



UNECE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT WEEK 2024
ASSURING SUSTAINABILITY IN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
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UNECE Resource Management Week 2024
Tempus Meeting Room, Geneva
[4:30 – 5:15 pm CEST 24 April 2024](#)
Resource Management Young Member Group

Critical Minerals for the Sustainable Energy Transition: A Guidebook for Intergenerational Action

Official Launch

The global pursuit of a just energy transition presents a complex challenge of meeting the escalating demand for critical minerals while mitigating environmental degradation and ensuring intergenerational equity. Low-carbon energy technologies, essential for achieving global climate targets, heavily rely on these minerals. As such, sound management of these resources along their entire value chain is pivotal in shaping future environmental, social, and economic landscapes. Intergenerational equity, a cornerstone principle, underscores the imperative of preserving a safe and livable environment for future generations when managing natural resources. As we navigate the energy transition, this principle gains paramount importance, given the long-lasting impacts of critical minerals and the profound implications for future generations.

The Resource Management Young Member Group (RMYMG) has undertaken the development of a comprehensive Guidebook titled "Critical Minerals for the Sustainable Energy Transition: A Guidebook for Intergenerational Action". The Guidebook aims to provide a centralized hub of accessible information that can enable knowledge exchange and act as a reference point to scale up intergenerational action around this topic.

Join us in this session for the official launch of the Guidebook at the UNECE Resource Management Week 2024, to introduce and discuss the insights and recommendations of the Guidebook.

Key themes:

- **Critical Minerals and Environmental Obligations:** How can we align the production, management, and use of critical minerals with international environmental obligations
- **Economic Viability and Circular Economy:** How feasible and beneficial is the transition towards a circular economy model?
- **Challenges in Mining Practices:** What are the underlying challenges and opportunities in critical minerals mining? What is the rationale of opting for deep-sea mining and what could its potential implications be before the marine ecosystems? Are the environmental and social dimensions linked

to critical minerals' extraction, processing, and recycling an impediment to achieving orderly energy transitions?

- **Intergenerational Equity:** What social and economic considerations should be integrated in sustainable critical minerals value chains?
- **Looking forward:** How can the Guidebook contribute to the ongoing UN efforts on addressing key challenges in managing critical energy transition minerals?