



# UNRISD

United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

**Overcoming Inequalities**  
Towards a New Eco-Social Contract

UNRISD Strategy 2021–2025



**Our own economic activity is often at the root of unsustainability. The ideas, institutions and actions that gave credibility to the modern ideal of economic development have been called into question by concurrent and multiple crises. Climate change, escalating inequalities and the Covid-19 pandemic are exerting punishing tolls on individuals, societies and economies across the world. Once positioned on the radical fringe or considered not to have systemic or structural significance, alternative ways of thinking, living and organizing—including alternative economies, such as the social and solidarity economy—are attracting more attention within mainstream knowledge and policy circles.**

The Alternative Economies for Transformation Programme contributes to understanding, analysing and engaging with processes of policy change around alternative economic models that are viable, egalitarian and ecologically sound. It identifies innovative ways to measure how sustainable they are, in terms of environmental, social and governance performance. It explores their underlying norms and values, how they are organized, their linkages with collective action and progressive politics, and their place in reducing inequalities and building towards a new eco-social compact.



## Alternative Economies for Transformation

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.



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.

---

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

---



**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS**

### Stay connected

Sign up to the UNRISD eBulletin  
[www.unrisd.org/myUNRISD](http://www.unrisd.org/myUNRISD)



Palais des Nations  
1211 Geneva 10  
Switzerland

[info.unrisd@un.org](mailto:info.unrisd@un.org)  
Tel: +41 (0)22 917 3060