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