



Clean Technology Hub
Energy Innovation Centre

Beyond Extraction: Nigeria's Critical Minerals Future

Report on a Webinar held on
the 30th of July 2025



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Executive Summary

With the rising global demand for critical minerals, Nigeria's vast deposits present an opportunity for the country to scale up extraction and revenue generation in the mining sector. However, unregulated expansion could risk repeating the environmental and social inequities and crises experienced in the Niger Delta due to oil exploration. Though recent efforts to revive the industry have set a clearer course for growth, governance in the solid minerals sector must be properly structured to realise this growth and to ensure that it is equitable.

To further explore how the country can leverage this, the Natural Resource Governance program at Clean Technology Hub hosted a high-level webinar themed “Beyond Extraction: Nigeria's Critical Minerals Future.” The event brought together stakeholders from government, industry, academia, and civil society to propose ways in which the country can move beyond exporting raw minerals to building strong domestic value chains, increasing industrial capacity, and delivering lasting socio-economic benefits. The goal was to unpack challenges, share perspectives, and explore actionable steps that could turn mineral wealth into long-term, inclusive development.

Several governance-related gaps were identified, including the absence of a specific policy framework for critical minerals, misalignment between federal and state roles in mineral governance, and weak transparency and accountability in revenue management and agreements. These issues are heightened by poor institutional coordination, weak oversight mechanisms, and a slow pace of reforms that risks missing evolving global market opportunities. Environmental concerns and limited community engagement further strain the sector's prospects, alongside the exclusion of vulnerable groups in benefit-sharing processes. Operational challenges were also diagnosed, including the lack of a viable exploration industry and project pipeline, which limits the country's ability to attract investment and develop sustainable mining projects. The dominance of artisanal and small-scale mining reflects structural weaknesses, while the absence of a dedicated mining finance ecosystem restricts early-stage exploration funding. Together, these issues hinder the country's capacity to move from raw mineral extraction toward value addition and industrialisation.

Valuable recommendations were proposed in a bid to close these gaps. These include:

- Developing a clear and comprehensive policy framework for critical minerals to guide targeted regulations and incentives.
- Improving governance, adopting a mixed federal–state model that clarifies roles and fosters cooperation, is essential.

- Establishment of an independent mining regulatory commission with adequate autonomy and technical capacity to enforce laws, curb illegal operations, and strengthen institutional oversight.
- Creating strategic port-linked processing hubs integrated into special economic zones would facilitate regional mineral beneficiation and attract investment.
- Transparency and public accountability should be enhanced through mandatory disclosure of contracts, revenues, and community agreements in accessible formats, while community development agreements must include early and meaningful engagement of vulnerable groups with legal recognition to ensure inclusivity.
- Diversifying Nigeria's minerals strategy beyond lithium to include minerals with broader industrial uses was also advised to manage market risks.
- Finally, fostering collaborative economic clusters that bring together government, private sector, and academia can accelerate innovation and policy coherence, while unlocking new exploration frontiers through modern technologies and funding will be critical to sustaining sector growth.

Introduction

The demand for certain critical minerals is expected to surge significantly by 2040, with lithium projected to grow fivefold, cobalt demand to double, and copper demand to increase by 30%, according to the International Energy Agency's Global Critical Minerals Outlook 2025.¹ Africa holds an estimated 30% of global critical mineral reserves², yet Nigeria has not fully positioned itself to compete effectively within global value chains. Despite this, the country retains notable potential to emerge as a key player in the green minerals sector as the world accelerates its transition towards clean energy.

In recent years, Nigeria has taken steps to revitalise its mining sector through notable projects, which include the National Integrated Mineral Exploration Project (NIMEP) to generate geoscientific data and reduce investment risks; the creation of mineral processing clusters across all six geopolitical zones to promote local beneficiation and job creation; and the introduction of the Electronic Mining Cadastre Plus (eMC+), a digital platform providing transparent, real-time, global access to mining title management.³ The Nigerian Geological Survey Agency (NGSA) has also advanced sector transparency with the launch of the Mineral

¹ International Energy Agency. (2025). *Global critical minerals outlook 2025: Overview of outlook for key minerals*. <https://iea.blob.core.windows.net/assets/ef5e9b70-3374-4caa-ba9d-19c72253bfc4/GlobalCriticalMineralsOutlook2025.pdf>

² Mo Ibrahim Foundation. (2022, October). *Africa's critical minerals: Africa at the heart of a low-carbon future*. <https://mo.ibrahim.foundation/sites/default/files/2022-11/minerals-resource-governance.pdf>

