

# AFRICA'S CRITICAL MINERALS FORUM

27 APRIL 2026  
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

HARNESSING AFRICA'S CRITICAL MINERALS FOR GREEN  
INDUSTRIALISATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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# UONGOZI INSTITUTE

The Institute of African Leadership for Sustainable Development, commonly known as UONGOZI Institute, is a regional leadership development hub operating under the Office of the President of the United Republic of Tanzania. Established in 2010 by the Governments of Tanzania and Finland, the Institute is dedicated to inspiring and equipping African leaders to deliver inclusive and sustainable solutions for their nations and the wider continent.

It applies a holistic and mutually reinforcing approach to capacity development which recognises that leadership competencies are developed through a continuous, lifelong learning process. Its two strategic pillars – leadership and sustainable development – are addressed through four main areas: executive education, policy dialogues, action-oriented research, and technical support. Its clientele includes organisations as well as individuals from the public sector, private sector, and civil society.



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# BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

Africa is estimated to hold 30% of the world's proven critical mineral resources including lithium, cobalt, nickel, rare earth elements, and platinum group metals. These minerals are essential for the global energy transition (batteries, renewable energy technologies, electric vehicles) and broader application in digitalisation, health and defence.

The Democratic Republic of Congo alone produces over 70% of the world's cobalt, a vital input for electric vehicle batteries.<sup>1</sup> South Africa is a top global supplier of platinum group metals (PGMs) and manganese, while Madagascar and Mozambique are recognised leaders in graphite production in the continent. Zimbabwe possesses one of the world's largest lithium reserves, with the Bikita and Arcadia mines among the most significant deposits globally. The country ranked the fifth producer in the world.<sup>2</sup>

Tanzania holds vast deposits of graphite, nickel, and rare earth elements, alongside uranium, positioning it as an emerging player in the clean energy transition. Namibia is increasingly important for its uranium, lithium, and rare earth reserves, while Zambia, historically known for copper, is currently developing cobalt and lithium resources, reinforcing its strategic role in battery supply chains.

Ghana and Guinea are key players in bauxite, a critical input for aluminium and renewable energy technologies, while Sierra Leone has significant rutile (titanium dioxide) reserves. Gabon is the second largest producer of Manganese in the continent, Morocco is the world's largest exporter of phosphate, essential for fertilizers and green agricultural transitions. Ethiopia and Malawi also hold promising rare earth and tantalum deposits, while Nigeria has identified reserves of lithium, columbite, and tin.

1 World Bank. (2023). Securing Africa's Critical Minerals for the Energy Transition.

2 African Union. (2025). African Green Minerals Strategy. [https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/44539-doc-AGMS\\_Final\\_doc.pdf](https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/44539-doc-AGMS_Final_doc.pdf)



According to the International Energy Agency, demand for lithium would increase fivefold between 2025 and 2040 while graphite and nickel will double. Between 50% and 60% more cobalt and rare earth elements will be needed by 2040. The demand for copper will rise by 30% over the same period.<sup>3</sup>

Collectively, critical minerals place Africa at the centre of the clean energy revolution and the global push towards growth. These projections signal a massive opportunity for Africa, but also a challenge. Despite this wealth and emerging opportunities, the continent remains largely a supplier of raw materials, capturing less than 5% of the global value chain.<sup>4</sup>

The Africa's Green Mineral Strategy (AGMS), adopted by the African Union in 2025, signals a decisive shift from extraction-driven economies. It provides a roadmap for harnessing the continent's vast reserves of minerals to drive sustainable industrialisation.

AGMS is poised to position Africa as a proactive leader in shaping global supply chains, driving industrial transformation, and ensuring sustainable development for future generations in line with the Agenda 2063. However, this strategy comes at a pivotal moment as advanced economies and emerging powers intensify their race to secure stable supplies of these mineral resources from Africa.

Considering this context, UONGOZI Institute in collaboration with the United Nations Commission for Africa (UNECA) will convene a regional forum themed "*Harnessing Africa's critical minerals for green industrialisation and sustainable development*" on 27 April 2026 at the headquarters of UNECA in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

3 International Energy Agency (2024). World Energy Outlook 2024. <https://iea.blob.core.windows.net/assets/140a0470-5b90-4922-a0e9-838b3ac6918c/WorldEnergyOutlook2024.pdf>

4 United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. (2023). Critical Minerals and Africa's Industrialization Agenda.

The guest of honour will be H.E. Hailemariam Dessalegn Boshe, former Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. The keynote address will be delivered by Dr. Paul Jourdan, an Independent Mineral Policy Analyst. Delegates of the forum will include business and political leaders, academics, and development partners from across the continent.

The forum will combine plenary and panel discussions, expert presentations, and a spotlight session to amplify the perspectives of youth, women, and local communities on the topic. It seeks to provide a space to discuss effective ways of leveraging Africa's critical minerals to drive green industrialisation and sustainable development.

