

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

14th Multi-Year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development

09-11 October 2023, Geneva

Critical minerals: from production to resilient value chains

By

Isabelle Ramdoo, Deputy Director,
Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development (IGF)

The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of
UNCTAD.

UNCTAD 14th Multi-Year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development 2023

Critical minerals: from production to resilient value chains

Isabelle Ramdoo

Deputy Director, IGF

9 October 2023



IGF

INTERGOVERNMENTAL FORUM
on Mining, Minerals, Metals and
Sustainable Development

Secretariat hosted by



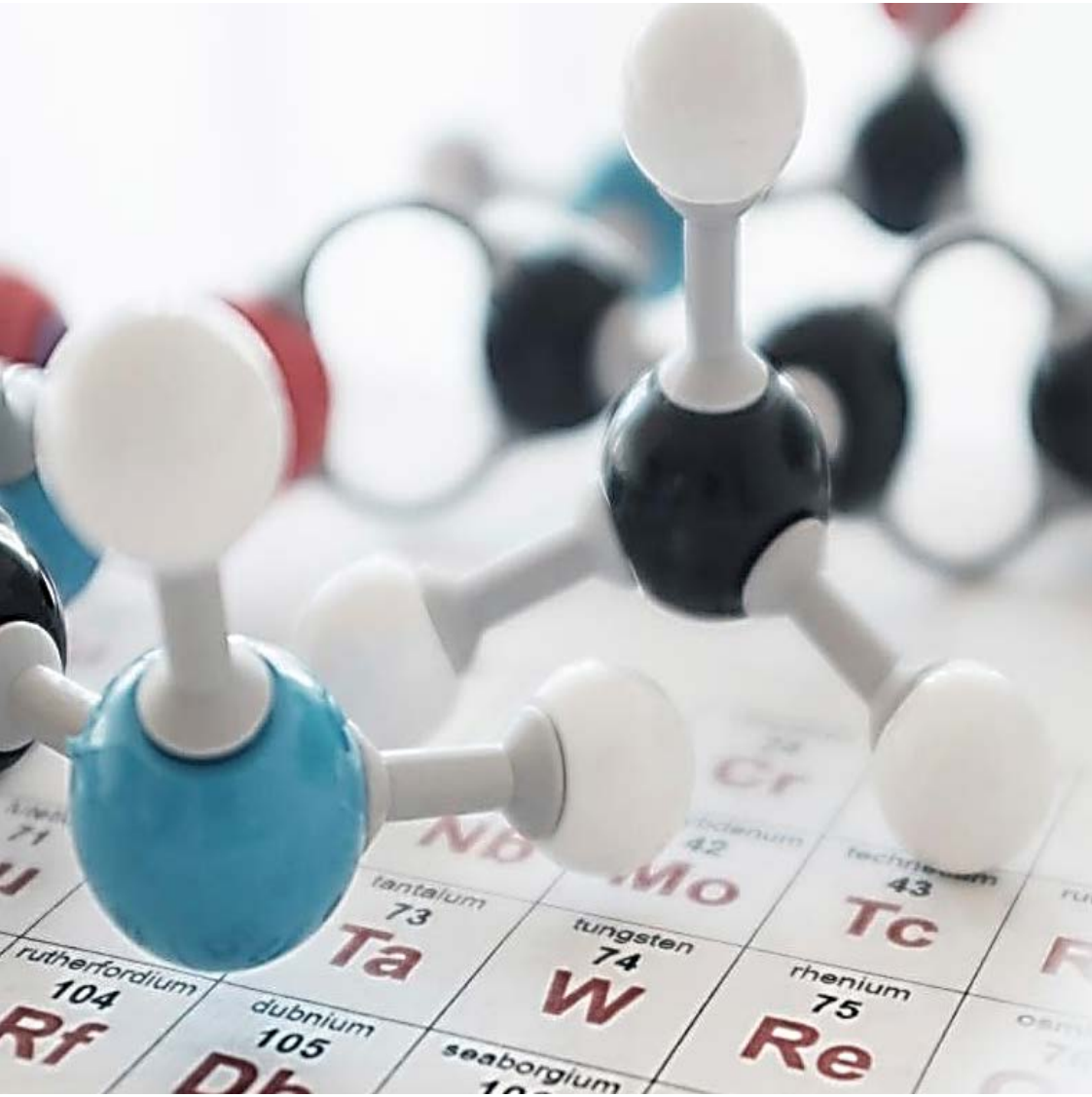
Secretariat funded by

Canada



Kingdom of the Netherlands

Critical minerals and resilient value chains



What is driving the demand for critical minerals?



