

Recommendations: Technology and Human Rights

TRIPLE BENEFITS FOR GOVERNMENTS, INVESTORS, AND CITIZENS

Action on the recommendations below will lead to the development and scaling of new climate mitigation technologies that have wide application throughout the built environment, are adaptable to local communities' needs and do not enable discrimination, while protecting people's privacy and data.



GOVERNMENT

- Ensure adequate privacy and data protection **standards are in place** and implemented, including in “smart cities” and in the application of smart technology within buildings (e.g. sensors for energy efficiency or user capacity)
- Harness technology to **engage populations** that are often excluded from decision-making in mitigation climate policy and programmes
- Ensure that the **benefits of technological innovation** – including for climate mitigation – are accessible to all and well distributed, and that steps are taken to ensure cultural acceptability
- Ensure that technological approaches to climate mitigation **do not divert attention** and resources away from addressing underlying issues of social exclusion and inequality



FINANCE

- **Invest in companies** that are developing innovative climate mitigation technologies that can be widely used and have appropriate digital rights safeguards in place
- **Engage companies** that are developing “smart city” and “smart buildings” approaches – including the companies involved in the European Green Digital Coalition – on their processes to ensure transparency, participation, non-discrimination and accountability – and that the technologies used are aligned with the needs of the local community
- **Require all investee companies** to have strong digital rights policies and practices
- **Encourage technology companies** to apply universal design principles to the solutions they develop
- **Set and track** gender and racial diversity expectations for technology companies in portfolios, at company and at board level



PROJECT

- **Be transparent** about the use of technology in the project and engage users and residents on its use
- Ensure climate mitigation technologies (such as sensors for energy efficiency) have strong **privacy and data protection measures** in place
- Identify ways in which technology can **engage residents and users** in the operation and use of the building throughout its lifecycle