The key objectives are to:

- 1 Deepen participants' knowledge of the African Green Mineral Strategy<sup>5</sup> as a regional framework for harnessing Africa's critical minerals resources drawing lessons from past experiences and current geopolitical context;
- 2 Explore practical pathways and actions for local beneficiation and regional supply chain to support green industrialisation and inclusive growth; and
- 3 Build consensus on guiding principles that balance mineral exploitation with environmental safeguards, community rights, and intergenerational equity<sup>6</sup>.

5 [https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/44539-doc-AGMS\\_Final\\_doc.pdf](https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/44539-doc-AGMS_Final_doc.pdf)

6 [https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/report\\_sg\\_panel\\_on\\_critical\\_energy\\_transition\\_minerals\\_11\\_sept\\_2024.pdf](https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/report_sg_panel_on_critical_energy_transition_minerals_11_sept_2024.pdf)



# AFRICA'S CRITICAL MINERALS FORUM

Guest of Honour

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**H.E. Hailemariam  
Dessaiegn Boshe**

Former Prime Minister of the Federal  
Democratic Republic of Ethiopia





# AFRICA'S CRITICAL MINERALS FORUM

Keynote Speaker

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**Dr. Paul Jourdan**

Independent Mineral Policy Analyst



# PROGRAMME

7:30 AM – 9:00 AM	<b>ARRIVAL, REGISTRATION, TEA/COFFEE</b>	All
9:00 AM – 9:10 AM	<b>WELCOMING MESSAGE</b>	Mr. Kadari Singo, Chief Executive Officer, UONGOZI Institute, Tanzania
9:10 AM – 9:20 AM	<b>REMARKS</b>	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Ethiopia
9:20 AM – 9:30 AM	<b>WELCOMING THE GUEST OF HONOUR</b>	Mr. Msafiri Mbibo, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Minerals, Tanzania
9:30 AM – 10:00 AM	<b>SPEECH BY THE GUEST OF HONOUR</b>	H.E. Hailemariam Dessalegn Boshe, Former Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
10:00 AM – 10:30 AM	<b>KEYNOTE PRESENTATION: AFRICA'S CRITICAL MINERALS IN THE GLOBAL GREEN TRANSITION – FROM EXTRACTION TO GREEN INDUSTRIALISATION</b>	Dr. Paul Jourdan, Independent Mineral Policy Analyst, South Africa
10:30 AM – 11:00 AM	<b>GROUP PHOTOS &amp; TEA BREAK</b>	All
11:00 AM – 11:30 AM	<b>Q&amp;A SESSION</b>	Moderator: Mr. Silas Olan'g, Independent Researcher, Tanzania



11:00 AM – 12:30 PM	<b>AFRICA'S GREEN MINERAL STRATEGY: IMPLEMENTATION AND DEVELOPMENT OUTCOMES</b>	<p><i>Presenter</i></p> <p>Dr. Marit Kitaw, Economic Affairs Officer, UNECA, Ethiopia</p> <p><i>Panellists</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dr. Marit Kitaw, Economic Affairs Officer, UNECA, Ethiopia</li><li>• Mr. Mkhululi Ncube, Programme Officer, African Minerals Development Centre (AMDC), Ethiopia</li><li>• Mr. Stephen Mutwale, Ministry of Mines, Zambia</li><li>• Mr. Aklile Gessesse, Operations and Commercial Manager for Eastern Africa, STANTEC, Ethiopia</li></ul> <p><i>Moderator</i></p> <p>Mr. Silas Olan'g, Independent Researcher, Tanzania</p>
12:30 PM – 1:30 PM	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	All

<p>1:30 PM – 3:00 PM</p>	<p><b>PATHWAYS TO BENEFICIATION AND REGIONAL VALUE CHAINS IN CRITICAL MINERALS</b></p>	<p><i>Presenter</i></p> <p>Mr. Vusi Mabena, Executive Secretary, Mining Association of Southern Africa, South Africa</p> <p><i>Panellists</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Vusi Mabena, Executive Secretary, Mining Association of Southern Africa, South Africa</li> <li>• Mr. Emmanuel Bensah, Deputy Executive Director, AfCFTA Policy Network, Ghana</li> <li>• Dr. Mithika Mwenda, Executive Director, Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), Kenya</li> <li>• Mr. Johnbosco Tindyebwa, Executive Director, MTL Company, Tanzania</li> </ul> <p><i>Moderator</i></p> <p>Mr. Silas Olan'g, Independent Researcher, Tanzania</p>
<p>3:00 PM – 4:30 PM</p>	<p><b>GLOBAL GEOPOLITICAL DYNAMICS OF CRITICAL MINERALS</b></p>	<p><i>Presenter</i></p> <p>Dr. Kojo Busia, Director, Green Africa Minerals Ltd, Ghana</p> <p><i>Panellists</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Kojo Busia, Director, Green Africa Minerals Ltd, Ghana</li> <li>• Mr. Simon Shayo, Vice President for Sustainability and Corporate Affairs Africa, AngloGold Ashanti, Tanzania</li> <li>• Prof. Thabani Mlilo, Director UCT LEAD Programme, University of Cape Town, South Africa</li> </ul> <p><i>Moderator</i></p> <p>Ms. Tumi Dlamini, Chief Executive Director, Organisation for Global Africa Cooperation, South Africa</p>