³ PwC. (2023, July). *Nigerian mining – Progress, but still a long way to go*. <https://www.pwc.com/ng/en/assets/pdf/nigerian-mining-progress-but-still-a-long-way-to-go1.pdf>

Resources Decision Support System (MRDSS)⁴, a platform offering investors comprehensive, accessible geological and policy information. These reforms have contributed to a steady rise in the sector's GDP share, from 0.13% in 2015 to 0.23% in 2022.⁵

However, persistent structural and governance challenges continue to hinder growth. Poor infrastructure, certain gaps in the Minerals and Mining Act (2007), the absence of a dedicated critical minerals framework, limited processing capacity, and unreliable energy supply constrain beneficiation and industrialisation. These challenges are compounded by the proliferation of illegal mining of critical minerals like lithium, rising insecurity in mining regions, and weak enforcement of regulatory frameworks.

Advancing the development of a transparent, sustainable, and inclusive critical minerals value chain is central to Nigeria's ambitions in the clean energy transition. Beyond meeting domestic needs, Nigeria has the potential to position itself as a significant player in the global markets. The webinar, held on 30th July 2025, provided a platform to examine these opportunities and challenges, bringing together government, industry, academia, and civil society to chart a pathway for maximising the sector's economic, environmental, and community benefits.

Key Objectives of the Webinar

- Highlighting governance and accountability gaps
- Assessing Nigeria's readiness for value addition and industrialisation
- Evaluating legal and regulatory coherence at federal and subnational levels
- Exploring opportunities for multilateral partnerships and community benefit-sharing

Target Outcomes

- A concise report capturing up-to-date insights on Nigeria's critical minerals landscape, governance gaps, and recommendations.
- Identification of potential multilateral partnerships to support the critical minerals growth
- Clear guidelines to drive continued dialogue in host communities and a broader, all-encompassing engagement with key decision-making stakeholders in the FCT to advance the implementation of recommendations.

⁴ Oni, A. (2024, May). FG launches portal to enhance ease of doing business in mining sector. *The Cable*. <https://www.thecable.ng/fg-launches-portal-to-enhance-ease-of-doing-business-in-mining-sector/>

⁵ PwC. (2023, July). Nigerian mining – Progress, but still a long way to go. <https://www.pwc.com/ng/en/assets/pdf/nigerian-mining-progress-but-still-a-long-way-to-go1.pdf>

Technical Presentation: Positioning Africa for inclusive growth in the Green minerals era

Following the welcome address delivered by Ms. Nina Afani, Chief Innovation and Growth Officer, Clean Technology Hub, the technical presentation was delivered by Mr Mohammed Osman, Policy Analyst, Africa Centre for Energy Policy (ACEP). Speaking on the topic “Positioning Africa for inclusive growth in the Green minerals era”, Mr. Osman remarked that Africa possesses about 30% of the world's green mineral reserves, yet its contribution to the \$700 billion global clean energy technology market is just \$0.34 billion, largely from upstream mineral extraction. This underlines the need to move beyond exporting raw materials and focus on building industrial ecosystems that enable value addition.

Mr. Osman highlighted several key frameworks that can drive transformation:

1. African Mining Vision (AMV): Promotes sustainable development and mineral governance.
2. Africa's Green Minerals Strategy: Aligns green mineral use with industrialization goals.
3. Geological and Mining Information System (GMIS): Supports transparency and data-driven decision-making.
4. African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA): Enables regional integration and cross-border value chains.

However, key challenges to participation in Green Mineral Value Chains include:

- High energy costs and underdeveloped infrastructure
- Political instability and governance issues
- Limited access to finance
- Delays in licensing and regulatory processes

The presentation ended with recommended strategic actions for growth. These actions, which are expected to address many of the key challenges, include efforts to:

- Institutionalise transparent governance tools such as AMREC and GMIS.
- Leverage AfCFTA provisions to strengthen intra-African trade in minerals.
- Incentivise local investment in mining support services.
- Improve institutional efficiency to speed up investments.
- Develop mid- and downstream capacity for beneficiation and manufacturing.

