



United Nations Economic and Social Council

April 15, 2023

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Resolution adopted by the United Nations Economic and Social Council

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Sponsors: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Republic of South Africa, Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Signatories: United States of America, The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,

Recognises that countries have the right to choose their own sources of rare-earth metals (REMs);

Understands that some nations are at a disadvantage in terms of rare-earth metals deposits;

Recognises the importance of the EITI in fostering transparency among its 57 member states

1. *Recognizes* the need to diversify the rare-earth metal supply chain
2. *Encourages* countries and industry stakeholders to diversify their sources of semiconductor production to reduce overreliance on a single country or region,

3. *Suggests* the enhancement of technological innovation and competitiveness by supporting research and development initiatives, fostering talent and skills development, and promoting open and fair competition in the semiconductor market to stimulate innovation and enhance the global competitiveness of the industry, in ways such as but not limited to;
 - a. The promotion of investment into countries which lack sufficient capital to efficiently extract resources,
 - b. The establishment of university exchange programs with developing countries in specialised technical fields,
4. *Recommends* the lifting of intellectual property rights relating to green energy technology in areas such as but not limited to;
 - a. integrated circuits,
 - b. industrial designs for solar energy technology,
 - c. industrial designs for wind and water energy,
5. *Calls* for the creation of a fund for the support of initial development of mining industries and infrastructure which would operate in ways such as but not limited to;
 - a. Organising and funding development programs for mining industries in resource abundant countries lacking capital and technology to initiate extraction,
 - b. Facilitating the access of rare-earth metals to the global economy by coordinating infrastructure projects such as port constructions, railways and highways,
6. *Recommends* that the fund would be managed under but not limited to the following parameters;
 - a. Submitted to the authority of the Trade and Environment Committee of the World Trade Organisation,
 - b. Obligated to submit yearly submissions reports to the ECOSOC,
 - c. Receive appropriate funding from leading rare-earth metal importing countries, through the contributions of 1% of their imports market value,
 - d. Participating states that benefit from the funds must demonstrate that they are spending government revenue on public goods, including but not limited to

education, infrastructure, healthcare, housing, employment, and social safety nets.

7. *Recommends further* that during mining contract negotiations local communities and local governments are duly represented to safeguard the social and environmental interests of such projects.
8. *Encourages* member states to create traceability systems which would focus on recording data and using to track a product one step forward and back along the supply chain, The main use of this sort of traceability system would be to allow buyers of minerals to trace the origin of minerals back to miners to ensure that minerals are responsibly sourced and help to prevent the sale of conflict minerals,
9. *Urges* members to take into account environmental damages which may be caused by mining by: Restraining mining within areas under water stress, to avoid water shortages in populations and crops. Restrain mining which would go against biodiversity or damage natural habitats.
10. *Suggests* the the adoption of circular economy practices for lithium batteries and metal components of electronics an important step towards a sustainable future, By encouraging the reuse, refurbishment, and recycling of these materials, reducing the amount of waste generated by the electronics industry and conserve valuable resources, circular economy practices can create new business opportunities and promote innovation in the development of more sustainable products and processes,
11. *Calls* upon all Member States to allocate funding and resources towards the research and development of alternative battery components, including but not limited to sodium-ion batteries, solid-state batteries and zinc-air batteries, in order to promote sustainable and eco-friendly energy storage technologies. The funding and resources should be used in following ways:
 - a. Establishing international research collaborations and partnerships between academia, industry and governments, aimed at advancing the development and application of alternative battery components, including through the sharing of knowledge, data and best practices;

- b. Encouraging adoption and production of alternative battery components by providing subsidies, tax breaks and other financial and regulatory measures, in order to facilitate their integration into the market and accelerate the transition towards a low-carbon economy;
- c. Providing technical and financial assistance to Member States by United Nations and its specialized agencies, including through capacity-building, technology transfer and other relevant forms of support;
- d. Monitoring and assessing the progress made by Member States by the United Nations and its specialized agencies and reporting regularly to the relevant United Nations bodies and forums on the latest challenges and opportunities in this field.

12. *Urges* the UN Economic and Social Council to organize an annual summit that is to be called Material Innovation Labour Forum (MILF) which would be composed of UN Member States, inter-governmental advisory bodies and non-governmental organizations to be hosted in Eindhoven to discuss the questions of novel rare material usage, such as:

- a. Bicycles
- b. Unicycles
- c. Motor-powered bicycles
- d. Motor-powered unicycles
- e. Solar-powered non-motor powered electrical bicycle
- f. Cycleless motor-powered unicycles
- g. Skateboards

13. *Recognizing* the importance of responsible and sustainable mining practices, urges member states to implement a certification system that attests to compliance with established conventions related to labor rights, environmental protection, and community relations in artisanal and small-scale mining. In order to function properly, the certification system requires that Member States also take care of the following:

- a. Providing local training in mining regions to increase awareness of responsible mining practices among managers and workers,

- b. Promoting the use of liberal policies such as Special Economic Zones, while ensuring that labor rights are not undermined.