

Overarching Recommendations

TRIPLE BENEFITS FOR GOVERNMENTS, CITIZENS, AND INVESTORS:

The actions below will ensure that Europe's built environment is decarbonised in a way that leaves no-one behind, mitigates risks to human rights and expands social opportunity, while creating new long-term investment opportunities, and ensuring that investors adhere to their human rights and sustainable development commitments.



GOVERNMENT

- **Adhere** to internationally-agreed human rights standards and the EU Pillar of Social Rights
- Establish a **clear policy agenda** for respecting human rights and expanding social outcomes in the context of decarbonising the built environment
- Guide **equal distribution** of the benefits of the green transition, and establish **multi-level governance** so that regional and city-level plans integrate national decarbonisation strategies
- Ensure **effective coordination** between departments of finance, planning, climate and environment, labour, health and housing
- Ensure that municipal governments are enabled financially and legally to set and implement inclusive climate policies that are **responsive to local needs**
- Ensure that **procurement** policies and practices - including those focused on climate mitigation - embed respect for human rights and harness opportunities for social outcomes
- Ensure adequate **access to remedy** for human rights abuses in carbon mitigation initiatives



FINANCE

- Ensure that the **structure** of investment vehicles, **expected returns** on investment and **timeframes** do not exacerbate human rights risks, and where possible contribute to an enabling environment for social outcomes
- **Engage** existing portfolio companies in construction and real estate on their human rights due diligence processes and opportunities to maximise social outcomes
- **Strengthen** the human rights dimensions within impact investment and ESG frameworks
- Support **green building certifications** in strengthening their criteria regarding social outcomes
- Participate in **joint public-private financing** vehicles that seek to channel climate mitigation finance to communities that are economically disadvantaged and/or transitioning out of fossil fuels



PROJECT

- **Mitigate risks** to human rights and seek to **maximise social outcomes** from the outset of the project - harnessing project requirements, requests for proposals, and contracts to do so. (*The Framework for Dignity in the Built Environment provides a reference point for doing this, with questions to guide action, cross-references to human rights standards and the Sustainable Development Goals, and examples of innovation.*)
- Identify opportunities to **re-purpose existing buildings** for social outcomes (such as affordable housing, education, community centres), rather than solely financing new builds
- Ensure **effective collaboration** between participants at all stages of the lifecycle
- Ensure adequate **access to remedy** for human rights abuses