Leveraging opportunities to build resilient supply chains (a focus on Africa)

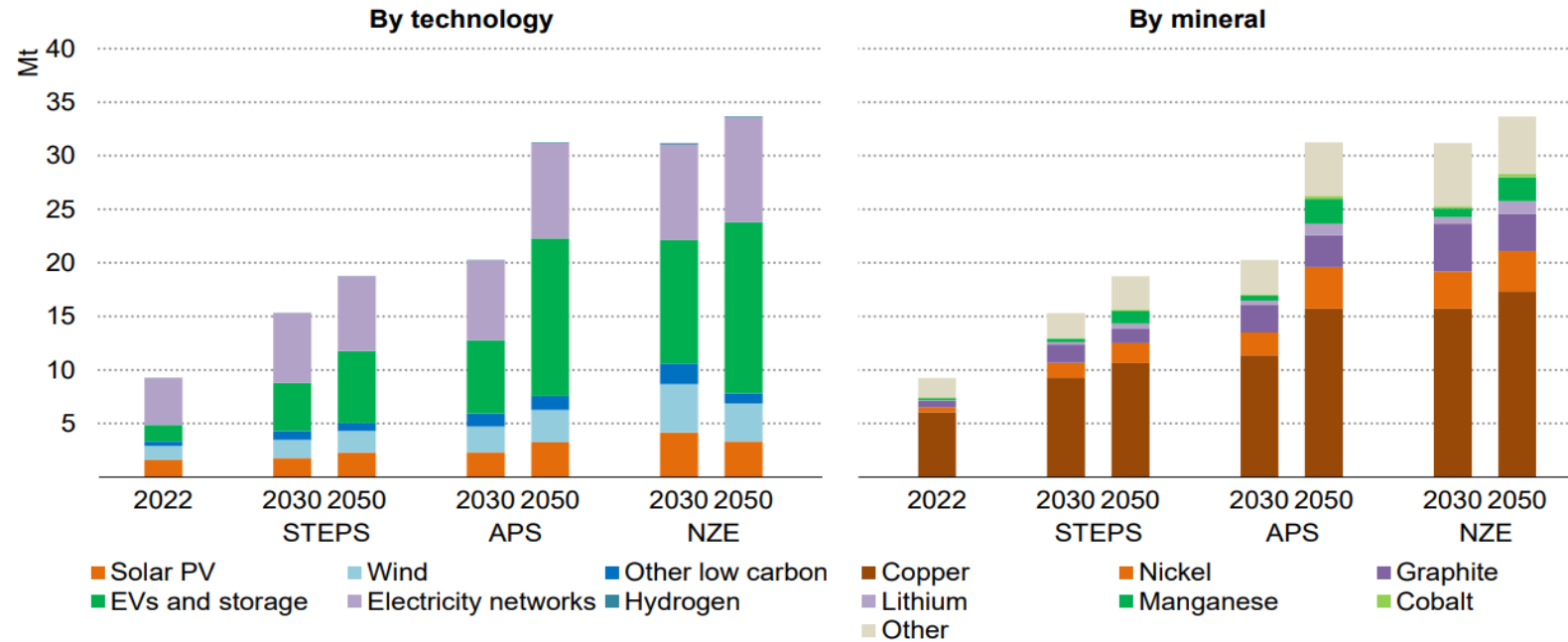
- Overview of Africa's critical minerals sector
- The Energy Quadrilemma
- Building domestic and regional supply chains
- Becoming a global supplier of choice



Way forward: Four key priorities

1. What is driving demand for critical minerals?

Mineral demand for clean energy technologies by scenario (IEA)



IEA. CC BY 4.0.

Notes: STEPS = Stated Policies Scenarios; APS = Announced Pledges Scenario; NZE = Net Zero Emissions by 2050 Scenario. Includes most of the minerals used in various clean energy technologies, but does not include steel and aluminium.

Demand for critical minerals is set to grow over the next two decades as the world pursues net zero goals; overall requirements rise by as much as 4 times, but individual minerals (lithium to rise even faster)

STEPS = Stated policies scenario (trajectory based on today's policy setting)

