



Global  
Gateway



# EU-NAMIBIA

BUSINESS FORUM 2023

Green Hydrogen and  
Critical Raw Materials



## **Summary report of the first EU- Namibia business Forum**

**Brussels, 24-25<sup>th</sup> October 2023**



## Dr Hage Geingob. President of Namibia



A champion for the development of Namibia's renewable energy sources especially Green Hydrogen as an opportunity to achieve national energy security, attract meaningful foreign investments, diversify the country's exports and economy, create impactful jobs, and contribute to the much-needed transition to a global green economy.

'Only when we hold hands as partners, will we collectively stand a chance to get the molecule successfully shipped from region to region and from continent to continent. This is the only way in which we can fulfil the crucial mandate of the Global Gateway initiative, "Stronger Together, through Sustainable

Investment."

'As we continue to dream and to work for a better tomorrow, it is clear that Namibia has the necessary resource endowments. Together, we are confident that the vision could turn into reality in our lifetime. Neither of us should find comfort trading in unprocessed commodities between one another anymore. Value addition to Namibia's natural resources and technology transfer are key priority areas of focus in our pathway'.



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## A. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

### 1) What is the EU-Namibia Business Forum on Green Hydrogen and Critical Raw Materials?



Namibia and European Union (EU) jointly organised their first ever edition of the **EU-Namibia BF from 24-25 October 2023 in Brussels, Belgium**, in the margins of the Global Gateway Forum (GGF) 2023 therefore, leveraged on the high-level private sector participation at the GGF 2023. The collaboration between the EU and Namibia in the green economy domain kicked-off in November 2022 during COP27 in Egypt,

when European Commission (EC) President Ursula von der Leyen and President Hage Geingob signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Renewable Hydrogen and Sustainable Raw Materials Value Chains. An EU-Namibia Roadmap of 2023-2025 to implement the MOU was signed in the margins of the Global Gateway Forum, paving the way for the next concrete actions. The roadmap encompasses six key pillars: value chain integration, environmental criteria, infrastructure funding, capacity building, research and innovation, and regulatory alignment.

This first edition of ENBF focused on Green Hydrogen (GH2) and Critical Raw Materials (CRM), two key elements to ensuring a Green Transition. Namibia's abundant renewable energy resources, vast ocean biomass resources, substantial mineral deposits, and its emerging role in the global GH2 market as well as offering the fastest route from Southern Africa to Europe, combined with the EU's determined efforts to achieve green economy, its access to cutting-edge technology, significant capital resources, and robust consumer demand, creates an optimal business landscape for investment for both





Parties. Many companies are interested in investing GH2 and CRM and transitioning to green economy.

## 2) What is the purpose of the first ENBF on GH2 and CRM?

The key objective of the first ever edition of the ENBF on Green Hydrogen and Critical Raw Materials is to support Namibia's investment promotion efforts for attracting European foreign direct investments (FDI) and joint ventures for expanding GH2 production capacity and the development of downstream products (synthetic fuels, green ammonia, green steel) as well as further developing a home-grown extractive sector, refining and recycling industry for raw materials in Namibia. The ENBF was attended by private sector representatives from both Europe and Namibia who explored avenues to stimulate and foster joint ventures and unleash multiplier effects along the value chain for promoting businesses expansion, skills and capacity development and wealth creation.

The ENBF on GH2 and CRM aimed to achieve five objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ Foster investor confidence and informing stakeholders about prospective GH2 and CRM sectors and key initiatives.</li> <li>◇ Raise visibility and understanding of Namibia's investment and trade opportunities and unlock opportunities in key sectors, projects and value chains.</li> <li>◇ Develop GH2 and derivatives Off-take and CRM sectors, with expectations to foster progress in terms of agreeing on strategic or key initiatives in these sectors that will facilitate value addition and beneficiation.</li> <li>◇ Support Namibian and EU companies and organisations in forming lasting working / networking relationships and support business development.</li> </ul>

The ENBF was a result of about 6 months of comprehensive collaborative work between European Union Delegation (EUD) in Namibia and Namibia Investment Promotion Development Board (NIPBD) in conjunction with the multisectoral national organising committee (NOC) that was created to provide **strategic direction for the Forum**. **Twelve (12) ad hoc thematic technical groups were created, and they held several**



meetings that prepared the content of specific sessions as well as other organisational matters.

### 3) What was agenda of the ENBF?

The forum was officiated by His Excellency **Dr. Hage G. Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia**. It was organised around two central themes: **GH2 and CRM related issues**. The first day focused on ‘**Highlights of the Partnership on GH2 Value Chains**’, namely investment conditions and opportunities in Namibia and Namibia's Green Hydrogen Strategy, showcase presentations by flagship GH2 projects, clean hydrogen derivatives value chains, and strategies for mitigating financial risks in GH2 and innovative instruments. The five panel sessions covered.



Invest in Namibia and GH2.

