

# U.S.-KENYA CRITICAL SUPPLY CHAINS CONFERENCE

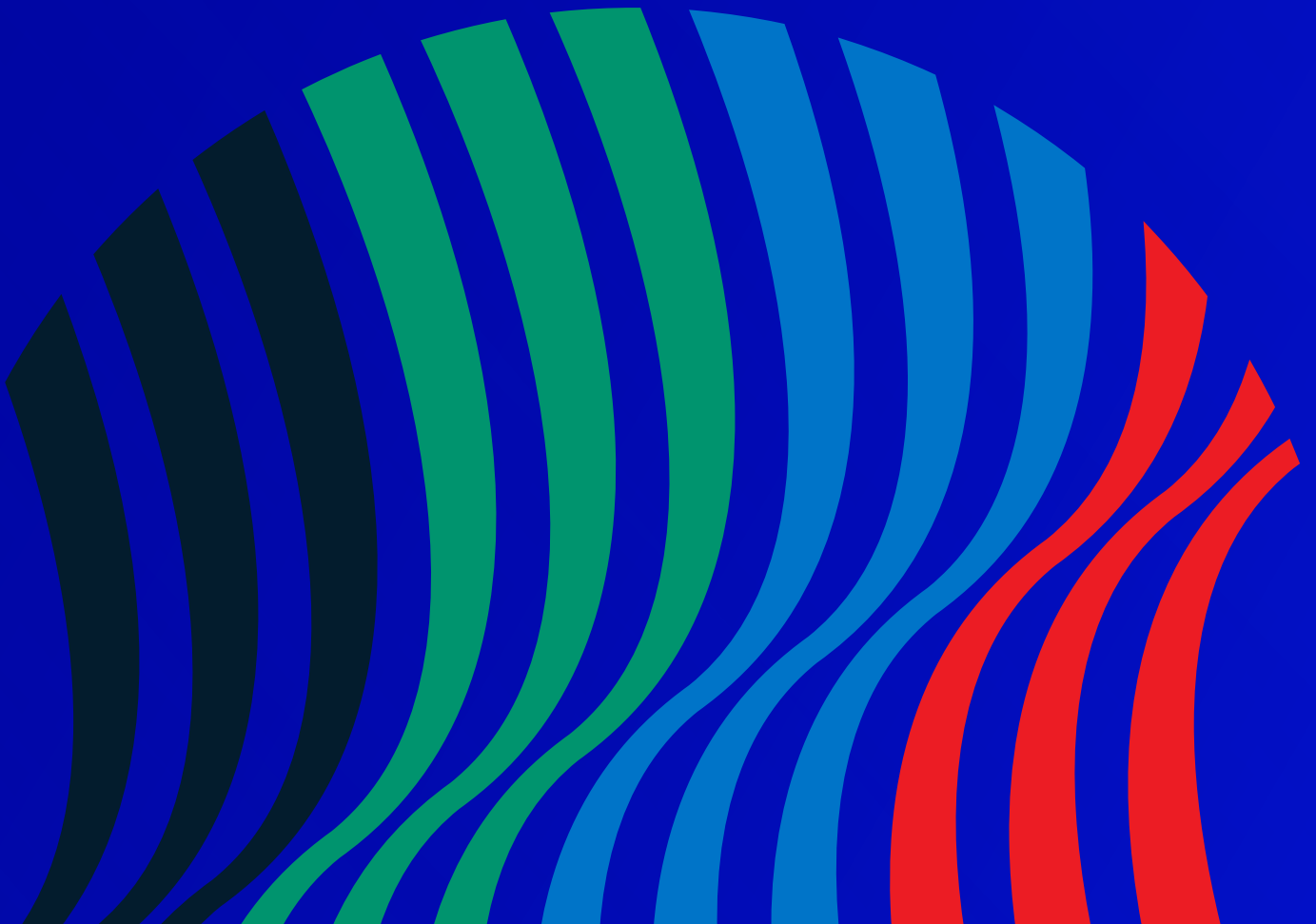


JANUARY 30, 2026



RADISSON, UPPER HILL

## REPORT AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS



# U.S.- KENYA CRITICAL SUPPLY CHAINS CONFERENCE

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# INTRODUCTION

## A DEFINING MOMENT FOR U.S.-KENYA RELATIONS

The U.S.–Kenya Critical Supply Chains Conference took place on January 30, 2026, at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Nairobi. Organized by the U.S. Embassy in Kenya in partnership with the American Chamber of Commerce Kenya (AmCham Kenya), the event brought together senior government and business leaders from both nations to explore opportunities to deepen economic cooperation in critical minerals and critical supply chains.

**The conference served as a strategic platform for the United States to explore opportunities for collaboration with Kenya and the broader East African region** in critical minerals and critical supply chains. Discussions emphasized a partnership-based approach, focused on shared value creation, resilient supply chains, and alignment with global standards. Kenya's role was positioned within this broader U.S.–Kenya partnership, highlighting mutual interests in investment, value addition, sustainability, and regional supply chain integration.

**Key speakers included: Christopher Landau, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State**, H.E. Ali Hassan Joho, Cabinet Secretary for Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs, Susan Burns, Chargé d'Affaires U.S. Embassy in Kenya, William Schirano, Deputy Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy, Josh Kroon, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Textiles, Consumer Goods, Materials, Critical Minerals & Metals, AmCham Board President Angela Ng'ang'a, and AmCham CEO Maxwell Okello. Deliberations at the conference centered on three core themes: strengthening infrastructure linkages in the mining sector, accelerating policy and regulatory reforms to boost investor confidence, and building a strong talent pipeline through human capital development.

**Kenya's untapped deposits of rare earths, niobium, iron ore, and phosphates were highlighted** as potential gamechangers if harnessed responsibly. Kenyan leaders emphasized the strategic importance of beneficiation and local value addition, arguing that without it, the country risks falling victim to the "resource curse" that has befallen several mineral- and petroleum-producing countries on the continent. Energy expansion plans, increasing installed capacity from the current 3,192 MW to 10,000 MW by 2030, with nearly a third dedicated to mining, were highlighted as critical to supporting the mining sector's development.

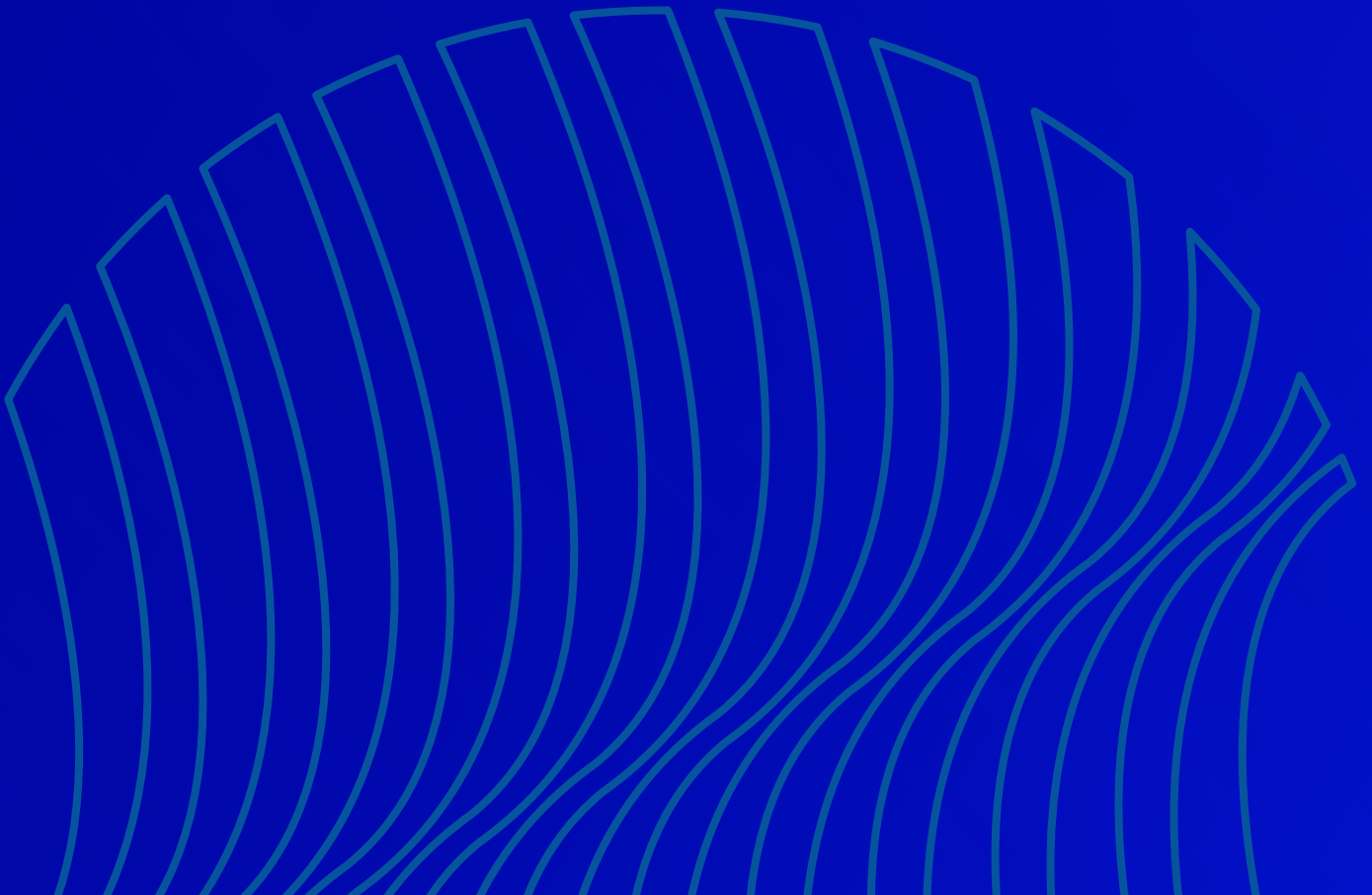
**On the U.S. side, officials stressed the need for investment models grounded in transparency**, the rule of law, and community benefit sharing. They emphasized that future partnerships would be designed to deliver mutual gains and shared prosperity, marking a deliberate break from the extractive models that have long limited Africa's ability to derive greater value from its abundant mineral reserves. U.S. private investors were urged to move into Kenya's mining sector, leveraging assistance from agencies such as the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), the US Export-Import Bank (US EXIM), U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA), and the Department of Energy (DOE) funding to de-risk projects.

**The conference marked a significant milestone in U.S.-Kenya relations**, fostering optimism for a "golden age" of bilateral cooperation, responsible resource development, job creation, industrial growth, and shared prosperity, while positioning Kenya to capitalize on growing global demand for diversified critical minerals.

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# OPENING REMARKS



## OPENING REMARKS

### A TIMELY CONVENING

In his welcome address, AmCham CEO Maxwell Okello emphasized the urgency of reimagining global supply chains amid geopolitical shifts, technological change, and the energy transition. He highlighted that securing reliable supplies of critical minerals has become a strategic imperative, warning of the risks of overdependence on single suppliers that dominate the production and refining of key minerals.