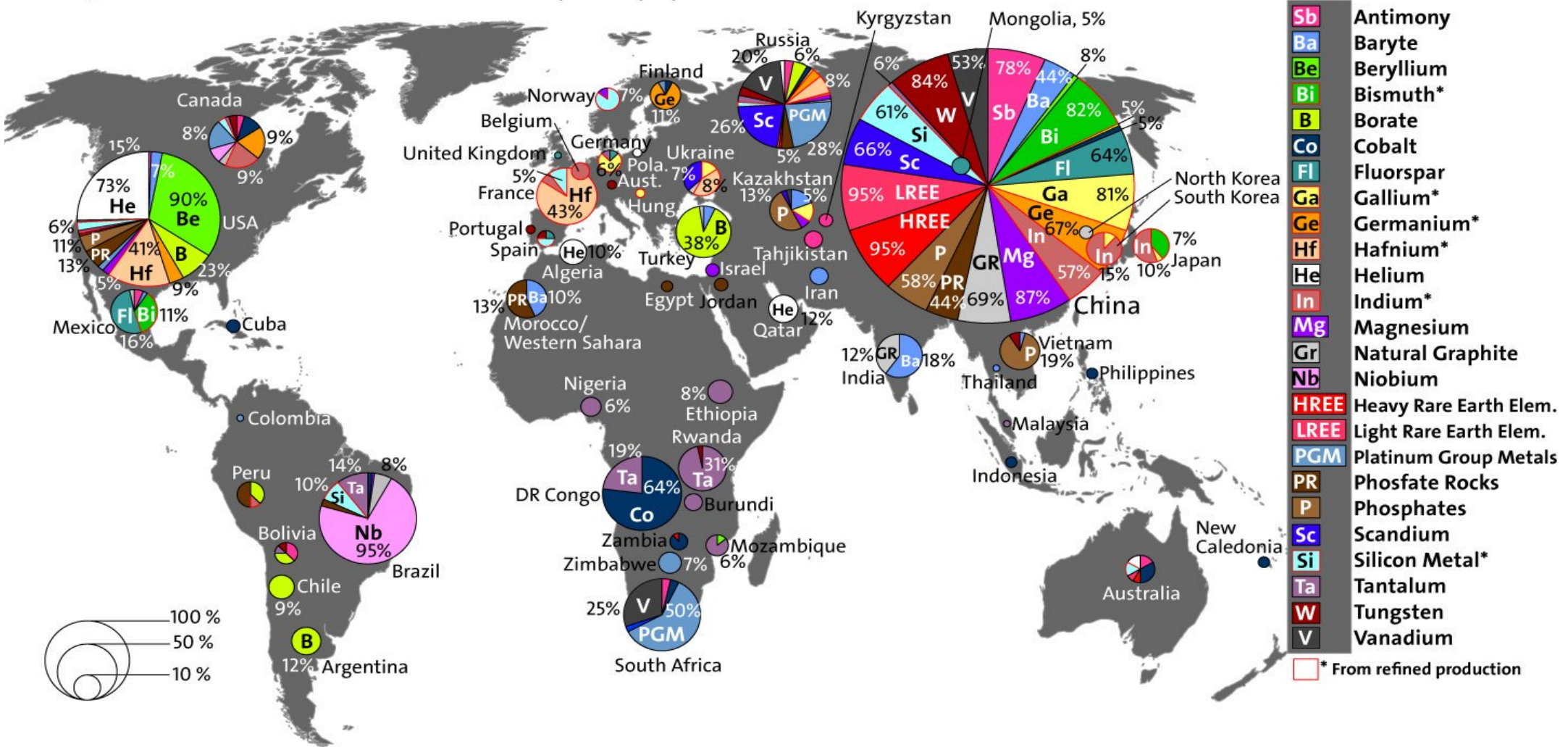
APS = Announced pledges scenario (if aspirational targets are met in full)

NZE = Net zero scenario by 2050 (if the world reaches 1.5 degrees stabilization and universal access to energy)

