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# Event Concept Note

Growing the copper industry through  
Green Value Chains

**Date and Place:** 3 days- 10-12 April 2024: third day:  
site visits

**Modality:** Physical

**Location:** Zambia, Kitwe

**Language:** English



# Background

In 2022, Zambia was the world's 9th-largest copper producer, with its mines producing approximately 770,000 tones. Of this production, it is estimated that less than 4% was consumed in country. Copper exports, including refined cathodes and unrefined anodes and blister copper, account for approximately 75% of Zambia's export earnings; the copper sector represents the leading source of revenues for the government.

President Hichilema's development program, as reflected in the 8th National Development Plan (NDP) approved in April 2022, focuses on economic transformation, value addition to drive growth, and job creation using traditional sectors, such as mining, as a leverage tool. While traditional export sectors, such as copper, will be crucial to sustain the transition, there is a clear interest in promoting value addition through industrialization.

Zambia's industrial policy has identified mineral processing (both metallic and non-metallic) as priority sectors as drivers for industrialization and local value addition, and the country needs to identify value chains that better offer these opportunities. Initial on-the-ground assessments have identified significantly divergent needs and interests of the upstream operators (copper producers) and domestic downstream manufacturers and fabricators. The flows of copper products (cathodes, anodes, and blister) have evolved and are in line with the financial interests (profit maximization) of the upstream operators, while sustained access to cathode copper at competitive prices appears to represent significant barriers to downstream development and in-country fabrication.

Zambia and the European Union have signed a memorandum of understanding to jointly develop economic and industrial cooperation towards sustainable value chains of critical minerals. This partnership between the two sides will lead to a facilitation of business opportunities, financial support, promote a circular economy in the recycling and reusing of critical minerals through increased technology and knowledge transfer. These efforts to grow the value chain will also be in accordance with the international principals on the environmental, social and governance standards.

Attaining sufficient scale and accessing international backing appear to have been key success elements of new downstream copper manufacturing ventures that have succeeded to date. Innovation and collaboration around new production modalities, including circular economy business models, offer new avenues of opportunities.

With Zambia's rapid economic development, the future outlook for downstream copper manufacturing is positive, particularly for new, small-scale domestic fabricators to supply wire and cable to support the build-out of the domestic power infrastructure market, and copper pipe and tubing for residential and commercial construction.

The EU Delegation to Zambia, through Africa Rise, an EU Facility for private sector promotion, conducted a market assessment on the opportunities on the copper value chain which identified a number of investments opportunities. These opportunities will be presented during the business forum and discuss the best strategies for partnerships between Zambian and European companies and how they can be harnessed.

## **Opportunities Identified in Zambia**

- Partnering with local companies to increase or introduce new wire and copper products.
- Increasing the amount of copper that is smelted and refined to cathode copper, as majority of the copper is exported as blister and anode copper.
- EU wire and cable manufacturers to partner with one or more smelters to install a continuous cast rod mill and add additional value to cathode copper production and exports.
- Recycling of slag that is produced at the smelters and Processing and exportation of sulphuric acid into the global market.
- Establishment of a refinery to process anode slimes to recover precious metals, platinum group metals and other valuable minerals from a by-product material that are currently being exported.
- re-processing copper mine tailings and waste dumps to produce copper cathode for downstream manufacturing or sale into regional / global markets, or establishment of a regional copper scrap collection and reprocessing centre in Zambia.



## Objective

The objective of this conference will be to:

- Show case opportunities for copper value addition in Zambia.
- Facilitating partnerships and market linkages between the European and Zambian enterprises along the copper value chain.

## Event Description

The business forum will be from the 10th to the 12th of April and organized as a two-day event followed by Day 3 with a field visit to operating mines and copper wire and cable manufacturers in the Copperbelt region and other industries involved in copper value addition.

The event will be physical attendance only. The location is in Kitwe, Zambia a historical mining and business center for all copper mining activities in the country.

The event will have organized dialogue sessions on the copper value chain and opportunities with the EU relevant private sector, industry associations, Zambian industries, and Governments. The Businesses Forum will include potential EU investors, EU enterprises, the mining companies, copper fabricators or recyclers, DFIs and banking sector so as to create market linkages between stakeholders from European, Zambia and the African region.

B2B meetings between participants will also be organised through the event B2B platform and held in day 1 and day 2 of the event in a private lounge that will be made available at the venue.

- Day 1 (10th April) Presentations, panel discussions, B2B
- Day 2 (11th April) Presentations, panel discussions, B2B
- Day 3 (12th April) Touring of copper mines and copper wire factories

## Determinants of a successful event

A follow up on both the immediate and long-term determinates of a successful event will be done. The following are some of the determining factors.

- More than 50% of the attendance from registered participants.
- Exchange of knowledge amongst the participants.
- Increased interest or commitments to investments in copper value chain.
- Signing of partnership agreements between the EU and Zambia enterprises
- Increased interest in collaboration in copper mining and production.

## The Outputs

- Speaker presentations
- Promotion and dissemination of project brief that will be made available during the event and media platforms.
- Recorded stakeholder discussions and presentations that will be made available on the YouTube channel.
- Prerecorded messages and speeches from key stakeholders that will be presented during the event.
- Documented minutes on the event



## Topics

- Environmental and social governance issues (ESG) and reporting requirements.
- Circularity Market assessment
- Financing mining and downstream activities in Zambia
- Barriers to entry and expansion and how to solve them.
- Downstream Market Assessment Review

## Potential participants

The event targets principally representatives from the mining industry and copper value chain manufacturing industry, representatives of enterprises in the logistics services and operating in circular economy around mining and copper, such as mining waste recycling enterprises.

The event will also be open to entities involved in the research and technology development related to copper and metal industry, particularly those working on circular economy.

For the physical event, this conference will gather approximately 100 participants and speakers, including:

- Country representatives from the relevant ministries in Zambia
- EU-Delegation in Zambia
- EU Member States
- Mining association and chamber of commerce
- EU Zambia Business Club members
- International experts, civil society, academia, and business representatives working on copper mining, processing, and circular economy.
- Enterprises from the EU and Zambia
- Other sectors who have direct impact on the sector such as the miners, Banks, utilities, and distributors.
- Stakeholders with interest in copper production and processing and circularity
- Sustainable development experts and practitioners
- Africa RISE's consultants

The EU Delegation together with the technical committee will carry out the selection of the participants based on the Business Forum objectives.



## **Sponsorship**

As part of the fundraising strategy for the event, we will seek for sponsors for this event. Sponsors will be able to contribute towards the event either through monetary contributions or by directly paying the vendors for the services or products rendered at the event. Once this concept is approved Africa RISE with its partners will reach out to stakeholders for sponsorship/partnership for this event.

## **Organisation of the event**

- A technical committee will be set up with representative from EUD, Ministry of Mines, Ministry of Commerce and Trade, Zambia Development Agency, EUZBC, ZACCI and Africa RISE
- A work-plan will be prepared to guide the work towards April event.