ENGAGING THE G20

IsangoLencubeko

DOOR TO GREATER

FROM MINES TO POWER

A TOOLKIT FOR FRONTLINE COMMUNITIES IN THE JUST ENERGY TRANSITION



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SECTION 1: Understanding the G20

What is the G20?

The Group of 20 (G20) is an international forum composed of the world's major developed and

developing economies. Its aim is to promote global economic stability, sustainable development,

and multilateral cooperation on key international issues. It includes 19 countries, the European

Union (EU), and recently, the African Union (AU). The G20 hosts meetings on finance, energy, climate change, digital economy, trade, and other sectors.



Why It Matters to Mining Communities:

- **The G20 sets global economic and climate transition policies that increasingly depend on the extraction of critical minerals found in Africa.**
- **These decisions impact how and where mining happens, how revenues are distributed, and how much voice affected communities have.**
- **Climate finance decisions by the G20 determine who gets support for development and who is burdened with environmental damage or debt.**
- **G20 policies often benefit multinational corporations more than local people, reinforcing extractivism and deepening inequality.**
- **Frontline communities are frequently excluded from these discussions, even though they are the ones living with the consequences.**
- **Mining Communities have the right to be included in the construction of policies that will affect their lives, livelihoods and the future generations.**

SECTION 2: G20 Structures & Key Events

Leaders' Summit (annual): Top-level meeting of presidents/prime ministers. Communities can send open letters, demand inclusion, and organise actions.

Engagement Groups (C20, L20, W20, Y20, T20, U20): Civil society platforms. Communities can collaborate on position papers and dialogues.

Working Groups: Thematic groups (climate, trade, development, energy). Communities can submit memos via partners or governments.

Finance Track: Focuses on debt, investment, fiscal policy. Communities can advocate for debt relief, climate finance, and green investment.

Ministerial Meetings: Issue-specific (energy, digital economy, environment). Communities can send statements and join side events.



SECTION 3: Drafting Letters to G20 Bodies

Letter writing is a powerful way to make your voice heard. Letters can be used to request meetings, share community concerns, or demand specific commitments.

To: G20 OFFICIALS
Subject: Urgent Call for Frontline Community Representation in G20 Decisions

Dear G20 Leaders

We, the members of the Carolina **community, Albert Luthuli Municipality**, write to you as representatives of communities directly affected by critical mineral extraction in **South Africa**. As the global energy transition accelerates, our voices—rooted in lived experience and local knowledge—must be heard and respected in shaping the future.

We call on you to take urgent and meaningful action to:

1. **Recognise and elevate the lived experiences** of frontline communities impacted by mining operations, whose insights are essential to just and sustainable policy-making.
2. **Ensure African civil society representation** in G20 dialogues on energy, trade, and climate, particularly those concerning resource governance and transition minerals.
3. **Demand corporate accountability** and enforce mechanisms that guarantee tangible benefits for local communities from energy transition investments.

The decisions made at the G20 level will have profound implications for our land, livelihoods, and future. We therefore respectfully request opportunity to discuss these concerns and explore pathways for inclusive engagement.

We stand ready to contribute constructively and collaboratively.

In solidarity,

Email: isangolencubeko@gmail.com

Tips for Effective Letter Writing:

- **Use local language if appropriate, with English translations.**
- **Make your letter collective—sign it with multiple organisations or leaders.**
- **Share your letter publicly through media and social networks.**

SECTION 4: Advocacy Strategies

Frontline communities can use a range of strategies to influence G20 processes.

1. Local Mobilisation:

- **Hold public meetings or teach-ins to explain what the G20 is and how it affects your community.**
- **Organise local events such as marches, vigils, storytelling nights, or visual art exhibitions.**
- **Coordinate symbolic actions during major G20 moments (e.g., the G20 Summit week).**

2. Coalition Building:

- **Join national, regional, or pan-African alliances such as WoMin, AFREWATCH, Earthlife Africa, or Third World Network.**
- **Build solidarity across struggles—connect with movements working on land rights, gender justice, and food sovereignty.**

3. Political Advocacy:

- **Request meetings with government ministries or departments involved in the G20 process.**
- **Push local municipalities or traditional authorities to make public statements aligned with your demands.**
- **Ask AU and regional bodies to ensure grassroots inclusion in their G20 engagements.**

4. Digital Campaigning:

- **Launch social media campaigns using local stories and community voices.**
- **Create visuals, memes, and short videos highlighting mining realities.**
- **Use hashtags like #G20Justice, #JustTransitionNow, and #CommunityVoicesMatter.**
- **Collaborate with youth or tech-savvy allies to increase reach.**

SECTION 5: Engaging Community & Commercial Media

Media is essential to amplify community stories and pressure decision-makers.