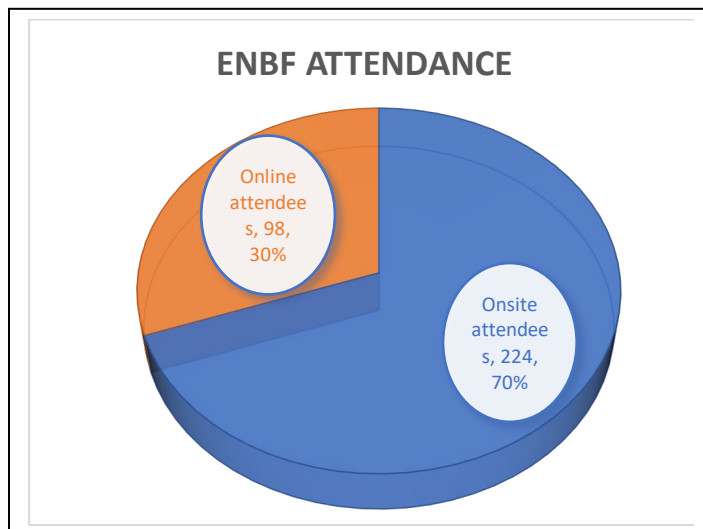
- Highlights of the Partnership on CRM and GH2 Value Chains
- Private Sector: Paving the Way for a mutually beneficial GH2 partnership.
- Upstream & Downstream Ventures: Exploring Opportunities along the Clean Hydrogen Derivatives Value Chain.
- Mitigating Financial Risks in GH2 - Innovative Instruments and Off-Take Mechanisms

**The second day** focused on **CRM Sector**; policies framework, technological advancements, business opportunities, joint ventures and investments in CRM, showcase of flagship CRM projects, support in R&D, skills and capacity building, transportation, and Green Logistics Hub, mapping the future of the EU-Namibia partnership in CRM and GH2, B2B online meetings, with stands showcasing the best EU and Namibia initiatives and companies. Panel sessions covered following topics.



- Aligning CRM Policies to Enhance Supply Security and Boost Local Value Addition
- Exploring Technological Advancements and Showcasing projects' opportunities in the Namibian CRM sector.
- Unlocking Value: Joint Ventures, Partnerships, and Investment for Beneficiation in CRM
- Green Logistics Hub: Transport and Enabling Infrastructure
- Institutional Support in R&D and Capacity Building
- IPPs: Accelerating Namibia's Energy Transition & Independence.
- Closing the Skill Gap for Youth Employment: The Namibian Government Policy Mix
- Mapping the way forward for a Strengthened EU Namibia Partnership in CRM and GH2
- B2B Meet Up & Visiting Exhibits

#### 4) Who participated in the first ever ENBF on GH2 and CRM



The ENBF had wide attendance from Namibia and Europe

More than 329 (224 on-site and 98 online) business community representatives from Namibia and EU countries, members of the Namibian Government, EU institutions and Member States representatives, financing institutions and academic partners attended the Forum. About 72% (162) of the onsite participants registered on the B2Match platform

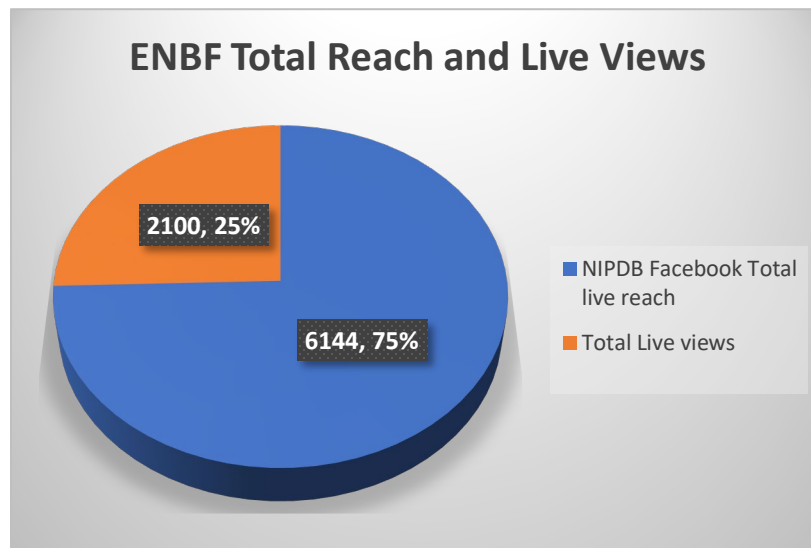
prior to the Forum while some 28% (62) registered on-site during the Forum.



## Summary

**A Total of 224 Participants were on site. of which**

- 130 EU and Namibia companies onsite
- 91 Participants onsite from Namibia
- 149 Participants onsite from EU
- 21 Countries onsite



The ENBF generated much interest worldwide. During the two days of the ENBF, its total live reach recorded on NIPDB Facebook page was 6144 of which total live views namely the count of Facebook users who viewed the ENBF posts was 2100.

**Participants.** The audience included businesses, captains of industry, the investment

community, EU and Namibian policymakers, academics, civil society, technical and financial development partners,





