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Recommendation on Living with climate risk in Europe :
Acting for prevention, health and human rights

Adopted by General Assembly
on 1st October 2026

Ahead of the United Nations Climate Change Conference
to be held in Antalya from 9 to 20 November 2026

Recalling that climate change can cause serious harm and direct violations of essential rights, such as the right to life, food, water, and shelter, and that public inaction in the face of these threats is itself recognized as a human rights violation, particularly for the most vulnerable populations;

Viewing with deep concern the violence of the latest climate shocks, which has revealed the unpreparedness of States and which fosters a growing sense of a runaway disruption;

Concerned by the persistent failure of State Parties to the UNFCCC to meet the commitments of the Paris Agreement;

Recalling the absolute urgency highlighted by recent scientific reports and the warnings of the IDMC, UNCCD, IOM, WHO, FAO, and UN-Habitat, according to which

- Between 3.3 and 3.6 billion people (nearly half of humanity) live in contexts that are highly vulnerable to climate change, exposing them disproportionately to extreme climate shocks
- More than 10% of the global population (between 800 million and 1 billion people) living in coastal areas is directly threatened by sea-level rise and erosion;
- billions of urban dwellers—particularly in informal, poorly insulated, or so-called "uninhabitable" housing—are critically exposed to extreme heatwaves and thermal precarity;
- Women, who in many countries are responsible for most of agricultural production, access to water, as well as care, health and education tasks, are at 14-fold risk.

Convinced that only rigorous anticipation based on foresight and joint, solidaristic action by governments, local authorities, and civil society as a whole will make it possible to address the direct threats weighing on public health, population security, essential services, the economy, and ecosystems;

Emphasizing that these actions must build upon major UN texts and frameworks, notably United Nations General Assembly Resolution 76/300 recognizing the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015–2030), and the objectives of the 2030 Agenda, while extending in Europe the dynamics of the Reykjavik Process based on the values and principles of the Council of Europe founded on human rights, the rule of law, and democracy;

The Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe calls for the implementation of five strategic axes:

AXIS 1: Consolidating the right to a healthy environment as the goundation of climate action

- Recommendation 1.1. : Systematically integrate a human rights-based approach into all national and local climate change adaptation policies.
- Recommendation 1.2 : Promote the effective recognition and justiciability of the right to a safe, clean, healthy, and sustainable environment at regional and local levels,
- Recommendation 1.3 : Draw inspiration from pioneering normative instruments—such as the requirements of the Council of Europe Landscape Convention—to leverage the landscape dimension of territories as a tool for protection, anticipation, and resilience in the face of environmental disruptions.
- Recommendation 1.4 : Ensure the effective protection of fauna, flora, and biodiversity as natural shields guaranteeing overall ecosystem health, drawing on the demanding standards of the Bern Convention as a transferable benchmark model.

AXIS 2: Placing social action and solidarity at the heart of the climate response

- Recommendation 2.1 : Strengthen interregional and cross-border cooperation regarding emergency social responses, ensuring specific and targeted support for vulnerable populations.
- Recommendation 2.2 : Articulate social cohesion, health, and housing policies to prevent climate-induced precarity and the exclusion of vulnerable individuals, particularly older persons..
- Recommendation 2.3 : Combat territorial inequalities in exposure to risks by providing local social actors with adequate financial and logistical resources..

AXIS 3: Cross-analyzing socio-ecological vulnerabilities and anticipating territorial recompositions

- Recommendation 3.1. Accurately map exposure and sensitivities: move beyond analyzing solely climate hazards (floods, wildfires, urban heat islands) to precisely identify exposed populations based on social factors (energy poverty, isolation, substandard housing, access to healthcare)
- Recommendation 3.2. Integrate the concept of "capability" (Amartya Sen): Assess not only the harm suffered by populations, but also their capacity for action, learning, and bounce-back to stimulate genuine collective resilience.
- Recommendation 3.3. Model moving population dynamics: account for climate-induced migratory flows (climate exodus, arrivals of neo-rural residents seeking climate refuges, altered commuting patterns)
- Recommendation 3.4. Consider the hospitality of territories by anticipating the reception capacity of essential infrastructure (health, education, water, energy) in the face of these inevitable demographic shifts.

AXIS 4: Urgently adapting cities, territories, and housing to extreme shocks

- Recommendation 4.1. Actively support the adaptation of territories and urban planning to the risks of heatwaves and floods by prioritizing nature-based solutions (vegetation cover, soil de-sealing).
- Recommendation 4.2. Promote the natural and passive adaptation of housing, public buildings (schools, hospitals), and workplaces, notably by raising awareness among building professionals, arts and crafts trades, and residents regarding summer thermal comfort issues..

AXIS 5: Co-constructing foresight and awareness through citizen participation

- Recommendation 5.1 Actively involve the entire population, through local participatory democracy mechanisms (citizen laboratories, local citizen conventions, foresight workshops).

- Recommendation 5.2. Engage and empower youth as major actors in prevention by structuring their ongoing participation within territories for risk management (heatwaves, floods, wildfires).
- Recommendation 5.3 : Develop civic information, training, and awareness programs—following the model of pilot initiatives led by local youth (e.g., CSA Conegliano, Veneto)—to make young people essential vectors of a shared culture of risk and community resilience.

Through this Recommendation, the Conference of INGOs solemnly calls upon the negotiators participating in COP31 in Turkey (Antalya), as well as all stakeholders, to engage with realism and courage in radical, inclusive, and protective action—the only way to build territories capable of overcoming the shocks of the 21st century.