



## Closed-Door Workshop

### **ALIGNING INTERESTS ALONG THE LOBITO CORRIDOR: DIPLOMACY, DEVELOPMENT, AND CRITICAL MINERALS**

**Monday, 27 April 2026**

**15:00 – 18:30 CEST**

Istituto Affari Internazionali-IAI  
Rome - Italy

Working language: English

The event will be held under the Chatham House Rule.

*In partnership with*



Fondazione  
Compagnia  
di San Paolo



Ministero degli Affari Esteri  
e della Cooperazione Internazionale



## Programme

15:00 – 15:15

### Opening Remarks

**ETTORE GRECO**

Executive Vice President, Istituto Affari Internazionali-IAI

**LORENZO ORTONA**

Deputy National Coordinator of the Task Force for the implementation of the Mattei Plan for Africa, Prime Minister's Office of Italy

15:15 – 16:45

### Session I: The Cooperation/Coherence Framework

#### **“SYNCHRONIZING INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS IN THE LOBITO CORRIDOR”**

*With a growing collection of international frameworks converging on the Lobito Corridor, this session asks how their efforts can be coordinated to deliver real impact on the ground. Central to this discussion is ensuring the development priorities of Angola, the DRC, and Zambia.*

*The session will explore:*

- *Capture insights from local regional stakeholders on how international synergies can best support local economic priorities.*
- *Develop a "tandem" approach for utilizing financial and diplomatic tools, ensuring that European and Italian investments translate into tangible regional development.*
- *Analyze the integration of the Mattei Plan alongside the Global Gateway (EU) and the PGII (G7) to ensure Italian initiatives complement global frameworks.*

### Framing the session

**MARIANNA LUNARDINI** and **DARLINGTON TSHUMA**

Researchers, IAI

### Kick-Off Remarks from Embassies

**JOSEFA LEONEL CORREIA SACKO**, Ambassador of Angola to Italy

**PAUL EMILE TSHINGA AHUKA**, Ambassador of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to Italy

**NCHIMUNYA CHISUTA**, Economic Counsellor, Embassy of Zambia to Italy

*Moderator:*

**FILIPPO SIMONELLI**

Researcher, IAI

16:45 – 17:00

Break



17:00 – 18:30

## Session II: The Energy Dimension

### ***“UNDERSTANDING THE ENERGY IMPLICATIONS OF THE LOBITO CORRIDOR”***

*Critical raw materials have moved to the top of the global agenda, driven by the energy transition and the industrial dependencies it has exposed. Countries are rapidly learning that extraction alone is not enough.*

*The session will explore:*

- *The resources of the area of interest in the Lobito Corridor railway, and their key industrial applications (Cobalt/Lithium/Copper)*
- *The potential of a new Green Supply Chain running from Southern Africa to Europe, and what it would take to make it viable*
- *The broader synergies with the Global Gateway and Mattei Plan in terms of energy security and decarbonisation.*

## Framing the Session

**PIETRO RINALDI**

Researcher, IAI

## Kick-Off Remarks

**ALBERTO CASTRONOVO**

Special Envoy for Critical Raw Materials (CRM), Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy

**TAE-YOON KIM**

Head of Critical Minerals Division, International Energy Agency (IEA)

*Moderator:*

**MARGHERITA BIANCHI**

Head of the Programme “Energy, climate and resources”, IAI

18:30

## End of the Workshop



## Guiding Questions

### Session 1

- The Lobito Corridor sits at the intersection of multiple international frameworks, as the Global Gateway, the Mattei Plan, the PGII, each with its own logic. Are these frameworks converging around a shared vision, or are we witnessing parallel initiatives?
- The Corridor accrues many interests, from very different stakeholders. Whether it be a Zambian miner, a European investor, an Italian policymaker, or a Congolese farmer, there are different expectations. How can the project then be evaluated, and how can these complex and very different perspectives be considered in the broader governance of the project?
- The infrastructure of this scale requires financing that corridor countries will ultimately be accountable for. What safeguards exist to ensure that the financial architecture of the Corridor does not reproduce the debt dependency dynamics that have historically accompanied large external infrastructure investments in Africa?
- Beyond financing, what models of public-private partnership can ensure that European companies act as enablers of African enterprise growth along the corridor, and what incentive structures are needed to make this commercially viable for both sides?

### Session 2

- How should the balance between European sustainable supply chain security and African industrial development ambitions be guaranteed, and what mechanisms can ensure that local added value is produced?
- The mining industry is deeply power-intensive. Yet in Sub-Saharan Africa, electricity infrastructure remains partially underdeveloped. The additional electricity needed for the mining industry might create tension with the needs of the local population, which still has limited access to electricity. How should that trade-off be managed, and what role should renewables play in resolving it rather than deepening it?
- How to guarantee shared transparent and sustainable, environmental and social standards along the critical mineral supply chain?
- Capacity building is key to develop a local green industrialisation. How can the various actors involved in the Lobito Corridor coordinate their efforts to create the adequate ecosystem (e.g., technological, financial, regulatory etc) to fully unlock the potential of the project?