



**ECONOMIC  
JUSTICE NETWORK**

# Building People's Power to Confront Extractivism



**FIRESIDE CHAT 2026**

**Rapporteur Analytical Report**



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## **Fireside Chat 2026**

### **Rapporteur Analytical Report**

A Partnership Fireside Chat alongside the Alternative Mining Indaba, brought to you by the (Economic Justice Network of FOCCISA (EJN) in collaboration with the Open Society Foundations (OSF).

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Prepared by: Lorna Houston

Edited by: Mapule Maema  
Economic Justice Network of FOCCISA (EJN)

Design & Concept by: Joy Buria-Marjawar  
Media, Communications & Advocacy Expert  
[joy@wasiliana.co.za](mailto:joy@wasiliana.co.za)

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# Executive Summary

The Fireside Chat convened by the Economic Justice Network of FOCCISA (EJN) and the Open Society Foundations (OSF) during the week of the Alternative Mining Indaba in Cape Town brought together faith leaders, civil society organisations, researchers, community representatives and international partners to reflect on the governance of Africa's mineral resources and the growing global competition for critical minerals.

The discussions took place at a time when Africa is receiving renewed global attention due to its vast mineral endowments, including minerals essential for the global energy transition and emerging technologies. While this presents potential economic opportunities for the continent, participants emphasised that extractive industries have historically generated significant wealth while leaving many mining-affected communities facing poverty, environmental degradation, displacement and limited economic benefits.

Across the discussions, participants reflected on the historical and contemporary dynamics shaping extractive governance in Africa. Speakers highlighted the continued influence of colonial economic structures that prioritise raw material extraction for export while limiting domestic value addition and industrial development. At the same time, the growing geopolitical competition among global powers for access to critical minerals is intensifying pressures on resource-rich regions.

The Fireside Chat provided a space to examine these challenges while highlighting the agency of communities, civil society organisations, faith actors and social movements working to transform extractive systems. Participants shared examples of community organising, legal advocacy, strategic litigation and regional cooperation aimed at strengthening accountability within the extractive sector.

Several key priorities emerged from the discussions. Participants emphasised the need for stronger regional cooperation among African states, greater transparency and accountability in extractive governance, and policies that promote domestic value addition and local economic development. The recognition and protection of artisanal and small-scale miners was also identified as a critical issue, given the sector's importance for livelihoods across the continent.

Speakers further highlighted the importance of centering human rights within extractive governance, particularly in relation to land rights, displacement and community wellbeing. Participants stressed that communities affected by extractive industries must be recognised as political actors with the right to participate meaningfully in decisions about their land, resources and development pathways.

Overall, the Fireside Chat reinforced the need for stronger solidarity across movements working on extractive justice, economic justice and environmental sustainability. Participants emphasised that transforming extractive systems requires coordinated action by communities, civil society organisations, faith-based institutions, trade unions and regional actors in order to ensure that Africa's mineral wealth contributes to just and inclusive development.



# 1. Background and Context

## 1.1 Political and Social Context

The Fireside Chat took place at the culmination of a week of reflection and engagement on the future of Africa as a resource-rich continent and the governance of its mineral wealth. The discussions were held in Cape Town at a time when global attention was focused on Africa's extractive sector.

The 17th Alternative Mining Indaba (AMI) was held from 9–11 February, alongside the African Mining Indaba, which took place from 9–12 February. The African Mining Indaba attracted approximately 12,000 delegates, including African Ministers of Mining, senior industry executives, investors, international financial institutions and government delegations.

The scale and profile of the African Mining Indaba reflected the growing global significance of Africa's mineral resources. The continent holds vast deposits of minerals essential for the global energy transition, digital technologies and advanced manufacturing, including platinum group metals, lithium, cobalt, manganese and rare earth elements.

While the African Mining Indaba primarily serves as a platform for industry, investors and governments, the Alternative Mining Indaba provides an important counter-space for communities, civil society organisations, researchers, faith actors and activists to engage critically with questions of extractive governance, justice and accountability. Many participants who attended the Alternative Mining Indaba also took part in the Fireside Chat.

The Fireside Chat was hosted by the Economic Justice Network of FOCCISA (EJN) and the Open Society Foundations (OSF) as part of efforts to deepen collaboration between movements working on extractive justice, economic justice and community rights across the continent.

## 1.2 Objectives of the Fireside Chat

The Fireside Chat aimed to create a political and strategic space for dialogue, movement-building and collective reflection.

