



TESS-UNEP-UNCTAD Trade Minerals and Climate Action

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Trade-related policies and measures

An overview of some critical raw materials (CRM) partnerships.

CRM Partnerships

1. Investment-focused

- **Minerals Security Partnership (MSP):** US-led initiative with other countries like Canada, Japan, and EU member states to support CRM projects aligning with high environmental, social, and governance (ESG) standards.
- **EU Global Gateway:** Mobilizing €300 billion for sustainable projects, including CRM initiatives in the DRC and Zambia.

2. Policy alignment and/or Market access

- **Japan-US Critical Minerals Agreement:** Facilitating market access and aligning policies to reduce dependency on single suppliers like China.

3. Domestic legislation

- **US Inflation Reduction Act:** Strengthening internal regulations to support sustainable CRM supply chains.
- **EU Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA):** Ensuring secure and sustainable supply chains for CRMs, targeting EU extraction, processing, and recycling capacities.

4. Shared data collection and analysis

- **IEA Voluntary Critical Minerals Security Programme:** Promoting collaborative data collection and market transparency to support informed policymaking.

FIGURE 2 | Advancing development gains in CRM partnerships



Challenges

What “good” CRM partnerships should include:



Transparency

Consultation with Indigenous groups and civil society before and during project development



Investment

Transparency on measures affecting CRM Investments and practical guidance on Investment, streamlined administrative procedures and Joint Investment facilitation activities



Technology transfer

Cooperation on research and development, with a focus on low-carbon technologies



Skills

Joint capacity-building on skills and services



Standards

Shared conception of ESG standards, expectations for ESG performance, assurance from producers and due diligence from investors and buyers



Circularity

Policy exchange and cooperation on areas such as standards, product labelling and recycling economies of scale



Market access

Shared definition of materials in scope and commitment to develop joint projects; commitment to open markets