

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY WEEK 2023

BUILDING RESILIENT ENERGY SYSTEMS

11-15 SEPTEMBER 2023 | PALAIS DES NATIONS | GENEVA



Agenda Item 2 – [32nd Session of the Committee of Sustainable Energy](#)

Securing access to critical raw materials in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region: challenges and opportunities.



13 September 2023
15h00 - 18h00 CEST (Geneva time)
Palais des Nations (TEMPUS)

About the Session

Objective: Address the issue of securing access to critical raw materials in the UNECE region for low-carbon transition, by discussing the challenges and opportunities, exploring policy alternatives, and focusing on Central Asia as a resource-rich region.

Context: The UNECE region is undergoing a major transformation towards a low-carbon and sustainable future, which requires a reliable and ethical supply of critical raw materials (CRMs). CRMs are essential for clean energy, the decarbonization of the mobility sector, and digital transformation. The supply and demand of CRMs are affected by various factors, such as geopolitical tensions, environmental impacts, market distortions, and technological changes. These factors pose significant challenges and risks for the resiliency and sustainability of the CRMs value chain.

To address these challenges and risks, the session will discuss the issue of access to CRMs in the UNECE region and will assess the current situation and prospects. It will also explore the policy alternatives that could enhance the resiliency and sustainability of the CRMs value chain, such as diversifying sources, promoting a circular economy, fostering innovation and cooperation, and strengthening governance and transparency.

The special focus of this session will be on Central Asia - a region rich in natural resources, including renewable energy and critical raw materials. Countries across the region need to act now to develop national frameworks compatible with European Union legislation. UNECE tools, such as the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) and the United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS), when nationally applied, can help the region unlock its potential and upscale green investments in CRMs.

The key objectives of the session are to:

- a. Raise awareness on the importance of CRMs for low-carbon transition in the UNECE region.
- b. Identify the main challenges and opportunities of securing access to CRMs.
- c. Explore policy alternatives to enhance the resiliency and sustainability of the CRMs value chain.
- d. Highlight the potential of Central Asia as a resource-rich region for green investments in CRMs.
- e. Promote the use of UNFC and UNRMS in Central Asia.

15h00 - 16h15: Panel 1: Critical Raw Materials: The Key to a Low-Carbon Future in the UNECE Region

The panel will discuss the importance of CRMs for low-carbon transition in the UNECE region and will assess the current situation and future prospects. It will also identify the main challenges and opportunities of securing access to CRMs in the UNECE region, such as geopolitical tensions, environmental impacts, market distortions, and technological changes. The panellists will share their insights and experiences from different perspectives, such as government, industry, academia, and civil society.

The Role of Critical Raw Materials in Achieving the Goals of the Paris Agreement in the UNECE Region

- **Moderator & Panellist: Karen Hanghøj**, Chair, Expert Group on Resource Management

Supporting just mineral transitions through responsible mining of critical energy transition minerals

- **Elisa Tonda**, Chief of the Resources and Markets Branch, UNEP

Market Dynamics and Technological Innovations of Critical Raw Materials – A Paradigm Shift Needed?

- **Christophe Xerri**, Senior Consultant

Current Critical Raw Materials Policies and Their Impacts

- **Alessandra Hool**, CEO, ESM Foundation

Enhancing the Resiliency and Sustainability of the Critical Raw Materials Value Chain

- **Tatiana Aguilar**, Mining and Metal Manager, World Economic Forum

16h15 - 17h30: Panel 2: Central Asia: A Resource-Rich Region for Green Investments in Critical Raw Materials

This panel will focus on Central Asia as a region rich in natural resources, including renewable energy and critical raw materials. It will explore the potential of Central Asia for green investments in CRMs and discuss the policy alternatives that could enhance the resiliency and sustainability of the CRM value chain in the region. It will also promote using ECE tools for resource management and classification in Central Asia, such as the UNFC and the UNRMS. The panellists will include representatives from Central Asian countries and experts from UNECE and other international organizations.

Moderator: Karen Hanghøj, Chair, Expert Group on Resource Management

The Potential of Central Asia for Green Investments in Critical Raw Materials: Opportunities and Challenges

- **Chokan Laumulin**, Vice-Chair, Committee on Sustainable Energy

How to Diversify the Sources and Markets of Critical Raw Materials in Uzbekistan

- **Azimjon Kholikov**, Director, Institute of Mineral Resources, State Committee of Uzbekistan on Geology and Mineral Resources

How to Promote a Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency for Critical Raw Materials in Tajikistan

- **Rahmonbek Bakhtdavatov**, Chairman, State Commission of the Republic of Tajikistan on Mineral Reserves

How to Foster Innovation and Cooperation for Critical Raw Materials Development and Utilization in Kyrgyzstan

- **Arkady Rogalsky**, Counselor, State Enterprise Kyrgyzgeology, Department of Geology and Subsoil Use, Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Safety, Kyrgyzstan

Adopting UNFC and UNRMS in Kazakhstan and Central Asia: International Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Resource Management

- **Maratbek Gabdullin**, Rector, Kazakh-British Technical University
- **Victor Babashev**, Vice-Chair, Expert Group on Resource Management

17h30 - 18h00: Discussion & Next Steps

Interventions by member states and a wider multi-stakeholder community

Based on the discussion and documents: ECE/ENERGY/2023/13 and CSE.32/2023/INF.3.