**Purpose:** To co-create a bold political space at the Alternative Mining Indaba (AMI) 2026 that strengthens transnational solidarity, movement power, and Africa-led alternatives capable of challenging extractive injustice and reshaping resource governance.

### Partnership Objectives:

1. To amplify the voices, analyses, and resistance strategies of mining-affected communities using creative and disruptive methods that go beyond conventional policy dialogue.
2. To critically reflect on decades of extractives struggle -what has worked, what has failed, and how solidarity must be rebuilt to confront more sophisticated forms of corporate and state power.
3. To strengthen Africa's regional negotiating power vis-à-vis multinational corporations and global powers by fostering shared political analysis, collective demands, and coordinated advocacy.
4. To leverage movement-building to raise awareness of emerging geopolitical actors and dynamics, including the expanding role of countries such as the US and China in Africa's extractive and infrastructure sectors.
5. To share best practices, organising tools, and policy-influencing strategies that communities and movements are using to resist harm, demand accountability, and assert people-centred alternatives.

## 1.3 Participants

The Fireside Chat brought together a diverse group of participants from across Africa and beyond to reflect on emerging challenges in the governance of mineral resources and to strengthen transnational solidarity among movements working to transform extractive systems. Participants joined both in person and virtually and included faith leaders, civil society organisations, researchers, community representatives, women, youth, artisanal and small-scale miners, policy advocates and representatives of international institutions.

Faith-based organisations were strongly represented through the Councils of Churches from Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Malawi, Lesotho, Mozambique and Tanzania, the All Africa Conference of Churches, and other national church councils. Their participation reflected the growing role of faith actors in supporting mining-affected communities and advocating for economic justice. Civil society organisations working on extractive governance, tax justice, climate justice and community rights also participated, including groups engaged in legal advocacy, community organising, policy analysis and regional policy engagement.

Community perspectives were central to the discussions. Activists and organisers working directly with mining-affected communities across Southern Africa shared experiences of extractive resistance, including cases from South Africa, Mozambique, Lesotho and South Sudan, alongside international perspectives from Ukraine and Indonesia.

The gathering also included researchers, policy experts and representatives from United Nations agencies and international research institutions who contributed analysis on global extractive governance, mineral supply chains and the geopolitical dynamics shaping the race for critical minerals. This diverse composition created a dynamic space that brought together community experiences, policy analysis and faith-based

advocacy to reflect on the governance of critical minerals and rare earth elements and the future of extractive economies in Africa.

## 1.4 Grounding the Space: Africa's Mineral Wealth and Global Power

Opening the Fireside Chat, Mandla Hadebe, Executive Director of the Economic Justice Network of FOCCISA (EJN), welcomed participants and encouraged everyone to approach the gathering as a shared space for open dialogue and reflection.

Hadebe emphasised that the Fireside Chat was intended to be a space where communities, civil society organisations, researchers, faith actors and policy advocates could speak candidly about the challenges facing resource-rich countries and collectively reflect on strategies for transforming extractive governance. The discussions throughout the Fireside Chat were grounded in the recognition that Africa occupies a central position within the global minerals economy.

As noted by Denis Gyeyir, Programmes Director of the Open Society Foundations (OSF) Africa occupies a central position in the global minerals economy. While the continent is often described as holding approximately 30 percent of the world's mineral endowments, examining individual minerals reveals the full scale of Africa's resource wealth and its growing strategic importance in the global energy transition.

Africa holds some of the world's most significant deposits of minerals essential for renewable energy technologies and industrial development. For example, more than 70 percent of global platinum reserves are located in South Africa and Zimbabwe, while approximately 76 percent of global manganese reserves are found in South Africa and Gabon. The continent also plays a dominant role in cobalt production, accounting for around 76 percent of global supply, largely from the Democratic Republic of Congo. In addition, Africa contributes close to 60 percent of global production of tin, tantalum and tungsten, minerals essential for electronics and advanced manufacturing.

Despite this extraordinary mineral wealth, Gyeyir emphasised that resource endowments have not translated into broad-based development across the continent. Much of Africa's mineral production continues to be exported in raw form while higher-value processing and manufacturing occur elsewhere in global supply chains. At the same time, artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) provides livelihoods for millions of people but remains marginalised in policy frameworks and frequently criminalised rather than supported through appropriate regulation.

