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HEKS/EPER Policy Paper

Climate Justice

HEKS/EPER's understanding and political demands

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Contents

List of Abbreviations

BECCS	Bioenergy with carbon capture and storage
COP	Conference of the Parties
FOEN	Federal Department for Environment
FPIC	Free, prior and informed consent
GHG	Greenhouse Gas Emissions
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
LDC	Least Developed Countries
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
PACDR	Participatory Assessment for Climate and Disaster Risk
SDC	Swiss Development Cooperation
SECO	State Secretariat for Economic Affairs
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change

1. Introduction

The Climate Crisis is one of the biggest challenges of our time. The IPCC's 6th Assessment Report released in August 2021 makes it unmistakably clear that "it is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere, ocean and land."[1] The impacts of climate change, such as the increase in frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, sea level rise or an increase in the variability of rainfall, are already painfully felt under the current global temperature increase of 1.1°C and will get more pronounced the higher global temperatures rise. Coupled with other global emergencies like biodiversity loss, ecosystem degradation and increasing inequality, the climate crisis poses an unprecedented challenge for humanity and undermines past efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger. The Covid-19 crisis has shown that humanity is in no way prepared to face global crisis, and it serves as a reminder that building resilience before crisis hits will save lives and reduce the need for costly humanitarian response.

Although science has been drawing attention to man-made climate change and its potentially catastrophic effects for over 40 years, policymakers have largely failed to recognise the problem and take action. At present, the world is far from being able to limit the global temperature increase to below 2°C, let alone 1.5°C. Global CO_2 emissions continue to rise, and, even if the global community implements all promised emission reduction targets, the world is still on track for warming of about 2.7°C in 2100, compared to pre-industrial levels.[2]

The Climate Emergency is also a question of justice and equality. Not everybody is affected in the same way by the climate crisis and impacts are not equally distributed. They depend on geographical location (small

1 IPCC (2021): Assessment Report 6, Summary for Policymakers in Climate Change 2021: The physical science basis, www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGI_SPM_final.pdf

2 UNEP (2021) Emissions Gap Report 2021 Global progress report on climate action, www.unep.org/resources/emissions-gap-report-2021

islands, low lying coastal areas and drylands will be worst affected), exposure (people forced to live in unsafe territories, such as floodplains), as well as the socio-economic status of communities and associated vulnerabilities. Those most at risk are people living in the global South, the ones least responsible for causing the problems in the first place. Besides, there is also an intergenerational dimension, which materialised in the "Fridays for Future" movement, where young people are taking to the streets to push for political and transformational change, so that their generation will not have to bear the burden of the consequences of global heating.

Immediate and effective climate action, meaning uncompromising implementation of the Paris Agreement and adequate financing of adaptation efforts and climate-related loss and damage by those responsible, are imperative to sustainable and just development. At the same time, new risks related to the production and storage of renewable energies must be considered. Wind- and hydropower require large surfaces and can lead to land grabbing from local communities. Energy storage and electric vehicles will increase the demand for battery minerals, with the extractive industry accounting for a big share of the complaints about violations of human rights around the world.[3] Systems change, not climate change, needs to become the reality. A strong civil society plays a central role in entering and following this path.

In view of its urgency and significance, the Climate Emergency is of growing importance in both the HEKS/EPER programmatic and advocacy work. This policy paper on Climate Justice aims to develop a common understanding of the topic within the organisation and with its partners, and to outline its dimensions and political demands. In its daily operations worldwide, HEKS/EPER experiences the impacts of climate change on the most vulnerable, but also the many solutions which local communities offer to adapt to and face these challenges.

3 Business and Human Rights Resource Center: www.business-humanrights.org/en/big-issues/natural-resources/extractives-transition-minerals/

2. Background (facts and figures)

2.1 Climate Change – Scientific Facts

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), global average temperatures have risen by around 1.1°C since pre-industrial times. However, the rate of warming is not consistent across the earth's surface: in many regions and in certain seasons, warming is greater than the global annual average, and warming is generally higher over land than over the ocean.[4] In Switzerland, for example, the temperature rise has been two times higher than the global average, namely temperatures have risen by already 2.2°C since 1864.[5] At current rates, human-caused warming is adding around 0.2°C to global average temperatures every decade. If this rate continues, global average warming is likely to reach 1.5°C around 2030.