The Panel Session

The Panel session consisted of 4 panellists. Below is the summary of their contributions and key insights shared during the discussion.

i. Tengi George-Ikoli, Country Manager, Natural Resource Governance Institute

Ms. Tengi George-Ikoli emphasized the need for Nigeria to build a future beyond oil by harnessing opportunities in the critical minerals and green energy value chain. She explained that while critical minerals cannot completely replace fossil fuel revenues, they offer a tangible alternative that can help reduce the country's dependence on oil. She highlighted the need for stronger governance frameworks, transparent contracts, effective revenue management, and strong institutions at both national and subnational levels to avoid repeating the corruption patterns of the fossil fuel sector. Host communities must directly benefit from mining revenues through clear distribution rules, community monitoring, and capacity building, while local governments, civil society, and the media should track accountability. Finally, she called for integrating transition minerals into Nigeria's energy transition and national development plans with citizen-led audit mechanisms to ensure revenues are used for sustainable growth.

ii. Ian Barlow, Fellow, Swaniti Global for Climate Diplomacy and Energy Transitions

Ian Barlow explained that globally, mining projects deliver benefits to communities through a range of mechanisms, both voluntary and mandatory. These include royalty structures such as corporate social responsibility (CSR) spending, and stipulations tied to debt financing from development banks that require community investment. He highlighted additional vehicles such as community development agreements (CDAs), special-purpose funds, and benefit-sharing models embedded within licensing frameworks. Drawing on Global South examples, Barlow described India's mandatory CSR law and District Mineral Funds, Brazil's constitutionally mandated mining royalty (CFEM), and Papua New Guinea's blended model of royalties and CDAs, which incorporates provisions like local hiring, environmental safeguards, and post-closure community trusts. Collectively, these models illustrate the different approaches countries have adopted to ensure equitable distribution of mining revenues and long-term community benefits.

He further stressed that transparency, inclusivity, and accountability are critical to making these mechanisms effective. Public disclosure and monitoring of CDAs, accessible publication of agreements, and holistic communication of all benefit streams help prevent redundancies and build community trust. Importantly, Barlow emphasized the need to

integrate the perspectives of women, vulnerable groups, and marginalized communities in both pre-CDA assessments and negotiations to ensure their needs are recognized and addressed. He noted that while explicit gender and equity provisions are not yet common in CDAs, mandating their inclusion could strengthen fairness and enforceability. Ultimately, Barlow underscored that benefit-sharing frameworks should not only deliver financial or infrastructural gains but also embed equity, legal recognition, and long-term sustainability for mining-impacted communities.

iii. Prof Akper SAN, Professor of Law, Nigerian Institute of Advanced Law. Member, Steering Committee, Industrial Policy Commission, NESG

Prof. Akper noted that Nigeria's mining sector continues to suffer from deep-rooted legal and institutional weaknesses. He explained that overlapping mandates between federal and state authorities, combined with poor enforcement of existing regulations, have created gaps that discourage serious investment while enabling illegal and informal mining to thrive. He noted that the absence of a clear framework for critical minerals further compounds these issues, leaving the sector without a defined direction at a time when global demand is rapidly expanding.

Alongside regulatory gaps, Prof. Akper highlighted the limited involvement of host communities in mining governance. Communities are often excluded from decision-making processes and receive little in terms of tangible benefits, which undermines trust and fosters resistance to mining projects. He stressed that Nigeria's ability to harness its mineral wealth depends on building stronger laws and institutions, backed by transparent governance and meaningful community participation, to ensure that the sector contributes to sustainable development and social equity.

iv. 'Lumun Amanda Feese, CEO, RBI Perse Advisory, Co-facilitator - Industrial Commission, NESG

Lumun Amanda Feese explained that Nigeria cannot have a strong mineral processing industry without first fixing the early stage of the mining value chain, which is exploration. After over 20 years of reforms, Nigeria is still not seen as a true exploration or mining destination, with only one large-scale operating gold mine and very few discoveries. As a result, most processors depend on artisanal and small-scale mining, which is not reliable. There is also no proper mining finance system to support local explorers, leading many to rely on their own funds, which limits growth. She suggested that, for now, Nigeria could build processing plants near ports and railways to use minerals from other African countries

that are already mining energy transition minerals, while preparing to use Nigerian minerals when proper mining begins.

She also stressed that building a successful processing industry requires linking different policies, such as mining, infrastructure, trade, investment, industrial development, education, and tax. She recommended creating an energy transition cluster that brings together government, private sector, researchers, technology companies, and downstream industries to work together. She warned that Nigeria should not focus only on lithium, since it has limited use and its value may drop if new substitutes appear. Instead, the country should also invest in other minerals like copper that have wider applications. She concluded that Nigeria must speed up reforms and create a better funding system for exploration, otherwise the country may miss the chance to benefit from energy transition minerals before the global market changes.

