

Joint Letter to United Nations Member States

13 July 2026

Object: UN High Level Meeting on Critical Energy Transition Minerals.

Excellencies,

Two years ago, the UN Secretary-General recognized that the increasing demand for minerals risked perpetuating extractive patterns, environmental and human rights harms, and geopolitical tensions. The [Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals](#) that he convened charted a path towards a new era of just, equitable, rights-respecting and accountable mineral governance, one where resource-rich countries, workers, Indigenous Peoples, women, youth and affected communities take part in deciding whether and how to use their mineral resources, share fairly in the benefits and are protected from harm.

Today, the pressure to extract minerals for green technologies, artificial intelligence and military purposes has increased dramatically, entrenching historical extractive patterns and making the paradigm shift even more urgent.

Deal-making is swiftly outpacing protections and accountability, with [mounting reports of human rights and environmental harms](#). National security imperatives are invoked to fast-track permitting in producing countries and to [bypass safeguards](#), while evidence on the impact of extraction on communities, Indigenous Peoples and the environment [continues to grow](#). Speed and opacity drive negotiations. Producer countries are pressured to grant access to their minerals in exchange for [security](#) or [health](#) resources. Trade rules, traceability mechanisms and governance [frameworks](#) are being rewritten by a handful of countries [with limited participation](#) from producing countries and affected groups. Minerals remain at the heart of [conflicts](#) regionally and globally. Legitimate concerns over the impacts of mineral projects are too often portrayed as obstacles to the energy transition, fueling [attacks](#) against human rights, environment and Indigenous defenders and civic space. Mineral consumption patterns are left unquestioned.

Amidst these challenges, opportunities are also emerging. The Guiding Principles of the UN Secretary-General's Panel serve as a blueprint for change across international and national processes. Producer countries are increasingly asserting their aspirations to move beyond extraction towards more diversified industrialisation and electrification. Consumer countries are beginning to prioritize circularity as a pathway to supply chain security and acknowledge the need for benefits and burdens to be more equitably shared. Affected communities and

Indigenous Peoples increasingly resist exploitative models and narratives and demand recognition as rights-holders with a central role in decision-making.

At this critical point in time, international cooperation must prevail over competition. Cooperation is the only route to ensure equitable and just mineral value chains that respect human rights and planetary boundaries, bring development opportunities and deliver affordable, clean, and reliable energy for all.

As urgency to change course grows, Member States, once again gathered by the Secretary-General, have a unique opportunity to commit to concerted action towards justice and equity. We - more than 130 organizations united across movements for development, justice, human rights and Indigenous Peoples' rights, sustainability and climate action - call on them to:

1. **Support Resource-Rich Country Efforts to Operationalize the Guiding Principles of the UN Secretary-General's Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals.** From the [UN Environmental Assembly](#) to the [Security Council](#), producer countries are proposing global mechanisms that would leverage UN processes to reduce environmental harms from mining and address the sector's role in driving conflict. Such producer country-led initiatives are key opportunities to shape global action towards justice and equity.
2. **Launch the Country Support Platforms of the UN Task Force on Critical Energy Transition Minerals.** Building on the high levels of engagement and consultation that the Task Force Technical Clusters have demonstrated, the country platforms should bring stakeholders, rightsholders and development partners together to coordinate efforts for the development and implementation of tools and policy targets to advance goals defined by producing countries and their populations.
3. **Ensure that the incoming UN Secretary-General maintains justice and equity in mineral value chains as a priority,** continues building on the Panel's work, and supports the UN's leadership on rights-based mineral governance, backed by a dedicated mandate and budget line.
4. **Establish a Special Envoy for Equitable and Just Mineral Governance,** mandated to monitor the implementation of the UNSG Panel's Guiding Principles and Recommendations, through equitable engagement with developing producer countries, stakeholders and rightsholders, and report annually to the General Assembly to inform the priorities of the UN system and international collaboration.
5. **Operationalize a strong Just Transition Mechanism** at COP31, building on the decision agreed at COP30, to support developing mineral producing countries' efforts to strengthen their institutional and regulatory environments; and place equitable mineral governance on the agenda of the [summit on just transition announced by the Secretary-General](#) ahead of COP31.
6. **Ensure that the multilateral development banks' minerals strategies, projects and policies — including the [MDBs' Joint Collaboration Framework](#) — are aligned with**

the UN Secretary-General Panel's Guiding Principles. Multilateral development banks and public finance mechanisms must be key pillars of an international architecture designed to respect human rights, including Indigenous Peoples' rights, and safeguard the environment by channeling funds to high operating standards and safeguards, enforcement capacity, public-interest infrastructure and project preparation.

