



17 February 2026  
Lusaka, Zambia

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

## Background

The United Nations Conference on 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 Zambia 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.

## 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 Zambia'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 Zambia's commitment to

» Partner:

Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry  
(MCTI), Republic of Zambia

» Funded by the Government of Japan



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structural transformation and inclusive development, positioning the country to capture greater benefits from its commodity sectors while advancing sustainable economic growth.

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 Zambia's industrialization and economic diversification agenda.

## Date and Venue

- **Date:** 17 February 2026
- **Time:** 14:00 p.m. to 17:00 p.m.
- **Venue:** InterContinental Hotel, Lusaka, Zambia

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

Time	Session description
14:00 – 14:20	<b>Opening remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Welcome by Mr. Chipoka Mulenga, Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry, Republic of Zambia</li><li>- Remarks by Ms. Beatrice Mutali, UN Resident Coordinator for Zambia</li><li>- Opening statement by Ms. Rebeca Grynspan, Secretary-General of UNCTAD</li></ul>
14:20 – 14:30	<b>Remarks by Government Officials</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Ministry of Mines and Minerals Development</li><li>- Zambia Development Agency</li></ul>
14:30 – 14:35	<b>Statement by Development Partner</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Mr. Akiteru Mikami, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Zambia</li></ul>
14:35 – 15:00	<b>Presentation of the Advanced version of the Final Report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Overview of the project, key findings and recommendations, Clovis Freire, Chief, Extractive Commodities Section, Division on International Trade and Commodities, UNCTAD</li></ul>
15:00 – 15:50	<b>Panel Discussion</b> Moderated by Ms. Rebeca Grynspan, Secretary-General of UNCTAD. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Perspectives from Government, private sector, and development partners.</li><li>- Interactive Q&amp;A with participants</li></ul>
15:50 – 16:00	<b>Closing session</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Summary of key messages and next steps by the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry</li><li>- Closing remarks by UNCTAD and the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry</li></ul>
16:00 – 17:00	<b>Reception - Networking and Informal Discussions</b>

\* 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 key ministries such as Trade, Industry, and Mines. Representatives from the private sector will join to provide industry perspectives, alongside development partners and donors committed to supporting Zambia's economic transformation. The event will also engage academia and civil society to ensure inclusive dialogue, while United Nations entities 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>