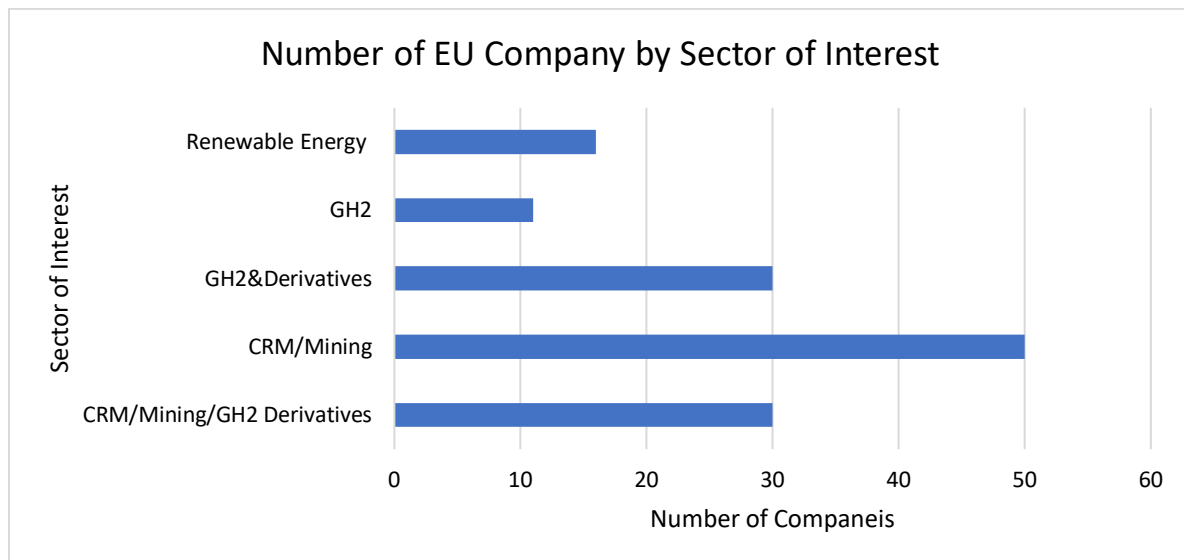
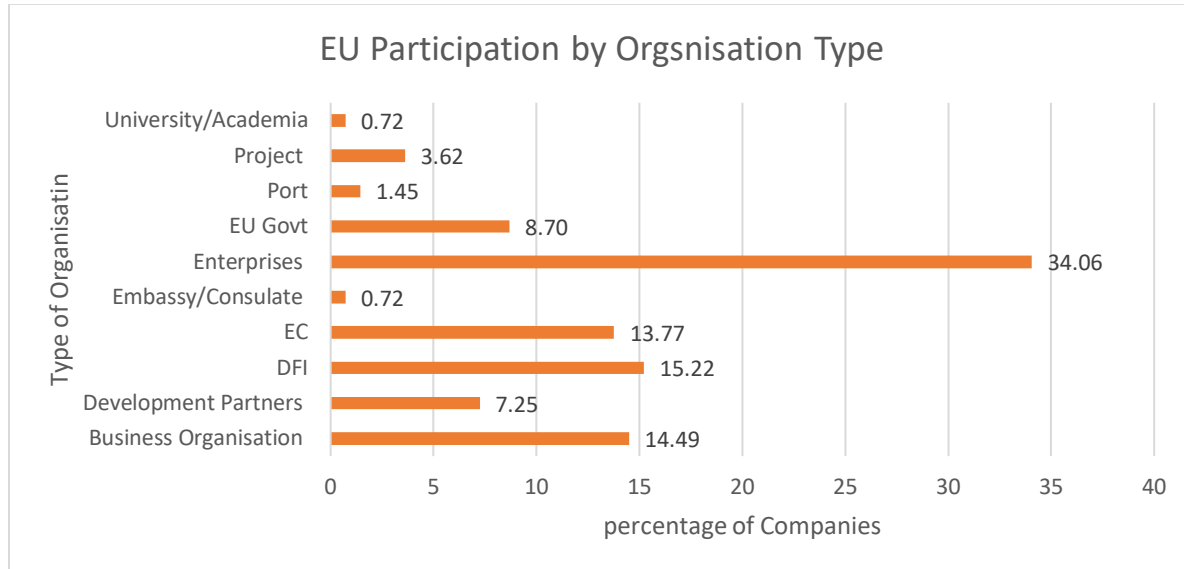
Category of Companies that attended	
<b>GH2 and Green Energy Value Chain:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Industrial Gases Companies</li> <li>Potential offtakes</li> <li>Engineering, Procurement Construction (EPC)</li> <li>Renewable Energy Companies (solar, Wind, etc.)</li> <li>Electrolyser Manufacturers</li> <li>Hydrogen Production companies</li> <li>Transport and Storage</li> <li>Fuel Cell, Equipment and Technology Suppliers</li> <li>Energy Utility Company</li> <li>Consultancies and Engineering, R&amp;D</li> <li>Financial Institutions, Association</li> </ul>	<b>CRM Value Chain</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mining Operation and Exploration Companies</li> <li>Refining and Processing Companies</li> <li>Geological and Engineering Technology Companies</li> <li>Recycling Waste, Trading and Distribution</li> <li>R&amp;D Institutions</li> <li>Relevant Government Agencies</li> <li>Financial Institutions and Investors</li> <li>Equipment, Industry Associations</li> <li>Supply Chain Consultants</li> <li>Exploration Equipment</li> </ul>

### Categories participants per Organisation type:

Below are a few important trends and observation:

#### European Union

1. From the EU, 14% were Business Organisations, 7% Development Partners, 34% Enterprises/Companies, 15% DFI, see graph below.
2. High level of interest in CRM and Mining, with equally high interest in GH2



## **Namibia**

1. More than half of the Namibian participants were companies/enterprises 56% of which almost all were from the mining and CRM sector.
2. High level participation by the government of Namibia

