



CONCEPT NOTE

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT



19 February 2026
Windhoek, Namibia

Launch of the report “Rapid assessment of value addition and diversification within and beyond the critical energy transition minerals value chain: Namibia”

Background

United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD), through its Extractive Commodities Section within the Division of International Trade and Commodities, has implemented the project *Critical energy transition minerals: Rapid assessment of value addition and diversification capacity in Southern Africa* to support Namibia in identifying actionable pathways for industrialization and economic diversification beyond raw commodity exports. The advanced version of report of this project is now complete. It consolidates findings, sectoral opportunities, and policy recommendations aimed at strengthening resilience, creating jobs, and fostering sustainable growth. This project is funded by the Government of Japan.

Objectives and expected outcomes

The launch event is designed to serve as a platform for presenting the key findings and recommendations of the report to Namibia’s national stakeholders, ensuring that decision-makers and partners fully understand the opportunities for value addition and diversification. Beyond sharing insights, the event will facilitate an open dialogue on next steps for implementation, including a focused discussion with development partners on how to mobilize support and resources. Ultimately, the launch aims to reaffirm Namibia’s commitment to structural transformation and inclusive development, positioning the country to capture greater benefits from its commodity sectors while advancing sustainable economic growth.

» Partner

Namibia National Planning Commission (NPC)

» Funded by the Government of Japan



From
the People of Japan





The launch is expected to achieve three key outcomes. First, it will raise awareness among stakeholders about the report's findings and recommendations, ensuring that decision-makers and partners fully understand the opportunities and policy directions identified. Second, the event aims to strengthen stakeholder commitment to implementing these recommendations by fostering dialogue and building consensus on the way forward. Finally, the discussions will help identify priority actions and establish coordination mechanisms that will guide collaborative efforts toward advancing Namibia's industrialization and economic diversification agenda.

Date and Venue

- **Date:** 19 February 2026
- **Time:** 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- **Venue:** Movenpick-Mercure Hotel, Windhoek, Namibia

The event will take the form of a **high-level presentation and stakeholder dialogue**, structured* as follows:

Time	Session description
10:00 – 10:20	Opening ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Welcome by Mr. I-Ben Natangwe Nashandi, Executive Secretary, National Planning Commission- Remarks by Ms. Hopolang Phororo, UN Resident Coordinator for Namibia- Opening statement by Ms. Rebeca Grynspan, Secretary-General, UNCTAD
10:20 – 10:30	Remarks by Government Officials <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy- Ministry of International Relations and Trade
10:30 - 10:35	Statement by Development Partner <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Representative of the Government of Japan
10:35 – 11:00	Presentation of the Advanced version of the Final Report Overview of the project, key findings and recommendations, Clovis Freire, Chief, Extractive Commodities Section, Division on International Trade and Commodities, UNCTAD
11:00 – 11:50	Panel Discussion Moderated by Ms. Rebeca Grynspan, Secretary-General, UNCTAD <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Perspectives from Government, private sector, and development partners- Interactive Q&A with participants
11:50 – 12:00	Closing session <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Summary of key messages and next steps by the National Planning Commission- Closing remarks by UNCTAD and the National Planning Commission
12:00 – 13:00	Reception - Networking and Informal Discussions

* NB the timing provided is tentative and will be adjusted according to the final timing provided on the morning high level meetings.



Participants

The launch event will bring together a diverse group of stakeholders, including senior government officials from the Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy and the Ministry of International Relations and Trade. Representatives from the private sector will join to provide industry perspectives, alongside development partners and donors committed to supporting Namibia's economic transformation. The event will also engage academia and civil society to ensure inclusive dialogue, while United Nations agencies and regional organizations will participate to foster coordination and alignment with broader international and regional initiatives.

Contacts

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Website of the project: <https://unctad.org/project/critical-energy-transition-minerals-in-southern-africa>