Climate impacts are being observed both on land and ocean ecosystems and in all services that these ecosystems provide. Human-induced climate change is already affecting weather patterns in every region across the globe, resulting in weather and climate extremes such as heatwaves, heavy precipitation, droughts or tropical cyclones. Moreover, they fuel sea level rise and are accelerating biodiversity loss. This is causing unprecedented risk to vulnerable populations. All the latest IPCC Reports, the Sixth Assessment Report, *Physical Science Basis 2021*[6], and the Special Reports on *Climate Change and Land*[7] as well as on *Oceans and Cryosphere*[8] both released in 2019, give clear evidence that the effects of climate change, such as the proceeding desertification, the melting of the ice shields or glaciers and the changing of the oceans have and will have predominantly negative impacts on food security and food systems, water resources, water quality,

4 IPCC (2021) AR6, The Physical Science Basis
5 MeteoSwiss: www.meteoswiss.admin.ch/home/climate/climate-change-in-switzerland.html
6 IPCC (2021) AR6, The Physical Science Basis
7 IPCC (2019) Special Report Climate Change and Land, www.ipcc.ch/srccl/chapter/summary-for-policymakers/
8 IPCC (2019) Special Report Oceans and Cryosphere, www.ipcc.ch/srocc/chapter/summary-for-policymakers/

livelihoods, biodiversity, human and ecosystem health, infrastructure, transportation, tourism and recreation, as well as the culture of human societies, particularly for indigenous peoples and local communities.

The severity of the current temperature increase is also reflected in climate-related losses and damages, which have considerably increased in recent years due to global heating. The United Nations Office for Disaster Reduction (UNDRR)[9] puts the human cost of disasters in the period between 2000 and 2019 at 1.23 million lost lives, 4 billion people affected and the overall insured damage volume at USD 3 trillion. According to the global reinsurer MunichRe, climate-related losses have tripled since 1980.[10]

Regarding future climate change impacts, all recent IPCC reports show that a temperature increase beyond 1.5°C, up to 2°C or even more, would dramatically aggravate many climate risks and trigger so-called tipping points, which have irreversible effects on many ecosystems and their services and threaten the stability of the entire climate system. Coral reefs, for example, would be completely extinct worldwide and tropical glaciers would practically disappear. In addition, there would be an increase in extreme weather events in almost all regions of the world, and sea-level rise would exceed the one-metre mark before the end of the century.[11]

To limit warming to 1.5°C, net global CO_2 emissions need to fall by about 45% from 2010 levels by 2030 and reach "net Zero" by around 2050. So, by the middle of this century, the CO_2 emitted by human activities needs to be matched by the CO_2 taken out of the atmosphere, for example through the absorption in natural carbon sinks like forests, oceans or biomass.[12]

2.2 International climate policy

In 1990, the first ever IPCC Report gave strong evidence that emissions resulting from human activities are substantially increasing the atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases (GHG) and are thus resulting in an additional warming of the Earth's surface. The report formed the basis for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), an international environmental treaty which was opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. The objective of the UNFCCC is to "stabilise greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system". Since 1995, the parties to the convention meet annually in the Conferences of the Parties (COP) to assess progress in dealing with climate change. In 1997, the Kyoto Protocol was adopted and for the first time established legally-binding obligations for developed countries (Annex I countries) to reduce their GHG emissions in the period 2008-2012. The US never ratified the protocol and Canada opted out. There were negotiations about a second period of mandatory climate targets, but only few countries ended up signing. With growing greenhouse gas emissions in emerging economies (such as China, India, Brazil etc.), the Kyoto Protocol, in the end, was regulating only 15% of global emissions and the goal of the UNFCCC to stabilise GHG emissions was conspicuously missed.

In December 2015, at the COP21 in Paris, 195 states finally agreed on a new ambitious climate policy: the Paris Agreement. The goal of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change is to limit global warming to well below 2° C, preferably 1.5° C. This should be done by reducing emissions as soon as possible, to achieve a balance between anthropogenic emissions and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases in the second half of the 21st century. The agreement also aims to increase the ability of parties to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and make finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low carbon and climate-resilient development. [13]

As part of the rules to the Paris Agreement, individual countries and the EU submit pledges, so-called nationally determined contributions (NDCs), which are renewed every five years. They are required to be "ambitious", "represent a progression over time", and set "with the view to achieving the purpose of the Agreement".