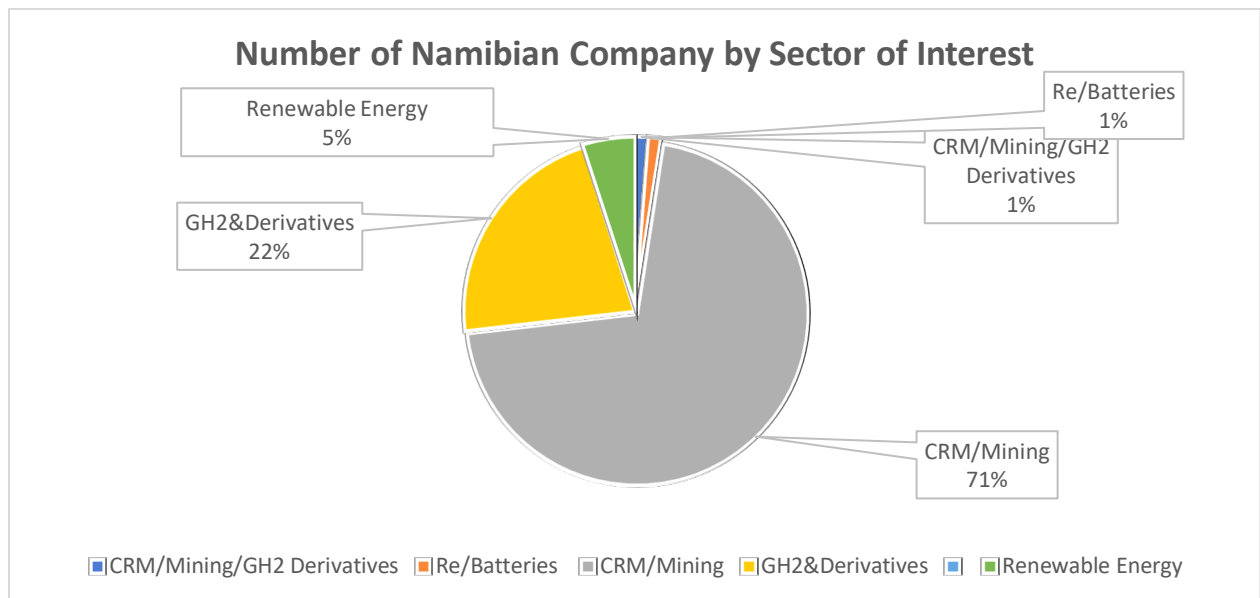
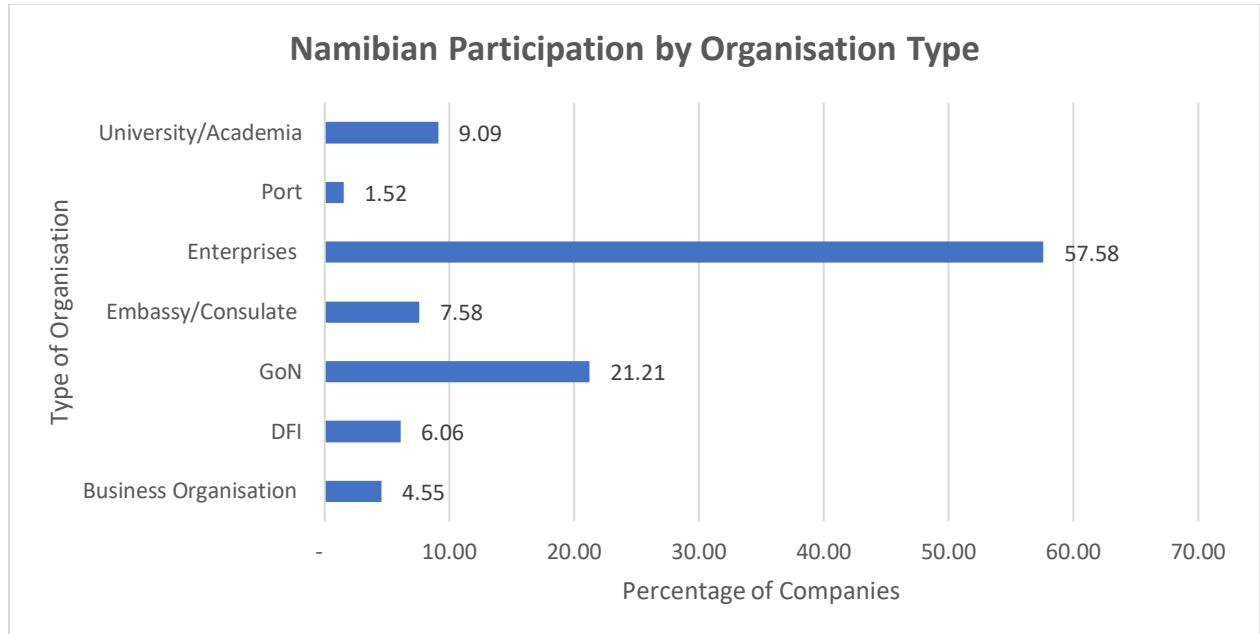


Table 1: Overview by Sector for Namibia and EU



							Types of Companies/Sectors					
Namibia	Nb Participants	Namibia Participant	SA Participants	International	Online	Onsite	CRM/Mining/GH2 Derivatives	Re/Batteries	CRM/Mining	GH2&Derivatives	GH2	Renewable Energy
Business Organisation	3	3				3				3		
DFI	4	4			1	3			1	3		
GoN	14	14				14		1	13			
Embassy/Consulate	5					5			4	1		
Enterprises	49	38	6	5	17	32			37	8		4
Port	1	1					1					
University/Academia	6	6				6			3	3		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>
							Types of Companies/Sectors					
EU	Number	EU	UK	International	Online	Onsite	CRM/Mining/GH2 Derivatives	Re/Batteries	CRM/Mining	GH2&Derivatives	GH2	Renewable Energy
Business Organisation	21	20	1		13	8	3	4	11	2	1	
Development Partners	12	10		1	7	5		1	3	4	3	1
DFI	22	21		1	16	6	6	2	3	10		1
EC	19	19			18	1	4		8		1	6
Embassy/Consulate	1	1				1						1
Enterprises	53	47	5	1 (Canada)	17	36	13	2	18	12	3	5
EU Govt	12	12			10	2		1	6	2	2	1
Port	2	2									1	1
Project	5	5			2	3	4	1				
University/Academia	1	1							1			
<b>Total</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>62</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>229</b>											

The two-day High-Level ENBF was organized in the margins of the 2023 Global Gateway Forum, so as to engage and strategize with partner countries, G7/G20, EU member States, financial institutions and leading global businesses. It provided participants the opportunity to network, exchange experiences and explore sustainable win-win business opportunities for Namibian and European companies.