Maxwell noted that the U.S. relies entirely on foreign sources for 12 of 50 critical minerals and is at least 50% reliant on imports for 29 others. Maxwell stressed that resilient supply chains are essential not only for jobs and industrial competitiveness but also for economic stability amid global shocks, citing recent disruptions that have imposed costs on businesses, governments, and families. He outlined the conference's three main goals: addressing infrastructure challenges in Kenya's mining sector, examining necessary policy and regulatory reforms to boost investor confidence, and strengthening the sector's talent pipeline. He urged participants to engage candidly, identify bottlenecks, and propose investable projects with appropriate structures.



In her opening remarks, AmCham Board President Angela Ng'ang'a highlighted the importance of the diverse, high-level participation from government officials, business leaders, academia, and industry experts from both countries.

She noted that Kenya's substantial but largely underdeveloped mineral wealth, combined with recent discoveries of rare earth elements and global demand for diversified critical mineral sources, presents a timely opportunity for the country to position itself as a strategic player in global supply chains.



However, she emphasized that realizing this potential requires deliberate action: strengthening regulatory frameworks, investing in geological mapping and infrastructure, building local capacity, and ensuring mining benefits local communities through inclusive stakeholder engagement from the outset.

Angela highlighted Kenya's advantages, including its stable political environment, growing technical expertise, and strategic location as a regional transport hub with access to major shipping routes through the Port of Mombasa. She outlined the conference's three central themes: developing a "mines-to-market" strategy through public-private partnerships to accelerate infrastructure investment; creating clear investment pathways with regulatory certainty for serious investors; and enhancing skills and innovation by training more engineers, geologists, and specialists to build the human capital needed for a competitive mining sector. She stressed that Kenya must learn from continental successes and failures to build a sector grounded in transparency and community benefit.

## **KENYA'S VISION FOR THE MINING SECTOR**

In his keynote address, Cabinet Secretary for Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs, Ali Hassan Joho, outlined the Government of Kenya's vision to transform the mining sector from its current 1% contribution to GDP into a major economic driver. He emphasized that the government has strengthened its policy and regulatory framework, particularly around community participation and benefit-sharing, with a focus expanded beyond job creation to include wealth creation and economic growth. Joho stressed that the objective is to deliver clear win-win outcomes for investors, communities, and the nation.

Joho identified beneficiation, local processing, rather than raw material exports, as the cornerstone of Kenya's minerals strategy. He highlighted the government's commitment to expand national power generation capacity from just over 3,000 MW to 10,000 MW by 2030, with 30% dedicated to supporting mining operations. He also highlighted major infrastructure investments, including the Standard Gauge Railway expansion, the revitalization of the Meter Gauge Railway revitalization, and port enhancements, positioning Kenya as a regional logistics hub serving over 200 million people across Central and Eastern Africa. Beyond critical minerals, he emphasized accelerating the development of resources such as iron ore and phosphate to transform Kenya from an importer to a net exporter.



**Ali Hassan Joho**  
CS, Mining, blue Economy & Maritime Affairs

Joho identified the U.S. as a preferred partner, citing shared values of accountability and transparency, and encouraged American companies to explore investment opportunities in Kenya's mining sector. He acknowledged that Kenya has historically underperformed in developing its mineral resources but emphasized that the country has learned from regional and global experiences. With improved policies, institutional readiness, and infrastructure now in place, Joho delivered a clear call to action: "Kenya is open, ready, and eager to engage," reaffirming the government's commitment to continuous improvement and alignment with global standards.

## BILATERAL PARTNERSHIP BUILT ON SHARED VALUES

In his remarks, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State, Christopher Landau outlined America's foreign policy approach centered on security and prosperity while recognizing that every nation has a legitimate responsibility to prioritize its people. He emphasized that successful international partnerships are built on transparency, mutual benefit, and fairness, allowing leaders to clearly demonstrate value to their citizens through candid, practical discussions on economic diplomacy and commercial engagement.

Landau underscored the critical importance of beneficiation and local value addition in mining, noting that investments require direct benefits for local communities. Drawing on his diplomatic experience in countries with established extractive sectors, he observed that failure to share benefits equitably invariably leads to social tension, investor uncertainty, and long-term instability. He commended Kenya's democratic framework and shared legal traditions with the United States, emphasizing that the rule of law underpins investor confidence, accountability, and long-term growth.

Addressing supply chains, Landau noted that the COVID-19 pandemic exposed vulnerabilities that have reshaped global economic strategies, making reliable, diversified critical-mineral supply chains a strategic priority for both nations. He affirmed that Kenya's interests in infrastructure development, job creation, and value chain retention align closely with U.S. investment objectives.

Expressing strong optimism about bilateral economic cooperation, he described the conference as a significant milestone for regional mining and declared, "This is a wonderful starting point. It is exciting because it is very clear that we are at the very door of a real golden age that will see both our countries benefit massively."

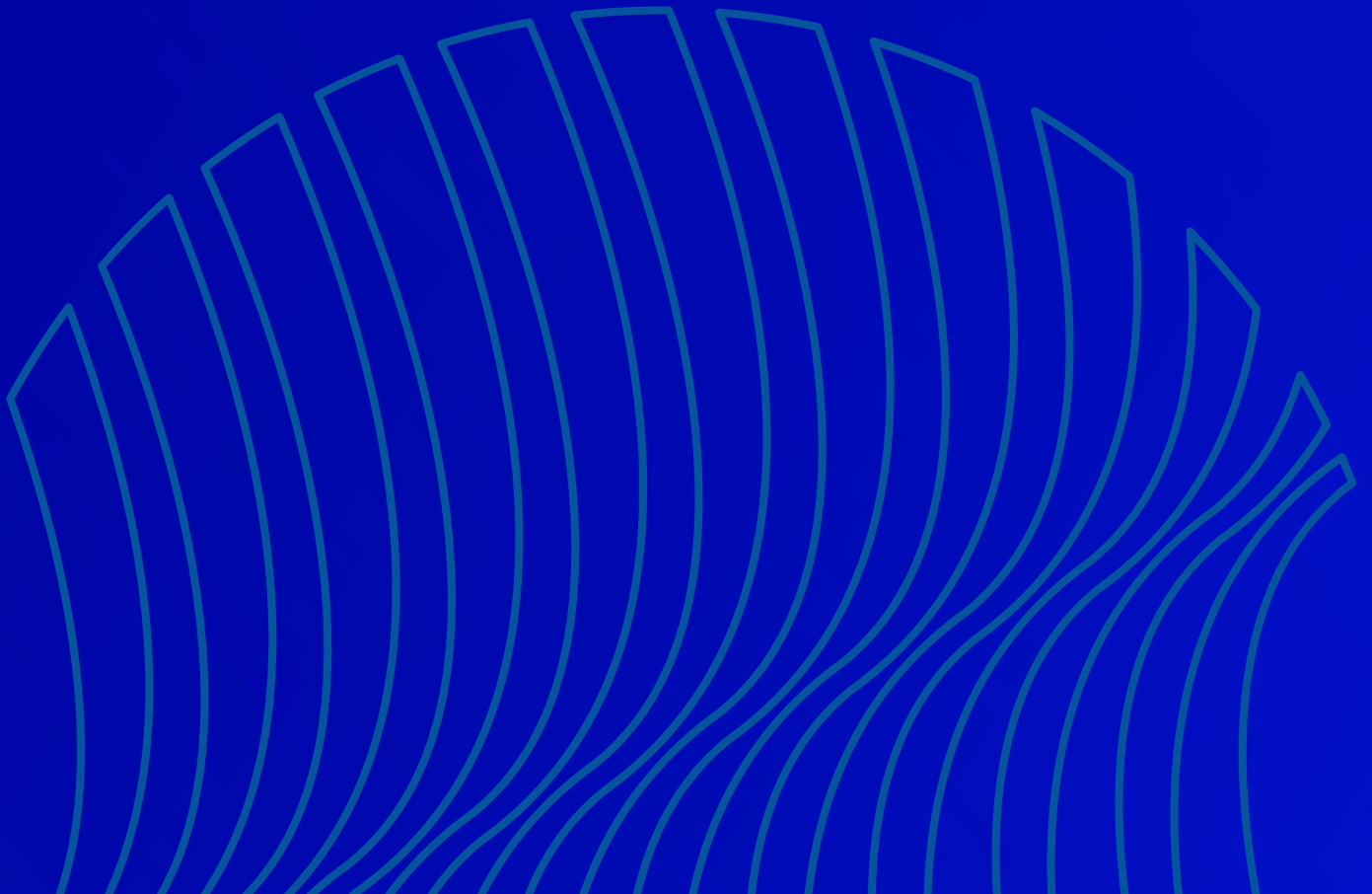


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SESSION I  
PANEL DISCUSSION

INFRASTRUCTURE LINKAGES -  
FROM MINES TO MARKET



## SESSION I: PANEL DISCUSSION

# INFRASTRUCTURE LINKAGES - FROM MINES TO MARKET

EXPLORING THE INFRASTRUCTURE ENABLERS THAT CONNECT EXTRACTION TO PROCESSING AND EXPORT MARKETS.

Moderated by Rob Henning, Technical Director for Economic Growth at Palladium, the opening panel brought together voices from government, finance, and industry to examine how transport, energy, water, and financing structures must converge to unlock Kenya's mineral potential.

Henning opened the discussion by emphasizing that infrastructure is the backbone of viable mineral value chains. He stressed that without reliable transport and logistics networks, adequate power and water supply, and well-structured public-private investment models, mineral projects would struggle to move from exploration to production and export.



**Isaac Otolo**

Partner, Deals: Infrastructure, Corporate Finance & M&A Advisory, PwC



**Muthoni Koinange**

Programs Director, Afri Fund Capital



**William Schirano**

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Multilateral Engagement and Market Development, U.S. Department of Energy



**Richard Mavisi**

Secretary Geo-exploration, Kenya State Department for Energy



**Rob Henning**

Technical Director for Economic Growth, Palladium

**MODERATOR**



Infrastructure is the backbone of viable mineral value chains.

**Rob Henning**

Technical Director for Economic Growth, Palladium

## STRENGTHENING THE NORTHERN CORRIDOR

Isaac Otolu, Partner, Deals: Infrastructure, Corporate Finance, and M&A Advisory at PwC, underscored the central role of the Northern Corridor in connecting Kenya and its landlocked neighbors to Indian Ocean trade routes. The corridor is a critical trade and logistics artery linking the Great Lakes countries (Burundi, DR Congo, Rwanda, South Sudan, and Uganda) to the Port of Mombasa in Kenya and encompasses road, rail, pipeline, and inland waterways. He highlighted the importance of diversified infrastructure – as in the Northern Corridor – in easing logistics pressures. “The benefit of the infrastructure we have in this part of the world is that you have a pipeline that can move hydrocarbons all the way west, and that takes a lot of pressure off the coast. The railway moves a lot of bulk cargo, and it’s expanding across the region.”