Identified Gaps

- **Absence of Policy Frameworks for Critical Minerals:** Nigeria's mining laws and policy frameworks were developed at a time when "critical minerals" were not yet widely recognised as strategic assets for the global energy transition. As such, the current legal instruments do not reflect the realities of today's minerals market or the urgency of positioning Nigeria within it. Without a clear national definition or classification, the government is unable to design targeted incentives, fiscal regimes, or strategic investment plans for these high-value resources.
- **Misalignment Between Federal and State Roles in Mineral Governance:** Nigeria operates a State mineral rights system where ownership and control of mineral resources are vested exclusively in the Federal Government, while mining activities occur within states and local communities. This creates a persistent misalignment. The Federal Government issues licenses and sets regulatory conditions, but miners often face additional, sometimes unconstitutional, requirements from state authorities. These parallel regulatory layers lead to investor uncertainty, strained federal-state relations, and in some cases, outright bans or restrictions by states, citing environmental, security, or revenue concerns. The result is a fragmented governance environment that discourages investment and complicates resource management.

- **Lack of Transparency and Accountability in Revenue and Agreement Management:** With little public access to contracts, production data, revenue flows, or the details of Community Development Agreements (CDAs). Agreements are rarely published or shared in formats and languages that communities can easily understand, making it difficult for the public to monitor progress or hold companies and the government accountable. This gives rise to mistrust, misinformation, and disputes, and increases the risk that revenues will be misused or captured by a few rather than benefiting host communities and the wider public.
- **Policy-Practice Gaps and Exclusion of Vulnerable Groups:** Many countries in the Global South, including Nigeria, have established strong legal frameworks for community benefit-sharing through mechanisms such as royalties, corporate social responsibility (CSR) programmes, and Community Development Agreements (CDAs). In Nigeria, the Minerals and Mining Act (2007) and the Minerals and Mining Regulations (2011), Sections 116 and 117 of the Act and Section 193 of the Regulations, require mining companies to implement CDAs as a means of transferring social and economic benefits to host communities. However, in reality, weak enforcement, bureaucratic delays, and limited local government capacity often hinder effective implementation. As a result, communities frequently receive benefits that are delayed, diminished, or fail to address their most urgent needs, undermining the intent of the law and eroding trust between stakeholders. Also, explicit requirements to include women, marginalised groups, and other vulnerable populations in CDA design and execution are rare. Often, these groups are left out of early consultations, which means their priorities are not reflected in the final agreements.
- **Absence of a Viable Exploration Industry and Project Pipeline:** Exploration is the starting point of the mining project lifecycle and the foundation upon which the entire mining value chain is built. Without a strong exploration base, there can be no sustained mining industry, as there is no consistent flow of discoveries to feed development and production. Despite nearly 22 years of sector reforms, such as adopting the Minerals and Mining Act (2007) and investing in airborne geophysical surveys, Nigeria is still not recognised as a credible exploration destination, either in West Africa or across the continent. The country currently has only one large-scale operating mine, the Segilola Gold Mine in Osun State, with no significant discoveries or identified prospects advancing through the project development stages. This lack of a functional exploration ecosystem means Nigeria has not moved from untapped potential to proven deposits, and then to operational mines at any meaningful scale. The absence of a steady pipeline, from potential to prospects, to deposits to

developed mines, undermines the sector's ability to attract large-scale investments, particularly in downstream processing facilities. Processing plants depend on guaranteed, long-term supplies of raw materials, yet with no credible track record of exploration successes, investors face uncertainty about supply security. This raises questions about the feasibility and sustainability of new processing ventures in the country. In practical terms, Nigeria remains on the margins of West Africa's mining map, unable to compete with countries that have a strong exploration base and a clear progression of projects moving toward production. Without urgent intervention to build a credible exploration industry, the country's ambitions to become a mining hub will remain largely aspirational.

- **Absence of a Mining Finance Ecosystem:** Indigenous junior miners, who form the backbone of early-stage exploration globally, face significant barriers to financing because the country lacks a structured mining finance ecosystem. Unlike more developed mining jurisdictions, Nigeria has no functional capital market instruments tailored to the sector, and a critical enabler like the African Mining and Mineral Resources Exchange (AMREC) is still under development. This financing gap stalls the pipeline from prospecting to production, leaving no reliable raw material base to sustain future processing plants or attract downstream investment.