## 5) Format of 1st ENBF on GH2 and CRM

The Forum was a hybrid event composed of the following activities:

- **A physical formal event** - Two-day business forum with 224 in-person participants



- **An online streaming of events via an online platform** allowed wider participation and broad interactions. Over 98 participants logging in.
- **Showcasing of Namibia's opportunities and comparative advantage** as a strategic destination for direct investment in GH2 and CRM.
- **A platform for Private-Public dialogue** to improve further the business environment (e.g., regulatory framework).
- **Business-to-Business (B2B), Business-to Government(B2G) and Government-to-Government (G2G)** meetings and networking in view of possible partnerships, between the Namibian and European counterparts
- **A platform for the signing of key agreements**, A Roadmap for the implementation of EU-Namibia MoU on GH2 and CRMs was signed during the BF.
- **Video Presentations of investment 'pitches'**
- **Site visit to Port Antwerp** to view the **GH2 facilities** being put in place was done.

## B. WHAT ARE THE KEY MESSAGES EXCHANGED DURING THE 1<sup>ST</sup> ENBF ON GH2 AND CRM?

### 6) **Session 1. Official opening remarks by HE President HG of Namibia Speech**

The EU and Namibia partnership has entered a new era in both their efforts to achieve carbon neutrality, abate climate change and stimulate economic growth. **President Hage Geingob highlighted that the country's renewable energy ambitions present an opportunity to**

- **Diversify the country's exports portfolio and economy,**
- **Attract meaningful foreign investments.**
- **Create jobs and impactful employment.**
- **Achieve energy security.**
- **Set a solid foundation to establish new clean industries.**
- **Make Namibia a leader on production of GH2.**







## 8) Sessions 3 and 4 – Highlights of the Partnership on CRM and GH2 Value Chains

The session highlighted the strategic significance of the EU-Namibia partnership, emphasized the revitalized privileged relationship geared towards inclusive green growth, as well as the advancement of critical raw materials and GH2.



The MoU on Sustainable Energy and Critical Raw Minerals signed between Namibia and EU sets their partnership on a new trajectory. The High-Level speakers commended the relationship between Namibia and the EU, that seeks to promote economic independence for Namibia and strengthen the energy security of European countries through various sustainable energies. The cooperation is founded on mutual respect and interest, equal partnership and for both Parties to grow their economies and create jobs for their citizens.

The shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy is imperative. Climate change is real hence the need to collaborate for a win-win outcome. Namibia with its renewable energy resources can support Europe achieve its carbon neutrality objectives by 2050 and there is a business case for both sides.



On CRM it was highlighted that working with Namibia is important to enhance local value addition, capacity building, skills development and R&D. It is important to ascertain the CRM base in Namibia, viability and develop business case for win-win outcomes. Meanwhile, the EU is developing its CRM Act for its single market.

Critical interventions required to support development of these two sectors include skills development in all aspects of GH2 production to marketing cycle, financing, export competitiveness- green ammonia, meeting standard for sustainable mining, value chains, securing markets for GH2 and improving Namibia's policy environment.



## 9) **Session 5 – Upstream & Downstream Ventures: Exploring Opportunities along the Clean Hydrogen Derivatives Value Chain.**



This panel explored the world of GH2 pioneering derivatives to reveal their potential to unlock opportunities across the full spectrum of upstream and downstream ventures, essential for Namibia Industrial Revolution.

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### **Key Takeaways from the Discussions**

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- The threat from global climate change is real and urgent action is required to stop its causes and mitigate the effects of global warming. So far international response to climate change within the UNFCCC COP framework is slow. Drastic action is needed like yesterday in this regard.
- More competition amongst companies is important in order to drive down the price of hydrogen, make it more profitable and sustainable for private sector to participate in the domestic, regional and international markets.
- Companies setting up GH2 operations in Namibia are motivated by the available resources in the country, stability, logistics ease, and enabling government policy. New GH2 projects being established in Namibia are set to make the country an integrated Hydrogen Hub covering mining silica to producing panels, building electrolyzers, feeding GH2 to build green steel and chemical industries and further.



- Localization of value addition is important- using GH2 in producing value added products for export and to use environment friendly production systems and not setting up operations in national parks and taking salt back into the sea.
- There are initiatives to partner and support Namibia SMEs, establish high school and university training programs, produce own equipment for GH2 production including developing value for money trucks that utilise GH2 fuel, establish GH2 engine development centre in Namibia and GH2 fuelling stations in SADC region.
- Technology for producing GH2 is still expensive hence the need for incentives and supportive policies for investors to be able to recoup their costs in long run. Investors seek attractive projects and partners. Issue of scale is important.
- In partnership with large Multilateral firms, Namibia is set to play an important part in transitioning from fossil fuel engines to GH2 powered engines, cars and establish global vehicles supply chain thus building local skills base.
- So far, experience shows that doing business in Namibia is positive and if one works transparently, the government is supportive.
- It is sometimes good to start small, grow slowly and then attract new western investment firms. It is important to secure market for GH2 upfront.

