

# HOW AMERICA WINS IN THE WORLD: CRITICAL MINERAL SECURITY

America wins when we invest and compete strategically to secure the critical minerals essential for our national and economic security. At the first-ever U.S. Critical Minerals Summit this February, **Secretary of State Marco Rubio** highlighted the importance of mineral supply chains for our “technological innovation, economic strength, and also national security.” Today, minerals-based industries [contribute](#) more than \$4 trillion to the U.S. economy, yet China controls 60% of the global refining capability and supplies about 90% of the world’s processed rare earth elements.

**U.S. international assistance is an essential tool for America’s critical mineral strategy.** The good news is that as we compete on the global stage, the State Department and America’s economic development agencies are already driving initiatives from Africa to Europe to the Indo-Pacific to increase U.S. access to critical minerals, strengthen supply chains, and deploy the “wrap-around” investments in communities that help ensure America wins.

## NEW PARTNERSHIPS ARE BOLSTERING U.S. ACCESS TO CRITICAL MINERALS

Closer diplomatic coordination with allies and the private sector is essential to secure supply chains and ensure the U.S. is not dependent on any single supplier. By drawing on the capabilities of the family of international assistance agencies—the Department of State, U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), U.S. Export-Import Bank (EXIM), Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA), and others—the U.S. can strengthen its ability to compete and access essential critical minerals.

- Pax Silica (State Department):** This economic partnership is a collaboration with allied nations to meet the demand for critical minerals and the technologies they enable through joint investments and technology sharing. Under Secretary of State Jacob Helberg, who oversees Pax Silica, has stated this partnership is premised “on the reality that our security is inseparable from our technological edge.”
- Project Vault (EXIM):** Drawing on the largest loan in EXIM history, Project Vault combines \$10 billion in EXIM financing with \$2 billion in private-sector investment to establish a U.S. Strategic Critical Minerals Reserve to store key minerals in secure U.S. facilities under the independent governance of a public-private partnership.
- Critical Minerals Consortium (DFC):** The Orion Critical Mineral Consortium is a \$1.8 billion public private partnership established by DFC to pursue a “robust pipeline of global critical minerals opportunities,” upscaling investment in regions where private capital might otherwise be reluctant to invest.

## U.S. INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE IS ESSENTIAL FOR CRITICAL MINERALS

Transporting critical minerals between local communities and global markets requires secure land and sea routes and reliable logistics operations. The U.S. has increasingly pursued an investment model that enables greater two-way traffic: bringing local goods to global markets, while boosting capacity for partner countries to buy U.S. exports.

- Lobito Corridor:** The Lobito Corridor connects the Atlantic port of Lobito in Angola to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Zambia. In Angola, the DFC is helping finance railway upgrades to move goods and critical minerals between interior Angola and its international port. Meanwhile, in the DRC, the U.S. has [signed](#) a strategic critical minerals partnership that commits to advancing DRC’s “industrialization, building value chains, and infrastructure connectivity” in addition to energy, maritime, and private sector partnerships.
- Luzon Economic Corridor:** The Luzon Economic Corridor in the Philippines offers a counterweight to China’s footprint in the Indo-Pacific. With existing support from the U.S. and Japan, the Luzon Corridor integrates transport, energy, and digital infrastructure to expand secure supply chains and support investment. USTDA recently [announced](#) funding for development of the Subic-Clark-Manila-Batangas (SCMB) Railway, which will connect three of the Philippines’ most critical ports. Luzon’s critical mineral trade opportunities are coupled with a nascent but growing [semiconductor](#) industry that can drive regional growth.

## AMERICAN “WRAP-AROUND” INVESTMENTS ACCELERATE WINS

High-return, low-cost U.S. international assistance programs—in rule of law, stability, anti-corruption, food security and a healthy and educated workforce—are essential to ensure America wins on critical minerals. These “wrap-around” programs accelerate returns from U.S. mineral projects, make our infrastructure investments more successful, and increase partner country stability for private sector investment. Two corridors offer successful examples:

### LOBITO CORRIDOR

- **Scaling Up Water Treatment:** DFC invested \$150 million in risk insurance to a clean water program in an Angolan province that has significant critical mineral potential but among the highest poverty levels in Angola. The investment would provide potable water for 250,000 Angolans, doubling the regional potable water supply, which will strengthen the area's resilience to drought.
- **Strengthening Food Security:** Through the MCC, the U.S. and Zambia signed a compact that invests in farming and the agro-processing sector, along with improving infrastructure, so agricultural products can reach global markets. Meanwhile, DFC has backed up a microfinance initiative in neighboring Angola to support small-scale farming along the Lobito Corridor. Improving livelihoods and market access for communities along the Lobito Corridor is essential, as many of the communities along the corridor deal with food insecurity.
- **Boosting Digital Connectivity:** EXIM, DFC, and USTDA have all invested significantly in telecom systems and digital infrastructure to expand wireless access and mobile-money services across Angola and the DRC, as strengthened digital connectivity is vital for operations throughout the Lobito Corridor. U.S.-owned Africell entered the local market with DFC support in 2022—reaching 7 million subscribers within its first year—and is a key competitor to Unitel, an Angolan telecom company reliant on Chinese-backed Huawei equipment.
- **Investing in Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs):** In partnership with a private equity fund, DFC made a \$13 million equity investment that has channeled long-term capital in more than 50 SMEs—across Angola, the DRC, and Zambia—to strengthen the economy in areas around the Lobito Corridor with initial investments in manufacturing, food processing, and pharmaceuticals.

### LUZON CORRIDOR

- **Supporting Economic and Health Security:** In July 2025, the State Department committed \$60 million in U.S. international assistance for energy, maritime, and economic growth programs in the Philippines—including investments to catalyze private-sector development in the Luzon Economic Corridor. This was followed in September by a \$250 million assistance commitment to the Philippines to confront acute public health challenges, including tuberculosis and maternal health—another strategic investment in a country where the U.S. has vital interests in accelerating our access to critical minerals.

## CRITICAL MINERALS POLICY IS A BIPARTISAN PRIORITY FOR CONGRESS

Critical minerals has been a significant and bipartisan legislative focus during the 119th Congress with more than a dozen bills introduced on both domestic and international policy aspects, several committees holding related hearings, and Members engaging on the issue both in their districts and during overseas travel. Key internationally focused legislation includes:

- **DOMINANCE Act (H.R. 7037):** Introduced by Reps. Young Kim (R-CA) and Ami Bera (D-CA), to elevate U.S. diplomatic and international assistance tools, formalize State Department leadership on energy diplomacy, and strengthen partnerships with key U.S. allies.
- **Critical Minerals Partnership Act of 2025 (S. 2550):** Introduced by Senators Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) and John Curtis (R-UT), to strengthen international cooperation with U.S. allies to secure critical mineral supply chains.