However, he noted that capacity constraints remain and that these place significant pressure on the system, especially in a region where economies are growing at some of the fastest rates globally. He welcomed recent public investments in infrastructure, noting nonetheless that much more was needed to close the gaps. “It’s good to see developments on both the Kenyan and Ugandan sides to upgrade road infrastructure, including higher-grade highways and plans to extend them further.”

Otolu highlighted weak cargo return flows through the Port of Mombasa. “While you are getting about five million tonnes of exports through Mombasa, what’s coming back from Uganda is probably just about one million tonnes, and from other countries it is not much more. As a result, there is a lot of spare capacity on the return leg, which can be used to move goods from the west.” This, he explained, directly affects transport pricing and business competitiveness. “In many cases, transporters have already made their money moving imports inland. There is very little coming back. Consequently, the cost of moving minerals from the west can be relatively low, because the barrier is also very low.”

Muthoni Koinange, Programs Director, Afri Fund Capital, underscored the role of blended finance and innovative funding mechanisms in closing infrastructure gaps. She noted that patient capital and development finance can play a catalytic role in crowding in private investment, particularly in high-capex infrastructure projects.



## MAKING THE CASE FOR THE LAMU PORT PROJECT

Muthoni's contribution focused primarily on Kenya, with reference to development corridors linked to the Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSET) Corridor. LAPSSET is a massive regional flagship project aimed at linking Kenya, Ethiopia, and South Sudan. It is envisioned as a major infrastructure corridor boosting trade through a new port, railways, roads, and pipelines, designed to connect more than 160 million people.

Muthoni noted that LAPSSET is a massive opportunity given the capacity constraints at the Port of Mombasa. However, more investments are needed to make the corridor effective. "Three things make a corridor effective: the right mix of energy, water, and security."

Muthoni emphasized that transport corridors should be redefined as economic integration corridors. Infrastructure such as railways should not function solely as extractive systems; rather, they must be supported by surrounding industries and economic activities that enable regional development. Building major economic centers or rail lines without integrated industrial growth limits their impact.

She identified job creation as another critical priority. "In Kenya, and across Africa more broadly, development initiatives must focus on creating employment opportunities that add value, support national growth, and address existing economic challenges."

## U.S. READY TO PARTNER ON ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE

William Schirano, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Multilateral Engagement and Market Development at the U.S. Department of Energy, emphasized the strategic importance of resilient and diversified supply chains. He expressed America's readiness to collaborate more deeply with Kenya in developing infrastructure that supports responsible mineral production and processing aligned with international standards.

He outlined the role of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the broader U.S. government in supporting the development of strategic energy infrastructure and securing critical supply chains. The department's core focus, he told participants, is energy technology development across the full lifecycle, research, integration, commercialization, and deployment. DOE funds early-stage research and development through its 17 national laboratories, which he described as a central strength of the U.S. innovation ecosystem.

Beyond research, DOE supports engineering design studies, pilot-scale projects, and large-scale demonstration deployments of advanced energy technologies. Schirano highlighted projects, including small modular nuclear reactors and advanced geothermal systems, that the U.S. was keen to support.

He noted that the DOE also plays a critical financing role through its Energy Infrastructure Financing programs, formerly known as the Loans Program Office. This office provides loans for major energy technologies and infrastructure, including large nuclear reactors, transmission lines, and critical minerals processing facilities. He explained that his office, the Office of International Affairs, leads the strategic implementation of DOE's international energy policy. Its mission is to advance U.S. energy security while supporting economic prosperity by addressing global energy challenges through science and technology.

"The office works to identify viable opportunities, assess what is needed for success, and collaborate with stakeholders to move complex, capital-intensive projects toward commercial and financial readiness. Delivering such projects requires close coordination, strong partnerships, and a team-based approach, particularly given the complexity of critical minerals supply chains."

Addressing the broader role of the U.S. government, Schirano highlighted the complementary tools and support provided by interagency partners. The U.S. Department of State leads diplomatic engagement and relationship-building with international partners, enabling cooperation on strategic issues such as artificial intelligence and critical minerals. The Department of Commerce supports U.S. companies seeking to do business domestically and internationally. The Export-Import Bank of the United States provides financing to support U.S. exports.

The U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) plays a growing role in de-risking overseas investments and providing debt and equity financing. The U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) supports early-stage feasibility and technical studies to assess the economic and technical viability of projects.

"While each agency has a distinct mandate, their efforts are complementary, forming a coordinated 'team of teams' that can support projects from concept through execution," he said.

## **DELIVERING COST-EFFECTIVE ENERGY**

Richard Mavisi, Secretary Geo-exploration at Kenya's State Department for Energy, provided a government perspective on ongoing and planned investments in transport, power, and water infrastructure. He reaffirmed the government's commitment to improving coordination across agencies and strengthening policy frameworks to support mineral sector development. "The government of Kenya is committed to reducing production costs, particularly those related to energy, transport, and logistics, in order to enhance the competitiveness of Kenya's critical minerals sector."

He emphasized that energy costs are a central determinant of the competitiveness of mineral extraction and processing. "Recognizing this, the Government of Kenya has prioritized reducing the cost of power while improving reliability through investment in grid strengthening and diversification of the national energy mix."

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Kenya's current installed generation capacity stands at slightly over 3,000 megawatts, which Mavisi argued is insufficient to support large-scale growth in energy-intensive sectors such as minerals extraction and processing. To address the energy deficit, the government has committed to expanding generation capacity to approximately 10,000 megawatts over the next seven years, a goal repeatedly articulated at the Presidential level. Planned investments span a range of energy sources, including geothermal, nuclear power and other renewable options such as hydropower and energy storage.

Nuclear power is being developed as a strategic addition to enhance energy security and diversify the energy mix, with national institutions already preparing for the country's first nuclear power plant. Mavisi underscored the importance of strengthening transmission and distribution infrastructure to ensure mining sites and downstream processing facilities have access to reliable, affordable power. He cited past instances in which minerals had to be exported in raw form because insufficient power made local processing unviable, resulting in lost opportunities for value addition, domestic industrial development, and job creation.

He also highlighted the need to ensure an adequate, reliable energy supply along strategic corridors, including electrifying railways, to improve connectivity, logistics efficiency, and overall supply chain performance.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ① Panelists agreed that efficient transport corridors are essential for moving minerals from mine sites to processing centers and ports. The discussion underscored the need to integrate road, rail, and port infrastructure planning with mineral development strategies.

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- ① It was noted that fragmented infrastructure development increases costs and undermines competitiveness, while coordinated corridor-based planning can significantly improve export growth.

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- ① The panel emphasized that access to reliable, affordable power and a sufficient water supply remains a binding constraint for mineral development. Speakers noted that mining and mineral processing are energy-intensive and require long-term supply certainty.

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- ① Opportunities were identified in leveraging renewable energy solutions, hybrid power systems, and shared infrastructure models to support both mining operations and surrounding communities.

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- ① The U.S. DOE affirmed its commitment to supporting the development of strategic energy infrastructure and securing critical supply chains through projects that advance the interests of both the U.S. and Kenya.

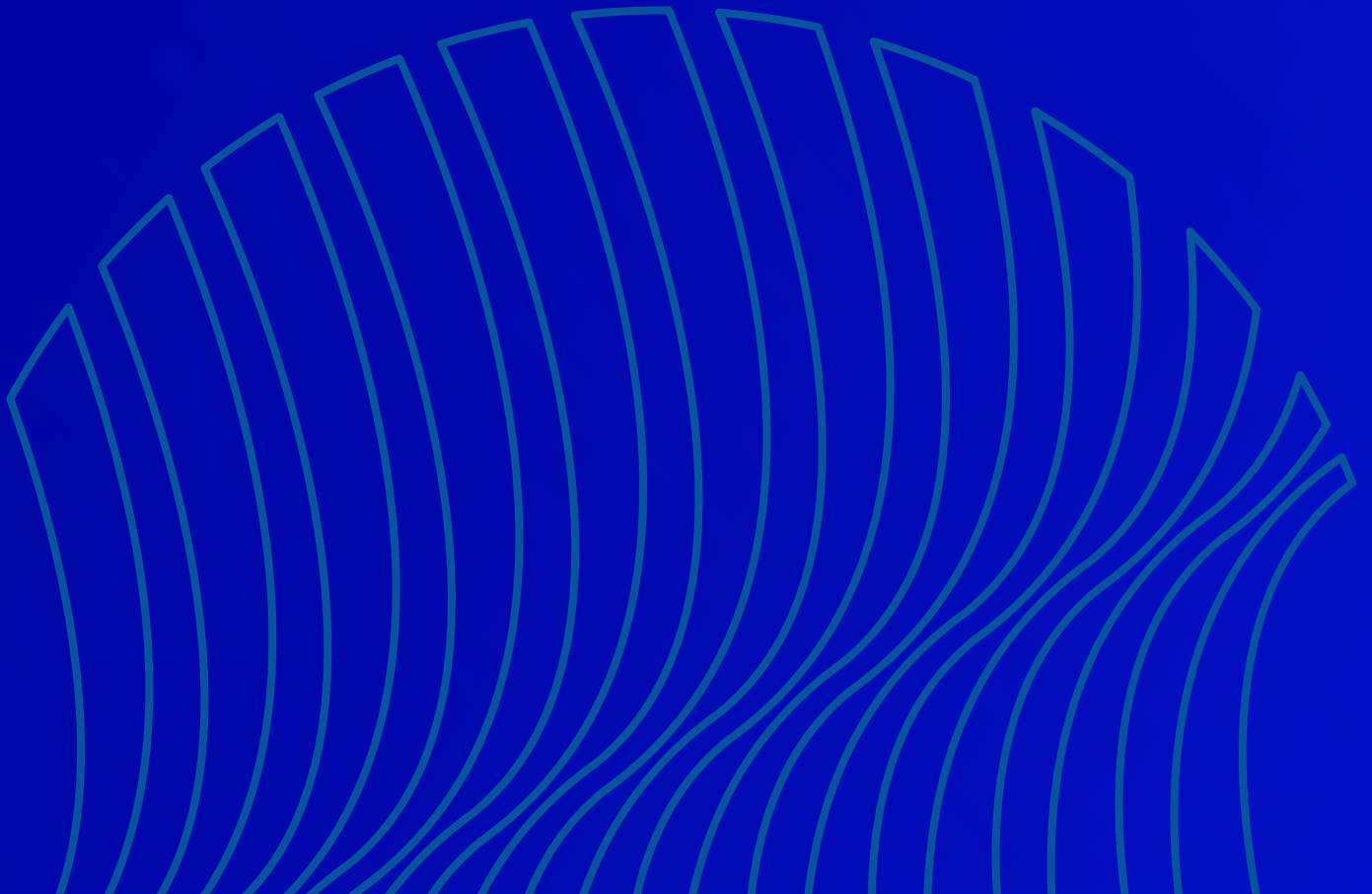
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SESSION II  
PANEL DISCUSSION

INVESTING IN KENYA'S MINING FUTURE



## SESSION II: PANEL DISCUSSION

# INVESTING IN KENYA'S MINING FUTURE

### A DEEP DIVE INTO THE INVESTMENT CLIMATE, INCENTIVES, AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS DRIVING KENYA'S INDUSTRIAL AND MINING VALUE CHAINS

The panel examined Kenya's readiness to attract investment in critical and strategic minerals, with a strong emphasis on policy certainty, community inclusion, and U.S.–Kenya cooperation. Panelists and participants explored how Kenya can position itself competitively within global mineral supply chains while ensuring transparent mining practices. Monica Gichuhi, Minerals Governance Consultant, Quadz Consulting, moderated the panel. She set the tone by emphasizing the complexity of critical mineral supply chains, noting that they are not linear but "involve many components sourced from different countries." She highlighted investor trust, supply chain resilience, and risk management as central to the conversation, urging panelists to be candid about both opportunities and risks in Kenya's mining sector.