7. **Build mutually beneficial partnerships:** Ensure credible and legitimate rules and partnerships are jointly defined by all producing and consuming countries, with the meaningful, full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples, workers, local communities and other rights-holders affected by extraction, processing, transport and recycling. Ensure government-to-government agreements embed cooperation mechanisms to secure strong anti-corruption measures, rights and environmental safeguards - including to protect defenders and uphold Indigenous Peoples' rights to self-determination through their effective participation and respect of their Free, Prior and Informed consent as affirmed by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) - technical and financial assistance for producer countries' strategy development, and investment in regulatory capacity and technology transfer; Forge regional coalitions to build negotiating leverage and raise standards, and avoid a race to the bottom.

8. **Advance the process to agree on ambitious and equitable material sufficiency, efficiency and circularity targets, together with timelines for their implementation,** as recommended by the Secretary-General's Panel. These targets will help drive the economic transformation needed to achieve more equitable and efficient resource use, reduce pressure on people and ecosystems, and lessen dependence on primary raw material extraction.

Geopolitical rivalry cannot justify trampling rights, the environment and the sovereignty of producing countries. Now is the moment for Member States to marshal the political, technical and financial support and cooperation to build a new model rooted in justice, equity and accountability, that leaves no one behind.

Signatories:

Actions for Democracy and Local Governance (ADLG)	Tanzania
African Industrial Solution (AFIS-Africa)	Nigeria
African Women for Natural Resources (AWNR)	Democratic Republic of the Congo
Aid Life Learn Environment	Democratic Republic of the Congo
Aide, Assistance et Développement Communautaire de Côte d'Ivoire (ONG ADC-CI)	Côte d'Ivoire
Aika tribal customary consultative body, Mimika, Central Papua, (LEMASAI)	Indonesia

All Tribal Disables union Manipur	India
Alliance pour le Développement Communautaire Guinée (ADC-Guinée)	Guinea
Alyansa Tigil Mina	Philippines
Amnesty International	Global
ANWR	Democratic Republic of the Congo
APALAC Coalition(asbl)	Rwanda
ARAYARA International Institute (ARAYARA.org)	Brazil
ASBL Oisillons Group	Democratic Republic of the Congo
Asia Pacific Network of Environmental Defenders	Philippines
Asia Pacific-Transition Mineral Accountability Working Group	Philippines
Association des Gardiens Communautaires de la Biodiversité, AGCB	Democratic Republic of the Congo
Associazione Mediterranea per la Natura - WWF Italia	Italia
Bantay Kita - Publish What You Pay Philippines	Philippines
Brot für die Welt	Germany
Business and Human Rights Centre	United Kingdom
CAN Europe	Belgium
CANZIM	Zimbabwe
Carboun Institute	Netherlands
CartoCrítica, A.C.	Mexico
Center for Clean and Green Governance (CCGG)	Democratic Republic of the Congo
Center for Economic and Social Rights (CESR)	Global
Center for Regulation Policy and Governance (CRPG)	Indonesia
Centre For Disability Rehabilitation and Empowerment	India
Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations (SOMO)	Netherlands
Centre for Social Impact Studies	Ghana
Centro de Derechos Humanos Universidad Diego Portales	Chile
Centro de Derechos Humanos, Universidad de Chile	Chile
CESTA	El Salvador
Civil Society Independent Forest Monitors (CSIFM)	Liberia
Climate Action for Lifelong Learners	Canada
Climate Action Network – International (CAN-I)	Global
Climate Action Network (CAN) Zambia	Zambia
Climate Rights International	Global

