

Securing Africa's future

Advancing transparent and just mining governance for development

6 August | 09:00 – 12:10 SAST

Johannesburg, South Africa | and online via Zoom

African countries need to get a fair and equitable benefit share from their mineral potential. Creating stable and just policy and regulatory environments is necessary to compete with other producer regions to attract and retain investment that can provide regional developmental benefits. Unlocking this potential requires genuine partnerships and value share between mining operators, investors, national governments and host communities. The reappraisal of existing strategies and approaches towards industry governance is evident in the trend of national renegotiation of mining contracts, development of new mining codes and legislation, and advancement of critical minerals strategies designed to prioritise sectors that nations have identified for increasing value capture and attracting investment.

The public consultation on the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act in South Africa, and the launch of its Critical Minerals Strategy, are among several national and continent-wide initiatives and policy plans to restructure national mining sectors. Recent and ongoing changes to legislation, policy, and government interventions in DRC, Ghana, Botswana, Malawi, Nigeria, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe are emblematic of this need for value but must be delicately balanced against industry and investor requirements for stable, transparent, and consistent regulation. International public and sovereign investments require credible commitment from government towards a stable investment environment, including on how extraction can translate in developmental outcomes.

The Chatham House Africa Programme, in partnership with UNDP, will convene policymakers, private sector representatives, and civil society from across multiple African jurisdictions to discuss how just, transparent, and forward-looking minerals governance can form part of a comprehensive strategy to help Africa achieve sustainable development. It will focus on key aspects of mineral reform – such as export controls, national ownership and financing measures, and legislated beneficiation requirements. Moreover, it will ask how African states can transform resource wealth into long-term stability and industrial value addition, ensuring that benefits accrue to the wider populations while avoiding overreliance on the sector. Doing so, it will facilitate cross-national learning on mining reform and opportunities for continental economic integration.

Agenda

08:00 – 09:00 Registration and refreshments

09:00 – 09:15 **Welcome and opening remarks**

09:15 – 10:30 **Session 1: Ministerial Panel**

- What are the lessons that can be drawn from ongoing mining code reforms across countries in Africa, and how can they contribute towards sustainable development?
- How can resource extraction form part of a comprehensive, sustainable economic development and fiscal strategy?
- What should be the role of SOEs in directly and indirectly engaging with and supporting the industry?

- How can governments negotiate contracts that ensure that resource extraction benefits the wider population?
- How does greater mining sovereignty impact regional value chain synergies and regional cooperation?

10:30 – 12:00

Session 2: Policy for Advancing Just and Transparent Mining Governance

- How can resource extraction form part of a comprehensive, sustainable economic development and fiscal strategy? What strategies and policies need to be in place to ensure value addition, skills transfer, and the development of local industry?
- How can governments put in place robust negotiation frameworks that ensure that resource extraction benefits the wider population? How can minerals governance promote not only national sovereignty and in some cases regime stability, but also environmental justice?
- Does the rise in demands for contracts renegotiation discourage foreign investment? How are private sector considerations evolving?

12:00 – 12:10

Closing