

Marrakech Declaration

Aware that Africa holds the minerals essential to the global energy and digital transitions, and convinced that the value of these resources must first and foremost benefit African people and economies,

Recognizing that most existing ESG standards do not always reflect African realities, and do not lead to sustainable financing of mining and mineral processing projects,

Recalling the launch of the OTC- corridor: Origination, Transit and Certification initiative, jointly initiated in December 2024 by the Moroccan mining Minister and several African Ministers during the Morocco International Mining Congress held in Marrakech,

Recalling further the Call of Nairobi, issued during the Twentieth Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment held in July 2025 in Kenya, where Morocco and several African countries, renewed the call for an African ESG framework designed by Africans for Africans,

Recalling the Call of Nouakchott, during the Mauritanides 2025 Forum held in Mauritania in September 2025, where Morocco and several African countries reaffirm their commitment of an ESG framework adapted to African realities,

Acknowledging the outcomes of the side event “African ESG framework: Our resources, our future”, organized on first October 2025 in Marrakech as part of the “World Power to x Summit”,

Commending the coordination led by the Ministry of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development of the Kingdom of Morocco in introducing the African ESG Framework and transmitting it to African countries for consultation and consolidation,

Affirming the collective will of African nations to strengthen continental sovereignty over mineral resources, promote inclusive mining, and enable sustainable financing for mining and mineral processing projects,

Recalling that the African ESG Framework anticipated the presentation of the “Marrakech Declaration” during the Morocco International Mining Congress on 24 November 2025, identifying this moment as marking the Framework’s adoption.

The present Marrakech Declaration acknowledges the African ESG Framework and adopts it, with the understanding that further improvements may be considered in concertation with the countries that have endorsed it,

The Declaration places the African ESG Framework at the disposal of African countries as a common reference for responsible, transparent, inclusive and sustainable mineral governance. It reaffirms that the Framework is an African instrument designed foremost to facilitate access to sustainable financing for African mining and mineral processing projects, while fully respecting the sovereignty and national decision-making of each country.

It sets out a shared vision to position Africa as a global model of responsible mining in which mineral resources contribute to stability, prosperity and sovereignty.

It recalls the objectives of defining ESG principles that reflect African contexts and values, strengthening trust between governments, investors and citizens, facilitating access to sustainable financing through standards adapted to African realities, promoting local value creation and mineral transformation within Africa, and reinforcing regional cooperation.

It emphasizes the AFRICA principles: Accountability, Fairness, Resilience, Inclusion, Cooperation and Added value, as the foundation of the Framework. All governance, access rights and certification rules remain defined collectively and exercised under the full sovereignty of African countries.

The Declaration notes that the implementation of the African ESG Framework will be facilitated by the technical secretariat, represented by the Ministry in charge of Mines of the Kingdom of Morocco. In accordance with the African ESG Framework, an ESG Committee reflecting the composition of the member countries will be constituted, convening twice a year to ensure the governance and the effective implementation of the Framework.

The Declaration underlines that the African ESG Framework is supported by a digital platform serving as its official registry. The platform is hosted in the Kingdom of Morocco, ensuring continuous access for coordination, digital certification, and the connection between certified African producers and responsible buyers.

The Declaration encourages African countries to voluntarily adhere to the African ESG Framework, and to notify the technical secretariat accordingly, marking the beginning of a new era of convergence, cooperation, responsible and well-governed mineral trade alongside the OTC Corridor. It reaffirms the collective ambition to place Africa's mineral resources at the service of sustainable development, transparency, sovereignty and prosperity for present and future generations.

The founding member countries of the African ESG Framework approve the Marrakech Declaration.

Done in Marrakech, Kingdom of Morocco, 24 November 2025