

A REPORT OF THE HIGH LEVEL EXPERT ROUNDTABLE

AFRICA'S GREEN MINERALS AND JUST ENERGY TRANSITION DIPLOMACY



FROM THE EXPORT OF RAW GREEN MINERALS
TO VALUE ADDITION AND EQUITABLE
INDUSTRIALISATION



SARW
Southern Africa Resource Watch



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Executive Summary

The High-Level Expert Roundtable on Africa's Green Minerals and Just Energy Transition Diplomacy, hosted by Southern Africa Resource Watch (SARW) on 25–26 March 2026, convened 46 stakeholders from African institutions, governments, civil society, and the private sector to shape a continental approach to green minerals governance amid shifting geopolitics.

The meeting observed that Africa's primary challenge is not resource scarcity but a lack of effective agency, coordination, and implementation capacity. Despite possessing abundant green minerals such as cobalt, copper, rare earth elements, graphite, and lithium—crucial for global clean energy, Artificial Intelligence, and defence technologies—Africa struggles to influence their governance and utilisation. International frameworks predominantly focus on the raw material supply requirements of developed economies, frequently marginalising Africa's objectives, including value addition, industrialisation, electrification, and employment generation.

Participants emphasised the need to move from dependency to strategic interdependence through Pan-African cooperation and the development of regional and continental value chains. Africa should set priorities, enhance negotiation skills, and shift from reactive to proactive diplomacy. This requires aligning institutions, building expertise, and ensuring internal coherence. Weak negotiation skills, fragmented approaches, and limited public participation undermine Africa's bargaining power within global mineral chains.

Africa has strong frameworks, including Agenda 2063, the Africa Mining Vision, and the African Green Minerals Strategy, but implementation is hindered by weak institutions, political disunity, and poor enforcement. Without addressing these barriers, participation in the green minerals race could reinforce extractive habits rather than drive transformation. The roundtable proposed declaring a continental critical-minerals emergency to underscore the urgency and facilitate coordinated action, emphasising a *One Voice, One Strategy* approach grounded in collective bargaining, shared priorities, and a unified narrative.

The key outcomes of the roundtable propose a new institutional architecture centred on the following four interconnected pillars and supporting processes:

1. *Heads of State Steering Committee*: Leads political coordination to strengthen Africa's leverage and secure value from mineral value chains.
2. *High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on Green Minerals*: Provides strategic guidance, drives advocacy, and mobilises support across national, regional, and global levels.
3. *Technical Support Committee (TSC)*: Provides research and expertise to shape a unified African position.
4. *Secretariat on Green Minerals*: Coordinates implementation and monitors progress across institutions for the diplomatic initiative.

The pillars above will be supported by a continental blueprint that synthesises and supports Africa's strategic vision and negotiation framework. A three-year roadmap with timelines, roles, and accountability aims to transform mineral wealth into inclusive development by linking diplomacy, industrial policy, and value addition. The roundtable emphasised that governance, human rights, and environmental safeguards must be central, with community participation, labour rights, environmental protection, and benefit-sharing ensuring that minerals improve livelihoods. The meeting emphasised Africa's strategic opportunity driven by global demand for green minerals, urging collective action and stronger institutions to turn plans into results. It marks a shift from analysis to action, highlighting the need for unity, coordination, and quick execution to ensure resource wealth leads to sustainable prosperity.

1. Introduction

A High-Level Expert Roundtable on Africa's Critical Minerals and Just Energy Transition Diplomacy was convened by the Southern Africa Resource Watch (SARW) on 25 and 26 March 2026. The assembly was attended by 46 delegates representing diverse pan-African institutions, including the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the African Minerals Development Centre (AMDC), as well as representatives from the private sector and civil society. Conducted under the Chatham House Rules, focusing on the discussions and insights shared without attribution. The gathering facilitated a clear and unified pathway forward, as documented in the meeting communiqué. This report details the proceedings, which emphasised the necessity for a unified African agency dedicated to minerals and development diplomacy within a competitive geopolitical landscape.