Gyeyir also highlighted the structural imbalance between multinational mining corporations and mining-affected communities. While large-scale mining generates substantial profits, communities living in mining regions often experience displacement, environmental degradation and limited access to the economic benefits of extraction. Addressing these inequalities, he argued, requires stronger regional cooperation and greater solidarity across Africa and the Global South.

Reflecting on the political dimensions of mineral governance, Gyeyir reminded participants that Africa's strength lies not only in its natural resources but also in the collective power of its people and movements. As he emphasised:

**“Africa's mineral power lies underground, but our collective power lies above the ground.”**



## 2. Historical and Contemporary Reflections on Extractive Resistance

### *(Panel 1: Historical & Contemporary Reflections on Extractive Resistance)*

The first panel reflected on lessons from historical and contemporary resistance to extractivism, with contributions from Bishop Makumbe (Zimbabwe Council of Churches), Dr Selina Pasirayi (ActionAid Zimbabwe), Dr Tinashe Gumbo (All Africa Conference of Churches) and Fátima Mimbire (NWETI Mozambique), moderated by Admire Mutizwa.

Speakers emphasised that contemporary extractive conflicts cannot be separated from the continent's colonial history of land dispossession, labour exploitation and resource extraction. Drawing on examples from Zimbabwe, including the Chiadzwa diamond fields and the emerging lithium sector, Bishop Makumbe highlighted how mining expansion has often been accompanied by militarisation, displacement and the concentration of mineral wealth in the hands of political and economic elites.

Dr Tinashe Gumbo reflected on the role of community organising emerging from Alternative Mining Indaba processes in Zimbabwe, which have helped catalyse local platforms such as community development trusts advocating for environmental protection, labour rights and free, prior and informed consent. Dr Selina Pasirayi stressed that extractive struggles are ultimately struggles over land, sovereignty and decision-making power, requiring movements to combine legal strategies, policy advocacy and grassroots mobilisation.

Drawing on the experience of Mozambique, Fátima Mimbire highlighted the challenges associated with large-scale extractive investments, including inadequate resettlement, community conflict and limited local economic benefits, while also pointing to successful civil society advocacy and litigation that has increased transparency around mining contracts.

Overall, the panel emphasised the importance of historically grounded, coordinated resistance strategies that link community organising with legal advocacy, policy engagement and transnational solidarity.



### 3. Power Dynamics Between African States, Corporations and Global Actors

#### *(Panel 2: Power Dynamics – States, Corporations and Global Actors)*

Panel 2 examined how global competition for critical minerals is reshaping Africa’s extractive sector and the power relations between African states, multinational corporations and geopolitical actors. Moderated by Dr Nqobile Xaba, the panel featured Dr Kennedy Manduna (Wits University), Masenate Molapo (SADC Parliamentary Forum), Lurit Yugusuk (Youth Tax Justice Network), Olena Palvenoo (DIXI Group, Ukraine) and Via Azlia (CSIS Indonesia).

A central concern throughout the discussion was the rapid emergence of what Dr Kennedy Manduna described as “geopolitical mining”: a situation in which minerals are no longer treated only as commercial commodities but as strategic assets in global power competition. He argued that countries such as the United States, China, the European Union and Gulf states are increasingly positioning themselves to secure access to critical minerals, while African countries risk becoming sites of geopolitical contestation rather than beneficiaries of mineral wealth. Manduna called for stronger implementation of African policy frameworks such as the African Mining Vision, greater emphasis on technology transfer, investment in geological data and data sovereignty, and more deliberate efforts to build regional value chains rather than exporting raw materials.

Masenate Molapo located these dynamics within the longer history of colonial economic structures. She argued that many African economies remain organised around the extraction and export of raw materials through infrastructure and trade systems originally designed to serve colonial interests. Mining corridors, ports and railways continue to facilitate exports rather than regional industrialisation and intra-African trade. Molapo stressed the need to strengthen regional integration, parliamentary oversight and civil society engagement in order to challenge the legal and economic arrangements that continue to disadvantage African countries.

Grounding the discussion in lived experience, Lurit Yugusuk reflected on extractive governance in South Sudan, where communities have experienced environmental contamination, displacement and limited economic benefit despite the country's natural resource wealth. She highlighted how dependence on extractive revenues, foreign contracts and weak bargaining power constrain governments' ability to act in the interests of communities. She also stressed the importance of policy communication, civic education and narrative-building, noting that many communities remain excluded from policy debates because they do not have access to the language, information or frameworks being used in mineral governance.

