Environnemental justice and climate justice are crucial concepts that need to be taken on board to ensure that ecological disruptions, and the policies to address them, do not reproduce or exacerbate the inequalities that currently threaten human well-being and prosperity. Business-as-usual responses to the climate crisis are not enough: they are not on track to deliver the rapid decarbonization that is needed, and they are failing to tackle the underlying power structures, systems of oppression and exploitation, and entrenched injustices.

The Environmental and Climate Justice Programme approaches climate and environmental change as rights issues. It aims to identify and promote policy solutions that decarbonize the economy and protect people from the unavoidable impacts of climate change, while addressing existing inequalities and injustices. It employs an intersectional lens, focusing on impacts for those marginalized or excluded from decision-making processes. It explores the interlinkages between social, climate and environmental justice, and how, together, they can contribute to rights-based, equitable and sustainable development. The programme convenes and conducts progressive, cutting-edge research emphasizing under-represented perspectives and brings this knowledge into the international conversation on climate and development.
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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