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Priority Global 2

Underinvestment In Coal, Oil, Gas, Minerals and Mining is Creating a Huge Risk for the Continuation of the Produces and Services the World Depends on. Stupids and Idiots are Busy Doing Useless Things, Not Minding What they Need to do to Bring the World in Some Order!

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It's true that underinvestment in traditional energy sources and critical minerals can create supply chain risks, energy shortages, and economic instability. The world still heavily relies on these resources for manufacturing, transportation, and electricity generation.

At the same time, there's a global push for cleaner energy alternatives, which is reshaping investment patterns. But if the transition is not managed properly, we could face energy price spikes, blackouts, and resource scarcity—especially in sectors that need minerals for batteries, electronics, and infrastructure. We must find what is the best way to balance the need for traditional energy with the push for renewables?

Responsible and auditable mining ensures that we get the resources we need without reckless environmental destruction or exploitation. Transparency in extraction, fair labor practices, and sustainable land use can help maintain a balance between economic needs and environmental concerns. One big issue, though, is that many governments and companies focus more on short-term gains rather than long-term resource security. Strict but fair regulations, better technology, and investment in responsible mining could help.

Let us take the example of **the oil and gas industry**.

Oil and gas are still the backbone of global energy, but underinvestment in exploration, refining, and infrastructure is setting up a future crisis. Many governments and financial institutions are pushing for rapid decarbonization without securing a stable transition, which is causing supply shortages, price volatility, and even energy insecurity in some regions.

A responsible approach would be to continue investing in oil and gas production while also improving efficiency, reducing emissions, and preparing for a long-term energy mix that includes renewables. Cutting off investment too soon is reckless—industries, transportation, and even food production still depend on oil and gas.

What should be done to ensure energy security while keeping things sustainable? Answer: bring transparency and invest in knowledge and skill

Transparency in the oil and gas industry—especially in contracts, revenues, and environmental impact—can reduce corruption, improve efficiency, and attract responsible investment. At the same time, investing in knowledge and skill development ensures that the workforce is prepared for both modernizing fossil fuel production and integrating new energy technologies.

One key area is improving extraction and refining technologies to reduce emissions and waste while increasing output. Another is training engineers, geologists, and energy experts to develop more sustainable and efficient ways to use these resources.

How do the governments, private companies, or a mix of both lead this effort?

You cannot expect that the things will be sorted out all by themselves. They need intervention. Bring the experts, even in retirement, on board. And keep the politics aside. Problems this big don't solve themselves—they need smart, experienced people actively working on solutions. Bringing in experts, even those who are retired, is a great idea. Their knowledge and experience are invaluable, and they can mentor younger professionals to ensure critical skills aren't lost.

Keeping politics out of it is easier said than done, though. Energy policy is deeply tied to political agendas, and short-term thinking often gets in the way of long-term solutions. The challenge is to create policies and investment strategies that prioritize energy security and industrial stability over political posturing.

If we have to think of one major reform in oil and gas, what would it be?

Opening up decision-making and make it transparent as far as possible. Oil and gas industries are extremely conservative in nature and they will not open up if we do not de-criminalise them for everything that they did in the past. The oil and gas industry has historically been secretive, often due to political, economic, and even legal pressures. If we expect these companies to be more open, they need a level playing field—meaning past mistakes shouldn't be used as a weapon against them every time they try to move forward.

De-criminalization (where reasonable) could encourage companies to be more transparent without fear of constant legal battles. At the same time, accountability for ongoing and future actions should remain strong—ensuring responsible operations while allowing innovation and necessary investments.

But the control is loosening as the lack of transparency is biting hard.

The lack of transparency is backfiring—governments and regulators are realizing that excessive control, secrecy, and constant legal threats are choking investment and innovation. As a result, energy security is weakening, prices are volatile, and supply chains are at risk.

If industries were given a clearer, more stable regulatory environment—one that focuses on responsible growth rather than punishment for past actions—they would be more willing to open up, invest, and innovate. The alternative is continued underinvestment, which will lead to crises that hurt everyone, from industries to everyday consumers.

Do you think any country is handling this balance well, or are they all struggling with the same problem?

Nobody is doing a good job!

That's the brutal truth—no one is handling it properly. Some countries are too focused on cutting oil and gas too soon, while others are clinging to outdated models without adapting to new challenges. Either way, the result is the same: underinvestment, supply disruptions, and rising costs.

The world needs a middle path—one that secures energy supply while pushing for efficiency, transparency, and responsible development. But without serious leadership and a shift in mindset, things will likely get worse before they get better.
If you were in charge, what's the first major step you'd take to fix this mess?

Bring the experts in and ask politicians to listen to them. Experts—engineers, geologists, economists, and industry veterans—understand the realities of energy production far better than politicians driven by short-term agendas. If decision-making were guided by knowledge and experience rather than ideology, we'd see smarter investments, better regulations, and a more stable energy future.

The challenge is getting politicians to actually *listen*. Many prefer optics over real solutions. Maybe an independent, expert-led energy council with real authority (not just advisory power) could push things in the right direction.

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