

Session 1 – Unlocking Central Asia's Critical Raw Materials Potential: Challenges and Opportunities



7 November 2023 10:00 – 11:45 (UTC/GMT +6 hours) Independence Hall

BACKGROUND

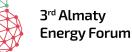
Critical minerals as resources are essential to the economy and whose supply may be disrupted. Today, many critical minerals are metals central to high-tech sectors defining, thus, global energy transition and meeting the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Critical raw materials (CRMs) include rare earth metals (REMs) and other metals such as lithium, indium, tellurium, gallium, and platinum group elements.

These CRMs are all essential for global development, and the demand for them has increased in recent years with the spread of high-tech devices for personal and commercial use, such as wind turbines, solar panels and electronics such as smartphones and tablets. Furthermore, future high technology depends on other 'magical' qualities of the REMs, defining the development of superconductivity, cryogenics, non-silicon electronics, etc.

Among the UNECE member States, the current geopolitical tensions, environmental impacts, market distortions, and technological changes make Central Asia more prominent on the world's agenda and turn this previously 'invisible' region into a global promise. However, the following pivotal questions will be addressed in this session:

- providing sustainable development for Central Asia
- securing access to the region's CRMs via creating value-added technology chains, developing basic research and human capital, and
- adopting the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) and the United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS) with a particular emphasis on the importance of social value added in the regional perspective.





AGENDA

