



Workshop Unlocking Value across Critical Energy Transition Minerals and Beyond: Strategic Opportunities and Policy Directions

Programme

7 July (Opening Ceremony)

14 to 18 July 2025 (Policy engagement week for strategic product development)

Room Sossusvlei, Avani Hotel, Windhoek, Namibia

Monday, 7 July – Opening Ceremony

8.30 – 9 a.m. Registration

9 – 10 a.m. Opening Remarks

Keynote

Mr I-Ben Nashandi, Executive Director, National Planning Commission, Namibia

Mr Oscar Capelao, Deputy Executive Director, Ministry of Finance, Namibia (TBC)

Ms Hopolang Phororo, United Nations Resident Coordinator for Namibia

Mr Clovis Freire, Head a.i. of Commodities Branch, Division on International Trade and Commodities, UNCTAD

10.30 – 11.30 a.m. Presentation of the project and workshop objectives

Overview of expected outcomes by Mr Clovis Freire, Head a.i. of Commodities Branch, Division on International Trade and

Commodities, UNCTAD

12 – 1 p.m. **Lunch**



Monday, 14 July – Strategic Orientation & Institutional Coordination

9–9.30 a.m. Registration, networking and coffee

Morning plenary

Setting the stage

Objective: This session aims to create a shared understanding of the strategic importance of economic diversification, with a focus on the identified products, their potential impact, and the barriers identified so far (based on the past week's assessment).

9.30 – 9.50 a.m. Keynote

High-level keynote (TBC) to anchor the exercise in national development priorities.

9.50 – 10.20 a.m.

Round of introduction

All participants of the UNCTAD and Core Policy Advisors teams introduce themselves.

10.20 – 11.10 a.m.

Presentation of results of the industry workshop

A synthesis presentation from the technical assessment team: inputs, technologies, skills, labour, energy needs, and initial prioritization – by UNCTAD; followed by Q&A

11.10 a.m.–12 p.m.

Presentation of methodology of the policy workshop

A presentation of the objectives, structure, tools and methods used in the Policy workshop – by UNCTAD; followed by Q&A

12 – 1 p.m.

Lunch

2 –5 p.m.

Skills, Education & Labour

Objective: Identify targeted policy instruments related to technical education, training systems, and labour market frameworks to address capability gaps highlighted during the Industry workshop, to facilitate the diversification of the economy into priority products.

Tuesday, 15 July

9 a.m.–12 p.m.

R&D, Innovation and Technology & Broad Industrial Policy

Objective: Identify bold and innovative policy interventions that strengthen the R&D and innovation system to drive the development of the identified products. Focus areas include public R&D investment, applied research, university–industry collaboration, tech transfer, innovation ecosystems, and IP policy.

12 – 1 p.m. Lunch

2–5 p.m. Finance & investment

Objective: To identify financial innovations, investment instruments, and incentive structures that can unlock private and public investment for the strategic identified products. . The session will explore how finance policy, venture capital, blended finance and sector-specific incentives can be better aligned with national industrial development goals.

Wednesday, 16 July

9 a.m.–12 p.m. Enterprise Support, Private Sector Development & Trade

Objective: identify innovative and bold policy interventions that strengthen the capacity of local companies to diversify into identified priority products and successfully engage in domestic and international markets. Focus areas include business development support, supplier development, export promotion, inclusive value chains, and trade facilitation.

12 – 1 p.m. Lunch

2–5 p.m. Infrastructure & Spatial Industrial Development

Objective: develop innovative and actionable policy interventions that align infrastructure investment and spatial planning with industrial development objectives of priority products. The focus is on enabling energy, logistics, water, broadband, industrial zones and parks, and urban–rural linkages to support the localisation, scaling, and equitable distribution of industrial activity across territories.

Thursday, 17 July

9 a.m.–12 p.m. Strategic Procurement & Market Shaping

Objective: identify innovative procurement and market-shaping strategies that can stimulate demand for locally produced priority products, unlock scale for strategic products and support inclusive industrial development. The focus areas will include identifying targeted policy instruments related to technical education, training systems, and labour market frameworks to address capability gaps highlighted during the Industry workshop, to facilitate the diversification of the economy into priority products.

12 – 1 p.m. Lunch



2–5 p.m. Environmental Sustainability & Green Industrial Policy

Objective: identify innovative and actionable policy interventions that integrate environmental sustainability into industrial development strategies. The focus will be on addressing the misalignment between environmental goals and industrial development pathways.

Friday, 18 July

9 a.m.–12 p.m. Synthesis and Action mapping

Objective: distill key insights from the week into a shared vision and an actionable roadmap. The session aims to identify strategic policy actions, responsible institutions, and timelines to support the production of the strategic products. It will also clarify how institutional coordination will be maintained going forward.

12 – 1 p.m. Lunch

2–3.30 p.m. Presentation of roadmap to a small group of key policy stakeholders