9 UNDRR (2020) The Human Cost of Disasters – An overview of the last 20 years 2000-2019, www.preventionweb.net/files/74124_humancostofdisasters20002019reportu.pdf

10 Hoeppe, P (2016) Trends in Weather Related Disasters – consequences for insurers and society, Weather and Climate Extremes, Vol. 11, p.70-79

11 IPCC (2018). Special Report Global Warming at 1.5°C Report, https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/chapter/spm/, IPCC (2019) Special Report Climate Change and Land, IPCC (2019) Special Report Oceans and Cryosphere, IPCC (2021) AR6, The Physical Science Basis

12 IPCC (2018). 1.5°C Report

13 UNFCCC (2015): The Paris Agreement https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english_paris_agreement.pdf

However, as the *Emission Gap Reports*[14] from UNEP show on an annual basis, NDCs are still far off the pathway to 1.5°C, and global heating is currently expected to surpass 1.5°C by approximately 2030.

With regard to international climate finance, it was reaffirmed in Paris to mobilise $100 billion a year in financial means by 2020, as initially agreed during the COP15 in 2009 in Copenhagen, and that financially weak countries and communities most exposed to climate change must be adequately supported in preventing and coping with climate change. For the period after that, countries agreed to come up with a new goal for climate finance from 2025, which should amount to at least $100 billion per year.

Another point which was reaffirmed through the Paris Agreement is the question of climate-induced losses and damages, meaning the question of how to deal with climate impacts that go beyond adaptation. Article 8 of the agreement recognises the importance of averting, minimising, and addressing loss and damage, and taking the discretional obligation to enhance understanding, action, and support on a cooperative and facilitative basis with respect to loss and damage. However, the question of when, how, by whom and through which channels the necessary financial means to fulfil this obligation would be mobilised, and how the provision of financial support would take place, remains so far unanswered.[15]

However, six years after COP21 in Paris, the international community still lacks the ambition to truly put the Paris Agreement into practice, pursue the 1.5°C goal and therefore avert climate catastrophe. Current NDC pledges are far off reaching the 1.5°C target and the $100 Billion per year for mitigation and adaptation from 2020 onwards has not even been reached, even though needs to cover adaptation efforts in the global South are many times the promised amount. The latest climate negotiations in Glasgow at COP26 have fallen short of taking adequate attempts to end fossil fuel and to prevent loopholes opening the door to offsets and false climate solutions, threatening to further lead to more climate harm and jeopardising human rights.[16]

2.3 Climate change and Sustainable Development

The IPCC 1.5°C Report in 2018 explicitly addresses sustainable development and points out that climate change is increasingly becoming an obstacle to development and undermining efforts to combat poverty and hunger. Global heating is not a purely environmental issue, but a central determinant of sustainable development. The report notes that, across the world, populations disproportionally at higher risk include "disadvantaged and vulnerable populations, indigenous peoples and local communities dependent on agricultural or coastal livelihoods."[17]

Without the rapid and substantial reduction of GHG emissions worldwide, climate change will continue unabated and the achievement of the 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) adopted by the UN General Assembly will be a long way off. A world without poverty (Goal 1), hunger (Goal 2) and water shortage (Goal 6) will become unattainable if temperatures rise by more than 2°C, as will health (Goal 3) and education (Goal 4) for all. Conversely, a key finding of the report is that many efforts to limit global heating to 1.5°C can go hand in hand with efforts to address many other issues of inequality and poverty eradication. This was again emphasised in the IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land[18], which states that, for example, *"many land-related responses that contribute to climate change adaptation and mitigation can also combat desertification and land degradation and enhance food security."*

14 UNEP (2019): Emission Gap Report 10 year summary, https://www.unep.org/resources/emissions-gap-report-10-year-summary

15 Brot für die Welt (2019), Climate Finance for Addressing Loss and Damage, https://www.brot-fuer-die-welt.de/fileadmin/mediapool/2_Downloads/Fachinformationen/Analyse/ClimateFinance_LossDamage.pdf

16 Heinrich Böll Stiftung (2021), False solutions prevail over real ambition at COP26, https://www.boell.de/en/2021/12/16/false-solutions-prevail-over-real-ambition-cop26

17 IPCC (2018). 1.5°C Report

18 IPCC (2019) Special Report Climate Change and Land

3. Climate Justice and its dimension for HEKS/EPER

3.1 The HEKS/EPER understanding of Climate Justice

For HEKS/EPER, climate and environmental justice means that every human being has the same basic right to a safe, clean and healthy environment. Consequently, the amount of per capita GHG emissions will therefore have to be limited in accordance with the Paris Agreement. It is a fact that a person living in Bangladesh causes emissions of 0.5 t CO_2 on average per year and a person living in Switzerland 14 t. That the people of Bangladesh are affected much more severely by the consequences of climate change illustrates its great injustice. Those who are least responsible for climate change suffer its gravest consequences.

