



UNRISD

United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

Overcoming Inequalities
Towards a New Eco-Social Contract

UNRISD Strategy 2021–2025



Social policy plays key roles for economic production, social reproduction, redistribution of income and wealth, and protection against life and market risks. In addition, it can foster social cohesion and the enjoyment of rights. What UNRISD calls Transformative Social Policy—human rights-based, entailing democratic decision making, and working in tandem with economic policies—is essential to address the root causes of poverty, inequality and practices which are unsustainable, deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and support recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic that is inclusive and sustainable for all.

The Transformative Social Policy programme analyses drivers and actors in social policy reforms. It is concerned with the role of social policies in overcoming inequalities, poverty and social exclusion, and in building towards a new eco-social contract which delivers universal social rights and environmental justice. It uses a political economy lens to examine institutional and political contexts from local to global levels, and to unpack the role of policy decision makers, civil society and private sector actors—from elites to progressive alliances and social movements. The programme aims to better understand the drivers of inequality and its attendant fractures, and to identify policies that produce more equitable development outcomes.

Transformative Social Policy

RESEARCH PROGRAMME

UNRISD's independent research on the social dimensions of today's pressing development issues provides our stakeholders with empirical evidence, objective analysis and innovative insights. Our research focuses on the intersections between the social, environmental and economic pillars of the sustainable development agenda while daring to address the politics of policy change. We put equity, justice and rights for all at the heart of development.

UNRISD has researched and analysed the social dimensions of inclusive, sustainable development for nearly six decades, building unique and powerful assets.



Track record of raising visibility within the United Nations of neglected issues, through transdisciplinary collaboration.



Global networks of policy makers, academics, advocates and practitioners; a reputation as a powerful, respected convener.



Research credibility, thought leadership and extensive networks generating significant, long-term transformative impacts.



Unique position within the United Nations leveraged with research and academic networks in global North and South; an interface on social development issues.



Reputation for strengthening the capacity of researchers in the global South through an approach of co-creation and mutual learning.

Our work over the next five years, centred on overcoming inequalities and building a new eco-social contract for the 21st century, will support advocacy and action for inclusive, equitable and sustainable societies.



Substantial body of evidence and original analysis on the relationship between social, economic, environmental and political dimensions of development; innovative policy recommendations.



Innovative communications, ensuring our work is informed by, and informs, those who are driving social change.



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