



Global Research and Action Network for a New Eco-Social Contract



A global network is being built to explore the promise of a new eco-social contract as a way of responding to pressing social and ecological challenges. The network will be a space for dialogue, debate, co-construction and action around the meaning of a new eco-social contract; good practices for its design; and accountability frameworks for its application. Research, practice, advocacy and policy decision-making communities working for social, climate and environmental justice are invited to join in this endeavour!

Why do we need a new eco-social contract?

At the core of any social contract—that is, the implicit understandings and agreements between citizens and the state—lies the responsibility of the state to be competent, accountable and transparent in protecting the welfare, security, freedoms and human rights of all people.

Disparate but connected voices, from [Black Lives Matter](#) and [Extinction Rebellion](#), to the [UN Secretary](#)

[General](#), the [International Trade Union Congress](#) and the [World Economic Forum](#), are each in their own way championing a new social contract.

Yet it is not only the social contract, but also [our relationship with nature](#), which is broken. And there are many and diverse movements calling for the creation of a new kind of contract—an **eco-social contract**. Such a contract between people and governments is urgently needed now, to fight

inequalities and spur the transformation of economies and societies to halt climate change and environmental destruction. A new eco-social contract must be one that ensures human rights for all—importantly, this means bringing in those not fully benefitting from previous social contracts, such as women, indigenous peoples, informal workers and migrants; and it must ensure larger freedom for all in a fast-changing world, including security and protection as new challenges emerge.



What is the network's mission?

The network will bring together research, practice, advocacy and policy decision-making communities working for social, climate and environmental justice in a progressive knowledge and action alliance. The mission is to broaden understanding around the idea of new eco-social contract; define its terms, including a just transition to climate resilient, green and fair economies; and identify the actions required of stakeholders at multiple levels to ensure its implementation entails climate and environmental justice, racial justice, respect for human rights, decent work, gender equality, intergenerational justice, the rights of the natural world, and biological and cultural diversity.

Who should join the network?

The network for a new eco-social contract is for

**research,
practice,
advocacy
and policy
decision-making**

communities, in the public and private sectors, interested in co-constructing a new eco-social contract that is inclusive, climate-proof, and adapted to the complex challenges of the 21st century.

What is the network going to do?

- Create a space for dialogue and debate to co-construct and foster understanding around the idea of a new eco-social contract.
- Forge consensus around the guiding principles of a new eco-social contract that can be used at the global level and in specific geographies.
- Build solidarity between movements working in different ways towards a new eco-social contract, through the integration of intersectional perspectives on social, climate and environmental justice.
- Strengthen the capacity of policy decision makers, researchers, practitioners, trade unions, business associations, social movements, indigenous peoples and others to engage in informed and evidence-based discussion, decision making and practical action for a new eco-social contract.
- Nurture social and policy action by identifying and informing the mechanisms, processes and institutions needed to drive a new eco-social contract—such as citizenship education, citizens' assemblies and other deliberative democracy approaches, and climate and ecological literacy.
- Scale up awareness and support uptake of the role of a new eco-social contract in the transition towards a sustainable and inclusive future.

Who is involved?

We invite research, civil society, social movement, business and government actors to join us in building a new movement!

In partnership, the GEC and UNRISD have begun to explore the idea of a new eco-social contract as a way to strengthen the linkages between the social and green agendas.



- As the world's largest movement for green and fair economies, the **GEC** has explored the connections between equality and sustainability with its members. It has made progress in inclusive and green policy making, and in placing justice at the core of inclusive green economies.



UNRISD
United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

- **UNRISD** works to position social equity, inclusion and justice at the centre of development thinking, policy and practice. Its 2021-2025 Institutional Strategy, Overcoming Inequalities: Towards a New Eco-Social Contract, focuses on challenges to achieving the 2030 Agenda and solutions to overcome them, emphasizing the need for a fair and green recovery from COVID-19 to address inequalities and forge a new eco-social contract.

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**Join the
network**

By joining, you will enter a space to share, discuss and inform the design, delivery, implementation and analysis of a new eco-social contract.

To get involved, please contact one of the focal points →

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