**John Mwendwa**  
CEO,  
Invest Kenya



**Harry Kimtai**  
Principal Secretary,  
State Department for Mining



**Josh Kroon**  
Deputy Assistant Secretary  
for Textiles, Consumer Goods,  
Critical Minerals & Metals



**Monica Gichuhi**  
Minerals Governance Consultant,  
Quadz Consulting  
**MODERATOR**



Global capital is increasingly selective, gravitating toward jurisdictions that offer policy certainty and a credible risk–reward balance.

**John Mwendwa**  
CEO, Invest Kenya

## PUTTING KENYA'S MINING SECTOR ON THE MAP

**John Mwendwa, CEO of Invest Kenya, noted that global capital is increasingly selective, gravitating toward jurisdictions that offer policy certainty and a credible risk–reward balance.**

“Investors around the world are looking at where they can have policy certainty, where the risk–reward balance can really work, so that the return on their vision can materialize,” he said. He pointed out that Africa is no longer peripheral to global capital flows: “Global capital today is competing for space on the continent. And if you are thinking of Africa, we want you to be thinking of Kenya.”

Mwendwa highlighted mining as a high-impact sector due to its scale, job-creation potential, and capacity to anchor industrial value chains. Drawing on historical examples of successful U.S. investment in Kenya, he observed that replicating such projects at scale could be transformative. Turning to the subject of de-risking mining projects, he welcomed efforts to reduce risks but challenged the notion of risk-free investments, arguing: “There is no risk-free investment. The real question is how you address the risk, because that is what defines a credible investment proposition.”

## LEGAL AND REGULATORY REFORMS UNDERWAY

**Harry Kimtai, Principal Secretary at the State Department for Mining, outlined Kenya’s legal and regulatory reforms,** emphasizing alignment with global demand for critical minerals, referred to domestically as “strategic minerals.” “We call them strategic minerals [instead of critical minerals] because it is to our advantage if we position them correctly at this time,” he stated.

He highlighted the Mining Act, 2016, as the backbone of Kenya’s mining governance, noting its end-to-end coverage from exploration to closure. Central to the framework is community engagement. “Mining does not happen in a vacuum. These minerals are found where communities live, and the law is very clear on how communities must be engaged from the onset,” he said.

PS Kimtai emphasized revenue-sharing mechanisms already codified in law, noting the country has passed regulations that clearly explain how revenue is shared between the national government, county governments, and the local community.

According to Section 183 of the Mining Act, 2026, mineral royalties in Kenya are shared in a 70:20:10 ratio. The National Government receives 70%, County Governments receive 20%, and local communities are entitled to 10%. These funds are collected by the Mining Ministry. However, delays in disbursements remain a challenge, raising concerns over policy implementation. Turning to incentives, the PS noted that Kenya provides fiscal relief to lower entry barriers for investors. “We provide exemptions on selected equipment because adding duties would make mining prohibitively expensive for investors.”

Looking ahead, he stressed the government’s push toward value addition: “We are saying: do not just extract and export. Investors must add value here because that means jobs, skills transfer, and industrial growth.”

## U.S. ENGAGEMENT GROUNDED IN PARTNERSHIP, NOT EXTRACTION

Josh Kroon, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Textiles, Consumer Goods, Materials, Critical Minerals & Metals, highlighted Kenya's geological potential and institutional strengths. "Kenya has been blessed with good geology. But equally important, Kenya has strong institutions and the rule of law," Kroon noted.

He emphasized that U.S. engagement is grounded in partnership rather than extraction. "When we say 'America First,' we do not mean America alone. We are looking for partners, and Kenya presents itself as a natural partner." On de-risking, he noted that U.S. investors prioritize transparency, regulatory clarity, and early identification of social and environmental risks.

He also highlighted advances in mining technology: "We are investing heavily in sensors and real-time monitoring technologies that make mining more efficient and far more environmentally friendly."



## COUNTERING CHINESE COMPETITION

Addressing questions on competition with China, Kroon stated: "We are not really concerned. We believe we are a better partner. We share values, and we focus on long-term, durable relationships." He contrasted U.S. and Chinese investment models: "Our goal is not to extract and leave, but to build foundational elements of an industrial base that lasts beyond a single project."

On regional integration, John Mwendwa observed that while collaboration is inevitable, competition for capital remains a reality. "Countries will initially take a national view as they accelerate development. Regional value chains will follow once countries have built readiness and capacity." He advised a phased approach, warning against overextension: "You cannot boil the ocean. Start with a few priorities, build momentum, and then scale."

## DEFINING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Audience interventions raised concerns about the definition of "local communities," land speculation, and the displacement of artisanal miners. PS Kimtai clarified that the law defines communities based on impact, not land speculation.

On artisanal miners, he emphasized coexistence: "The law provides for coexistence. You cannot simply drive away artisanal miners; they were there before. We must manage transitions responsibly." He noted that the government has taken a more active role in community capacity building, valuation processes, and dispute mitigation.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ① Kenya is positioning mining and strategic minerals as a pillar of industrialization.

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- ① Policy certainty is essential to attracting investment.

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- ① U.S.-Kenya collaboration is anchored in shared values, transparency, and long-term partnerships.

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- ① Value addition and local beneficiation are central to Kenya's mining future.

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- ① While challenges remain, Kenya's legal framework provides mechanisms to manage risk and protect communities.

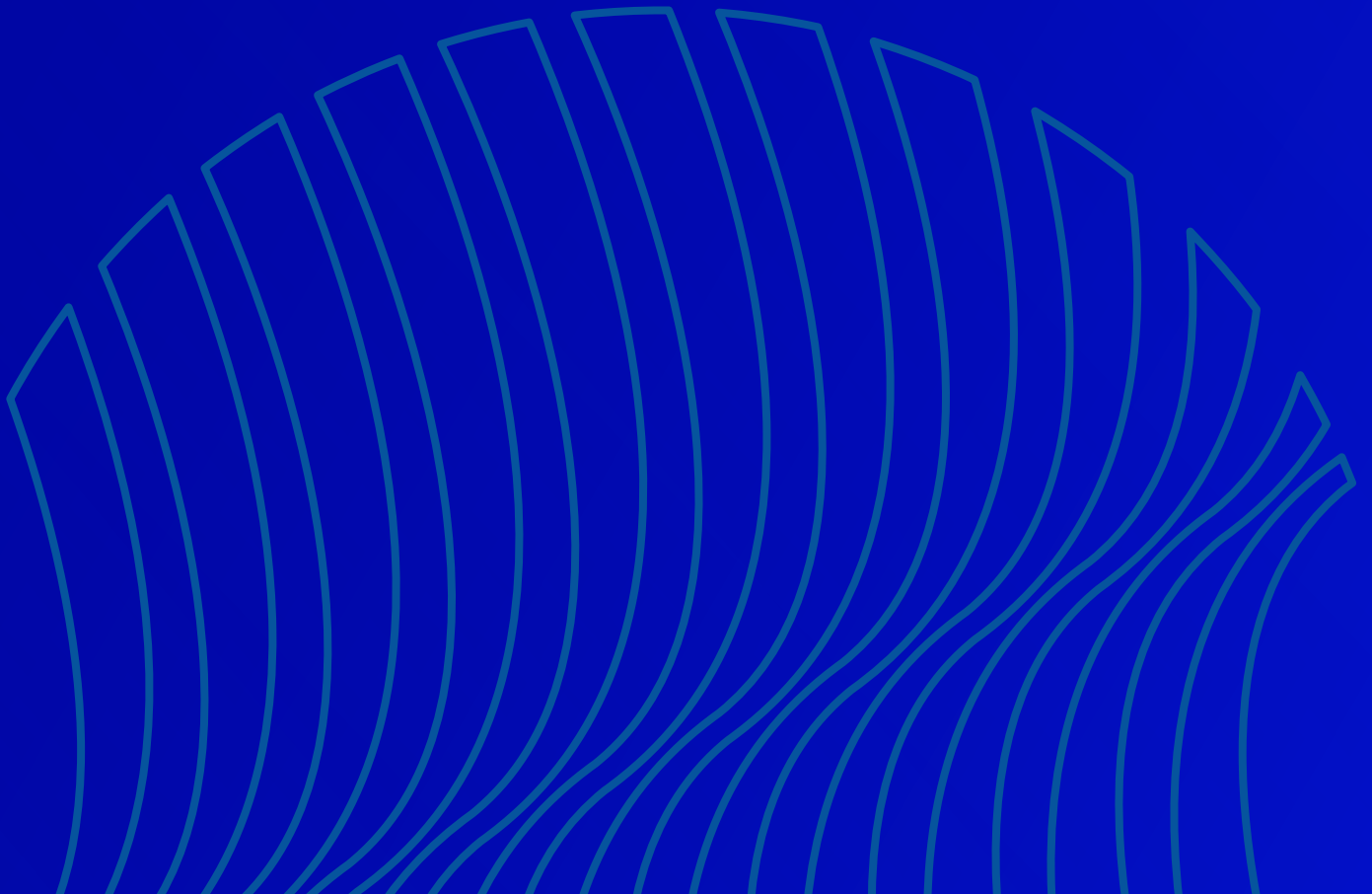
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SESSION III  
PANEL DISCUSSION

INDUSTRY-ACADEMIA COLLABORATION:  
BUILDING A SKILLED WORKFORCE FOR THE  
SUPPLY CHAIN ECONOMY



## SESSION III: PANEL DISCUSSION

# INDUSTRY-ACADEMIA COLLABORATION: BUILDING A SKILLED WORKFORCE FOR THE SUPPLY CHAIN ECONOMY

### EXPLORING OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION BETWEEN ACADEMIA, TECHNICAL INSTITUTIONS, AND INDUSTRY TO MEET FUTURE WORKFORCE DEMANDS IN MINING AND LOGISTICS.

