formal groupings, access to land and mining rights. Policy frameworks should also consider setting aside some areas for artisanal and small-scale mining; areas that are reserved for artisanal and small-scale miners make it easy for artisanal small-scale miners to legally participate in mining. It is also important to make it easier for artisanal and small-scale miners to access the mining cadastre or the licencing processes.

**Mr Mkhululi Nkosilamandla Ncube** in discussing responsible sourcing, one has to think about interventions such as the Dodd-Frank Act, Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS), “EGC - Enterprise Generale Cobalt” et al. There is a plethora of these schemes. Unfortunately, it may be perceived as being told how one should address the way one deals with one’s own minerals. This lack of consideration of the ASM actors may be the reason ASM is where it is - poorly developed. For instance, ASM is considered illegal in most jurisdictions, but the question is illegal to whom. When one is told that ASM is illegal one must ask who determines this, because of the historical inconsistencies under which the illegality of ASM stemmed.

There is a whole lot of debate in different quarters about securing access to so-called critical minerals from Africa, and one needs to look at the historical context of this when one brings up the issue of responsible sourcing.

The AMDC is attempting to take a nuanced approach to the responsible sourcing of minerals (including green minerals). This includes levelling the playing field and providing a “handicap” advantage to the African ASM sector. This needs to consider the issue of formalisation including having a common understanding of term for

the continent. It is important to consider ASM not as an illegal activity but a livelihood activity that has the ability to self-regulate. Its income generation and wealth creation potential have to be taken into account, rather than just seeing it as a poverty driven activity. We must recognise and harness the potential of ASM's contribution towards growth and development.

**Mr Lacina Pakoun** reiterated what, in his opinion, could be a game changer in a process of developing the enabling policy and legal framework to support the development of the ASM sector in Africa. The situation on the continent is that in most jurisdictions, the sector has not been given the attention that it deserves. It is very difficult to come up with a one-size-fit-all approach. Any enabling policy and regulatory framework should consider ASM as any other viable economic activity that should be knowledge driven as required by the AMV. It is important that ASM is put at the heart of national industrialisation and economic transformation through value addition and beneficiation. ASM should not be regarded primarily by the governments as a source of tax income rather as source of job creation and employment. Firstly, the sector should be formalised and organised, and this can be done through the provision of services, land use planning, mining equipment, financial literacy amongst others. Capacity building of ASM stakeholders including in entrepreneurship and practical organisation of a mine is important.

It is key to put in place a system that facilitates upgrading of ASM operations, for instance from artisanal to micro to small-scale to medium-scale, including value chain strengthening. ASM can be a viable local economic development agent, if: a) there is land tenure security, b) access to geological data, finance, markets and value addition; c) there are ASM friendly standards co-designed with miners and other actors, to meet their needs; d) there is support for improved and good practices, e.g. health and safety culture.

Strategic minerals being mined by ASM should have a specific legislation in terms of the taxation system linked to the price. However, it is important to avoid a plethora of regulations and standards. **Mr. Pakoun** ended his contribution and closed the session by highlighting that the focus should be about formalising the sector and making the sector into a development driver.

On the continent there is the work that is being done by the African Development Bank (AFDB), on how financial inclusion can support ASM formalisation. Through these processes, knowledge is being generated on mitigating the financial inclusion challenges such as the financial institutions that do not understand the sector inclusive of the perception of mining as a risky business. Hence some creative work and innovative work, needs to be done to overcome barriers of access finance and use of financial services by the sector so that it can enhance the way miners do their business.

The session raised important issues in the ASM sector, namely the financial inclusion that will enable business prosperity and boost the trust of the banking sectors in the ASM operations. It was also indicated that the formalization process needs to be effected by the governments with the minimal requirements that the miners themselves can afford.

Amongst ASM's major challenges are those related to illegal profiling, the use of rudimentary tools, the absence of geological information, being attached to environmental degradation, and being prone to rainfalls and floods. It was recommended that there is a need for a robust continental strategy and policy harmonization that ensures the ASM sector growth and promote the possibilities of upgrading to small-scale, medium, and large-scale mining supported by mechanization and the use of technology. The population involved in the AMS sector directly or indirectly is large and it has to be quantified and known as it served as a source of employment to many Africans.

Furthermore, the panelists raised the pervasive lack of capacity and skills in the AMS Sector that creates a mismatch between policies and the productivity of the sector. It was recommended that there is a need to promote the industrialization of the ASM sector, particularly on gemstone minerals (especially jewellery) that have the potential to create jobs and other opportunities on the downstream.

The following were the key recommendations from the sessions: Professionalization and formalization of the ASM Sector to ensure value addition in the gemstones minerals, gender sensitivity in ASM policies and regulations, and development of strategies to secure access to sustainable finance.

That the AMDC work closely with academic institutions and relevant stakeholders to develop manuals for training the small-scale miners and introduce a semi-mechanized process that can be operated at cooperatives levels. The role of the civil society and local community is critical in the formalization of the ASM to access sustainable financing through grants. The new phase of the ASM should consider the issues of equity and equality at its core operations by ensuring women's inclusion and prosperity in the sector.

## **Final Discussions and Synthesis of Recommendations**

The second African Forum on Mining and the re-launch of the AMDC addressed the challenges facing every economy in the world as they are in the era of the energy transition. Its consequences in the financial and monetary market; and the disruption of the global value chains and how Africa can take advantage of the energy transition that demands minerals. Further, it was noted that the raw materials largely found in Africa are needed to achieve the green and digital transition, especially cobalt, lithium, nickel, manganese graphite, copper, and Rare Earth Elements. This served as an opportunity that will culminate in the development of the African Green Minerals Strategy (AGMS), and African Green Minerals Observatory (AGMO) supported by the anticipated AMDC Futures Expert Group. Furthermore, the Forum deliberated on minerals transparency and good governance which are the basis for institutional capacity, mining investment and infrastructural developments.