Source: IEA, 2022

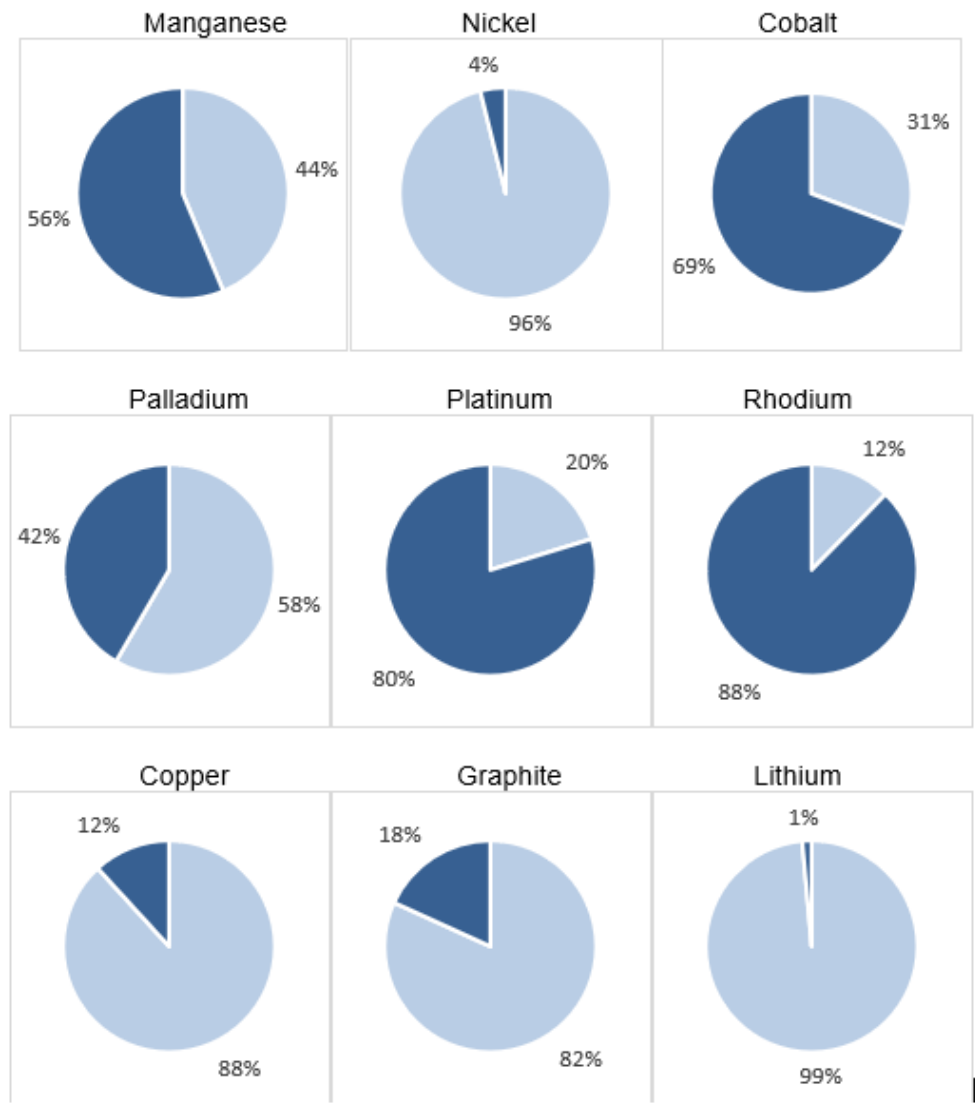
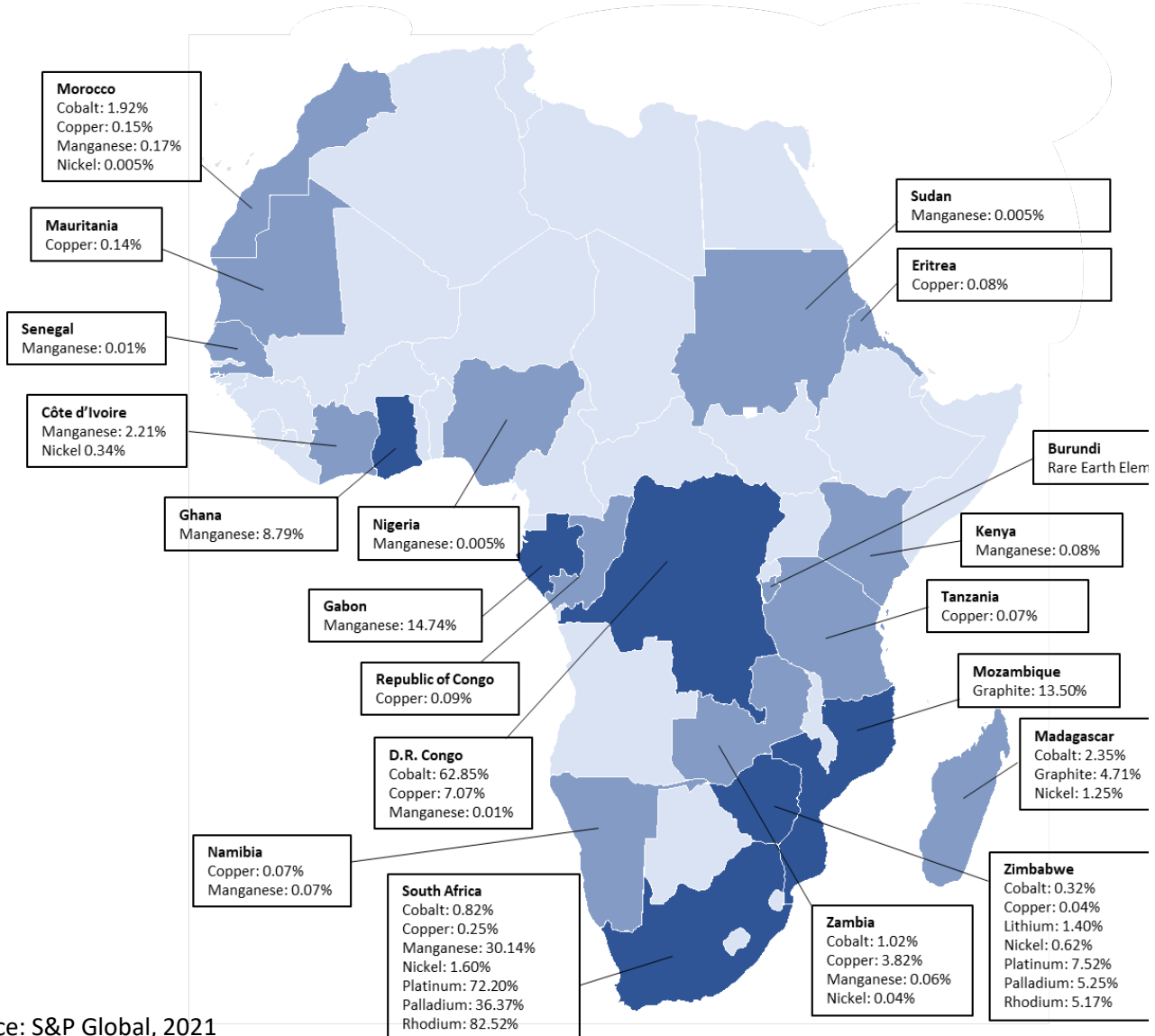
2. Global supply of key critical minerals and metals

The pie charts show the percent distribution of the production of critical metals and minerals. In total, it is 100% for each raw material. The area of the pies are proportional. SGU 2017.