Comparative perspectives from Olena Palvenoo and Via Azlia reinforced the global nature of these challenges. Palvenoo highlighted the need for strategic national vision, negotiation capacity and transparency if resource-rich countries are to retain greater value from critical minerals. Drawing on Indonesia's experience, Azlia showed that industrial policies aimed at downstream processing can expand domestic value addition, but can also generate new environmental and social harms if not accompanied by strong safeguards, labour protections and meaningful community participation.

Across the panel and floor discussion, participants emphasised that Africa's challenge is not simply to attract investment, but to reshape the terms on which extraction takes place. This requires stronger regional solidarity, domestic policy coordination, public accountability and a shift away from isolated national bargaining toward collective strategies capable of advancing African agency in a rapidly changing global mineral economy.





## 4. Geopolitics, Regional Governance and the Political Economy of Critical Minerals

### *(Panel 3: Connecting Global Geopolitics to Grassroots Realities)*

Panel 3 explored how global geopolitical dynamics can be translated into organising strategies that strengthen community agency and cross-border solidarity. Moderated by Riska Koopman (AFRODAD), the panelists included Janet Mudziviti (Southern African Trust), Kudakwashe Manjonjo (Power Shift Africa) and Gorata Ramakgotlhane (Botswana Council of Churches).

The discussion began with recognition that geopolitical debates on critical minerals, energy transitions and global power competition often remain abstract and disconnected from the lived realities of mining communities. The panel therefore focused on how civil society organisations, faith actors and community networks can translate global policy debates into accessible narratives and concrete organising strategies.

Manjonjo highlighted the importance of coordinated advocacy and regional mobilisation in influencing policy outcomes. Drawing on experiences from international climate negotiations, he emphasised that sustained, coordinated campaigns across civil society networks can shift global policy debates when movements focus on clear, shared objectives. He pointed to the SADC Industrialisation Protocol as an example of an existing regional instrument that could support greater economic cooperation in the extractive sector, but which remains under utilised due to slow ratification and limited public engagement. Strengthening regional advocacy, he argued, requires coordinated campaigns targeting governments and regional institutions to ensure that existing policy frameworks are implemented in ways that support community interests.

Janet Mudziviti reflected on how geopolitical competition between global powers is increasingly shaping national extractive policies. Drawing on experiences from Zimbabwe, she described how governments seeking foreign investment may prioritise economic and geopolitical interests over community concerns.

At the same time, external actors including both Western governments and emerging global powers, often frame their engagement primarily in terms of strategic interests rather than human rights or community wellbeing. In this context, communities living in mining regions can become marginalised within geopolitical negotiations that prioritise resource access and national security concerns.

Mudziviti emphasised that this shifting geopolitical environment requires new approaches to narrative-building and community organising. Civil society organisations must strengthen their ability to articulate alternative development visions that centre community rights, environmental protection and democratic participation. She also highlighted the importance of rebuilding civic space and strengthening community agency in contexts where support for grassroots organising has declined.

Gorata Ramakgotlhane reflected on the role of faith institutions in supporting community empowerment and accountability within extractive governance. Faith leaders, traditional authorities and community institutions often play important roles as trusted intermediaries between communities and external actors. Strengthening these institutions, she argued, can help communities access information, mobilise collective action and negotiate more effectively with governments and mining companies.

Across the discussion, participants emphasised that translating geopolitical debates into community organising requires stronger collaboration between civil society organisations, faith actors, labour movements and community leaders. Building community knowledge, strengthening local leadership and engaging earlier in policy processes were identified as critical steps toward ensuring that communities are not excluded from decisions that shape the governance of mineral resources.

The discussion in Panel 3 underscored that geopolitical shifts in the global mineral economy ultimately manifest in the everyday realities of communities living in mining regions. The subsequent panel on Human Rights, Economic Inclusion and Livelihoods therefore focused more directly on the human consequences of extractive economies and the need to place community wellbeing, economic participation and rights protection at the centre of mining governance.





## 5. Human Rights, Economic Inclusion and Livelihoods

### *(Panel 4: Protecting Human Rights, Empowering Through Economic Inclusion and Livelihoods)*

Panel 4 examined the human rights implications of extractive development and the importance of ensuring that mining contributes to inclusive economic opportunities and community wellbeing. The panelists included Kavita Belani (UNHCR Country Representative for South Africa) and Maxwell Gomera (UNDP Resident Representative for South Africa) and was moderated by Nokuthula Mbene (UNDP).