## 10) Session # 6 - Mitigating Financial Risks in Green Hydrogen - Innovative Instruments and Off-Take Mechanisms

The Roundtable panel discussion focused on strategies aimed at minimising financial risks within the realm of GH2. Panellists presented innovative financial tools that have been implemented to support the GH2 sector in Namibia. Furthermore, conversations focused on development of risk-reduction instruments specifically tailored for the GH2 ecosystem, looking at the different types of off-take mechanisms, current utilization of these instruments and challenges faced by firms in accessing available financial instruments as well as the role played by the recently established Hydrogen Bank






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### Key Takeaways from the Discussions

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- Climate funding is receiving top priority in Namibia. In partnership with Climate Fund Managers and Invest International and EIFN an SDG One Fund was created for Namibia to channel all renewable hydrogen financing in Namibia on behalf of the government. It is envisaged that the fund size will grow to 1 billion euros.
- Commercial banks are not keen to finance green energy projects due to unfamiliar financing outcomes. Development Bank of Namibia (DBN) pioneers finance for privately owned renewable energy projects and de-risks these innovative projects with extensive due diligence on innovation.
- DBN is collaborating with various partners to mobilise finance for renewable energy projects. For example, in August 2023, the DBN and KfW Development Bank signed the second concessional loan of around N\$600 million (translating to €30 million) to be used for development of climate-related infrastructure.
- For EC DG Trade, there are three groups on risks of GH2: capital deployment and policy environment, technology risk and market risk. Namibia has tough competition to become a secure supply market for Europe. Infrastructure and country risk increase the price of supply for Namibia to the European market.
- The European Investment Bank (EIB) and the EC are in a process to auction off, capacity-based hydrogen energy supply to various European utilities and





companies can buy hydrogen support for the operationalization of their project within Europe.

- On the margins of [COP27](#), EIB President [Werner Hoyer](#) signed a Joint Declaration with Namibia's President Hage Geingob, in relation to a potential loan of up to €500 million financing renewable hydrogen and renewable energy investments..
- EIB and Hydrogen de France (HDF Energy), a manufacturer of fuel cells and hydrogen power plants, have formalized their collaboration to build a GH2 power plant in Swakopmund, Namibia which will jumpstart Namibia's technical GH2 development and GH2 investment execution.
- Capital expenditure costs for GH2 needs to be reduced to ensure that a greater scale of financial support can be given to Namibia.
- When financial considerations are being made around GH2 projects, innovate and fluid financial mechanisms should continuously consider the demand and supply of green energy to the international and regional markets.
- Private sector need to come to the table to support the availability of private equity funds that can unlock new opportunities in the GH2 sector/industry.
- Namibia Green Hydrogen Implementation Office is in the process of developing three GH2 valley projects across the country.
- There is a strong willingness to show the EU leadership on the development of the Namibian GH2 sector by supporting an early mover that may commence works by 2025 and be operational as early as 2027.

## 11) Session 7; Aligning CRM Policies to Enhance Supply Security and Boost Local Value Addition

*This panel session explored the potential for enhancing the EU-Namibia Critical Raw Material (CRM) partnership by examining the alignment between the EU Critical Raw Material Package and Namibia's policy on CRM.*




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### Key Takeaways from the Discussions

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- EU stands ready to develop its own green economy and it sees Namibia as a key partner to develop and secure energy markets. The EU is seeking to strengthen its own resilience to external shocks in relation to the supply of energy to the Union. In this regard, Namibia as a transparent and stable market, is a key partner for the EU.
- CRM is a key lever to accelerate the growth of the Namibian Economy hence the country seeks to engage partners that will assist it in processing its minerals, to grow its green economy. Namibia has adopted its mineral beneficiation policy, which seeks to add value to all its key minerals in order to increase capacity of Namibia's industrial base and generate economic growth for the country. The approach to mining should change from the traditional 3 Es: "explore, exploit, export" to value addition".
- Namibia and EU partnership should be people development centred with a focus on preserving the planet hence it is important for the new partnership to ensure sustainable exploitation and supply of CRM for value chain development and beneficiation in both Namibia and the EU.



## 12) Session 8; Exploring Technological Advancements and Showcasing projects opportunities in the Namibian CRM sector.

In this session the collective focus of the panellists was on sharing information and examination of technological advancements achieved by mining companies operating in Namibia's CRM sectors and their collaborative partnerships with companies in the EU. The panel offered valuable insights into mining technological advances, projects and opportunities that lie within this critical sector.



### Key Takeaways from the Discussions

- The EU-Namibia partnership in the CRM is about the security of supply for these CRM to the EU and, adding value to these CRM locally to contribute to industrialization and growth of the Namibian economy. The partnership covers the whole CRM value chain from exploration to mining, mineral processing, manufacturing of intermediary and end products (lithium-ion batteries), recycling and Research & Innovation in mineral processing.
- Foreign owned mining companies operating in Namibia support the government policy of local beneficiation of minerals and transition to a green economy. For local beneficiation main issues to be addressed include mobilizing capital to set up local processing plants, developing local skills base to undertake value adding processes and trade facilitation.



- Collaboration among firms is critical especially on how GH2 can be used to further process lithium for the Namibian economy. Namibia has the potential to achieve chemical conversation of manufacturing lithium for battery components.
- Government should dedicate adequate resources from its national budget for developing key skills in the GH2 and CRM sectors to accelerate the growth of the sector in Namibia. A skills audit in the CRM sector in Namibia would need to be undertaken.
- There is need to link Namibian students (Bachelors, MSc, PhD) studying mining related disciplines in European universities with Namibian mining companies that require these skills.
- The United Arab Emirate (UAE) is a key case model for Namibia in terms of setting up a special economic zone to manufacture lithium into battery components and electronics.
- Namibia could develop into a processing hub that imports lithium concentrates globally for toll manufacturing or processing into other lithium-based products.
- There is need for more detailed and updated high quality geological data for investors. Some companies can bring high technology for geological survey that incorporate AI and mature learning.
- Main challenges faced include access to water, electricity and high capital expenditure hence need for private sector investors.

### **13) Session 9; Unlocking Value: Joint Ventures, Partnerships, and Investment for Beneficiation in CRM**

During this panel, government, industry leaders and experts considered the potential for creating value through collaborative efforts in mining, refining and manufacturing. By exploring joint ventures, partnerships, and strategic investments, the discussion aimed to uncover opportunities for enhanced beneficiation and value-added strategies that can drive sustainable growth across these critical sectors.




