

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**In November 2025, South Africa will host the first G20 held in the African continent. This report, released ahead of this historic opportunity, centers the voices of mining-affected communities and reveals how the current policy discussions – behind the slogans of shared prosperity and just energy transitions – are failing to meet the needs and aspirations of African communities, and are instead fueling violations and inequalities.**

The report examines the social, cultural, and environmental impacts of the extraction of critical minerals in Buhera (Zimbabwe), Ulanga (Tanzania), and Ruashi (Democratic Republic of Congo, DRC), which reflect broader trends across mining-affected communities in Africa.

The three case studies – through testimonies, images and poems shared by community members and grassroots activists who accompany their struggle – show how communities are facing land dispossession, disrupted livelihoods, environmental degradation, and cultural loss, while engagement and accountability mechanisms remain weak.

The case studies also show how communities are actively resisting, advocating for their rights, and imagining alternative development pathways that prioritise local agency, cultural continuity, and ecological stewardship. Their visions redefine what justice could mean, not as compensation after the fact, but as participation and sovereignty from the start.

The report also includes an overview of the G20 priorities and the current policy discussions around critical minerals and the just energy transition, highlighting the main fallacies behind these discourses.

In Africa, where many people still live without reliable access to electricity, contradictions are particularly stark. While the G20 Presidency under South Africa's Cyril Ramaphosa promotes critical minerals as an engine for economic growth, the reality is that communities near mines face barriers to energy access, water scarcity, land and resource dispossession, and social fragmentation.

This analysis highlights the urgent need for G20 policy discussions to centre community-led approaches; enforce transparency, accountability and participation in financing and governance; and support non-extractive strategies to meet the growing demand for critical minerals.

**True justice in energy transitions will require recognising communities as decision-makers, not passive stakeholders, and embedding their knowledge and priorities at the heart of global energy and mineral policies.**