

**Memorandum of Cooperation between the Government of Norway and the
Government of the United States on
High-Standard, Market-Oriented Trade of Critical Minerals**

The Government of Norway and the Government of the United States, hereinafter the “Participants,”

Recognizing the importance of high-standard critical mineral supply chains to achieving their respective climate goals, protecting their national, economic, and energy security, and promoting clean energy supply chain resilience;

Emphasizing the importance of promoting human rights, due diligence, transparency, traceability, environmental protection, and internationally recognized labor rights in global critical mineral supply chains;

Noting concerns over non-market policies and practices and resulting undue concentration of production affecting critical mineral supply chains and the vulnerabilities and global market distortions that result;

Sharing the goal of promoting diversification and developing alternative sources of critical minerals to strengthen supply chain resilience;

Recognizing the opportunities offered by circular economy approaches, including recycling and resource efficiency, as well as by innovative technologies in critical mineral supply chains;

Seeking to strengthen trade in critical minerals between Norway and the United States;

Underscoring the importance of stimulating public and private investment in strategic mining, processing, and material recycling projects with high labor standards, environmental protections, and sustainability standards,

Have reached the following understanding:

Paragraph I

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this Memorandum of Cooperation (“Memorandum”) is to deepen the partnership of the Participants to develop high-standard environmental, climate, human rights, and labor rights protections for critical minerals extraction, processing, recycling, and end-of-life disposal activities important to building clean energy economies in Norway, the United States, and globally in a manner that is market-oriented and commercially viable over the long term.

Paragraph II

AREAS OF COOPERATION

The Participants intend to deepen their cooperation in the following areas:

Transparency and Traceability: Developing a shared understanding of transparency and traceability best practices for the purpose of promoting due diligence procedures and environmental protections throughout global critical mineral supply chains.

Investment: Sharing investment priorities in the Participants’ domestic critical mineral supply chains, collaborating on the identification of viable international critical mineral investment opportunities, and encouraging joint investments where appropriate, including through initiatives such as the Minerals Security Partnership (MSP).

Non-Market Policies and Practices: Developing a shared understanding of non-market policies and practices of certain third countries, including those related to labor rights violations and insufficient environmental protection, that may distort production or supply of, or trade in, critical minerals; examining the impacts on Norwegian, U.S., and global supply chains; and identifying appropriate policy responses and possible coordinated actions. The Participants intend to compile this shared understanding in a public report that is expected to be issued by the end of 2024 to help shape the global conversation on these issues.

Labor Rights: Strengthening the protection of labor rights in global critical mineral supply chains by encouraging partners in the supply chains relevant to the

Participants to: adopt and maintain labor laws and practices that protect internationally recognized labor rights as outlined in the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, including the right to freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining, as well as acceptable conditions of work with respect to minimum wages, hours of work, and occupational health and safety, and protection from discrimination for those participating in labor law enforcement-related processes; effectively enforce their respective labor laws; and promote employer neutrality in union organizing drives.

Environmental Conservation and Protection: Sharing information and experience on environmental best practices, consistent with their respective laws and regulations and international obligations and commitments, for the purposes of advancing environmental conservation and protection throughout global critical mineral supply chains.

Indigenous Peoples' Rights: Strengthening the protection of human rights of all individuals, as well as the rights of Indigenous Peoples, in particular by adopting practices of meaningful engagement and participation.

Paragraph III

COOPERATIVE FRAMEWORK TO PROMOTE LABOR RIGHTS IN GLOBAL CRITICAL MINERAL SUPPLY CHAINS

The Participants intend to establish a cooperative framework for the purpose of promoting internationally recognized labor rights in global critical mineral supply chains.

The Participants intend to identify a primary point of contact or primary points of contact for the framework and establish a means to solicit information from interested parties about alleged violations of internationally recognized labor rights in the global critical minerals supply chain.

The Participants intend to share information with each other when either has a good faith basis to believe that an allegation of a violation of internationally recognized labor rights at a critical mineral facility in their respective critical minerals supply chains is credible. After a Participant shares such information with the other Participant, Participants intend to jointly gather more information

about the alleged labor rights violation and, if necessary and as appropriate, take steps to facilitate remediation of the violation, such as by engaging in outreach to relevant stakeholders, including workers affected by the alleged violation and their representatives, the owner or operator of the facility at issue, suspected downstream producers or sellers, and the jurisdiction where the alleged violation occurred.

The Participants intend to publicly report at a regular interval on the efforts under this cooperative framework, including, unless the Participants determine otherwise, the alleged violation, identification of the facility at issue, and any identified or suspected downstream users, including companies and brands, associated with the facility, for the purposes of developing best practices for advancing labor rights through due diligence, transparency, and remediation.

Participants intend to consult with other likeminded partners to promote awareness of this collaborative approach to securing high standard critical mineral supply chains.

Paragraph IV

COORDINATION

The Participants intend to meet regularly to share information and experience on environmental best practices for the purposes of advancing environmental conservation and protection throughout global critical mineral supply chains.

The Participants intend for these meetings to occur at the appropriate level to share technical information about existing Norwegian and U.S. policies and their implementation, as well as lessons learned from those policies.

The Participants further intend to discuss ways in which they can coordinate actions, as appropriate, to strengthen efforts to improve environmental conservation and protection in global critical mineral supply chains.

Paragraph V

NO LEGAL EFFECT

This Memorandum does not impose any legal obligations on the Participants.

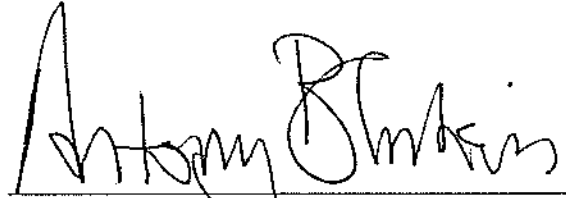
Signed in Washington, D.C. on September 30, 2024, in duplicate, in the English language.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
NORWAY:



Espen Barth Eide
Foreign Minister

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
UNITED STATES:



Antony J. Blinken
Secretary of State