2. Critical Mineral Overview (developing countries)

Share of African production compared to global production

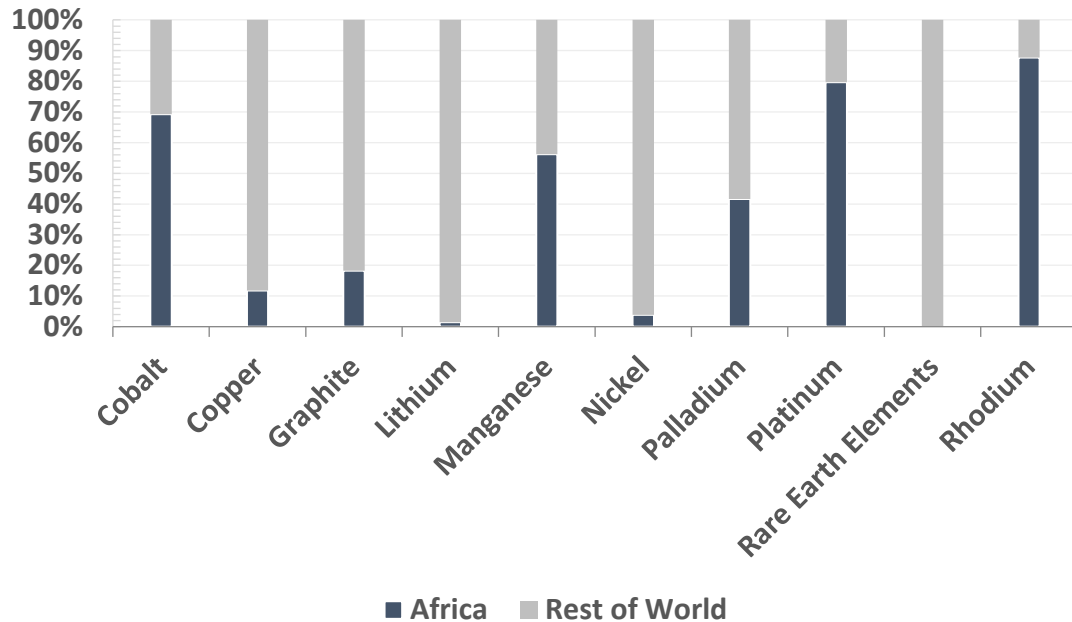


Note: Africa's share in dark blue

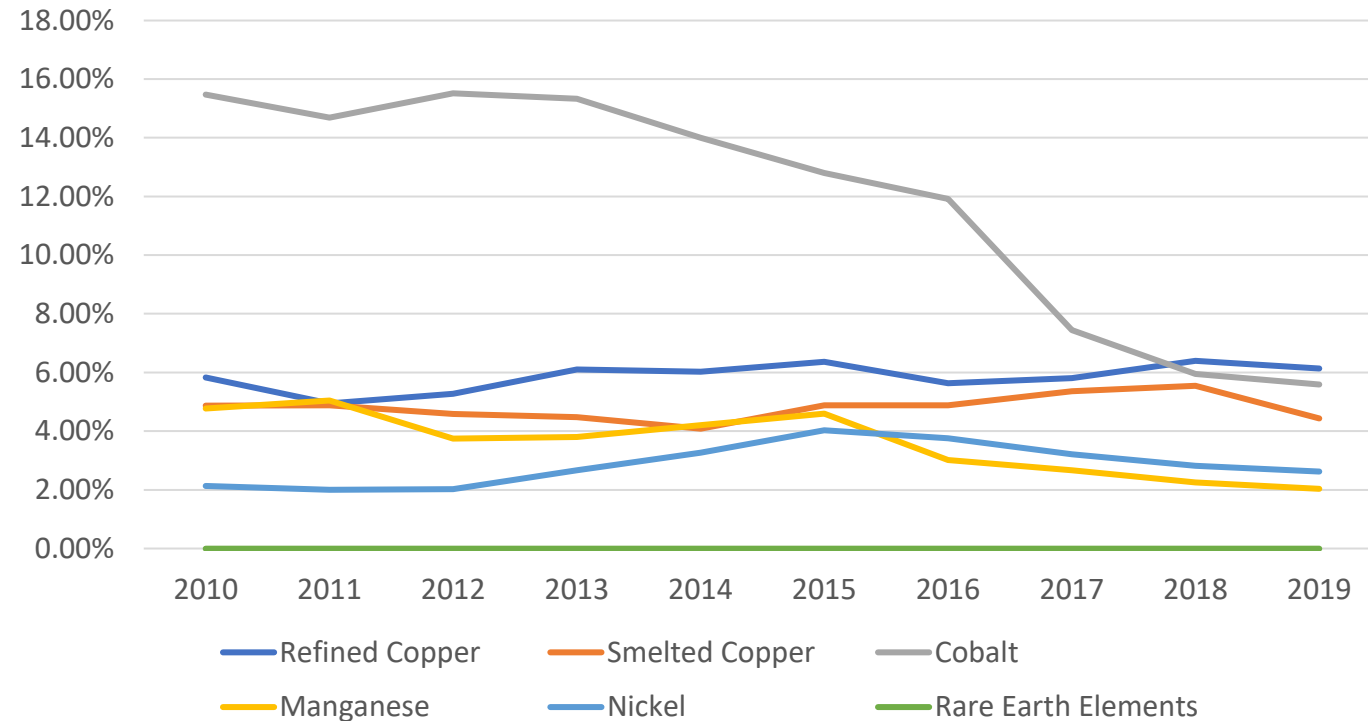
Source: S&P Global, 2021

3. High production but limited transformation

African share of global mineral production (2019)