- **Dominance of Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (ASM) in Critical Minerals:** In Nigeria, the extraction of lithium and other critical minerals is dominated by artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) operations. This heavy reliance on artisanal mining indicates the absence of significant industrial-scale production and reflects a broader structural weakness in the country's mining sector. While ASM provides livelihoods for thousands of people, it is often characterised by rudimentary methods, low recovery rates, unsafe working conditions, and minimal environmental safeguards. These factors limit productivity, contribute to environmental degradation, and make it difficult to ensure that mining activities meet global best practice standards.

- **Fragmented Policy and Institutional Framework:** Mining, trade, industrial, and infrastructure policies operate in silos, with minimal coordination between ministries, regulators, research institutions, and the private sector. This fragmentation undermines Nigeria's ability to link mining to broader industrialisation and economic diversification goals.

- **Weak Governance, Regulatory, and Oversight Frameworks:** Nigeria's extractive sector governance has historically been undermined by fragmented institutions, overlapping mandates, and limited coordination between federal, state, and local authorities. In the fossil fuel industry, these weaknesses allowed rent-seeking, corruption, and policy inconsistency to flourish, often resulting in mismanagement of revenues and environmental neglect. Without deliberate reforms, the same systemic flaws could replicate themselves in the critical minerals sector. In practical terms, this means there is no fully empowered, independent oversight body with the capacity to monitor the entire mineral value chain, from licensing and exploration to production, processing, and revenue allocation. The absence of strong checks and balances increases the risk of unclear licensing decisions, preferential treatment for politically connected companies, and under-reporting of production volumes.

- **Slow Reform Pace and Risk of Missed Opportunities:** Nigeria's slow progress on critical mining sector reforms, spanning policy clarity, infrastructure development, institutional capacity, and investment readiness, threatens to sideline the country in the global race for critical minerals. With demand patterns shifting rapidly in the energy transition, delays could mean that by the time Nigeria resolves its internal challenges, peak demand for key minerals like lithium, cobalt, and rare earth elements may have passed or shifted to substitutes.

- **Environmental and Community Concerns:** Mining activities, if not well managed, can harm the environment and strain relations with host communities. Issues such as land degradation, water pollution, and limited local benefits often create tension. Addressing these challenges requires stronger community engagement, fair benefit-sharing arrangements, and environmental safeguards that are strictly enforced.

Recommendations

- **Develop a Policy Framework for Critical Minerals:** Current mining laws and policies were developed before awareness of the strategic importance of critical minerals. The government should classify Nigeria's critical minerals and embed this classification into law and policy. This would allow for targeted regulations, tailored Incentives, and focused investment strategies that align with global energy transition goals.

- **Adopt a Mixed Federal–State Governance Model:** Nigeria needs to rethink its mineral resource governance model to foster synergy between federal and state authorities. A framework that gives subnational governments a defined, constitutional role in mineral regulation, particularly regarding land access, environmental oversight, and community engagement, should be created. This could be achieved through legislative amendments, intergovernmental agreements, or a joint regulatory body. By aligning responsibilities, reducing regulatory duplication, and fostering cooperation, the system would provide greater clarity for investors, ensure state concerns are addressed, and improve overall governance of the sector.
- **Enhancing Transparency and Accountability:** Ensuring responsible resource management in Nigeria's critical minerals sector should involve communities, civil society organisations, and the media having access to information that enables them to independently monitor mining operations and revenue flows. Transparency should be made mandatory across the value chain, with public disclosure of all payments, contracts, and licenses. Publishing agreements and making revenue flow data openly accessible will help prevent corruption, curb rent-seeking, and avoid the governance failures witnessed in the fossil fuel sector, ensuring that mineral wealth translates into tangible benefits for citizens.
- **Transparent Public Access and Monitoring of Community Development Agreements:** To ensure mining companies uphold their commitments, it is essential to establish mandatory, ongoing public monitoring and transparent reporting of Community Development Agreements (CDAs) and Community Benefit Agreements (CBAs). These agreements should be published in accessible formats and local languages to guarantee that all community members, regardless of literacy or language barriers, can understand the terms and benefits negotiated on their behalf. Public access to this information empowers communities to hold companies accountable, verify the fulfillment of promises, and foster trust and transparency between stakeholders.

