CONCEPT NOTE

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Thursday 22 October 2026,
16:30–18:00 CEST, hybrid meeting
Palais des Nations, Geneva

United Nations Task Force on Critical Energy Transition Minerals

Technical Cluster on Actionable Recommendation 2: Network of Experts

Midterm Consultation on Emerging Findings from Expert Consultations: Towards a global traceability, transparency and accountability framework for critical energy transition minerals

Background

The United Nations Task Force on Critical Energy Transition Minerals is advancing the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's 2024 report, *Resourcing the Energy Transition: Principles to guide critical energy transition minerals towards equity and justice*. In support of Actionable Recommendation 2, *Traceability for Accountability*, the Technical Cluster is conducting a broad programme of consultations with experts and stakeholders to identify principles, approaches and practical measures that can strengthen responsible governance across critical energy transition mineral value chains.

Partners

United Nations Regional Commissions:
UNECA, UNECE, UNECLAC, UNESCAP and UNESCWA

Since mid-2026, the Technical Cluster has undertaken a series of consultations with its Network of Experts, which includes experts from governments, international organizations, industry, civil society, Indigenous Peoples and other rights holders, academia, technical standard-setting bodies, and United Nations entities. The Technical Cluster has adopted a phased consultation process to support the development of a global framework on traceability, transparency, and accountability for critical energy transition minerals:

- Global Consultations (May-June 2026) provided an initial overview of what a global framework could entail and helped identify key issues, priorities, and areas for further discussion.
- Ad hoc Consultations with stakeholders (July-December 2026) allow for more targeted exchanges on specific questions and issues emerging from the Global Consultations.
- Ad hoc Consultations by theme (first quarter of 2027) are intended to address gaps identified during the early drafting process, drawing on insights from the previous consultation stages, as well as from the background study currently being prepared.
- Regional Consultations, to be convened at a later stage, will focus on questions of interoperability and regional implementation, recognizing differing policy environments, capacities, and priorities across regions.

As consultations progress, a growing body of insights is emerging regarding areas of convergence, differing perspectives, knowledge gaps and implementation challenges. At the same time, there is value in creating a structured opportunity for experts to review preliminary findings, validate emerging themes and identify issues requiring further examination before the next phase of consultations.

The proposed midterm consultation will therefore be convened on the margins of UNCTAD's Multi-year Expert Meeting on Commodities and Development. The session will provide an opportunity to present a synthesis of issues raised thus far during consultations, receive feedback from participating experts, and identify areas requiring further attention. The consultation is intended as a transparency and learning exercise and does not seek endorsement of any findings or recommendations at this stage. Emerging observations will be presented as reflections from consultations rather than positions of the United Nations system.

2. Objective

The objective of the midterm consultation is to validate and enrich emerging findings from ongoing expert consultations under Actionable Recommendation 2 and to identify priority issues for further analysis and engagement.

Specifically, the consultation aims to:

- Present a synthesis of key themes emerging from consultations undertaken to date.
- Identify areas of convergence and divergence among stakeholder perspectives.
- Gather expert feedback on issues that remain unresolved or underexplored.

- Assess whether key stakeholder groups, perspectives and value-chain segments are adequately reflected in current findings.
- Identify additional evidence, experiences and expertise required for future consultations.
- Strengthen the analytical basis for the development of future recommendations and implementation support activities under the Task Force.

3. Guiding Questions for Discussion

- What are the principal themes and concerns emerging from consultations conducted to date?
- Which issues appear to command broad support across stakeholder groups, and where do significant differences of opinion remain?
- Are any stakeholder perspectives, geographical contexts, or value-chain segments insufficiently represented in current consultations?
- What additional evidence, expertise or consultation processes would help strengthen future recommendations?
- How can approaches to transparency, traceability, accountability, verification and responsible governance be made more practical and responsive to country needs?
- What priority issues should be addressed during the remaining consultation process?
- How can emerging findings best support future United Nations system engagement with countries and stakeholders?

4. Expected Outcomes

- Validation and refinement of emerging findings from consultations conducted under Actionable Recommendation 2.
- Identification of gaps in stakeholder representation, evidence and analytical coverage.
- Additional expert inputs on unresolved issues and areas of divergence.
- Prioritisation of issues requiring further consultation or technical analysis.
- Enhanced understanding of practical implementation challenges and opportunities.
- Inputs to support the development of future outputs and recommendations under the Task Force.

5. Proposed programme

16:30 – 16:35	Opening Opening remarks by UNCTAD.
16:35 – 16:50	Presentation of Emerging Findings Overview of consultations conducted to date, key themes, preliminary observations, areas of convergence and identified gaps. Presented by UNCTAD and the Regional Commissions.
16:50 – 17:45	Interactive dialogue Expert reactions, validation of findings, identification of knowledge gaps, discussion of issues requiring additional attention and future consultation priorities. Moderated by UNCTAD.
17:45 – 17:55	Reflections and Next Steps Summary of key observations and implications for the remaining consultation process.
17:55 – 18:00	Closing Invitation for written inputs and closing remarks by UNCTAD.

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