Kavita Belani highlighted the relationship between extractive industries, displacement and social stability. She noted that Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) frameworks are increasingly recognising the importance of community engagement and social protection. Belani emphasised that resettlement and displacement must be addressed through comprehensive approaches that include full replacement costs for land and housing, protection of social networks, psychosocial support and long-term monitoring of affected communities.

Maxwell Gomera reflected on the importance of governance systems and institutional accountability in shaping the developmental outcomes of mining. He emphasised that extractive industries must ultimately be evaluated in terms of whether they create jobs, generate wealth for African societies and protect the health and wellbeing of communities.

Both speakers stressed that achieving these outcomes requires strong institutions, transparent regulatory frameworks and effective oversight mechanisms that allow communities and civil society to hold both governments and corporations accountable.

The panel reinforced that extractive governance must place human rights, social protection and community wellbeing at the centre of mineral development strategies.



## 6. Community Strategies for Resistance, Accountability and Alternatives

### *(Panel 5: Community Strategies for Resistance, Accountability and Alternatives)*

The final panel focused on practical strategies communities are using to resist extractive injustice and advance more equitable approaches to resource governance. Moderated by Mapule Maema (Economic Justice Network of FOCCISA), the panel included Willem Khoza and Ngaka Pitlele (National Artisanal Association of Miners – NAAM), Mosa Letsie (Seinoli Legal Centre) and Molly Dhlamini, a former trade unionist with extensive experience in mining disputes.

Speakers emphasised that communities affected by mining are not passive victims but active agents organising to defend their rights and livelihoods. Willem Khoza highlighted the role of grassroots organising and community education in helping residents document environmental and health impacts and engage more effectively with regulatory institutions.

Mosa Letsie presented examples of strategic litigation and legal advocacy, including cases Seinoli Legal Centre has taken up related to displacement and compensation of communities affected by the construction of large infrastructure projects funded by the National Development Bank, such as the Lesotho Highlands Water Project, Phase II. These legal strategies have helped communities to use legal mechanisms to challenge inadequate consultation processes and demand greater accountability from the Lesotho and South Africa Governments and companies.

Representatives from NAAM stressed the need to recognise artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) as a legitimate livelihood rather than criminalising miners who often enter the sector due to unemployment and economic marginalisation.

Karabo Rajuili highlighted the importance of transparency in ownership structures, contracts and financial flows, noting that access to information is essential for enabling public oversight of the extractive sector. Across the discussion, speakers emphasised that strengthening community agency requires continued investment in legal empowerment, movement-building and regional solidarity.

Taken together, the panel discussions illustrated that extractive governance cannot be addressed through technical reforms alone. Participants repeatedly emphasised that transforming extractive systems requires coordinated political action, stronger regional solidarity and the leadership of communities directly affected by mining.



## 7. Cross-Cutting Issues

Across the panel discussions several cross-cutting issues emerged, illustrating the interconnected nature of extractive governance challenges across Africa. Participants highlighted that mining conflicts often intersect with land rights, labour conditions, youth livelihoods, gender inequality, environmental protection and financial governance.

Land dispossession and community displacement remain central concerns in many mining regions, while labour struggles continue to shape debates around working conditions and economic justice. Particular attention was given to the role of artisanal and small-scale miners (ASM), who are often criminalised or excluded from formal policy frameworks despite supplying minerals to global markets.

Participants also highlighted the need to address youth unemployment, noting that approximately 39 million young people across Africa remain unemployed, often turning to informal mining livelihoods. At the same time, speakers emphasised the gendered impacts of extraction, as women frequently bear disproportionate environmental and social burdens while remaining excluded from decision-making processes.

These intersecting issues highlight the importance of integrated policy approaches that link extractive governance to broader struggles for economic justice, environmental sustainability and community rights.



## 8. Key Messages and Collective Demands Emerging from the Dialogue

The Fireside Chat brought together perspectives from faith leaders, civil society organisations, researchers, community representatives, policy makers, philanthropies and international organisations. Across the discussions, participants identified a set of shared concerns and collective demands regarding the governance of Africa's mineral resources.