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### Key Takeaways from the Discussions

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- Developing a sustainable, efficient, and secure supply chain on CRM lies at the heart of the new EU/Namibia partnership on CRM. This requires taking an integrated approach which looks at the entire value chain, from exploration in Namibia to recycling within the European Union, with a strategic focus on securing both the upstream (exploration and extraction) and midstream (processing and refining) value in Namibia, close to the source. This approach aligns with both the interest of Namibia and Europe and is a natural starting point for **unlocking and creation value along the CRM Value chain** which is mutually beneficial for both partners.
- Government has banned export of unprocessed CRMs including lithium to encourage beneficiation. However, for value addition, in addition to availability of raw minerals, it is critical to have good physical infrastructure, energy, relevant critical skills and enabling macroeconomic environment.
- 'Scale' is everything in CRM business and paramount for commercial feasibility and market access. Namibian Private Sector can achieve scale through the strong collaborative effort with its European partners, and together chart a clear route to market.
- Namibia has a long mining history and good linkages to regional and global value chains. For example, Dundee Precious Metals (DPM) in Namibia provides toll smelting and metal manufacturing to various global clients. It





- brings minerals ores from all over the world for processing and in country value addition and sends processed products back to its clients abroad.
- There are huge stockpiles of mineral waste accumulated over the past decades. At DPM, two of the CRM namely germanium and gallium are found in the waste stockpiles. These minerals have huge global demand of which Namibia can be a new supplier of these two minerals. DPM is seeking to partner with interested EU companies to produce these minerals from the waste stockpiles.
  - Major battery manufacturing firms prefer to locate processing plants close to sources of mines/inputs to reduce transactions and transport costs. With its good infrastructure and lithium ores resources Namibia can become a hub for battery production in Africa. What is needed to become a hub for battery cell production in Africa is scale, critical mass of battery material for processing, appropriate skills especially skilled battery engineers and technicians and cooperation between Namibia and EU firms.
  - Unlocking value for CRM/ REE requires a multifaceted collaboration between Namibia and Europe for accessing technology, equipment, industrial and technical skills, access to capital through JV and the sophisticated lending instruments available through the EDFIs and building capacity for ESG compliance,
  - EU-Namibia cooperation needs to align to the CRM policy frameworks of both Parties (EC CRM Regulation and the Namibia Beneficiation Strategy).
  - To get local beneficiation, one critical element is to develop the required skills that are needed for energy processing, mineral processing and further mineral production.
  - EU is proposing to establish a CRM club- on margins of COP 28. Such a club will bring together reliable CRM resource rich and resource scarce countries to create win-win approach, policy responses which ensures that countries can industrialise while ensuring profits for investors. Members of the club will also exchange information on CRM and promote dialogue on sustainable mining. EU is inviting Namibia to join the club and to co-sponsor of the idea.
  - To summarize the main message is 'Partnering with Europe can offer Namibia access to advanced technologies, financial resources, and a vast market for REE products. This collaboration can play a pivotal role in Namibia's development by driving economic growth, creating job



opportunities, and setting ESG standards that align with global best practices. For Europe this partnership is essential for ensuring energy independence, reaching our net zero commitment by 2050, sustaining Europe's industrial prominence on the international stage—truly mutually beneficial partnership.

#### 14) Session 10 - Green Logistics Hub: Transport and Enabling Infrastructure

This session provided a comprehensive exploration of Namibia's strategic positioning as a Green Logistics Hub and its integral role in the global push for achieving net-zero emissions in transportation. The panel investigated the various collaboration happening between the Namibia and the EU in Port Infrastructure development, namely development of the Walvis Bay Port (WBP) which the entry point from the Atlantic side to the Walvis Bay – Maputo Corridor, one of the eleven Strategic Corridors the EU envisages to support as part of the EU-Africa Global Gateway Investment Package.



#### Key Takeaways from the Discussions

- The EU pledged about 100 million Euros as regional assistance to support the development of the Walvis Bay – Maputo Corridor. With EU support, the Port of Antwerp and Bruges International will develop a masterplan that covers multimodal infrastructure, spatial planning, and market organisation for the Port of Walvis Bay to carry out this transformation and become a regional logistics and industrial hub for the GH2 and derivatives economy.



- Port infrastructure and transmission companies are key players in the development of a green logistics hub and ensuring accelerated economic growth. Namports need to leapfrog and be able to beneficiate some of the raw material at the port to enable industrialization. Namport's new strategy focuses on developing technologies that allow Namibian ports to process these minerals and molecules, to set up Namibian ports that can add value to minerals and then export to the rest of the world. This, in turn, contributes to the growth of the value chain by increasing local value addition and generating revenue for the country.
- Namport Authority is therefore enhancing its infrastructure to make Namibia a hub to export GH2 and ammonia.
- With a MOU between Namibia and EU ports, there is a clear commitment by the Parties to work together to establish green shipping and transport corridors for the movement of GH2 and ammonia as part of transition to green economies. Transporting fuel is product specific hence transporting GH2 and ammonia requires specific infrastructure.

## 15) Session 11; Institutional Support in R&D and Capacity Building

This thematic panel focused on R&D opportunities and challenges in the minerals sector (including collaborative efforts and institutional support) and how these can contribute to the EU-Namibia strategic partnership's objectives including the integration of CRMs value chains. It presented the results of the Africa Aval project and the OULU/NUST Mineral Beneficiation Project.