The session examined the role of industry-academia collaboration in building a skilled workforce capable of supporting Kenya's growing mining, logistics, and supply chain economy. The discussion focused on research and innovation partnerships, skills development, and future workforce planning, with particular attention to long-term capacity building.



**Prof. Fred Simiyu**  
Vice Chancellor,  
Taita Taveta University



**Dr. Melba Wasunna**  
General Manager,  
External Relations,  
Base Titanium



**Michelle Mwambela**  
CEO,  
Association of Women in  
Energy & Extractives in Kenya  
(AWEIK).



**Dr.-Ing. Nashon Adero**  
Dean of the School of Mines  
and Engineering,  
Taita Taveta University

**MODERATOR**



Sustainable development cannot be achieved without deliberate investment in human capital.

**Dr.-Ing. Nashon Adero**  
Dean of the School of Mines and  
Engineering, Taita Taveta University

In his framing remarks, the moderator, Dr.-Ing. Nashon Adero, Dean of the School of Mines & Engineering at Taita Taveta University, emphasized that development cannot be achieved without deliberate investment in human capital.

We often focus on financial and natural capital, but we forget human capital. Yet it is human capital that sustains intergenerational growth and underpins the entire supply chain economy," he noted. He challenged both industry and academia to work more closely to ensure that curricula and training programs respond to real-world industry needs.

## RESEARCH BIGGEST DRIVER OF INNOVATION

Prof. Fred Simiyu, Vice Chancellor of Taita Taveta University, underscored the central role of research and innovation in driving competitiveness in the mining and supply chain sectors. "The biggest driver of innovation is research. Investors are interested in processes that are optimized, efficient, and capable of delivering the highest quality at the lowest cost, while maximizing returns," he stated.

Prof. Simiyu identified research funding gaps as a major constraint, noting that limited resources restrict universities' ability to scale innovation and translate research into industrial solutions. He emphasized the importance of commercializing patents and strengthening collaboration with industry to enable academic research to directly support production efficiency, value addition, and technological advancement.

Looking ahead, he revealed that Taita Taveta University is actively seeking partnerships to establish a 'University Mine'. "We have 1,000 acres of land rich in minerals. Our vision is to partner with an investor to develop a working mine that doubles as a training facility for students, and eventually becomes a long-term resource for future generations," he said.

## ALIGNING SKILLS WITH INDUSTRY REQUIREMENTS

Dr. Melba Wasunna, General Manager External Relations at Base Titanium, noted that Kenya faces challenges in aligning skills with industry requirements. "Kenya is not short of academia or mining experts. We have strong programs in our universities, but there is still a mismatch between the skills available and what industry needs, especially at management and technical levels," she observed.

Dr. Wasunna highlighted that while many graduates are eager to join the sector, certain specialized skills are still sourced internationally. "Everyone wants to be hired, but the expertise does not always match demand. Some highly specialized skills are simply not available locally yet," she explained. She called for stronger collaboration between industry and training institutions to address these gaps through targeted programs and practical exposure.

## **FUTURE WORKFORCE PLANNING**

Michelle Mwambela, CEO of the Association of Women in Energy and Extractives in Kenya (AWEIK), emphasized the importance of long-term workforce planning, urging stakeholders to anticipate industry needs 5–10 years ahead. "We need to map and project where the industry is going, what mines we are likely to have in the next decade, and then design training programs that will supply the required skills."

Mwambela advocated for increased investment in TVETs and technical institutions, noting that skills development should extend beyond universities. "We must invest in TVETs and non-technical skills as well, not just university education. Processing, value addition, manufacturing, and supply chains operate as an ecosystem," she explained.

She further encouraged negotiated skills-transfer agreements with mining companies to ensure communities retain benefits even after operations wind down. "Skill transfer should go beyond the life of the company. Communities must be left with capacity, not dependency," she added. Regarding workforce retention, she emphasized the importance of a conducive work environment. "Creating a safe and supportive environment is critical, not just for women, but for men as well if we want long-term retention in the mining sector," she noted.

## **KEY TAKEAWAYS**

- ⌋ Strengthening industry–academia linkages to align curricula with real-world needs.

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- ⌋ Closing research funding gaps and commercializing innovation.

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- ⌋ Investing in TVETs and practical skills development alongside university education.

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- ⌋ Ensuring mining development delivers lasting benefits to local communities.

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- ⌋ Promoting agile workforce policies.

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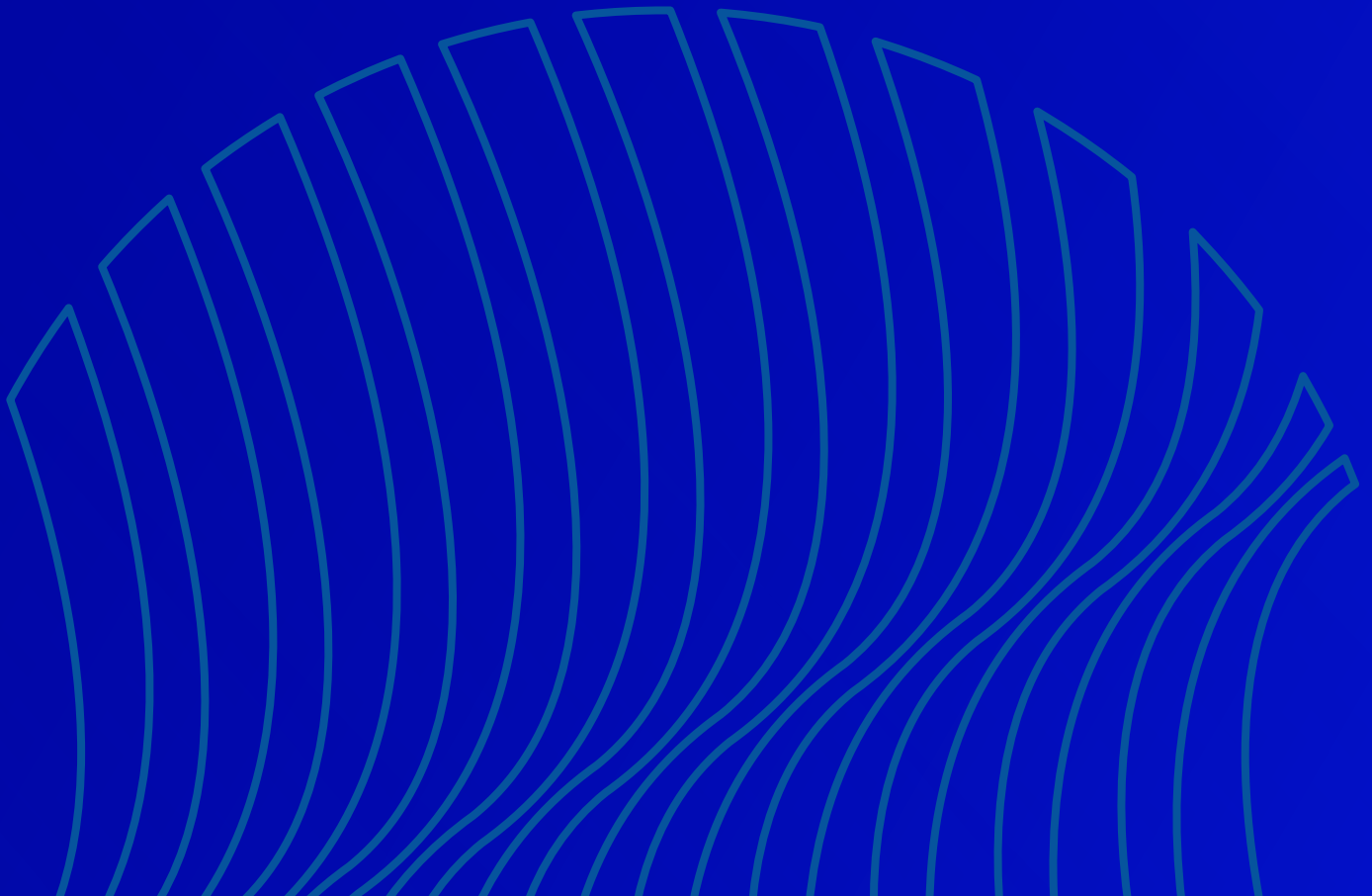



05



ROUNDTABLE  
CRITICAL MINERALS  
DEVELOPMENT

UNLOCKING KENYA'S POTENTIAL IN CRITICAL  
MINERALS FOR SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH



# ROUNDTABLE

## CRITICAL MINERALS DEVELOPMENT

### UNLOCKING KENYA'S POTENTIAL IN CRITICAL MINERALS FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH

The panel, moderated by Declan Gavin, CEO of Exigent Risk Advisory, examined the opportunities and constraints Kenya faces in positioning itself competitively within global critical mineral value chains amid growing international demand. The discussion emphasized the need for a balanced approach that promotes investment, transparency, community engagement, and value addition, while aligning with global standards and the U.S.-Kenya Strategic Trade Partnership. Participants explored Kenya's post-industrial resource potential, noting that while the mining sector currently accounts for less than 1% of GDP, demand for critical minerals is expected to remain strong for at least a generation, creating a strategic window for reform, investment, and institutional learning.



**Dr. Juliah Muriuki**  
 Researcher & Lecturer,  
 JKUAT



**James Potts**  
 Economic Counselor,  
 U.S. Department of State,  
 U.S. Embassy Nairobi



**Kwame Owino**  
 CEO,  
 Institute of Economic Affairs  
 (IEA-Kenya)



**Declan Gavin**  
 CEO,  
 Exigent Risk Advisory  
**MODERATOR**



Value addition is the missing link in many of the resource-rich countries that have failed to transform their natural endowment into prosperity.

**Kwame Owino**  
 CEO, Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA-Kenya)

Panelists agreed that **mineral endowment alone does not guarantee prosperity**. Kwame Owino, CEO of the Institute of Economic Affairs, emphasized that the economics of mineral extraction is that the minerals and the ores themselves will not, by themselves, create prosperity. Value addition is the missing link in many resource-rich countries that have failed to transform their natural endowments into broad-based prosperity. He noted that value addition requires sustained foreign direct investment (FDI) and a predictable business environment, particularly given the long project timelines in mining, which can span seven to nine years before returns are realized. The discussion surfaced several structural impediments to investment: regulatory uncertainty, public sector inefficiencies, and endemic corruption. Owino acknowledged that while Kenya's investment climate has improved, it is still not ideal for those seeking long-term land investment. Persistent governance challenges, such as corruption, continue to undermine investor confidence.

He stressed the **importance of publishing comprehensive geological survey data** to reduce information asymmetry for investors, researchers, and communities. Panelists highlighted that mistrust around land access and resettlement often stems not from resistance to development, but from limited transparency and historical governance failures. Building trust is therefore essential for securing social license to operate. Dr. Julia Muriuki, Researcher and Lecturer at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT), underscored Kenya's growing technical capacity and the role of universities in supporting the mining value chain through skills development and applied research. "We have people, we have talent, and we have tested research outputs and prototypes that can plug directly into industry," she said.