### 8.1 Africa's Mineral Wealth Must Benefit Its People

Participants emphasised that Africa's vast mineral wealth has historically generated significant profits while delivering limited benefits to many communities living in mining regions. Despite the continent's central role in global mineral supply chains, mining-affected communities often experience poverty, environmental degradation and limited economic opportunities. Participants therefore called for mineral governance systems that prioritise people-centred development and ensure that extraction contributes to local livelihoods, social wellbeing and national development.

### 8.2 Communities Must Be Recognised as Agents

Speakers challenged narratives that portray mining-affected communities solely as victims of extractivism. Across the continent, communities are organising, resisting harmful practices and developing strategies to hold governments and corporations accountable. Participants emphasised that communities must be recognised as political actors with agency and be meaningfully included in decision-making processes related to resource governance.

### 8.3 Human Rights and Displacement Must Be Addressed

Participants stressed that extractive industries frequently generate displacement and social disruption in mining regions. Resettlement and compensation processes must therefore address the full social, economic and psychological costs of displacement, including livelihood restoration, protection of community networks and long-term monitoring of wellbeing.

### 8.4 Artisanal and Small-Scale Miners Must Be Recognised

Artisanal and small-scale mining provides livelihoods for millions of people across Africa and contributes significantly to global mineral supply chains. However, artisanal miners are often criminalised or excluded from formal policy frameworks. Participants called for policies that recognise ASM as a legitimate sector and support safer working conditions, fair market access and equitable participation in mineral economies.

### 8.5 Stronger Regional Cooperation Is Needed

Participants emphasised the importance of strengthening regional cooperation among African countries in order to improve bargaining power in global mineral markets. Collective negotiation strategies and stronger regional frameworks can help countries address shared challenges such as illicit financial flows, environmental standards and cross-border mineral supply chains.

## 8.6 Governance Systems Must Be Strengthened

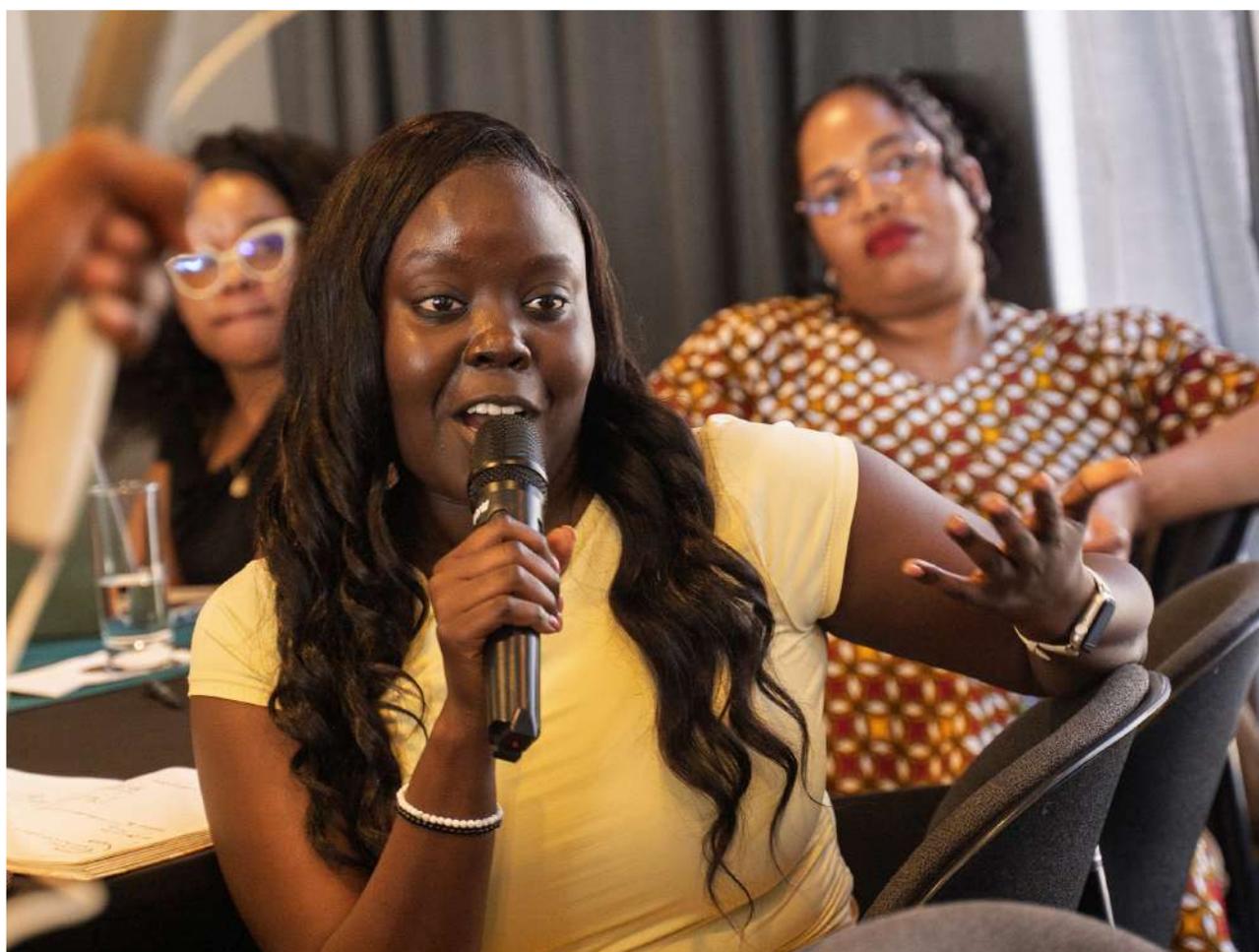
Effective extractive governance depends on transparent legal frameworks, accountable institutions and strong oversight mechanisms. Participants highlighted the importance of strengthening regulatory institutions while ensuring active citizen engagement and civil society oversight.