2. The Agency Problem: Power, Not Resources

Discussions emphasised that Africa's principal challenge in resource governance is its limited capacity to influence the terms under which its mineral wealth is managed and controlled. Historically, from the era of the slave trade through imperial domination to contemporary geopolitically driven resource control, the continent has been structurally compromised, resulting in dependence. Beyond institutional deficiencies or disadvantageous contractual arrangements, a more profound issue lies in the continent's reliance on externally imposed frameworks, such as structural adjustment programmes mandated by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. The concept of "critical minerals" has been predominantly dictated by consumer interests, often characterised to advantage external stakeholders by prioritising raw materials as feedstock for industrial development over Africa's objectives of local value addition and employment generation. One participant warned:

"The 'critical minerals' diction and frameworks are Western policy constructs... designed around supply chain vulnerabilities of the industrial powers, not African developmental priorities and value retention."

This challenge extends beyond material reliance to encompass intellectual dependency. Participants observed that African policy debates often begin with external influence rather than internal priorities. One contributor elucidated, "Africa's dependency is not solely material but also intellectual. Policy discussions in Africa often initiate with actions by China or the United States, rather than addressing Africa's own needs." This pattern fosters a reactive approach, whereby Africa responds to external pressures instead of establishing its own strategic direction. Another participant remarked, "Africa tends to respond to demands motivated by others' needs and conflicts, rather than formulating autonomous strategic choices." Consequently, the discussions underscored the importance of moving from

***Interdependence,
shaped by Shared Values***

"I am because you are, and you are because I am. You can't develop AI or clean energy without African resources. Our shared value shapes these developments."

***An Ubuntu-Inspired Quote from
a Roundtable Participant***

dependency to agency, informed by Pan-Africanism. Reasserting agency involves setting agendas, delineating priorities, and securing institutional support for their implementation. Without a change in diplomatic strategy, Africa is likely to remain confined to unproductive, reactive, and transactional engagements.

Participants emphasised the need to shift Africa's approach to global partnerships towards interdependence rather than dependency. In the era of green minerals fuelling global technological progress in electronics, defence, security, and Artificial Intelligence (AI), where the world depends on African resources and Africa needs capital and technology for its industrial development and structural transformation, the opportunity for a win-win situation is now.

However, this opportunity is time-bound, and the presentation on One Voice, One Strategy noted:

“Supply chains for the energy transition are still being built. Industrial ecosystems around batteries, electric mobility, renewable energy, and green infrastructure are still being formed. Decisions made during this period will determine who captures the value of the energy transition for decades to come. Once these supply chains become entrenched, Africa’s bargaining power will decline. For this reason, Africa must act collectively and strategically now.”

Technological shifts (for instance, the search for substitutes in battery chemicals) mean that Africa's leverage is not permanent. Delays in building the necessary value chains and in developing institutional and strategic capacity risk missing a critical window for transformation. There appears to be a lack of urgency in Africa. Participants emphasised the importance of accountability. Moving from dependency to agency requires clear timelines, defined responsibilities, and measurable outcomes. Overall, the discussions provided a clear direction: Africa needs to regain control over setting its own priorities, coordinate collective action, and hold stakeholders accountable for converting resource wealth into widespread development.

It was emphasised that resource governance should remain focused on its core goal: enhancing the everyday lives of African people. Strategic adjustments should lead to inclusive development, fair employment, environmental protection, and equitable sharing of benefits.

3. The Implementation Gap: Blueprints Without Strong Institutional Foundations

The roundtable concluded that Africa possesses the essential strategic frameworks for transformation; however, their implementation remains predominantly unrealised. These frameworks are exhaustive and meticulously developed, encompassing sectors such as industrial policy, regional collaboration, financial mechanisms, value chain development, social justice, and environmental conservation. The principal concern is not the quality or accessibility of these frameworks but their effective execution. The policy and institutional frameworks examined include Agenda 2063, the Africa Mining Vision, and the African Green Mineral Strategy (AGMS). Additionally, the African Union (AU) facilitates institutions such as the Africa Mineral Development Centre (AMDC)¹, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), and the Africa Peer Review Mechanism (APRM). Significant support is extended by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the UN Development Programme (UNDP), and the UN Environment

¹ The statutes of the African Mineral Development Centre (AMDC), the custodian of the African Mining Vision, render the centre not operational and therefore institutionally weak as only four states (out the required minimum of 15) have ratified the instruments.

