

NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS

Advancing Equity, Accountability, and Value Addition in Extractive Governance

Target Audience: National Governments



01 / CONTEXT

BACKGROUND

The High-Level West Africa Conference on Equity in Extraction (HL-WACEE) underscored that persistent inequalities in natural resource governance across West Africa continue to undermine development outcomes, deepen poverty, weaken environmental protection, and erode community trust. Despite growing global demand for critical minerals such as lithium, cobalt, manganese, and nickel, participating countries remain locked in extractive models characterized by low domestic value retention, weak accountability, and limited community benefit-sharing. Without deliberate reforms, the energy transition risks reproducing historical patterns of exclusion rather than delivering shared prosperity.

The conference called on national governments to adopt rights-based, climate-responsive, and equity-centered extractive governance frameworks that strengthen state oversight, guarantee community participation, and ensure mineral wealth contributes meaningfully to national development. The Conference emphasized the need for national mineral strategies that integrate climate mitigation and adaptation, establish clear domestic value addition targets, formalize artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM), and adopt transparent fiscal regimes that promote equitable revenue sharing.

POLICY FOCUS

This policy brief presents priority actions for national governments, drawn directly from conference outcomes and the resulting communiqué, to advance equitable mineral governance and align extractive development with inclusive growth and climate justice objectives.

Promote domestic value addition and industrial development.

02 / EVIDENCE

Key Findings

The conference highlighted that:

- 01** Transparency initiatives without enforceable accountability mechanisms have failed to deliver equitable outcomes.
- 02** Community Development Agreements often lack legal enforceability and public disclosure.
- 03** Fiscal volatility and extractive revenue mismanagement undermine development planning.
- 04** Climate change intensifies livelihood risks in extractive regions.
- 05** ASM remains informal, unsafe, and excluded from formal value chains.
- 06** Weak industrial policy frameworks limit employment creation and technology transfer.

03 / ACTION

Policy Recommendations

National governments are urged to:

- 01** Strengthen resource sovereignty within inclusive and rights-based investment frameworks.
- 02** Promote domestic value addition and industrial development.
- 03** Enhance transparency, accountability, and public participation.
- 04** Protect community rights and livelihoods in mining communities.
- 05** Align extractive governance with climate justice and resilience goals.
- 06** Formalize artisanal small-scale mining and incorporate it into mineral value chains

Conclusion

The conference reaffirmed that how West Africa governs its mineral resources will shape national development trajectories and the region's contribution to a just global energy transition. Governments are urged to incorporate equity, accountability, climate justice, and inclusive development at the core of extractive governance systems.