Using Community Media:

- **Create radio shows in local languages explaining how the G20 connects to your community.**
- **Broadcast short audio messages on WhatsApp or community radio.**
- **Share stories, testimonies, and traditional songs that express your resistance.**

Using Commercial Media:

- **Pitch news stories or interviews with community members.**
- **Develop press releases that connect local struggles to global headlines.**
- **Organise press briefings before and during G20-related events.**

Media Tips:

- **Prepare simple talking points and use personal testimonies.**
- **Always answer: Who? What? Where? When? Why?**
- **Use storytelling: share how mining has affected people, water, land, and health.**
- **Build relationships with sympathetic journalists and community reporters.**

SECTION 6: Tools & Templates

This toolkit comes with practical resources to help you get started:

- **Editable Letter & Press Release Templates (Word and PDF formats)**
- **Community Media Guide with radio script samples, WhatsApp clip templates, and social media sample posts**
- **Full G20 Calendar with Key Dates and Deadlines**
- **List of Contacts for Sherpas, African Union Reps, and Key NGOs**
- **Downloadable Posters & Infographics on critical minerals and the global energy transition**

These resources are available online and can be adapted for different contexts.

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

[Community/Coalition Name] Calls on Policymakers to Act on the Voices of Mining-Affected Communities

[Location] – [Date] – Today, the [Community/Coalition Name], representing mining-affected communities in [Province/Region], is calling on policymakers at local, provincial, and national levels to urgently respond to the voices of communities living on the frontlines of mining.

For decades, mining has left deep scars on our land, water, and people. Communities continue to face:

- **[Briefly state impacts – e.g., water pollution, health crises, land dispossession, environmental destruction, loss of livelihoods].**
- **[Add 1–2 local testimonies or examples – e.g., "Children in our village suffer from chronic respiratory illnesses caused by mine dust"].**

As South Africa and the region talk about a Just Energy Transition, our voices cannot be ignored. Mining-affected communities are demanding:

1. **Accountability – Stronger laws and enforcement against corporations that violate human rights and environmental standards.**
2. **Inclusion – A seat at the table in all energy and mining policy decisions that affect our lives.**
3. **Transparency – Clear information on mining contracts, environmental rehabilitation plans, and government commitments.**
4. **Alternatives – Investment in community-led renewable energy, sustainable jobs, and social protections.**

"We are not just victims of extraction – we are rights-holders, land defenders, and builders of the future. Policymakers must listen to our demands and act now to secure justice for our people and our planet." – [Name, Community Leader/Spokesperson].

The [Community/Coalition Name] urges policymakers, including [list relevant bodies – e.g., Department of Mineral Resources and Energy, Parliament, provincial leadership], to engage directly with communities and put people before profit.

For media enquiries, contact:

[Name] – [Role/Community/Organization]

Phone: [Number] | Email: [Email Address]

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- **Keep it short (1 page max).**

Radio Announcement

🎙️ Community Radio Announcement Script

Opening (Presenter/Spokesperson):

“This is a message from the [Community/Coalition Name], speaking on behalf of mining-affected communities in [Region]. We want policymakers and the public to hear our voices loud and clear.”

Main Message:

“For too long, mining has damaged our land, polluted our water, and put our health at risk. Families in our villages are struggling with [insert key impacts – e.g., dust from mines, poisoned rivers, loss of farmland]. These are not just statistics — these are our daily realities.”

Call to Action:

“As South Africa talks about a Just Energy Transition, we, the people most affected, must be part of the decisions. We demand:

- **Accountability from mining companies.**
- **Inclusion of communities in energy and mining policies.**
- **Transparency on mining contracts and rehabilitation.**
- **Investment in renewable energy and community-led alternatives.”**

Quote (Community Voice):

[Spokesperson or resident]:

“We are not just victims of mining. We are land defenders, mothers, fathers, and young people who deserve a healthy future. Policymakers must listen to us and act for justice.”

Closing:

“The [Community/Coalition Name] calls on government leaders, the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy, and Parliament to work with us — not against us. Together, we can build a future beyond mining destruction.”