4:30 PM – 4:50 PM	<b>SPOTLIGHT: VOICES OF YOUTH, WOMEN AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES</b>	<p><i>Speakers</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Keith Nare, Founding Director of the Africa Gold Council (AGC), South Africa</li> <li>• Ms. Mecktilder Mchomvu, Co-Founder of Tanzania Women in Mining and Mineral Industry, Tanzania</li> <li>• Ms. Thekla Mutero, Founding President, Emerging Mining Association, Namibia</li> </ul> <p><i>Moderator</i></p> <p>Ms. Tumi Dlamini, Chief Executive Director, Organisation for Global Africa Cooperation, South Africa</p>
4:50 PM – 4:55 PM	<b>KEY RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	Dr. Emmanuel Maliti, Lead Consultant, iReview Limited, Tanzania
4:55 PM – 5:00 PM	<b>CLOSING REMARKS</b>	UONGOZI Institute, Tanzania

# OTHER SPEAKERS



**Mr. Msafiri Mbibo**  
Deputy Permanent Secretary,  
Ministry of Minerals, Tanzania



**Mr. Kadari Singo**  
Chief Executive Officer,  
UONGOZI Institute, Tanzania



**Dr. Marit Kitaw**  
Economic Affairs Officer,  
UNECA, Ethiopia



**Mr. Mkhululi Ncube**  
Programme Officer, African  
Minerals Development Centre  
(AMDC), Ethiopia



**Mr. Stephen Mutwale**  
Ministry of Mines, Zambia



**Mr. Aklile Gessesse**  
Operations and Commercial  
Manager for Eastern Africa,  
STANTEC, Ethiopia



**Mr. Silas Olan'g**  
Independent Researcher,  
Tanzania



**Mr. Vusi Mabena**  
Executive Secretary, Mining  
Association of Southern  
Africa, South Africa



**Mr. Emmanuel Bensah**  
Deputy Executive Director,  
AfCFTA Policy Network, Ghana



**Dr. Mithika Mwenda**  
Executive Director, Pan  
African Climate Justice Alliance  
(PACJA), Kenya



**Mr. Johnbosco Tindyebwa**  
Executive Director, MTL Company,  
Tanzania



**Dr. Kojo Busia**  
Director, Green Africa  
Minerals Ltd, Ghana



**Mr. Simon Shayo**  
Vice President for Sustainability  
and Corporate Affairs Africa,  
AngloGold Ashanti, Tanzania



**Prof. Thabani Mlilo**

Director UCT LEAD  
Programme, University of  
Cape Town, South Africa



**Ms. Tumi Dlamini**

Chief Executive Director,  
Organisation for Global Africa  
Cooperation, South Africa



**Mr. Keith Nare**

Founding Director of the  
Africa Gold Council (AGC),  
South Africa



**Ms. Mecktilder Mchomvu**

Co-Founder of Tanzania Women  
in Mining and Mineral Industry,  
Tanzania



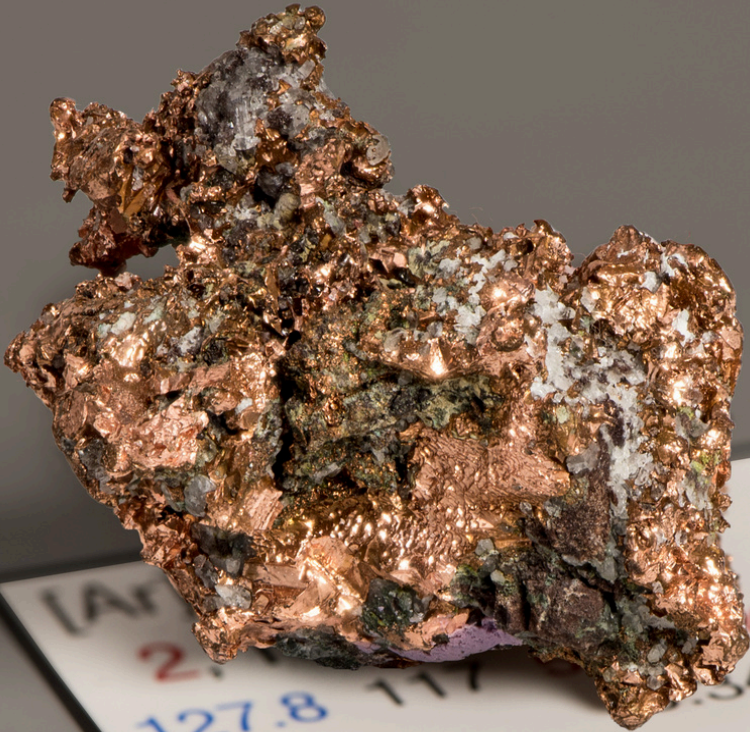
**Ms. Thekla Mutero**

Founding President, Emerging  
Mining Association, Namibia



**Dr. Emmanuel Maliti**

Lead Consultant, iReview  
Limited, Tanzania



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