Programme (UNEP), all of which are integral to the UN Secretary-General's Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals. Nevertheless, the foundational conditions necessary for the functioning of these frameworks and institutions are suboptimal. The lack of political cohesion, inadequate enforcement capabilities, and discontinuity in leadership impede African agency and geopolitical resilience. Consequently, the primary challenge was characterised as structural. Participants cautioned that engaging in the green minerals race under these circumstances may serve to reinforce existing vulnerabilities and dependency patterns rather than catalyse structural transformation. Furthermore, peace and security were consistently featured in the discussions as foundational rather than peripheral to Africa's industrialisation agenda. One participant observed:

“Any structural change that doesn't dismantle colonial roles that are still in place is like a tranquilliser that offers no real change.”

Discussions highlighted that inadequate enforcement and external sponsorship undermine the effectiveness of continental frameworks, and that insecurity and conflict impede good governance and sustainable development.

3.1 One Voice, One Strategy – Narrative Shifts

The lack of collective leverage was highlighted as a particularly pressing challenge. Without coordinated positions, African countries tend to pursue fragmented bilateral negotiations, weakening the continent's overall bargaining power in global affairs. Even the most sophisticated frameworks cannot operate effectively in contexts where institutional authority is weak, leadership is fragmented, compliance mechanisms are voluntary, and politics is influenced by external forces.

3.1.1 Declaring a Critical Minerals Emergency

To emphasise the urgency of action on green minerals, given the limited window of opportunity, participants urged the African body politic to declare *a critical minerals emergency* framed as follows:

“The African Union and African governments are to declare green minerals a continental emergency, triggering urgent, coordinated, and strategic action to secure Africa's position in a rapidly shifting global order.”

Such an urgent call redefines the narrative at the core of bridging the implementation gap. This stems from the recognition that the opportunity is finite and non-replenishable; failure to seize it will keep Africa confined within a paradigm of green extractivism.

3.2 The Inward Turn: Diplomacy Begins at Home

Participants observed that although Africa's external engagement is shaped by global power dynamics, the real changes in Africa's diplomacy lie within. Domestic political, institutional, and knowledge systems have not been fully aligned with development priorities. The meeting framed minerals diplomacy as a projection of internal capacity—where that capacity is fragmented, weak, or externally influenced, diplomatic outcomes reflect those limitations. As one participant observed:

“Where minerals are concerned, diplomacy is not adequately advancing African interests in this context.”

Discussions highlighted how African institutions often question internally generated strategies while elevating externally produced frameworks to an authoritative status. This dynamic creates a structural imbalance in which African ideas are not fully recognised until they are externally validated.

3.2.1 Weak Negotiation Capacity and Bargaining Power

A capacity gap was identified. Discussions highlighted that African negotiators often engage in international processes without comparable levels of preparation, coordination, or technical support. Furthermore, the negotiators are often outnumbered both numerically and technically by counterparts from industrialised countries. This reflects broader institutional limitations, including insufficient public participation and parliamentary engagement on natural resources, as well as weak mechanisms for translating continental frameworks into domestic implementation.

Fragmentation has further constrained Africa's collective bargaining capacity. This deficiency is equally evident in the absence of a comprehensive social compact among governments, the private sector, labour, and civil society. It is imperative to fully utilise social dialogue and ensure that the voices of workers and communities are not marginalised in the pursuit of attracting foreign investors—some of whom have compromised the dignity and human rights of Africans, undermined environmental integrity, and degraded cultural heritage, despite universal commitments to sustainability, the Paris Climate Accords, and the UN Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The roundtable was categorical in its call for trust-building measures among governments, industry, labour, and local communities to address issues of equity, investment, human rights, and sustainability.