Coal Action Network Aotearoa	Aotearoa New Zealand
Core Group Transparency Timor-Leste (CGT-TL)	Timor-Leste
Currie Country Social Change	Australia
Democracy Monitor PU	Azerbaijan
Earthworks	United States
Echo Public Association	Kazakhstan
ECOS	Global
ECOTON Ecological Observation and Wetlands Conservation	Indonesia
Engenera AC	Mexico
Entrepreneurship Development Foundation	Azerbaijan
Enzi Ijaye Africa Initiative	Kenya
European Environmental Bureau	Belgium
Fair Finance International	Global
FARN	Argentina
Fondation pour la Protection de la Biodiversite Marine	Haiti
Formando Rutas	Chile
Friends of the Earth Europe	Belgium
Fundación Tantí	Chile
Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA)	United States
Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	Global
Global Witness	United Kingdom
Grand Riverkeeper Labrador Inc.	Canada
Greenpeace en Chile	Chile
Greenpeace International	Global
Habitat Defenders Africa	Uganda
Heinrich-Böll Foundation	Germany
Indonesian Center for Environmental Law	Indonesia
Interamerican Association for Environmental Defense (AIDA)	Latin America
International Accountability Project	India
international Indigenous Fund for Development and Solidarity "Batani"	United States
Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights and Rule of Law	Kazakhstan
KMF/CNOE - Education des citoyens	Madagascar
Kuryente.Org	Philippines

La Sentinelle des Ressources Naturelles	Democratic Republic of the Congo
Leuser Conservation Forum	Indonesia
Ligue pour la transparence dans le secteur extractif (LITRASE)	Democratic Republic of the Congo
Lok Shakti Abhiyan	India
London Mining Network	United Kingdom
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns	United States
Mennonite Central Committee U.S.	United States
Merrimack Citizens for Clean Water	United States
Mining Shared Value	United Kingdom
MiningWatch Canada	Canada
Mujeres en Resistencia Chile	Chile
Muslim Family Counselling Services	Ghana
Nash Vek PF	Kyrgyzstan
Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI)	Global
Natural Resources Justice Network (Malawi)	Malawi
Nexus3 Foundation	Indonesia
NGO Consortium for promotion EITI in Kyrgyzstan	Kyrgyzstan
NGO Ecosistemas	Chile
Northern Confluence	Canada
Observatori del Deute en la Globalització	Spain
Observatorio Ciudadano	Chile
OEARSE	Democratic Republic of the Congo
ONGDH TUSAIDIANE	Democratic Republic of the Congo
Organisation Tchadienne Anti-Corruption (OTAC)	Chad
Oxfam	Global
Plataforma Boliviana Frente al Cambio Climático	Bolivia
Plataforma Chilena de la Sociedad Civil sobre Derechos Humanos y Empresas	Chile
Plataforma CIPÓ	Brazil
Policy Forum	Tanzania
Publish What You Pay (PWYP) Indonesia	Indonesia
PUSPAHAM	Indonesia
Razom We Stand	Ukraine
Recourse	Global
Regroupement Vigilance Mines de l'Abitibi et du	Canada

Témiscamingue (REVIMAT)	
Resource Justice Network	Canada
SIRGE	Belgium
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Justice Team	United States
Southern Africa Resource Watch	South Africa
Strategic Youth Network for Development (SYND)	Ghana
Sustain Earth and Equity Defenders (SEED)	Liberia
Sustainable Development Strategies Group (SDSG)	United States
Sustentarse	Chile
SWC (Sustaining the Wild Coast)	Republic of South Africa
Tallgrass Institute	United States
The Environment and Conservation Organisations of Aotearoa New Zealand	Aotearoa New Zealand
The Future We Need	Global
The Sustainable North Trust	New Zealand
Tipping Point North South	United Kingdom
Transparency International Zambia	Zambia
U. Externado FCSH	Colombia
Universidad de Valparaíso - CEDRES	Chile
University of Guelph, Canada	Canada
University of Wisconsin-Madison	United States
Vienna University of Economics and Business	Austria
Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)	Global
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)	United Kingdom
Women4Biodiversity	India
Workers' Collective for Climate Justice - South Asia	India
Youth Advisory Group (YAG) on Climate to the UN Secretary General	Kenya