She noted that Kenya's multidisciplinary academic ecosystem, including mining engineering, environmental studies, and social sciences, can support both extraction and beneficiation if effectively integrated with industry needs. She underscored the **importance of early, continuous, and transparent engagement with local communities**, supported by collaboration between investors, government agencies, academia, and civil society. She highlighted information asymmetry regarding local communities as a major challenge, noting that "when communities are well informed, they are able to make better choices."



## **KENYA'S GEOSTRATEGIC POSITION IN CRITICAL MINERALS**

James Potts, Economic Counselor, U.S. Department of State, U.S. Embassy Nairobi, highlighted Kenya's strategic advantages despite its limited history of large-scale mining. "No one thinks of Kenya as a mining country, but Kenya has strong laws, ports, infrastructure, and democratic credentials that many other countries lack," Potts noted.

Even so, he noted that while Kenya's 2016 Mining Act is highly advanced, the challenge is not policy reform, but implementation. Successful implementation, he argued, could position Kenya as a first mover in rare earths and niobium processing, leveraging its ports, logistics capacity, and regional connectivity.

Panelists called for a regional East African approach to beneficiation and value addition. They argued that shared infrastructure, regional processing hubs, and cross-border collaboration could improve project viability while enhancing regional economic integration.

### **KEY TAKEAWAYS**

- ① Kenya has credible legal, institutional, human capital, and infrastructural foundations to participate meaningfully in global critical mineral value chains.

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- ① Value addition, FDI, and transparent implementation of existing laws are essential to unlocking the sector's potential.

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- ① Industry-academia collaboration is already producing relevant skills and innovation capacity.

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- ① Kenya's geostrategic location, ports, and democratic credentials offer a competitive advantage in regional processing and logistics.

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- ① Sustainable success will depend on public trust, predictable regulation, strong community engagement, and sound macroeconomic management.

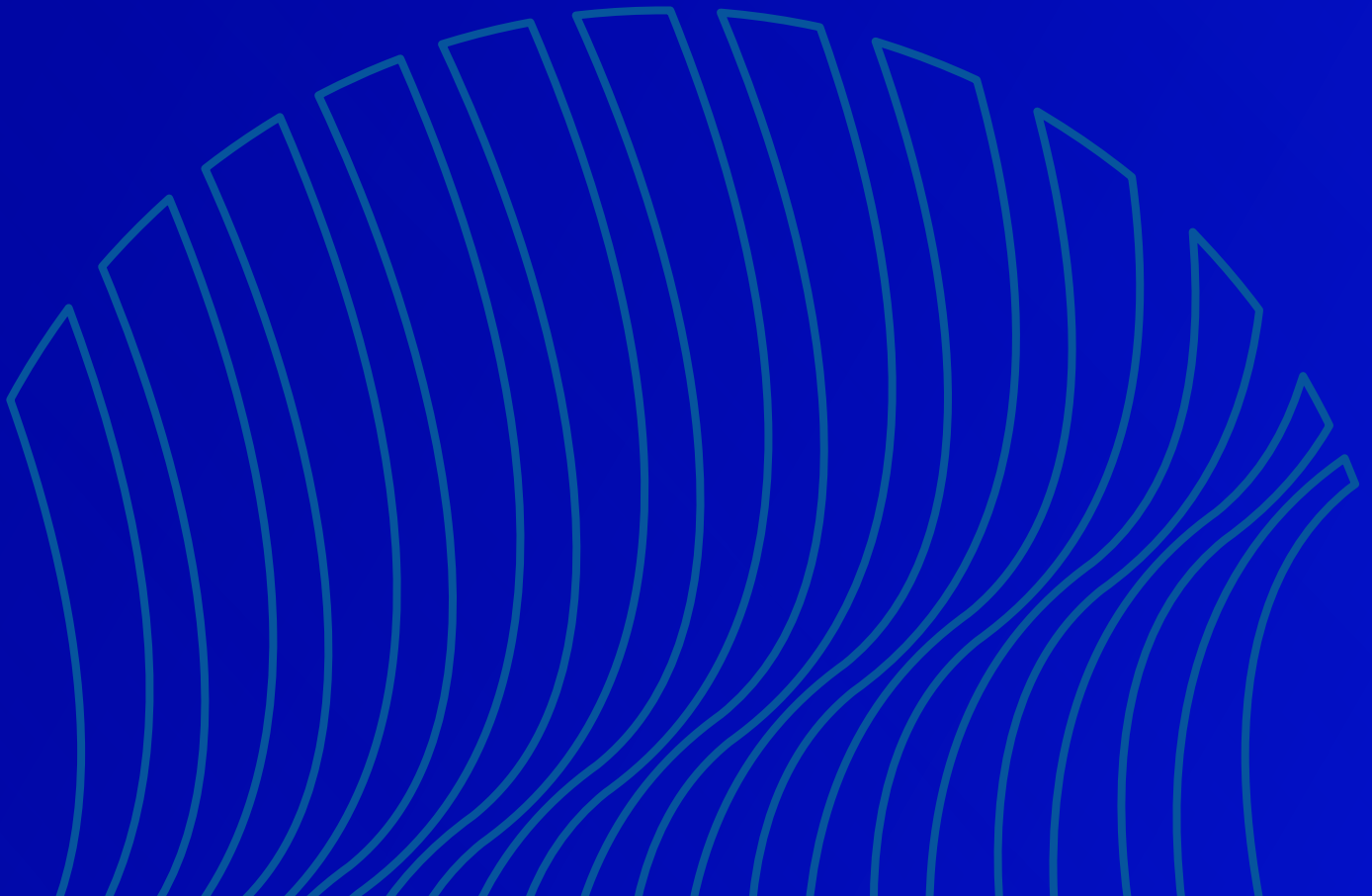
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06

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ROUNDTABLE  
INFRASTRUCTURE &  
LOGISTICS

STRENGTHENING TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS  
INFRASTRUCTURE TO POWER KENYA'S SUPPLY  
CHAIN COMPETITIVENESS



# ROUNDTABLE

## INFRASTRUCTURE & LOGISTICS

### STRENGTHENING TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS INFRASTRUCTURE TO POWER KENYA'S SUPPLY CHAIN COMPETITIVENESS

The session focused on the infrastructure linkages required to connect mines to markets, including transport corridors, ports, rail, aviation, energy, storage, and digital systems, and explored investment and financing models to strengthen Kenya's logistics ecosystem.

The session was moderated by Abyn Mussa, Partner at Anjarwalla & Khanna and head of the firm's projects and infrastructure practice, who framed the discussion around Kenya's strategic location in Eastern and Central Africa and the urgent need to reduce logistics costs, improve efficiency, and maintain regional relevance amid intensifying competition.



**Philip Dyk**

Managing Partner,  
Everstrong Capital



**Abhishek Sharma**

Senior Director,  
Transport & Logistics,  
Trademark Africa



**Christine Ng'ang'a**

Director of Origination &  
Structuring, Public Private  
Partnerships Directorate,  
National Treasury,



**Abyn Mussa**

Partner,  
Anjarwalla & Khanna

**MODERATOR**



Great Lakes region hosts significant volumes of high-value critical minerals, many of which are already moving into international markets.

**Abhishek Sharma**

Senior Director, Transport & Logistics, Trademark Africa

In his remarks, **Mussa emphasized that transport and logistics infrastructure has become a defining factor in global competitiveness.** He noted that the COVID-19 pandemic exposed deep vulnerabilities in global supply chains, particularly the concentration of manufacturing and processing capacity in a few countries.

"This, coupled with the strategic importance of critical minerals for energy transition and advanced technologies, has triggered a global reconfiguration of supply chains," he noted. Against this backdrop, he posed a central question: "What role can Africa and specifically Kenya play in this new era of disruption?" He argued that the opportunities are significant but dependent upon Kenya's ability to address long-standing inefficiencies in transport and logistics.

Drawing on Anjarwalla & Khanna's transaction experience across Eastern and Central Africa, including port concessions, terminal developments, and special economic zones in countries such as Tanzania, Djibouti, Zambia, and Namibia, Mussa noted that logistics cost structures in Kenya and across the region remain several times higher than international benchmarks.

## **KENYA'S MIXED INFRASTRUCTURE TRACK RECORD**

Philip Dyk, Managing Partner of Everstrong Capital, provided an investor's perspective on Kenya's infrastructure readiness. He acknowledged **significant progress over the past decade**, citing the completion of major projects such as the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) and the Nairobi Expressway as evidence of Kenya's capacity to deliver complex infrastructure.

However, Philip highlighted persistent bottlenecks, particularly along the Mombasa–Nairobi corridor, which he described as one of Africa's most critical logistics arteries. "Despite an 11% year-on-year growth in imported container traffic at the Port of Mombasa, the primary road connection to Nairobi remains a congested two-lane highway," he noted.

Based on technical assessments conducted by Everstrong and its advisors, he noted that congestion and inefficiency along this corridor severely undermine Kenya's logistics performance. "The corridor's operational efficiency is so poor that it almost has a failing grade. Congestion-related delays negate many of the gains achieved at the port and on the SGR," Dyk said. "Improving this corridor is not only vital for Kenya but also for regional connectivity to Uganda, Rwanda, and the DRC." He expressed **confidence in the Nairobi–Mombasa Expressway PPP**, noting that the project is economically viable, capable of standing on its own through user tolls, and does not require sovereign guarantees if properly structured.

From a private-sector perspective, Dyk highlighted several challenges in developing infrastructure projects in Kenya. While acknowledging **improvements brought about by the PPP legal framework** and institutional capacity within the PPP Directorate, he identified outdated investor expectations as a persistent obstacle. He argued that many foreign investors continue to assume that infrastructure projects in Africa require sovereign guarantees by default. "This perception fails to recognize the growing maturity of project preparation and risk allocation frameworks in Kenya. Investors should assess projects on their economic fundamentals rather than geography alone," he said.

## SUPPORTING REGIONAL MINING VALUE CHAINS

Abhishek Sharma, Senior Director for Transport and Logistics at Trademark Africa, noted that the Great Lakes region hosts significant volumes of high-value critical minerals, many of which are already moving into international markets. "These minerals typically have only two major maritime options: the ports of Mombasa and Dar es Salaam. Unlike bulk commodities, critical minerals have exceptionally high value, often exceeding USD 1 million per container, requiring specialized logistics solutions," he noted.

Sharma emphasized that critical mineral logistics demand speed, security, and multimodal connectivity, including road, rail, and air transport. "While Kenya is not at the center of bulk mineral extraction, it is strategically positioned as a transit, processing, and export hub for minerals from the DRC, Uganda, and the wider Great Lakes region," he said. He highlighted that the renewed global focus on critical minerals has reignited the importance of rail transport. "Across Southern and Eastern Africa, aging and underperforming rail networks have forced mineral traffic onto roads, resulting in escalating logistics costs and widespread road damage. Ports such as Durban have become severely congested due to truck-dominated mineral flows."