4. The Coalition Imperative: An Action Agenda

Building on previous sessions, Sessions 4 and 5 of the roundtable dialogue shifted the focus from diagnosis to institutional and strategic proposals for a new form of diplomacy. Participants noted that although technical frameworks for African mineral governance are in place, the political, institutional, and coordination mechanisms required to implement them remain underdeveloped and often depend on external sponsors. The principal challenge is coalition-building and effective implementation.

4.1 A Vanguard Solution: Practical Recommendations for an African Green Minerals Producers' Coalition

"Africa's geopolitical bargaining chip will not exist without a critical mass of African Heads of State coming together to activate the formation of highly coordinated joint industrial policies to leverage the continent's green minerals."

At the political level, discussions underscored the absence of a cohesive continental approach in mineral negotiations, as fragmented bilateral strategies undermine collective influence. Participants concurred that institutional

Box 1: Institutional Mechanisms of the Diplomatic Initiative



Heads of State Steering Committee
To lead the coalition, coordinate policy, strengthen Africa's geopolitical leverage, and secure a fair share of global value chains.



High-Level Panel on Green Minerals
To drive advocacy, mobilise political support, and engage national, regional, and continental institutions.



Technical Support Committee
To provide data, research, and help shape a coherent African narrative.



Secretariat on Green Minerals
To coordinate implementation, ensure coherence, and monitor progress across countries and institutions.

coordination and alliance formation are vital; however, they emphasised that these initiatives must be supported by a more robust, shared continental objective to achieve enduring sustainability.

The starting point is to accelerate the formation of a vanguard coalition of states that reaches an accord on a unified mineral-based industrial and value chain strategy. Such a coalition must encompass domains such as ownership, value chain development and integration, local content, environmental and labour standards, and community benefit-sharing. In the circumstances, external coordination proves more effective incidental to the establishment of continental consensus.

Structurally, the coalition would be supported by the following entities:

- **Heads of State Steering Committee:** To lead the coalition, coordinate policy, strengthen Africa's geopolitical leverage, and secure a fair share of the global value chains. The steering committee would be supported by senior officials and diplomats, including a Ministerial Conference comprising the ministries of mining, trade and investment, and finance, as well as specialised AU agencies such as the AMDC and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs).
- **High-Level Panel on Green Minerals:** To drive advocacy, mobilise political support, and engage national, regional, and continental institutions. This follows closely on the precedent of the illustrious work of two panels: 1) the High-Level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa and 2) the UN Secretary General's Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals.
- **Technical Support Committee (TSC):** To provide data, research, and help shape a coherent African narrative. The TSC, along with additional technical, diplomatic, and logistical details, will be co-created by the small team of African experts convened in South Africa on 25-26 March 2026, and the broader network of like-minded think tanks, academics, policy experts/centres, and civil society organisations (CSOs).
- **Secretariat on Green Minerals:** To coordinate implementation of the initiatives, ensure coherence, and monitor progress across countries and institutions.

4.2 Crafting A New Diplomacy: Pan-Africanism as the Economics of Industrialisation and Prosperity

“No African country can industrialise alone, but Africa as a continent has the economic weight to negotiate a new development trajectory on its own terms.”

The meeting reflected on Africa's agency—how its voice in the mining sector and across value chains, trade, and investment governance depends on the preparedness of African representatives—from heads of state to diplomats and negotiators. In this respect, diplomatic effectiveness, institutional credibility, and strategic autonomy are rooted in domestic capacity. Strengthening these foundations—through confidence in Pan-African ideas and thought leadership, improved operational capacity, and greater financial independence—was identified as essential to advancing Africa's leadership and position in global negotiations. The long-held view of a unified approach was re-emphasised. In this regard, One Voice, One Strategy means:

“... building the technical and institutional capacity needed to negotiate effectively in global markets, including geological intelligence, contract negotiation expertise, industrial planning capability, and coordinated diplomatic engagement.”

