

Submission by Dr Gavin M. Mudd, July 2024

on behalf of Critical Minerals Intelligence Centre (CMIC), British Geological Survey (BGS)

Organisation Type: Government (National Science Agency)

UN Secretary General's panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals

Please indicate what you / your stakeholder group considers as the most important guiding principle/s under each workstream

Overall, we believe that supply chains for critical energy transition minerals must be sustainable in a way that incorporates all aspects, including responsible mining, just transitions, fair economic value for all involved, sound environmental management, social benefits (respecting human rights) and above all transparency.

We also believe in the need for appropriately detailed monitoring so that data can be assessed with respect to the aspects noted above and that such data be made public through some form of sustainability-style reporting. Whilst we do not advocate one protocol over another, we strongly support such monitoring and public reporting as a key mechanism to demonstrate sustainable CETM supply chains – from the individual mine, smelter/refinery, factory through to final products (e.g., electric vehicles, wind turbines, solar photovoltaic panels, energy storage batteries, etc).

We note that the UN already has the UN Resource Management System (UNRMS), which is a way to incorporate sustainability considerations into resource management (as noted in the background paper) for use by governments, industry and civil society alike.

Please indicate the required recommendations to operationalize these principles

We recommend that member states implement, encourage, suggest, include in national legislation etc., appropriately detailed monitoring, data analyses and public reporting for the mining and use of CETMs. The UNRMS is well placed to help in this regard.

Other comments

The UK Critical Minerals Intelligence Centre (CMIC) is led by the British Geological Survey (BGS) with support from the Department for Business & Trade (DBT). We work together with universities and private and public sector partners to gather and analyse intelligence on the supply and demand of critical minerals, their global value chains and use by UK industry. Our aim is to guide decision-making by government and industry to mitigate risks to supply security, helping to deliver sustainable economic prosperity and create opportunities for UK businesses in critical mineral supply chains, domestically and internationally.