For Kenya, Sharma identified an opportunity to reposition the country by rehabilitating and integrating its rail system, enhancing aviation cargo capacity for high-value minerals, and developing secure logistics corridors. He called for the development of a dedicated transport and logistics policy for critical and rare-earth minerals, arguing that these commodities face fundamentally different challenges from conventional goods such as food, fuel, and timber.



## LEVERAGING PRIVATE SECTOR EFFICIENCY, INNOVATION, AND CAPITAL

Christine Ng'ang'a, Director of Origination and Structuring, Public Private Partnerships Directorate, National Treasury, outlined government priorities from a policy and PPP perspective. She emphasized that transport infrastructure, covering roads, rail, ports, and airports, is a core pillar of Kenya's development strategy and a prerequisite for leveraging opportunities under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

She highlighted priority corridors, including the Northern Corridor, the Mombasa–Nairobi–Mau Summit–Malaba route, and the LAPSET Corridor, all of which are critical for linking Kenya to regional markets and mineral-producing regions. "While some transport projects must remain government-funded due to their public-good nature or limited commercial viability, others are well-suited for PPP delivery," she noted.

She cited ongoing PPP initiatives in roads, airports, energy transmission, and housing, emphasizing that PPPs are not merely a response to fiscal constraints but a strategic tool to leverage private sector efficiency, innovation, and capital. "We believe that roads are critical, not just for regional trade, but of course, we need to unlock a lot of the domestic economy, also through opening of new regions, et cetera. On the rail side, of course, there's the envisioned expansion of the SGR. That does not sit with PPP, but of course, there's a play for PPP from a rolling stock perspective."

She also noted that aviation infrastructure is a growing priority, with plans underway to rehabilitate existing airport facilities and develop a new terminal and runway through a PPP model to enhance Kenya's competitiveness as a regional aviation and cargo hub. "Once the rail is laid down, then we can see private operators coming to operate some of the infrastructure. On the airport side, there's a project. Of course, we all know the situation with our airport; we could have slightly better infrastructure there. And so, the government is currently working on rehabilitation."

## FINANCING THE INFRASTRUCTURE GAP: BEYOND PUBLIC FUNDS

Panelists agreed that the scale of infrastructure investment required far exceeds what government budgets alone can finance. Sharma noted that Sub-Saharan Africa remains heavily reliant on public funding, accounting for nearly 90 percent of infrastructure finance, a model he described as unsustainable in the context of rising debt stress.

Drawing lessons from Asia, he emphasized the importance of expanding PPP models, leveraging technology and "soft infrastructure," and quantifying the economic cost of inaction. He cited border delays at Busia and Malaba, which cost regional economies hundreds of millions of dollars annually, as examples of inefficiencies that could be addressed with relatively modest investments.

Dyk emphasized that global liquidity is abundant but seeks de-risked, well-prepared projects. Beyond development finance institutions (DFIs), he identified infrastructure funds, sovereign wealth funds, strategic investors, and capital markets as potential funding sources. He also expressed interest in eventually listing mature infrastructure assets on the Nairobi Securities Exchange once operational.

A recurring theme was the need to mobilize local and regional capital, particularly commercial banks, pension funds, and capital markets. Sharma highlighted the importance of structuring projects to separate construction risk from operational risk, enabling pension funds to invest once assets become operational and revenue streams stabilize.

Ng'ang'a pointed to regulatory reforms underway, including reviews of pension fund investment limits and efforts to deepen capital markets. She emphasized that better project preparation, clearer communication of the PPP pipeline, and successful pilot transactions are essential to building confidence among local investors.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

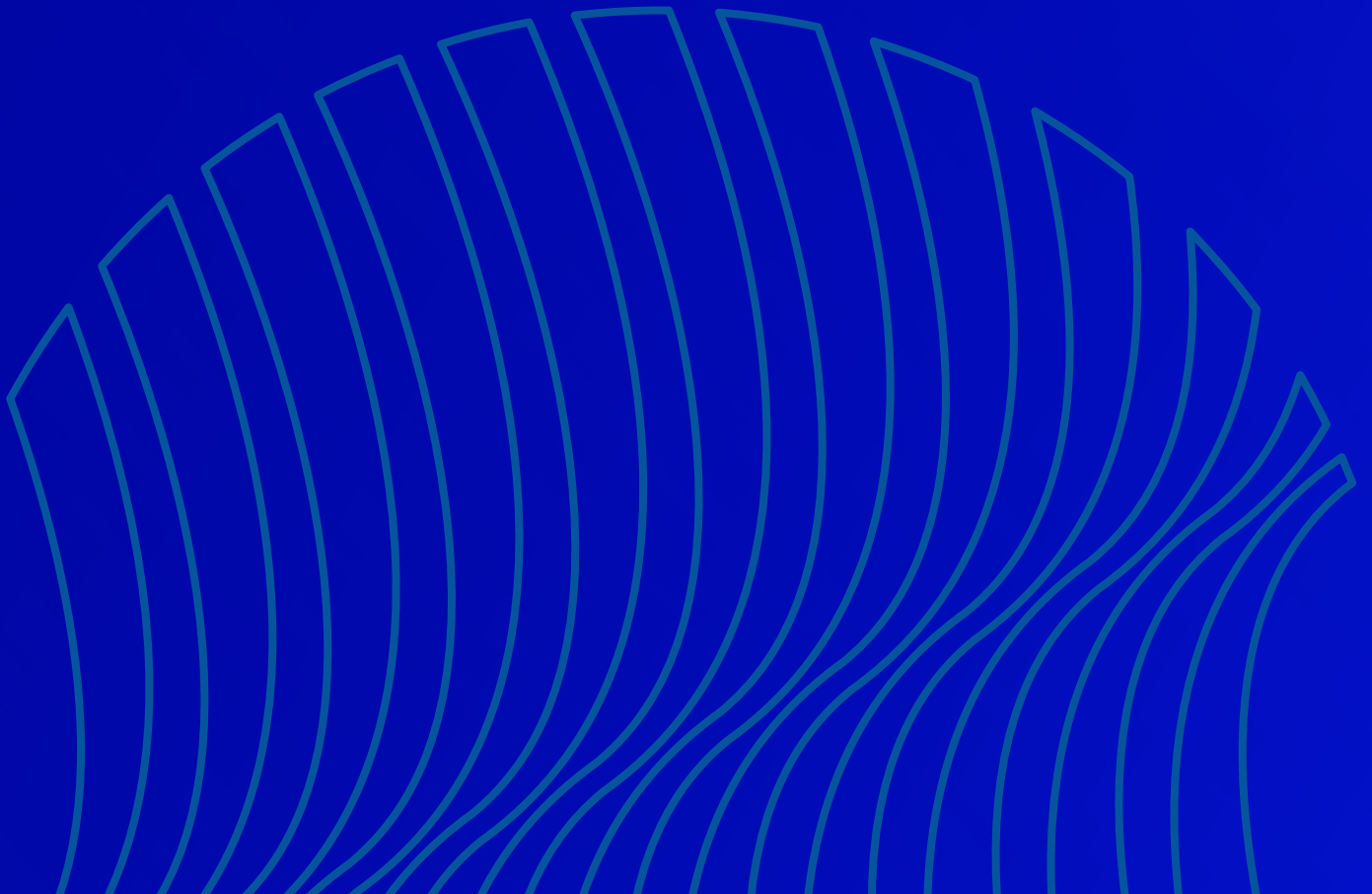
- Kenya has made meaningful progress in infrastructure development, but faces critical bottlenecks along major transport corridors.
- Regional competition is intensifying, making efficiency, speed, and cost reduction imperative.
- PPPs are central to closing the infrastructure financing gap, but success depends on realistic risk allocation, strong project preparation, and the ability to manage constantly evolving investor perceptions.
- Mobilizing local and regional capital is essential for long-term sustainability.



07



# CLOSING REMARKS



## CLOSING REMARKS

### CLOSING THE CONFERENCE

William Schirano, Deputy Assistant Secretary (DAS) for Multilateral Engagement and Market Development at the U.S. Department of Energy, expressed appreciation to the conference organizers, including AmCham Kenya and the U.S. Embassy. He also thanked the Kenyan government and participants for sustained engagement.

He provided a strategic reflection on the United States Government's international approach to critical mineral supply chains, reaffirming the importance of trusted, mutually beneficial collaboration with partner countries like Kenya. He noted that President Donald Trump's strategy is to diversify global supply chains and ensure they are rooted in partnerships that promote local value creation, rather than purely extractive models.

He noted that, if development is undertaken responsibly and with trusted partners, African countries can move beyond extraction to higher-value processing and manufacturing, while simultaneously expanding energy access and employment opportunities for local communities. Schirano underscored that critical minerals are foundational to modern economies, supporting sectors such as telecommunications, defense, and clean energy.

However, he cautioned that global supply chains are increasingly vulnerable due to high market concentration. Citing data from the International Energy Agency (IEA), Schirano noted that the average market share of the top three refining nations of key energy minerals increased from 82 per cent in 2020 to 86 per cent in 2024. While acknowledging that some concentration reflects market realities, he warned that unfair and distorting market practices have exacerbated these vulnerabilities.

### PROTECTING ECONOMIC SECURITY

Schirano highlighted the growing use of export controls as a tool of economic coercion, referencing recent restrictions on gallium and germanium, critical materials for semiconductors, solar cells, and fiber optics.

China imposed strict export controls on gallium and germanium, requiring licenses that require identification of end users and details of use. He stated that this "makes clear that these tools can be leveraged at will, increasing risks across critical mineral supply chains."

He emphasized that the U.S. response is not punitive, but focused on managing risk, reducing concentration, and protecting shared energy and economic security interests.

Schirano outlined steps taken by successive U.S. administrations to strengthen domestic critical mineral supply chains. He referenced the 2017 Federal Critical Minerals Strategy and noted that the current administration has reinforced this commitment through multiple executive actions focused on reindustrialization and supply chain diversification.

He highlighted investments in mining projects, stockpiling, ecosystem restoration, and recent partnerships with companies including MP Materials, Korea Zinc, and Lithium Americas. Additionally, he noted that the U.S. Department of Energy has announced more than one billion dollars in funding opportunities to strengthen the critical mineral supply chain security. Schirano emphasized the role of research and innovation, pointing to initiatives such as the Critical Minerals Innovation Hub, which supports cutting-edge technologies developed in collaboration with the private sector and U.S. national laboratories.

"Domestic capacity-building must be integrated into a thriving international market, requiring strategic deployment of resources and engagement with partners committed to fair and transparent market practices," he noted.

## THE CASE FOR PRIVATE INVESTMENT: A U.S. GROWTH AGENDA

He outlined U.S. government instruments available to support collaboration, including the Export-Import Bank of the United States, the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), the U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA), and the Supply Chain Resiliency Initiative. These tools, he noted, are designed to finance, de-risk, and advance commercially viable projects.

