



MISSION PERMANENTE
DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE
DÉMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO
AUPRÈS DES NATIONS UNIES

CONCEPT NOTE

Arria-formula meeting on the normative gaps linking natural resources and peace: foundations and perspectives.

Date: **13 July 2026** | Time: **10:00 a.m.** | Venue: Conference Room 11

Convened by: The Democratic Republic of the Congo

Chaired by: **The State Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of the Congo**

Background and Rationale.

Natural resources play a critical role in economic development, inclusive growth, and national prosperity. They constitute strategic assets for the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals and for addressing some of today's most pressing global challenges—particularly those related to the energy transition, digital transformation, and the resilience of global supply chains. At the same time, where there are poorly governed, the illicit exploitation and trafficking of natural resources continue to finance armed groups, prolong cycles of violence, and undermine State authority—even as global demand for critical minerals, driven by the transition to clean energy, is projected to nearly triple by 2030.

The Security Council has addressed the relationship between natural resources and conflict in a fragmented manner through country-specific sanctions regimes, panels of experts, the charcoal embargo on Somalia, and support for the Kimberley Process. On at least two occasions—in 2007 and again in 2013—it sought to elevate this issue into a standing thematic concern but failed to reach consensus. More recently, the Arria-formula meeting convened by Sierra Leone in July 2025 and the high-level debate chaired by the United States in March 2026 further advanced discussions on critical minerals and security. Yet, no initiative has so far addressed the central question: what should a more coherent and universal normative framework contain, and how might it be achieved?

This Arria-formula meeting seeks to address that gap. It draws upon a proven model—Security Council Resolution 2417 (2018) on conflict and hunger—which transformed a



thematic concern into a lasting institutional framework through reporting requirement for the Secretary-General and integration into peacekeeping mandates without invoking

Chapter VII, and therefore without imposing new obligations on States. It also builds upon a documented precedent: the Arria-formula meeting convened by Côte d'Ivoire in October 2018 which directly contributed to the adoption for Resolution 2457 (2019). Participants are invited to consider whether such a model may provide useful guidance for the development of a more relevant normative framework.

It should also be noted that the natural resources sector is currently characterized by a proliferation of standards and norms of diverse origin, including the Kimberley Process, the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains, sectoral traceability mechanisms such as ITSCI, LBMA Responsible Gold Guidance, standards for gold, Regulation (EU) 2017/821 on conflict minerals, as well as emerging frameworks specific to critical minerals required for the energy transition. While these international, regional, and sector-specific instruments already address issues relating to resource governance, supply chain traceability, due diligence, and the prevention of conflict financing, they remain fragmented, heterogeneous and insufficiently coordinated—limiting both their effectiveness and their broad ownership by stakeholders.

This fragmentation raises a fundamental question for producing countries : do these standards serve as drivers of economic prosperity—by securing market access and promoting responsible production—or do they become obstacles through the accumulation of compliance costs, administrative complexity, and the risk of excluding less well-equipped producers? Reflection should therefore focus on the development of a framework for harmonizing standards applicable to natural resources, capable of reconciling the imperatives of peace, security, transparency, and sustainable development. Such a framework should not be limited to conflict prevention or supply chains security; it should also ensure a fairer distribution of the value and revenue generated by natural resources, for the benefiting states, local communities, economic operators and consumers.

The objective is therefore to promote a governance system based on shared responsibility, in which compliance and traceability requirements become not only instruments for securing trade but also drivers of shared prosperity and inclusive development for all stakeholders.



The objectives of the Meeting

Overall objective.

To examine prospects for the development of a more coherent and universal normative framework capable of reconciling peace, security, transparency, sustainable development, and the equitable distribution of revenues derived from natural resources.

Specific objectives

- To establish a shared diagnosis of the strengths and weaknesses of the current fragmented approach of the Security Council and other existing mechanisms;
- To identify the substantive elements that could be included in a future normative framework (including reporting obligations, traceability mechanisms, targeted sanctions, technical assistance and review clauses);
- To assess the political and operational feasibility of such an architecture and propose concrete pathways for a possible intergovernmental process (including a thematic debate, a group of experts or a framework resolution).

Guiding questions.

Participants are invited to consider the following questions:

- What are the achievements and limitations of the Council's current fragmented and sector-specific approach (as well as existing mechanisms such as sanctions regimes , panel of experts and the Kimberley Process)?
- What added value could a more coherent normative framework provide, and what elements should it contain to reconcile the imperatives of peace, security, transparency, and sustainable development?
- Do existing standards functions as drivers of prosperity for producing states, or as barriers? How could their harmonization ensure a more equitable distribution of value generated throughout the supply chain?
- In light of the precedents established by resolutions 2417 (2018) and 2457 (2019), what would be the most realistic pathway—and what conditions would be necessary—towards a dedicated normative instrument?



Format and participation

The meeting will be held in the Arria formula format (90 minutes), structured as follows: opening remarks (10 minutes); presentations by three speakers (30 minutes); interactive discussions with Council members and invited participants (40 minutes); and concluding remarks and summary (10 minutes).

The meeting will be open to all members of the Security Council , other United Nations Member States and Permanent observers (upon prior registration), as well as representatives of relevant United Nations entities, regional organizations—including the African Union, the European Union, and the International Conference on the Great Lakes

Region (ICGLR)—together with representatives of civil society, academia, and the private sector. Further details regarding invited briefers will be communicated in due course.

Expected outcome

The meeting aims to build a shared understanding of the normative gap linking natural resources and peace, and to identify concrete and feasible pathways towards a more coherent framework. It seeks to inform future Council deliberations and strengthen cooperation among national governments, regional mechanisms, the private sector, and international partners.

A chair's summary will be circulated to all Security Council members following the meeting.