

Twenty-fourth IRENA Council and related meetings
Side event

28 October 2022, 13.00 – 14.30 GST
Oasis Room 2
Sheraton Corniche Hotel, Abu Dhabi

Stock-taking of IRENA’s work on critical materials for the energy transition

IRENA, in response to Members’ requests, established the Collaborative Framework on Critical Materials for the Energy Transition (CFCM) in 2022 as a platform for dialogue and to exchange knowledge, best practices, and coordinate actions to address issues around critical materials to sustain the energy transition. In support of the CFCM, the Agency has rapidly built knowledge on the topic in partnership with key stakeholders, and analysis has been conducted in several areas, including: Technical Paper on Critical Materials for the Energy Transition, Deep Dive Lithium, Nickel Editorial, Rare Earth Elements and an assessment of the possible pathways to address the issues around critical materials in the report World Energy Transitions Outlook: 1.5°C Pathway. Upcoming work related to critical materials includes a Deep Dive on materials for electric vehicle batteries.

In addition, to the analytical work, at the CFCM meeting held on 21 March 2022, Members stressed the supplementary key roles that IRENA may play in this field due to its near-universal Membership and convening power with the public and private sectors, as well as other stakeholders. Members also raised their priority areas of action to address issues around critical materials for the energy transition. Those priority areas include:

- Ensuring sustainable and responsible mining. Greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the mining industry must be tackled and taken into serious consideration.
- Data transparency, which is of high importance to better understand critical materials and potential supply chain shortages. Countries need to develop a national coverage database.
- The shift in renewables and critical materials should be well-understood by the mining sector in particular.
- Facilitation of circular economy will be key.

Based on this mandate, the Agency has organised meetings of the working groups to collect guidance from Members on how to move forward.

Objectives of the discussion

- Present an updated overview to Members on the work of the CFCM and the Agency’s activities in support of the Collaborative Framework.
- Obtain guidance from Members on priority areas to address within the ongoing and future work of the CFCM and the Agency in this field.

Associated publications

- [Critical Materials for The Energy Transition](#) (2021)
- [Technical paper on Critical Materials for the Energy Transition: Lithium](#) (2022)
- [Technical paper on Critical Materials for the Energy Transition: Rare Earth Elements](#) (2022)
- [IRENA Members Pave Way for New Cooperation on Critical Materials](#)

For more information, please contact

- Luis Janeiro, Programme Officer – Renewable Energy Roadmaps (LJaneiro@irena.org)
- Martina Lyons, Associate Programme Officer – Innovation Networks (MLyons@irena.org)
- Francisco Boshell, Analyst – Renewable Energy Technology Standards and Markets (FBoshell@irena.org)