## 8.7 The Energy Transition Must Be Just

The growing global demand for critical minerals and rare earth elements linked to renewable energy technologies presents both opportunities and risks for Africa. Participants emphasised that the energy transition must not reproduce historical patterns of extraction and inequality but instead support environmentally responsible and socially just development.

## 8.8 Movement Solidarity Is Essential

Participants highlighted the importance of strengthening collaboration among movements working on extractive justice, economic justice, environmental protection and human rights. Alliances between civil society organisations, faith-based organisations, trade unions and community networks were identified as critical for confronting increasingly complex forms of corporate and geopolitical power.



# 9. Strategic Recommendations

## 9.1 Strengthen regional coordination within SADC and other regional bodies

African governments should accelerate the ratification and implementation of regional protocols and industrial strategies, particularly within SADC and other regional bodies, in order to strengthen collective bargaining power in mineral markets and advance coordinated mineral governance.

## 9.2 Deepen continental and South–South solidarity

- Civil society organisations, faith-based institutions and community networks should strengthen continental collaboration through platforms such as the All-Africa Conference of Churches, Climate Action Network and other regional spaces.
- Strengthen South–South solidarity will support shared learning, coordinated advocacy and collective engagement with global actors.
- The development of global mechanisms to define and advance a Just Energy Transition that centres the needs of resource-rich countries and affected communities.

## 9.3 Promote domestic value addition and industrial development

African countries should prioritise beneficiation, local processing and regional value chains in order to capture greater economic value from mineral resources and reduce dependence on raw material exports.

## 9.4 Ensure meaningful community participation in mining governance

Communities must be involved from the earliest stages of project planning, including decisions related to land use, resettlement, environmental management and benefit-sharing arrangements.

## 9.5 Recognise and strengthen community agency

- Communities affected by extractive industries must speak for themselves and lead advocacy efforts regarding their land, resources and livelihoods.
- Governments and external actors should support and amplify community voices rather than replace them.

## **9.6 Strengthen collaboration among civil society organisations, faith-based organisations and trade unions**

Cross-movement alliances are essential to address the interconnected challenges of labour rights, environmental justice, land governance and economic accountability in the extractive sector.

## **9.7 Support legal advocacy and strategic litigation**

- Legal strategies remain important tools for holding governments and corporations accountable for environmental damage, labour violations and human rights abuses.
- Civil society organisations should continue supporting communities through legal empowerment and strategic litigation.

## **9.8 Recognise and protect artisanal and small-scale miners (ASM)**

- Governments must recognise artisanal and small-scale miners as legitimate economic actors and support the legalisation and regulation of the sector.
- Policies should improve working conditions, enable fair market access and ensure more equitable participation in mineral economies.

## **9.9 Integrate gender and youth perspectives into extractive governance**

Policies and programmes should explicitly address the needs, rights and leadership of women and young people in mining regions, recognising their central role in community wellbeing, economic participation and environmental stewardship.

## **9.10 Strengthen transparency and financial accountability in the extractive sector**

Governments should publish mining contracts, beneficial ownership information and revenue flows, strengthen tax systems and address illicit financial flows to ensure that mineral wealth contributes to national development and community wellbeing.