Africa's share of global primary and refining production (2010-19)



Growth in production: 2010 - 19

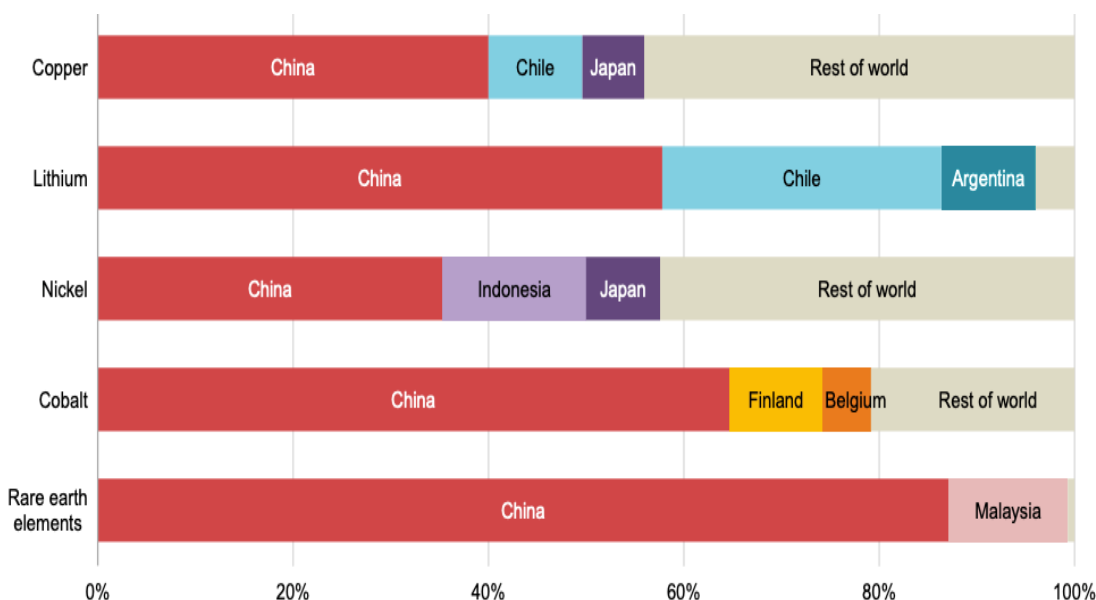
% growth (2010-19)	Cobalt	Copper	Graphite	Lithium	Manganese	Nickel	Platinum	Palladium	Rhodium	REEs
Africa	-6.2%	81.0%	4508%	49.2%	121.5%	40.9%	-4.2%	0.7%	1.9%	Negligible
Rest of World	27.5%	23.5%	-7.7%	248.9%	-10.9%	69.9%	10.6%	25.6%	17.2%	66.8%

Source: World-mining-data



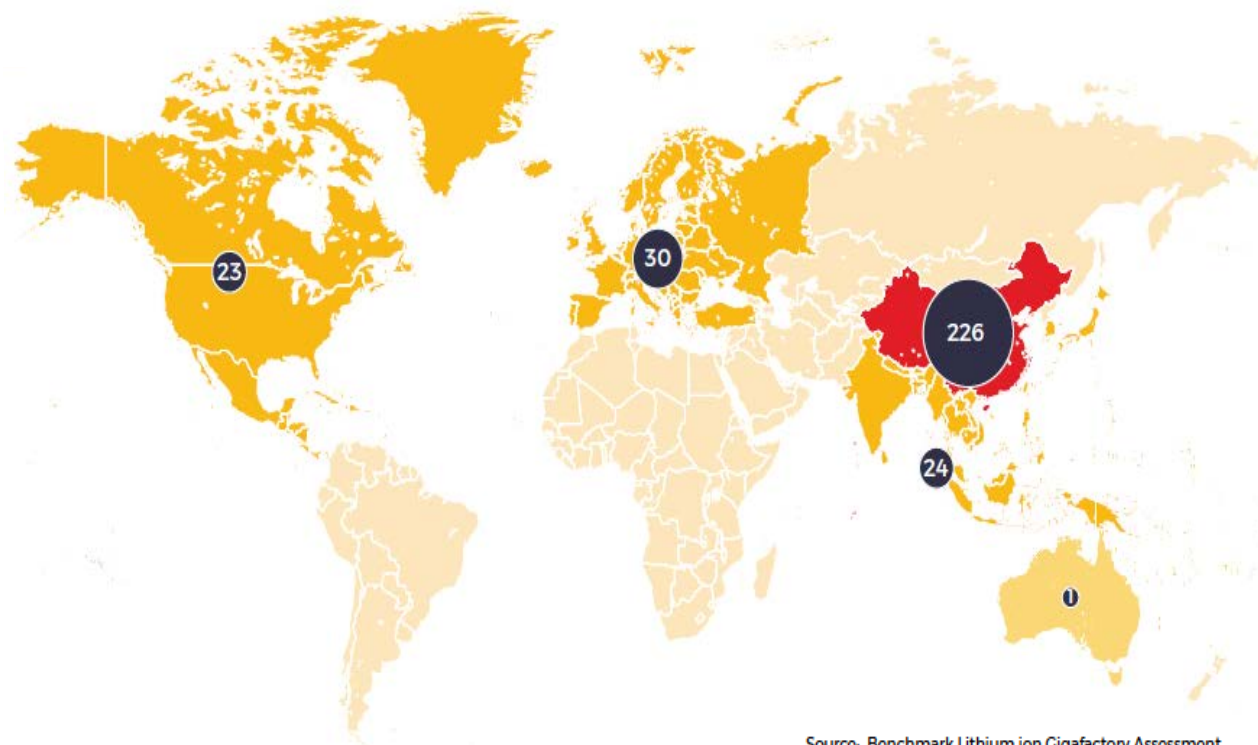
Demand will not slow down in the future and downstream industries will follow midstream ones