“... mobilis[ing] its own financial institutions, including development banks, sovereign funds, and regional financial mechanisms, to support infrastructure, processing, manufacturing, and research capacity, rather than relying exclusively on external capital that favours extractive projects.”

Participants noted that coordinated action can enhance Africa's geopolitical influence beyond short-term national pressures, particularly through aligning trade, investment and industrial policies—such as licensing, local content, beneficiation, taxation, and investment frameworks—to prevent a race to the bottom and to strengthen collective bargaining power. Proposals also supported the development of more robust, sector-specific alliances among producer nations, focused on shared resources and priorities, as exemplified by the DRC-Zambia Cooperation Agreement for the Manufacture of Electric Vehicle Batteries. The broader political and economic context—which includes the alignment of industrial, labour, and economic policies—remains essential to ensuring that regional advances lead to inclusive development. Some participants highlighted the strategy employed by European governments to utilise industrial policy to establish Airbus as a competitive aerospace manufacturing consortium at an appropriate global scale.

A new diplomacy rooted in Pan-Africanism is not aspirational, but necessary—anchoring Africa's industrialisation and prosperity in collective action, strategic coherence, and institutional strength. By aligning political will with economic strategy and drawing on lessons from coordinated industrial models globally, Africa must be positioned to shift from fragmented engagement to purposeful negotiation. The imperative is to translate unity into leverage, capacity into influence, and vision into a shared development trajectory that delivers inclusive and sustainable outcomes for the continent.

4.3 Responsible Investment: Centring of Governance, Human Rights and Environmental Safeguards

The discussions emphasised placing mine-hosting communities and workers at the centre of governance frameworks, grounded in principles reflected in national laws and the UN Panel on Critical Minerals, including Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and robust environmental and social impact assessments. At its core, this agenda aligns diplomacy with the mission of restoring dignity, linked to the quality of life and well-being of African people—upholding rights to land, reducing dependence on extractivism, and advancing equitable resource-based industrialisation and electrification as envisioned in the African Green Minerals Strategy. Reflecting a shift from mere government to good and inclusive governance, this approach calls for responsible stewardship of finite mineral resources—securing a social licence to operate, avoiding enclave development, and building resilient post-mining societies for future generations, supported by sovereign wealth mechanisms.

In this way, the new diplomacy will be rooted in public involvement and accountability, respecting the aspirations of all Africans for a dignified life, free from poverty and climate vulnerability, and building resilience, particularly for marginalised communities, women, children, and persons with disabilities. Public institutions and the representative arms of government—including parliaments at local, national, and regional levels, as well as the Pan-African Parliament—must be integral to the collective voice through which diplomatic action is exercised in the public interest, together with workers' representatives such as trade unions, faith-based organisations, and broader community constituencies.

The meeting agreed that inclusive, accountable governance strengthens legitimacy and promotes local solutions, thereby enabling African-led diplomacy to navigate fierce geopolitics over green minerals.

5. International Engagement and Cooperation – Africa's Geopolitical Bargain of the Century

The meeting adopted the framing of Africa's engagement as a “Geopolitical Bargain of the Century”, grounded in Pan-Africanism and anchored in a unified continental approach to global negotiations. Participants emphasised the need for Africa to act collectively through a single strategic platform, positioning its priorities within an increasingly sophisticated diplomatic arena marked by intense minerals deal-making and transactional engagement, and ensuring that commitments to support Africa's value

addition and industrialisation—articulated in global forums such as COP processes², the G7³, and related platforms—are effectively advanced and realised.

The meeting’s resolution to promote a “One Voice, One Strategy” initiative aims to position Africa as a central and proactive participant in shaping global value chains for green minerals. It also advocates the creation of a robust, coordinated platform to align multilateral development institutions, United Nations agencies, and international partners with Africa’s agenda, mobilising financial resources, technology, and expertise. Additionally, it emphasises strengthening South–South cooperation to facilitate technology transfer, industrialisation, and equitable trade and investment relations, supporting Africa’s resource-led industrial transformation.

