

Committee Inclusive Territories, Environment and Health
Comité Territoires inclusifs, environnement et santé

Recommendation to the COP30 Negotiators

A Just, Inclusive, and Human-Rights-based energy transition

Prepared by the Committee on Inclusive Territories, Environment and Health
on the occasion of its special event on "[Climate justice and civil society](#)"
(Strasbourg, 13 October 2025)

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Recalling that the fight against climate change is inseparable from climate justice and the respect for human rights;

Referring to the objectives of COP30, and the Brazilian government's commitment to make urban justice a key pillar of the energy and climate transition in the face of the country's massive urbanization

Stressing that the pursuit of carbon neutrality through the transition to renewable energies, essential in the face of the climate emergency, must under no circumstances exacerbate inequalities or create new forms of precarity (health, housing, employment, resources);

Convinced that the most vulnerable populations risk being the first victims of a transition that is poorly anticipated or imposed without consultation;

Highlighting the need to support the collective and participatory action of local and regional authorities;

The international NGOs members of the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe, relying on:

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), notably its Article 1 (equality in dignity and rights), Article 3 (right to life, liberty, and security of person), Article 22 (right to social security and the realization of economic, social, and cultural rights), and Article 25 (right to an adequate standard of living, including food, housing, and medical care);
- The principles of the Aarhus Convention, which require transparency (Art. 4), public participation (Art. 6), and access to justice (Art. 9) for democratic and equitable environmental decisions;

- The jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), particularly the *KlimaSeniorinnen v. Switzerland* judgment (2024), based on Articles 6 (right to a fair trial) and 8 (right to respect for private and family life) of the European Convention on Human Rights;
- The European Social Charter, which contributes to better environmental protection through law, and the protection of the right to health, housing, and safe working conditions: Art. 1 (Right to work), Article 10 (Right to vocational guidance), Article 11 (Protection of health against pollution);
- The Paris Agreement commitments, which recognize the importance of human rights in climate action (Preamble, paragraph 11);
- The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda, particularly SDG 10 (reduced inequalities) and SDG 13 (climate action);
- The States' obligation to protect vulnerable populations against climate harm, as recognised by international jurisprudence and regional human rights instruments;

Call upon the parties to COP30 and all committed stakeholders to uphold the following principles in all negotiations:

I. The integration of Human Rights, among which are the right to life, to health, and to a safe and healthy environment

II. Strengthening transparency as well as social, economic and environmental impact assessment

- The publication of honest and public dashboards, detailing allocated funds and results by territory and social group, to allow for citizen monitoring and effective accountability.
- Mandatory evaluation of all systemic and cross-cutting impacts. of every energy transition policy and project on real access to energy, and quality of life, using integrated measurable and public criteria.

III. Guaranteeing effective participation and consent of local communities

- Require the involvement of all in a gradual energy transition, from policy development to the design and monitoring of renewable energy projects, by guaranteeing Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC), in accordance with international standards.
- Support the development of hubs, citizen energy communities, and open local public services to strengthen residents' buy-in and promote collective and sustainable project ownership.

IV. Ensuring Social Protection and Equitable Professional Adaptation

- Prioritise
 - the most vulnerable populations. This includes low-income households, the elderly, persons with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples, inhabitants of isolated rural areas, and dense urban areas.
 - the most exposed sectors: agriculture, transport, heavy industries, territories dependent on fossil fuels.
- Ensure equitable access to energy, maximize social benefits, and simplify access to funding. energy/transport poverty alleviation
- Guarantee social protection and provide early support and re-skilling for workers in fossil fuel industries and impacted sectors, including re-skilling for comparable or improved quality employment.

V. Developing technological adaptability to serve social equity to ensure:

- Strategic flexibility: Integrating the most affordable and reliable technologies to achieve cost equity and guarantee universal access to decarbonized energy, thereby protecting the right to an adequate standard of living (Art. 25 UDHR).
- Periodic reassessment: Utilizing the periodic reassessment of national strategies as a tool to swiftly correct any unforeseen negative social impacts (inequalities, precariousness), based on transparency (social dashboards) and community participation.
- Digital and social inclusion: Ensuring that technological choices do not create digital or social divides, by prioritizing decentralized solutions for vulnerable populations and isolated areas provided this does not severely affect costs or reliability.

VI. Call to Action: A "Mutirão" for a just and solidarity-based transition

- Stimulate structuring projects built on the effective and sincere participation of all concerned stakeholders, prioritizing initiatives with high social and environmental impact.
- Put local action at the heart of solutions by affirming that the implementation of climate measures and the SDGs depends on the location of initiatives.
- Develop local energy hubs and communities that enable equitable access to energy, maximize social benefits, and simplify access to financing.
- Promote local voluntary commitments, integrated into the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and national climate plans, with clear and binding social justice indicators.

Our conviction is that climate justice is a fundamental right. We believe that energy transition and sustainability cannot be achieved without a new social contract, built on trust and effective collaboration between governments, the research community and all stakeholders.

Social equity and the inclusion of vulnerable populations must be an absolute priority. The energy transition will only be effective and compliant with the law if it is just, truly participatory, founded on transparency and trust, and ensures dignity for all, particularly with regard to the right to an adequate standard of living (UDHR Art. 25) and the right to a healthy environment.

It is imperative to demand that national strategies are revised to systematically integrate the most affordable, reliable, and robust new technologies at all decision making levels.. This is the prerequisite for achieving climate justice and universal access to decarbonized energy, avoiding costly or substandard solutions for vulnerable populations.