Share of top 3 processing countries in processing of CRM (2019)



Source: (IEA, 2021)

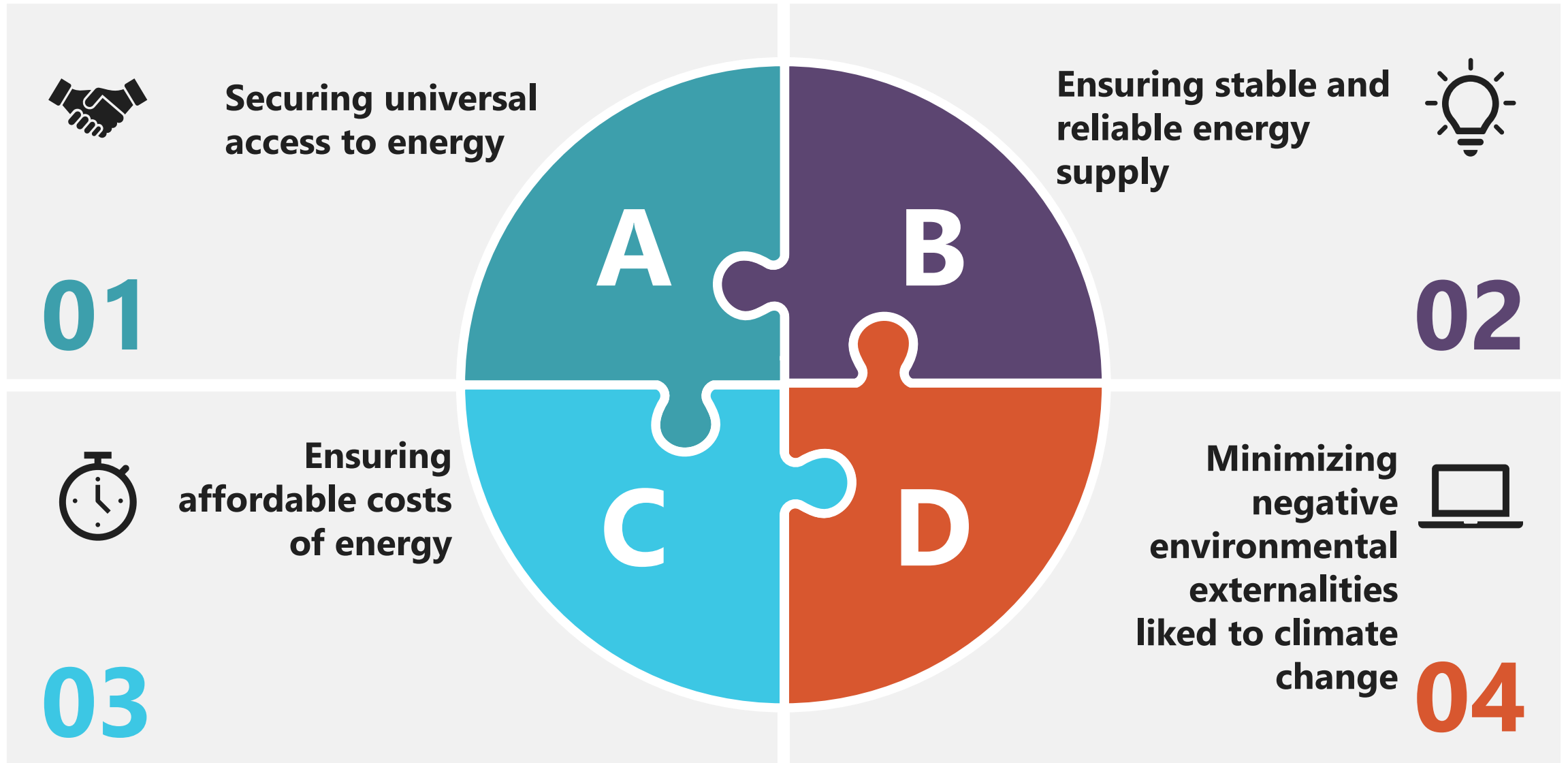
No. of lithium-ion gigafactories in the pipeline, where China dominates the market.