Mr. Schirano emphasized that while the U.S. government can incentivize and facilitate partnerships, sustainable collaboration ultimately depends on private sector engagement. He underscored that a partnership with the United States "should be understood as a partnership with U.S. industry."

"American companies invest based on commercial viability. When you do business with an American company, you should be confident they are investing because they believe the project can generate a return."



Domestic capacity-building must be integrated into a thriving international market, requiring strategic deployment of resources and engagement with partners committed to fair and transparent market practices.

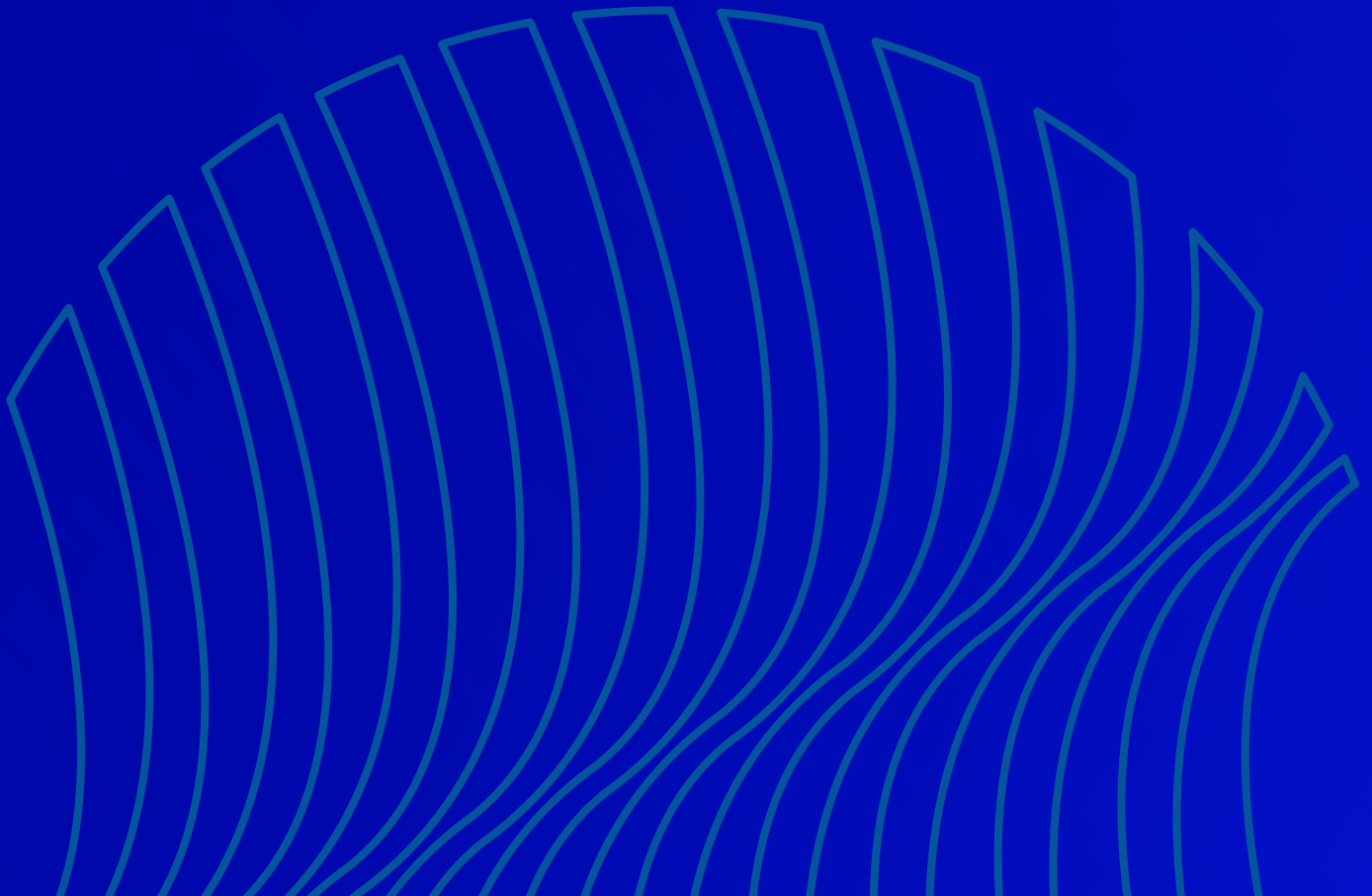
**William Schirano**  
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Multilateral  
Engagement & Market Development,  
U.S. Department of Energy



# 08



## KEY POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS



# KEY POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Drawing from the deliberations of the U.S.–Kenya Critical Supply Chains Conference and prevailing global industry trends, Kenya stands at a defining inflection point.

While the Mining Act (2016) and subsequent updates provide a solid regulatory foundation, targeted reforms are required to move Kenya from a marginal mining contributor to a globally competitive hub for critical minerals and resilient supply chains.

The following recommendations are structured around **specific reforms** and their **anticipated impact**, with shared relevance to Kenya's development priorities and U.S. strategic supply chain interests.

## 1. Strengthening Transparency, Revenue Sharing, and the Social License to Operate

### Proposed Reform

Introduce a legislated **Digital Royalty Tracking and Disbursement System**, anchored in a centralized **Mining Revenue Fund**. The system should automate real-time royalty collection and immediate allocation under the existing 70:20:10 formula (National Government, County Government, Community), reducing discretion and delays.

### Expected Impact

- ⤵ Enhances trust between government, investors, and host communities by reducing information asymmetry.
- ⤵ Secures the social license to operate through timely and visible community benefits.
- ⤵ Reduces operational disruptions arising from disputes over revenue flows, improving project bankability.

## 2. Formalizing Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining (ASM) through Coexistence Frameworks

### Proposed Reform

Establish a clear regulatory framework for **ASM–LSM Coexistence Agreements**, including tiered licensing, defined operational zones, and legally recognized off-take or subcontracting arrangements between artisanal miners and large-scale operators.

### Expected Impact

- ⤵ Reduces land conflict, displacement risk, and informal operations.
- ⤵ Integrates thousands of Kenyans into the formal mining economy.
- ⤵ Improves social stability and investor confidence at project sites.

### 3. Incentivizing Beneficiation through Energy-Linked Industrial Policy

#### Proposed Reform

Create **Mining Special Economic Zones (MSEZs)** with tiered industrial energy tariffs, dedicating a portion of Kenya's planned generation capacity to mineral beneficiation and processing at globally competitive rates.

#### Expected Impact

- › Makes local processing economically viable, shifting Kenya up the value chain.
  - › Supports U.S. objectives for diversified, resilient supply chains beyond raw-material extraction.
  - › Anchors industrial clusters around mining, generating skilled jobs and technology transfer.
- 

### 4. Establishing Open-Access Geological Data Infrastructure

#### Proposed Reform

Mandate the publication of all non-proprietary national geological survey data through a centralized, digital **Open Geological Data Portal**, aligned with international best practice.

#### Expected Impact

- › Reduces exploration risk and upfront costs for private investors.
  - › Improves project screening and feasibility analysis by U.S. agencies and financiers.
  - › Signals policy transparency and reduces speculative licensing behavior.
- 

### 5. Introducing Research & Innovation (R&I) Tax Credits for Mining Partnerships

#### Proposed Reform

Introduce **R&I Tax Credits** for mining companies that invest in local research hubs, "University Mines," and applied innovation programs with Kenyan universities and TVET institutions.

#### Expected Impact

- › Bridges the gap between academic research and industry needs.
  - › Builds a sustainable pipeline of Kenyan geologists, engineers, and technicians.
  - › Reduces long-term reliance on expatriate technical expertise.
-

## 6. Operationalizing Mining Revenues within the Sovereign Wealth Fund Framework

### Proposed Reform

Legislate the **ring-fencing of a defined share of mineral royalties** into the Sovereign Wealth Fund, complementing (not replacing) the 70:20:10 revenue-sharing structure.

### Expected Impact

- Promotes intergenerational equity and long-term fiscal stability.
  - Aligns Kenya with global best practice in resource governance.
  - Enhances investor confidence by demonstrating disciplined revenue management.
- 

## 7. Integrating Mining with the National Carbon Registry

### Proposed Reform

Introduce incentives for **Carbon-Neutral Mining**, allowing operators to earn carbon credits through land rehabilitation, reforestation, and renewable-powered operations, linked to the National Carbon Registry.

### Expected Impact

- Attracts ESG-aligned and climate finance.
  - Lowers the cost of capital for compliant projects.
  - Positions Kenya as a credible source of responsibly produced minerals.
- 

## 8. Reforming Strategic Mineral Licensing

### Proposed Reform

Replace discretionary, case-by-case handling of strategic minerals with a **Uniform Strategic Minerals** Licensing Code, using transparent, points-based evaluation or auction systems.

### Expected Impact

- Reduces perceptions of political risk or regulatory discretion.
  - Accelerates licensing for minerals critical to the global energy transition.
  - Aligns Kenya with international investor expectations on rule-based governance.
-

## 9. Strengthening Implementation of Local Content Regulations

### Proposed Reform

Establish a **Local Supplier Pre-Qualification Portal**—a government-backed database of Kenyan SMEs certified to international mining standards.

### Expected Impact

- › Simplifies compliance for foreign investors.
  - › Accelerates SME participation in mining value chains.
  - › Translates local content policy into practical, investable outcomes.
- 

## 10. Deepening U.S.–Kenya Strategic Collaboration

### Proposed Reform

Institutionalize coordination between Kenyan authorities and U.S. tools (DFC, EXIM, USTDA, DOE) to support feasibility studies, blended finance, technology transfer, and energy-mining linkages.

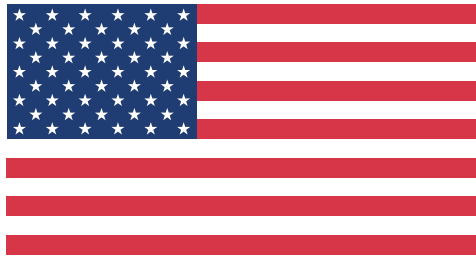
### Expected Impact

- › De-risks capital-intensive projects aligned with shared supply chain objectives.
  - › Anchors Kenya within trusted global supply networks.
  - › Reinforces a partnership model based on transparency and mutual benefit.
- 

**Implementation of these policies requires coordinated government action, private-sector investment, and ongoing U.S. collaboration.** If well implemented, these policies could enable Kenya to become a regional hub for critical minerals through resilient supply chains, value addition, and inclusive growth.

This will position the country to capitalize on rising global demand for diversified critical mineral sources while ensuring development that benefits communities, creates jobs, and strengthens bilateral ties with the U.S.

## CONVENING PARTNERS



U.S. Embassy Kenya



**AMCHAM**  
KENYA