It was pointed out that the promotion of compliance with environmental social and governance, and the role of women in mining and development of Artisanal and Small-scale Mining (ASM) are pertinent in sustainable socioeconomic development that is minerals driven. Finally, the Forum raised the importance of the Geological and Minerals information systems and the use of the African Minerals and Energy Resource Classification and Management Systems (AMREC) and the Pan-African Resources Reporting Code (PARC); and the promotion of the exploitation of the development minerals (Low-Carbon Materials) in Africa that are environment and eco-system friendly.

# Key Recommendations at the 2nd African Forum on Mining and Launch of the AMDC Phase II

The following were forwarded as major recommendations:

- 1.** Promoting sustainable investments in the green minerals that are associated with the development of a sustainable and high-quality transport and energy infrastructure by promoting the production of lithium batteries through local refining, processing and recycling that will also encourage the production of the two-wheeler and three-wheeler vehicles.
- 2.** Building of an African Lithium-Ion Battery Value Chain on inputs from across the continent and through supporting a special economic zone, the center of excellence, and other crucial building blocks for an industrial base that can fabricate cathodes and move into battery cell assembly and eventually the Electric Vehicles.
- 3.** Ensuring the green minerals boom benefits Africa and spurs industrialization through proactive industrial policy that plans the allocation of resources and setting of incentives that are a prerequisite to building new competitive advantages.
- 4.** Embracing collaboration between governments, businesses, labor groups, communities, and financiers to outline a new approach to industrial policy for mineral value-addition.
- 5.** Promoting local Content Policies to achieve high-value goods and high-level employment, to ensure local ownership of suppliers and links with other sectors. This is backed by support for local suppliers to develop skills and capacities.
- 6.** The operational AMDC to leverage on the comparative advantages, expertise, and knowledge of its strategic partners to coordinate and oversee the implementation of the Africa Mining Vision, its Action plan, AMV implementation instruments, and other existing developmental frameworks to enable the mineral resources sector plays its role in the social and economic transformation, inclusive growth and sustainable development of African economies.
- 7.** The AMDC Interim Secretariat to develop a ratifications roadmap for the African Union Member States to achieve the ratification of the AMDC Statute by the quorum of AU member states/15 founding members. This will ensure the establishment of the Center's governing organs, including the Conference of States Parties, the Minerals Advisory Board; and the permanent Secretariat.
- 8.** Accelerating intra-African trade, skills building and research to unlock innovation along the battery value chain leveraging the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), and ensure a socially, environmentally responsible and sustainable battery value chain, which improves the lives of women and the youth; and encourage local and African champions to invest in the battery industry and wider minerals sector.
- 9.** Development of the African Green Minerals Strategy (AGMS) and African Green Minerals Observatory (AGMO) by the first quarter of 2023 to advance minerals development in Africa.
- 10.** Encouraging African investors as mining is capital intensive and improving policies to “de-risk” the sector and promote access to sustainable financing.
- 11.** Develop a platform or mechanism to map the activities of women in mining in collaboration with AWIMA, Africa Business Council, and other relevant institutions.

12. Formation of the Regional steering committees to work in harmonizing policies in line with the Africa Mining Vision and regional value chains.
13. Re-skilling and upskilling the industry players to adapt to the energy transition and new technology and establishing a continental compact will be established among governments, Africa's private sector, academia, and civil society to bring about desired and aligned policy decisions, investment financing, institutional and human capital required to boost the mining industry in Africa.
14. Establishment of a Pan-African Minerals database containing geological and reserves information about the minerals occurrences in Africa linked to the creation of continental commodities exchange that will pave way for the development of an African Green Minerals Observatory, that would serve as a repository of African green minerals' information such as their location and trading.
15. Developing a Continental Industrial Policy through a planned allocation of resources and setting of incentives as a prerequisite to building new competitive advantages. This industrial policy should embrace collaboration between governments, businesses, labour groups, communities, and financiers to outline a new approach to industrial policy for mineral value-addition.
16. Developing Local Content Policies that have an expanded definition to mean high-value goods and high-level employment, to ensure local ownership of suppliers and links with other sectors. That means a strong local content policy can lead to a three-fold increase in non-mining economic activity and these policies must also be backed by support for local suppliers to develop skills and capacities.
17. Establishment of Sovereign Wealth Funds (SWF) to promote minerals governance and to ensure funds are spent wisely and appropriately.

## Concluding Remarks

The launch of the AMDC phase two and the second African Forum on Mining concluded with aspirations to capitalize on the green energy transitions. The AMDC Interim Director **Dr. Marit Kitaw** expressed appreciation to all the participants for the successful organization of the Forum. She emphasized working jointly and leverage on the existing partnership to ensure sustainable mineral development in Africa. **Ms. Uyanga Gankhuyag** expressed the commitment of the UNDP to work with the AMDC and the African Union Commission through the ACP-EU Development Minerals Programme Phase II to build the profile and improve the management of development minerals and foster better livelihoods for people working along the minerals value chains in Africa.

**Mr. Escipion de Oliveira**, the Assistant Secretary-General of the Department of the Structural Economic Transformation and Trade of the Organization of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), reiterated on partnership and working together. He added, "if you want to go fast go alone, and if you want to go far, go together".

The conclusion of the launch of the AMDC Phase II and the second African Forum on Mining 2022 included: a strong recommendation on the development of the African Green Minerals Strategy, and the African Green Minerals Observatory by the first quarter of 2023 to advance minerals development in Africa. Further, the participants proposed the Forum to be conducted every two years (23rd Africa Forum on Mining to be held in 2024) and to include minerals exhibitions and trade fairs.

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