6. Looking into the Future: Pillars for Strategic Action

On Day Two, three working groups developed the initiative’s work plan, outlining a coordinated, integrated approach to advancing Africa’s green minerals agenda. These strategic imperatives are conceived not as standalone recommendations but as elements of a single, integrated institutional architecture designed to reposition Africa within global green minerals value chains.

Participants emphasised that success would depend on collective action, effective coordination, and decisive implementation, and that the proposed mechanisms are designed to form a coherent, mutually reinforcing system linking political leadership, strategic vision, and operational delivery.

The outcomes are organised around three interrelated pillars: political coordination and diplomacy, the continental blueprint and narrative, and implementation and operational architecture. Together, these pillars provide a comprehensive framework to strengthen Africa’s agency, enhance its geopolitical leverage, and drive industrialisation, electrification, and inclusive development. The two tables below summarise the key action areas and the corresponding plans that emerged from the group discussions.

Table 1: Pillars for Strategic Action

GROUP / PILLAR	STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	KEY ELEMENTS / ACTIONS
 Group 1: Political Coordination and Special Envoys Platform	 Establish a unified African diplomatic and political coordination framework	• Four-tier governance ecosystem: Heads of State, Eminent Persons Panel, Technical Committee and Secretariat • Shift from bilateral to bloc diplomacy • Emergency response mechanism for geopolitical shifts • Coordinated engagement (AU, RECs, UNECA, and other multilateral platforms) • Pre-negotiated African positions and bargaining standards • Integration of civil society in decision-making • Transition from dependency to strategic interdependence
 Group 2: Continental Blueprint and Narrative Architecture	 Define Africa’s shared vision and strengthen global positioning	• Reframe Africa as resource-rich but coordination-constrained • Establish sector-based minerals producers’ clubs • Use media as a proactive strategic tool • Build multi-stakeholder coalitions (government, CSOs, labour, academia, private sector) • Embed social equity and conflict sensitivity • Integrate conflict resolution mechanisms • Articulate a unified political economy narrative

² The Conference of Parties (COP) refers to the annual UN Climate Change Conference. In 2027, the COP will be hosted by the Government of Ethiopia, marking a significant milestone for African diplomacy.

³ The Group of Seven (G7) refers to an intergovernmental forum consisting of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union. The G7 Critical Minerals Action Plan was released in June 2025.

Table 1: Pillars for Strategic Action (cont)

GROUP / PILLAR	STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	KEY ELEMENTS / ACTIONS
 Group 3: Implementation Roadmap and Operational Architecture	 Translate strategy into measurable, time-bound action	• Three-year phased roadmap (foundation → pilot → scaling) • Define clear institutional roles (e.g. SARW, AMDC) • Set time-bound milestones (3, 6, 9, 12 months) • Align with AU Summits, RECs, and continental platforms • Respond to urgency in global minerals competition • Establish a living accountability framework linking actors, timelines, and outcomes