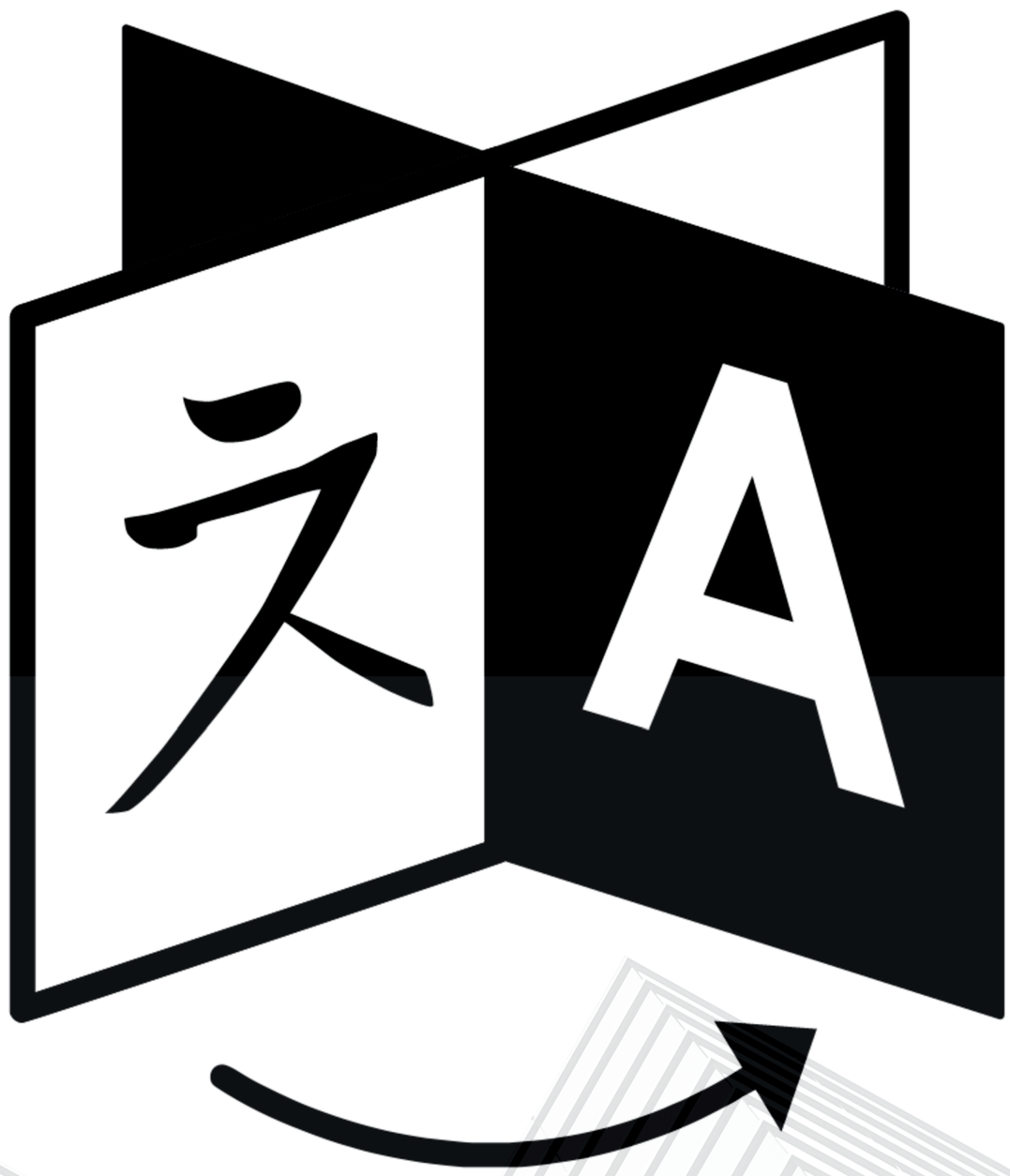
Contact Information (optional if station allows):

“For more information, contact [Name] at [Phone Number].

SECTION 7: Languages & Accessibility

To ensure inclusivity and accessibility:

- **This toolkit is available in English, isiZulu, isiXhosa, and Sesotho.**
- **We can provide additional translations on request.**
- **Audio and visual versions will be distributed via USB or online drives.**
- **We encourage local groups to translate and adapt content to suit their communities**



We can provide additional translations on request.

Final Message

"Our minerals, our land, our voices. We are not just resources to be mined—we are people, with knowledge, dignity, and power. Our communities deserve to shape the future."

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