- **Inclusive Pre-Negotiation Engagement and Legal Recognition of Vulnerable Groups in CDAs:** Inclusion of vulnerable groups and women should begin early in the process, particularly during the environmental and socioeconomic impact assessments that inform Community Development Agreements (CDAs). Their perspectives must be integrated into the foundational knowledge used for negotiating CDAs to ensure their specific needs are identified and adequately addressed. Also, formal legal recognition of these groups within mining laws or CDA regulations is crucial. This mandates that CDAs explicitly consider and meet the needs of vulnerable communities, providing them with enforceable rights and mechanisms for recourse if commitments are not honored. This approach strengthens accountability and ensures that CDAs are truly inclusive and beneficial for all affected groups.
- **Independent Mining Regulation and Institutional Capacity Strengthening:** Promotional and regulatory functions should be separated through the establishment of an Independent Mining Regulatory Commission, modeled after bodies like the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) and the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC). This commission should possess the autonomy, technical expertise, and adequate staffing to enforce mining laws, curb illegal operations, and foster investor confidence. In parallel, both national and subnational institutions must be equipped to monitor revenue generation, collection, and allocation effectively. Strengthening institutional capacity across the Ministry of Solid Minerals Development, the National Assembly, and relevant agencies will be critical to ensuring that mineral revenues are transparently managed and channelled toward public goods and national development priorities.
- **Unlock New Exploration Frontiers:** Nigeria's vast mineral potential remains largely untapped due to limited exploration efforts and outdated geological data. By investing in modern exploration technologies and funding comprehensive surveys, the country can uncover new mineral belts and attract credible investors. Establishing a national exploration fund and incentivising geological surveys through public-private partnerships will open opportunities for discovering high-value deposits in underexplored regions.
- **Diversify Nigeria's Critical Minerals Strategy to Manage Market Risks:** Nigeria's current focus on lithium, driven by its role in battery production, poses significant risks due to lithium's single-use application and potential market shifts from emerging battery technologies. To avoid vulnerability to price fluctuations and demand declines, Nigeria should adopt a diversified approach that includes minerals like copper, which have broader industrial uses and more stable long-term demand. This strategy will help hedge against market uncertainties and secure more reliable revenue streams.

- **Fostering Collaborative Economic Clusters:** Fostering collaborative economic clusters in Nigeria's mineral processing sector involves bringing together government, private companies, and academia/research institutions to work in a coordinated and innovative "triple helix" partnership. This approach pools expertise and resources to overcome regulatory, infrastructure, and skills challenges, promotes policy coherence, and accelerates reforms. By fostering collaboration and shared goals, the cluster can drive investment, innovation, and capacity building, positioning Nigeria to move beyond raw mineral extraction toward value-added processing within the global critical minerals supply chain.
- **Strategic Port-Linked Processing Hubs for Regional Mineral Beneficiation:** Nigeria can fast-track its role in the critical minerals value chain by siting processing facilities near deep-sea ports connected to railway networks, enabling the immediate import of raw minerals from African countries with active mining sectors and the export of processed products to global markets. Integrating these hubs into Special Economic Zones (SEZs) would provide tax incentives, streamlined regulations, and lower logistics costs, attracting investment while ensuring facilities remain viable as domestic mining capacity develops. This approach allows Nigeria to operate as a regional beneficiation centre now, while building the infrastructure to process its minerals in the future.

Conclusion

Nigeria has a unique opportunity in shaping its critical minerals future. The webinar discussions made it clear that while the country possesses significant mineral wealth, its ability to translate these resources into sustainable development will depend on timely reforms, transparent governance, and inclusive participation. Without urgent action, Nigeria risks repeating the mistakes of the fossil fuel era, where revenues enriched a few but left lasting environmental and social costs.

The way forward lies in building a clear policy and legal framework that recognises critical minerals as strategic assets, aligning federal and state roles, and strengthening institutions to enforce accountability. Equally important is ensuring that communities, especially vulnerable groups, are active partners in decision-making and benefit-sharing, rather than passive recipients. Investing in exploration, diversifying mineral priorities beyond lithium, and fostering regional processing hubs will be crucial to positioning the country in global value chains.

The central message of the webinar is that critical minerals must be treated not just as commodities for export, but as a foundation for industrialisation, innovation, and inclusive growth. If Nigeria seizes this opportunity with urgency, coordination, and vision, it can become a continental leader in the green transition, turning its mineral wealth into long-term social and economic resilience for its people.

Appendix

i. Webinar Statistics

Metric	Figure
Participants	73
Total Engagement Time (Minutes)	6,169
Average Duration (Minutes)	85
Median Duration (Minutes)	92