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## Key Takeaways from the Discussions

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- Research and capacity building are part of the key pillars of the roadmap on the strategic partnership between Namibia and the EU, as this area has the capacity to increase Namibia's readiness to grow the CRM sector domestically and across Africa.
- Institutions of high academic learning in Namibia namely Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) and University of Namibia (UNAM) are adjusting their curriculum and programs for transitioning to GH2 economy to ensure that graduates are employable.
- One of NUST's mandate is supporting Namibia to adjust/transit to GH2 economy. NUST has developed various projects on beneficiation of raw materials. Key focus is on developing skills on GH2 along the entire value chain and competence standards. Currently NUST is developing academic program for GH2 economy to ensure that graduates are employable. There is need for R&D infrastructure especially upscale bring laboratories to high standards.
- There is need to provide scholarships to Namibia students to study in EU and provide internship for students to be placed in the GH2 companies. For example, NUST and Finland are implementing a joint collaborative project on capacity-building, research and development for mineral beneficiation with focus on critical minerals and gemstones in Namibia. The project involves capacity building, skills development, and R&D co-operation along raw materials value chains.
- There is need partnerships for successful R&D, skills development on green industries, sharing knowledge and experiences between Namibia and EU institutions working on GH2 and CRM
- There is need for R&D infrastructure especially bring laboratories to the high standards to enable them to certify GH2 products.
- There are several international partners and projects working on co-development of a partnership and investments between EU and Africa. For example, AfricaMaVal focuses on the minerals and metals present in the fourth list of CRMs for the EU as well as on Copper (Cu), Nickel (Ni), Tin (Sn) and Manganese (Mn) that are particularly pertinent considering Africa's





geological potential and their critical status in the digital and energy twin transitions. Thus, in the context of this project, Africa Maval focuses on establishing key partnerships with African countries that possess key deposits of critical raw minerals including Namibia.

## 16) Session 12.; Panel Discussion; Closing the Skill Gap for Youth Employment: The Namibian Government Policy Mix

The panel assessed strategies and approaches to enhance skills and expertise within Namibia's workforce, aligning with the country's goal of becoming a prominent hub for renewable hydrogen and critical raw materials. Experts explored avenues for skill development, training, and capacity-building to catalyse the growth of these vital sectors, drawing on experiences from private sector, research institutions and development partners.



### Key Takeaways from the Discussions

- The upskilling and reskilling of Namibia labour force is critical for supporting Namibia's 'Green Industrial Revolution'. This will ensure that Namibia can effectively implement its policies for adding value along the CRM and for developing both upstream and downstream GH2 value chains.





- Updated skills gap assessment needs to be done across the critical areas under GH2 and CRM sectors. Namibia should move with speed to fill identified skills gaps.
- There is need to readjust curriculum and enhance the employability of graduates. Both academic and technical qualifications focused on GH2 and CRM are needed.
- Short courses to reequip graduates and internships/ practical on the job training is important.
- Challenge is that so far there are ad hoc trainings on GH2 and CRM issues. Ideally there is need to modify training from primary to university to include curriculum to include green economy and CRM issues.
- Already GH2 and CRM has been included in national research agenda by NCRST.
- Collaboration between training institutions and companies working on GH2 and CRM is needed.
- Training on GH2 need to be conducted by industry operators and experts – who are already in the industry.
- There is need for mutual recognition and certification of diplomas for those studying GH2 and CRM programs.
- Strengthening TVET, R&D, and Basic Education and having an efficient TVET System:
- Adding Value along the CRM and GH2 Value Chain can only be achieved if the skills necessary to seize the vast potential and opportunities in Namibia are properly aligned.

## C. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND THE NEXT STEPS

The first EN Business Forum 2023 was a huge success. There are several lessons learnt from the outcome of the Forum.

The Forum achieved the following ten key results.



1. Fostered government and investor confidence and informed participants about opportunities and developments in in GH2 and CRM sectors.
2. B2B/B2G networking between and among top business leaders from EU and Namibia working on CRM/GH2 with top-level policy makers from the EU and Namibia
3. Platform to sign key document (s) and kick-off discussions and collaboration in prioritized sectors and programs.
4. Signature of an operational Roadmap to implement the EU-Namibia MoU on raw materials value chains and renewable hydrogen)
5. Identification of opportunities and key value chains and creating local value addition in the 2 priority sectors
6. Showcased opportunities for investment such as Mining, Green Hydrogen, Renewable Energy, transport corridors, logistics, Digitalization and Port development.
7. Rich experience for participants as it offered an array of networking opportunities and thought-provoking policy discussions on GH2 and CRM industry.
8. Created direct linkages between EU companies and organisations and NIPDB. These have materialized in immediate new collaboration for the COP28, with Xcalibur, Africa Hydrogen Partnership, Finpartnership, EC, amongst others who are participating on panel discussions in the Namibia Pavilion at COP28.
9. Clear System and institutions for organising future joint Forums are in place. Twelve joint panel session covering various issues under GH2, and CRM attended by leading businesses operators and policy makers and policy makers from both EU and Namibia were held.
10. Operationalisation of the EU- Namibia Strategic Partnership on renewable hydrogen and sustainable critical raw materials set in motion.

### **Key follow up Actions.**

Following the event, several leads have been identified for follow up actions and these will be explored as part of the remaining activities in 2024:



- Short, targeted missions by companies already under discussion is a possible mission with Xcalibur for 2024
- FinPartnership possible deployment of support programme for Tech Start-up
- Possible set up of Informal think tank of Battery Technology with ERMA, EIT, EBA, GTK to explore options and keep the discussion online.
- Pitching Session with Namibia 'Ready for Investment' Companies and EDFI

One of the main achievements of the BF is that institutions and processes for organising future BF are in place mainly the joint EU Namibia NOC on the ENBF, a consolidated list of GH2 and CRM stakeholders in Namibia and sectoral ad hoc thematic groups on various issues under GH2 and CRM