Source: Benchmark Lithium ion Gigafactory Assessment

Source: Benchmark Gigafactory Assessment (2021)

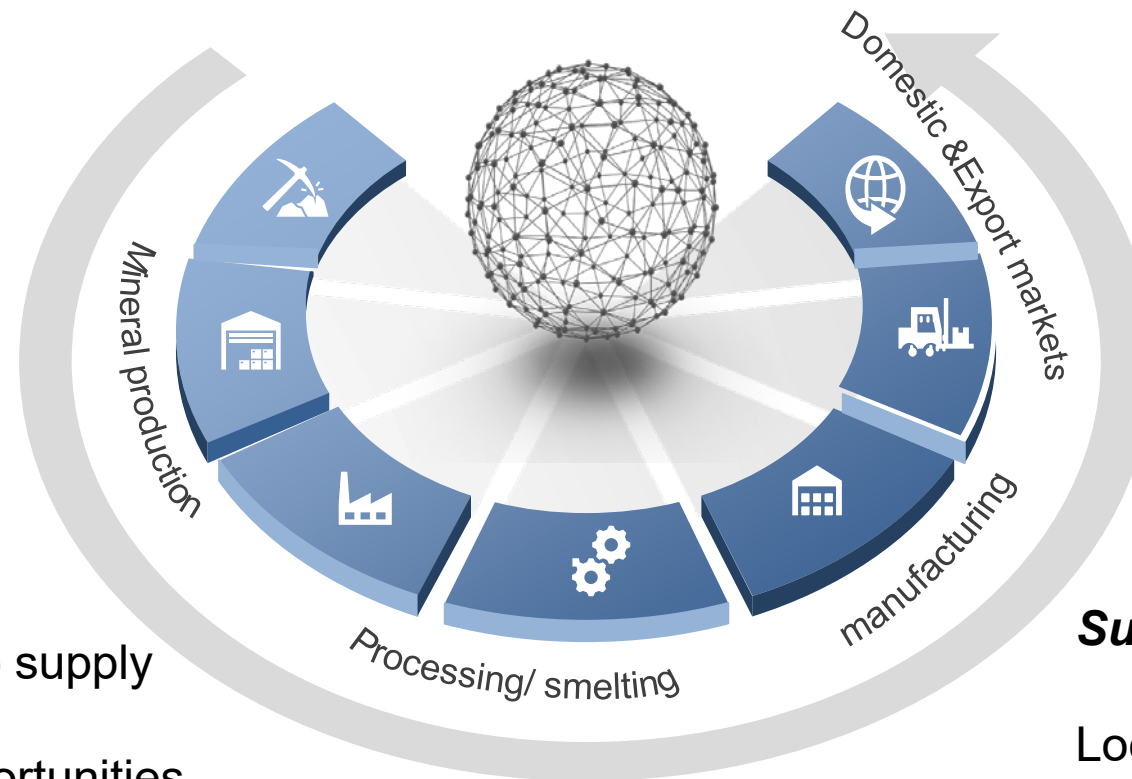
4. Biggest challenge: Africa's energy quadrilemma



5. Building resilient domestic value chains: Not a choice, an imperative



Building domestic value chains is key to create industries, value and jobs in Africa



Diversification imperative:

- Upstream opportunities to supply mining operations
- Mid and downstream opportunities for higher value-added products

Energy justice necessity:

African CRMs should be used as inputs to develop its own energy solutions to address its quadrilemma

Sustainability responsibility

Local supply chains have a lower carbon footprint

6. Regional and continental value chains are critical

- Countries won't do it alone, regional cooperation is key
- Need to identify strategic sectors to build industrial capacity: Existing plans for renewable energy and automotive sector
- Regional initiatives under way: DRC – Zambia SEZ for battery precursors; automotive VC in Morocco; Hydrogen Fuel cells in South Africa
- Regional and Continental strategies will facilitate the process: Africa Green Minerals Strategy must be domesticated
- Regional and continental instruments must be leveraged : Regional FTAs; ACFTA

Key producing countries of selected minerals

Mineral	End-use	Selected African producers
Cobalt	Battery chemistries	DRC, Zambia, Morocco, Madagascar
Copper	All industries, incl. construction, automotive, renewables, digital technologies	DRC, Zambia, many others
Graphite	Battery chemistries	Mozambique, Madagascar
Lithium	Battery chemistries	Zimbabwe, Namibia, DRC, Ghana
Manganese	Iron and steel-making, battery chemistries	South Africa, Gabon, Ghana
Nickel	Iron and steel-making, battery chemistries	South Africa, Madagascar
PGMs	Catalytic converters, fuel cells	South Africa, Zimbabwe
REEs	Permanent magnets for wind turbines and electric motors	Burundi

Source: S&P Global, 2021

7. Africa must position itself as a supplier of choice at the global level

A geostrategic priority to provide choice to the market

1



An opportunity to become a partner of choice

2



An opportunity to build domestic and regional priorities with perspectives of securing global markets

3



An opportunity to drive climate change actions at global level

4



Conclusions

The moment is NOW

Substantial efforts being made to address risks and bottlenecks in supply chains

Window of opportunity is small and narrowing

Demand will not fall, but attention on 'critical' minerals may wane as solutions to risks are found





THANK YOU

IGFMining.org

@IGFMining  **in**

Secretariat@IGFMining.org



INTERGOVERNMENTAL FORUM
on Mining, Minerals, Metals and
Sustainable Development