Table 2: Operationalising the Strategy: Outcomes, Roles and Timelines

 Institutional Outcome	 Responsible Actors	 Immediate Action (0–3 months)	 Medium Term (3–9 months)	 Accountability Mechanism
 Special Envoys Platform	Civil society envoys; SARW; AU-linked actors; Heads of State engagement structures	• Establish platform • Identify envoys • Define mandate and diplomatic priorities	Coordinate unified African positions across AU, RECs, and global forums	Named envoys; reporting at 3, 6, 9, 12 months
 Technical Advisory Group	Geologists; economists; legal experts; environmental and labour, community representative, negotiators; diaspora expertise	• Produce value-mapping of minerals • Define the African critical minerals framework	Support negotiations with modelling, advisory, and training infrastructure	Deliverables tied to roadmap milestones
 Continental Blueprint	Envoys Platform; Advisory Group; Working Group 2; multi-actor coalition (state, CSO, private sector)	• Consolidate African strategic position • Define pre-negotiated terms • Identify the entry point for an interdependent relationship	Maintain and operationalise the negotiation framework across engagements, especially with big powers- China, the US and the European Union	Adoption across AU, RECs, national and negotiations
 Producer Country Coordination	Vanguard states (DRC, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Namibia, Tanzania); RECs; AMDC	• Align positions across the initial coalition • Develop joint value chain strategies	Expand coordination to additional states; implement special economic zones/value chain models	Coalition performance and joint industrial outcomes
 Coordination: Three-Year Implementation Roadmap	All institutions; SARW (proposed lead); AMDC (secretariat role); Working Group 3	• Define roles, timelines, governance architecture • Appoint envoys;	Pilot implementation; scale participation; embed in AU/REC structures	Time-bound accountability (3, 6, 9, 12 months) with named responsibility

7. Conclusion

The roundtable converged on a clear institutional logic: Africa requires a coherent strategy and narrative, driven by political leadership through a Heads of State Committee and a High-Level Panel, supported by strong technical capacity, coordinated producer-country alliances, and a practical implementation roadmap. It affirmed an urgent reality—Africa’s minerals moment is real but time-bound, a once-in-a-generation strategic opportunity to reshape its position in the global economy. The continent does not lack frameworks or ideas; rather, it must urgently align institutions and political will to coordinate supply and value chains and translate potential into tangible outcomes.

The transformation outlined in this report extends beyond Africa’s borders. It offers a geopolitical pathway to advance industrialisation and the energy transition, while contributing to a more balanced, inclusive, and sustainable global economic system. The priority now is implementation—activating these institutional mechanisms and ensuring they deliver concrete, measurable results.

The Communiqué

One Voice, One Strategy⁴:

An Emergency for Equitable Resource-Based Industrialisation 26 March 2026, Magaliesberg, South Africa

1. We represent civil society, the private sector, former diplomats, eminent persons, development partners, African institutions, business leaders, and community organisations, convened in Magaliesberg on 25 and 26 March 2026, hosted by the Southern Africa Resource Watch (SARW). This is a civil society-led initiative, grounded in the agency of African citizens and committed to ensuring that Africa's mineral wealth serves the public good.
2. Africa stands at a historic turning point. The continent is at the centre of a global scramble for green minerals. While this presents significant opportunities, it also presents risks of repeating the history of extraction without transformation. We reject this colonial path and affirm that Africa's green minerals must drive industrialisation, sovereignty, and shared prosperity.
3. We call on the African Union and its member states to declare **green minerals a continental emergency**, triggering urgent, coordinated, and strategic action to secure Africa's position in a rapidly shifting global order.
4. We recognise that no African country can industrialise alone. We adopt the principle of **One Voice, One Strategy**, a unified continental approach to geopolitical bargaining and coordinated industrial, trade, and investment policy development and implementation that strengthens Africa's collective power.
5. We commit to a strategic direction for transformation, supported by a clear pathway: prioritising geological exploration; value addition and beneficiation within Africa; building regional industrial value chains; ensuring democratic governance, transparency, and accountability; protecting local communities; and safeguarding the environment for future generations.
6. To move from vision to implementation, we propose:
 - 6.1 The creation of an African Green Minerals Producers' Coalition. We are calling for the establishment of a *continental coalition of producing countries under the African Union*.
 - 6.2 This coalition will be led by a *Heads of State Steering Committee* to coordinate policies, strengthen the continent's geo-political bargaining power, prevent harmful competition, and secure a fair share of global value chains.
 - 6.3 The coalition will be supported by a *High-level Panel on Green Minerals*. We will immediately establish the *High-Level Panel composed of eminent African leaders and experts* to lead advocacy and to lobby national governments, regional economic communities, and the African Union to operationalise the *One Voice, One Strategy*, to declare green minerals a continental emergency and to support the creation and activities of the Heads of State Steering Committee.