## **9.11 Address resettlement and host-community conflicts through rights-based approaches**

- Resettlement processes must guarantee full replacement costs for land and housing, livelihood restoration, psychosocial support and long-term monitoring of community wellbeing.
- Governments and companies must also ensure that resettlement does not create conflicts between displaced and host communities.

## 9.12 Strengthen African data sovereignty in mineral governance

African governments should invest in geological surveys, mineral data systems and research capacity in order to better understand the value of their mineral resources and strengthen their negotiating position with multinational corporations and global actors.

## 9.13 Strengthen civic education and policy communication in mining regions

Governments, civil society organisations and community networks should invest in policy communication and civic education so that communities can meaningfully engage with mineral governance frameworks, extractive policies and development strategies.

## 9.14 Strengthen environmental safeguards and climate justice in extractive governance

Governments should ensure that mineral extraction linked to the global energy transition does not reproduce environmental injustice. This requires stronger environmental protections, monitoring systems and meaningful community participation in environmental decision-making.



## 10. Conclusion and Way Forward

The Fireside Chat created an important space for reflection and dialogue on the future of extractive governance in Africa at a moment of intensifying global demand for critical minerals. Across the discussions, participants highlighted both the opportunities and the risks that accompany Africa's growing strategic importance in global mineral supply chains.

Speakers and participants emphasised that while Africa possesses extraordinary mineral wealth, the benefits of extraction have historically been unevenly distributed. Mining-affected communities often continue to experience displacement, environmental degradation, labour exploitation and limited economic opportunities despite living in resource-rich regions.

At the same time, the discussions demonstrated that communities, civil society organisations, faith actors and regional networks are actively organising to challenge these patterns and advocate for more just and accountable resource governance. From strategic litigation and community organising to regional advocacy and policy engagement, a wide range of strategies are being developed to confront extractive injustice and assert people-centred alternatives.

The Fireside Chat also underscored the importance of strengthening collaboration across movements and institutions. Participants repeatedly emphasised the need for deeper partnerships between communities, civil society organisations, faith-based institutions, trade unions and research organisations in order to build stronger collective responses to the complex power dynamics shaping extractive industries.

Looking forward, the discussions highlighted the need for African countries to engage the global minerals economy with greater coordination, stronger governance systems and clearer development strategies. Regional cooperation, improved transparency and stronger community participation will be essential in ensuring that mineral wealth contributes to long-term social and economic development.

Ultimately, the dialogue reinforced a central insight expressed during the opening reflections: while Africa's mineral power lies beneath the ground, the continent's greatest strength lies in the collective power of its people, institutions and movements. Harnessing this collective power will be essential for shaping extractive governance systems that prioritise justice, sustainability and the well-being of communities across the continent.

The Fireside Chat therefore concluded with a shared recognition that transforming extractive governance will require continued collaboration, political courage and sustained organising. The conversations initiated during this gathering represent an important step toward building the alliances and strategies necessary to ensure that Africa's mineral wealth serves the interests of its people and future generations.

# Annex 1 - Participating Organisations

1. All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC)
2. ActionAid Zimbabwe
3. ActionAid
4. African Forum and Network on Debt and Development (AFRODAD)
5. African Diaspora Workers Network (ADWD)
6. African Union (AU)
7. Botswana Council of Churches(BCC)
8. Council of Churches of Mozambique (CCM)
9. Council of Churches of Tanzania (CCT)
10. Council of Churches of Zambia (CCZ)
11. Church Development and Welfare Council (CDWC)
12. Christian Council of Lesotho (CCL)
13. Council of Swaziland Churches(CSC)
14. CSIS Indonesia
15. DIXI Group
16. Economic Justice Network of FOCCISA (EJN)
17. Future Proof Collective
18. Joao org
19. Malawi Council of Churches (MCC)
20. National Artisanal Association of Mineworkers (NAAM)
21. NWETI Mozambique
22. Open Ownership (OO)
23. Open Society Foundation (OSF)
24. Resource Justice Network (RJN)
25. SA SADC National Committee
26. SADC Parliamentary Forum (SPF)
27. Seinoli Legal Centre (SLC)
28. Southern African Faith Communities' Environment Institute (SAFCEI)
29. Southern Transitions
30. UN Development Programme (UNDP)
31. UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
32. Youth for Tax Justice Network (YTJN)
33. Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC)



