

Joint voluntary declaration on responsible mining practices for the protection of life and the environment.

On the occasion of the 16th United Nations Conference on Biological Diversity, the first Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) since the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which promotes the valuation, conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity, maintaining ecosystem services, for a healthy planet and providing essential benefits for all people, We:

The governments, international and regional organizations, international and regional financial institutions, philanthropic and private sector entities, communities, scientific and academic institutions and organizations concerned with climate, biodiversity, human rights and development, declare:

Highlighting the synergies and opportunities of the CBD COP16 in Colombia and the upcoming UNFCCC COP30 in Brazil, both being megadiverse, mineral-producing countries with a key role in just energy transitions.

Calling for strengthened international efforts and commitments to prevent and reduce the negative impacts of mining production on the triple global crisis.

Recognizing that, while mining provides necessary resources for the energy transition and other uses, it generates significant and negative impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems, such as habitat destruction and fragmentation, deforestation, water and soil pollution, land use changes in landscapes, wildlife poisoning, impacts on food webs, alteration of watersheds with their consequent effects on climate change and the livelihoods of indigenous peoples and local communities in their territories, affecting their right to a healthy environment.

Recognizing that a just transition must be fair and inclusive, creating decent work opportunities. The vast majority of women and men working directly and indirectly in artisanal mining currently do so informally. They are among the world's most disadvantaged populations and at the beginning of global supply chains. The environmental impacts of global supply chains are profoundly unequal and should not be borne by the most vulnerable. A human rights-based approach is needed to change these situations and protect the environment.

Recognizing and building on the long-standing efforts and learning opportunities of various initiatives such as: the [UN Global Compact Guidance on Responsible Business in Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas](#) (2010); the [UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](#) (2011); regional bodies such as the [International Conference of the Great Lakes Region](#) (ICGLR) in Africa with its [Regional Initiative against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources \(RINR\)](#) targeting tin, tungsten, tantalum and gold (2006); the [Lusaka Declaration of the ICGLR Special Summit to Combat Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources in the Great Lakes Region](#) (2010); the [OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas](#) (2016) and its Supplement on

Gold; [Regulation \(EU\) 2017/821](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down supply chain due diligence obligations for Union importers of tin, tantalum and tungsten, their ores and gold from conflict-affected and high-risk areas; [Commission Recommendation \(EU\) 2018/1149](#) on non-binding guidelines for the identification of conflict-affected and high-risk areas and other supply chain risks; and the [Belém do Pará Declaration of the IV Amazon Summit](#) (2023), which strengthens international and regional cooperation in the fight against illegal mining, illicit trafficking and other related crimes.

In line with our respective mandates, visions, and in partnership with international, regional, national and local actors; in accordance with existing instruments, particularly the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention (ILO C-169), we commit to:

Consolidate an *ad hoc* intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder working group to deliver at COP30 of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, responding to the following:

1. The results of the Intergovernmental Consultations mandated by [Resolution 5/12 on the Environmental Aspects of Minerals and Metals Management](#) adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-UNEP) to determine ways to advance on responsible and well-managed extraction of minerals essential for an energy transition to achieve the goal of net zero emissions by 2050 without compromising other environmental goals.
2. Link the requirements mentioned in [Resolution 6/5 on Environmental Aspects of Minerals and Metals](#) particularly (b) on capacity building opportunities and (c) support enhanced cooperation among Member States on technological, technical, scientific and policy elements on the management of environmental aspects of minerals and metals.
3. A proposal for a binding international agreement to be the global framework for traceability, transparency and accountability along the entire minerals value chain - from mining to recycling - to strengthen due diligence, facilitate corporate accountability and build a global market for critical energy transition minerals, responding to the second actionable recommendation of the [UN Secretary General's Panel on Critical Minerals for Energy Transition](#).