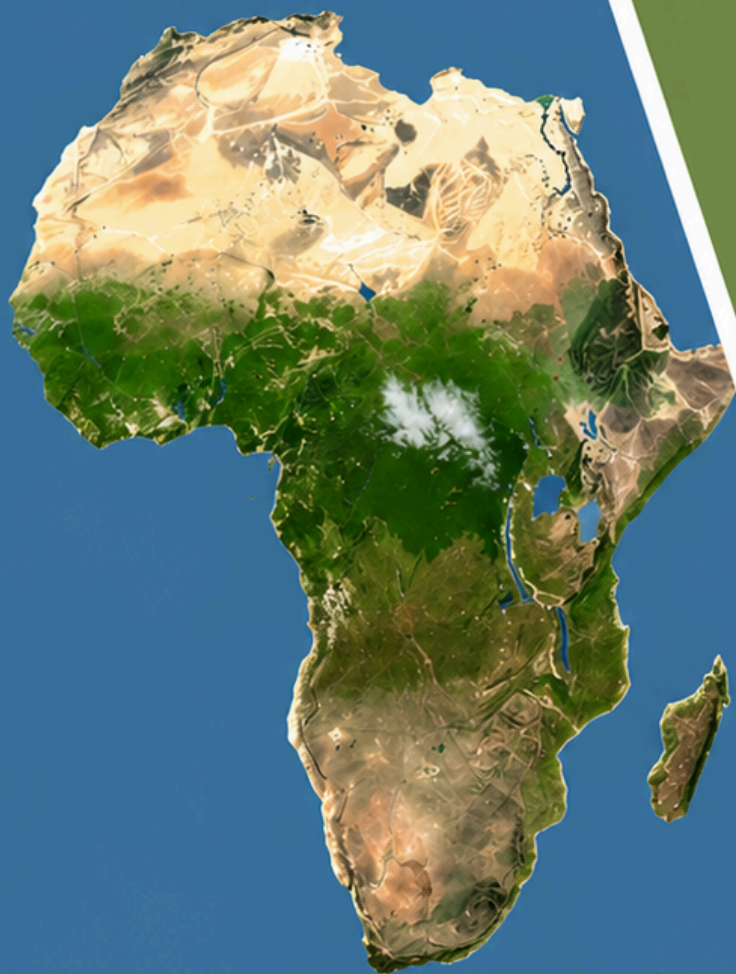
⁴ As defined in the AU Green Minerals Strategy, <https://au.int/en/documents/20250318/africas-green-minerals-strategy-agms>

- 6.4 This diplomacy will be supported by a *Technical Support Committee*. We mandate the creation of the Technical Support Committee, drawing on universities, think tanks, industry, labour and women's movements, to generate data and research, and define a shared African narrative.
- 6.5 We propose the establishment of a *Special Secretariat on Green Minerals*. We call for a dedicated Secretariat to coordinate implementation, ensure coherence, monitor progress, and support countries and institutions in delivering this agenda.
7. The ***One Voice, One Strategy*** approach requires a strong strategic platform. We call on multilateral development institutions, UN agencies, and global partners to align with this agenda through a structured platform that mobilises finance, technology, and skills, while advancing South-South cooperation.
8. We affirm the need for a new diplomacy rooted in African unity and civic legitimacy, one that is accountable to citizens, anchored in domestic priorities, and ensuring African ownership and control over African resources and value chains.
9. We commit to immediate and measurable steps, including the development of a ***Continental Green Minerals Blueprint***, alignment of national and regional strategies, and strengthened collaboration among stakeholders to drive implementation.
10. This communiqué marks a decisive shift, a break with the past. Africa will no longer be a passive supplier of raw materials or negotiate from a position of weakness.

We choose unity. We choose transformation.
We choose sovereignty. Africa First.
Adopted in Magaliesberg, South Africa, on 26 March 2026.

AFRICA'S GREEN MINERALS EMERGENCY

*One Voice
One Strategy*



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