

- Civil Society and Trade Unions: Local CSOs and labour representatives will play a critical role in policy formulation, grassroots advocacy, and ensuring socio-economic benefits for communities as well as women's human rights organisations, CSO working on gender equality and women's empowerment, youth organisations. Efforts will prioritize inclusion and sustainability:
- Finance and Investment Partners: European and local development finance institutions and banks will facilitate investment and de-risking for viable projects, bridging gaps in infrastructure and financing.
- International Partners: Collaboration with international organizations like UNIDO and JETP partners will enhance knowledge sharing and capacity building.
- South Africa has an internationally acknowledged, longstanding track record in environment assessment at strategic and project levels, high level environmental research institutes and required technical capacity in consultancy to implement these procedures. This capacity will have to be expanded for new technologies and industrial processes, to guarantee the CRM and green hydrogen development process will not result in unintended negative developments.
- EU academia and research institution. EU research institutions are already collaborating in SA for example the cooperation under the Catalyst Research for sustainable Kerosene. Synergies with research institutions would be pursued when possible, under this action.
- EU private sector

## Community and Civil Society Engagement

Engaging local communities is essential to ensure project acceptance, foster socio-economic development, and build trust. The EU Delegation will use structured dialogue platforms to involve civil society, youth, and local communities in shaping and implementing programs. These efforts complement existing CSO initiatives under the Just Energy Transition framework.

# 3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

## 3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The overall objective of this action is to support the development of South Africa's critical raw materials and green hydrogen and derivatives value-chains, contributing to South Africa's just transition to a green economy.

This will strengthen global supply chain diversity, better integrate EU and South African value chains, enhance South Africa's strategic role in these sectors, facilitate European investments in these critical industries, and support global decarbonisation efforts to combat climate change.

The **Specific Objectives** (Outcomes) of this action are to:

- 1 Strengthening South Africa's Critical Raw Materials (CRM) and green hydrogen and derivatives value-chains through holistic wrap-around support to foster an enabling environment through policy reform, trade and investment facilitation, and increasing capacities (including on gender) and capabilities in skills, research, innovation and sustainability activities.
- 2 Increase investments in responsible CRM and potentially green hydrogen and derivatives value-chains through the deployment of blended financing solutions.

The **Outputs** to be delivered by this action contributing to the corresponding Specific Objectives are

- 1.1 Contributing to **Specific Objective 1**: Increased number of policies, strategies, regulations, codes and standards that foster an enabling environment for investments, trade and industrialisation of hydrogen and CRM value-chains have been developed and/or adopted.
- 1.2 Contributing to **Specific Objective 1**: Expand skills-base of responsible CRM and green hydrogen and derivatives value-chains,