Against the background of shared responsibility for an intact nature that sustains the lives and livelihoods of all people on the planet, climate justice therefore implies not only that humanity is obliged to drastically and swiftly reduce emissions to zero, but also to distribute the burden fairly. Given the North's primary responsibility for climate change, its historic emission debt, as well as its economic capacity, this means supporting poorer countries in low emission development, in adapting to the consequences of climate change, and in dealing with losses and damages – including climate-induced migration and "non-economic losses", such as identity and cultural heritage. At the same time, new risks and damage in connection with specific "climate solutions" must be prevented and reduced. Climate justice links human rights and development to achieve a human-centred approach, safeguarding the rights of the most vulnerable people and sharing its impacts equitably and fairly. Climate justice is informed by science, responds to science, and acknowledges the need for equitable stewardship of the world's resources.

But the question of climate justice does not only concern the relationship between poor and rich and between the main polluters and main victims of climate change, be it between or within countries. Climate justice also

has an intergenerational dimension: If the present generation limits the opportunities of future generations to adequately meet their needs due to anthropogenic climate change, this is a violation of intergenerational justice. The young people protesting worldwide within the framework of the "Fridays for Future" movement clearly express this accusation to their parents' generation.

HEKS/EPER strongly believes that a rights-based approach for climate justice can transform communities from being victims of climate change to leaders of climate change mitigation and adaptation, a situation which could enhance the abilities of humanity as a whole in adapting to the current climate emergency. HEKS/EPER calls for the adequate support of the most vulnerable in dealing with and adapting to the impacts of climate change, which they did not cause but are suffering from the most. In Switzerland, HEKS/EPER sensitises the public for the global interconnection of drivers and effects of the climate crises and calls for policies and action to tackle those main drivers of climate change that are situated in Switzerland, such as financial institutions and other relevant industries and polluters.

Climate change and development

3.2 Climate Change and Social Inequality

The ability of populations to mitigate and adapt to the negative consequences of climate change are shaped by factors such as income, financial capital, ethnicity, class, gender, political representation and whether a person lives in the centre or the periphery. Low-income communities, marginalised, indigenous communities or communities of colour possess few, if any, adaptive resources and are therefore particularly vulnerable to impacts of climate change. People living in poverty or in precarious circumstances tend to have neither the resources nor the insurance coverage necessary to recover from environmental disasters. They have less information, which makes it harder to be able to prepare for the impacts of climate change, and often receive an unequal share of disaster relief and recovery assistance. Additionally, they generally have less say and involvement in decision-making, political, and legal processes that relate to climate change, the natural environment or disaster risk management. Consequently, inequality increases the vulnerability of disadvantaged groups, and it decreases these groups' relative ability to deal with and recover from the damage they suffer.[19]

Furthermore, climate change exacerbates inequalities and will continue to do so. This was acknowledged in the Fifth Assessment Report of the IPCC already in 2014[20], which noted that "socially and geographically disadvantaged people are particularly affected negatively by climate hazards and that exacerbation of inequality can happen through disproportionate erosion of physical, human and social assets", and is again highlighted in the Human Development Report 2019.

One way to lessen the disproportionate impact of climate change is to involve disadvantaged groups in the planning and policymaking process so that these individuals have a say in their own futures. This would also help minority groups to achieve more access to resources to adapt to and plan for changing climatic conditions. For HEKS/EPER it is paramount that climate and disaster resilience does not become the reserve of a selected group that can afford it. HEKS/EPER therefore facilitates dialogue between vulnerable groups and authorities (from local to national level) to lobby for more equitable and climate responsive policies and budgeting, and supports access to adaptation technologies (e.g. climate resilient farming techniques, natural resource management, early warning systems, etc.) for the most vulnerable.

19 Nazrul Islam and Winkel (2017): Climate Change and Social Inequality, DESA Working Paper No. 152, www.un.org/esa/desa/papers/2017/wp152_2017.pdf

20 IPCC (2014): 5th Assessment Report, www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/wg2/

Bangladesh – advocacy for Adibashi to be included in Bangladesh's climate change strategies

Bangladesh has been repeatedly listed as one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change around the globe. The susceptibility and vulnerability of the country to climate change impacts is shaped by its geographic and climatic characteristics and exacerbated by the socio-economic situation of large parts of the population living in poverty.

Adibashi (ethnic minority) communities living in the high Barind Region in Northwest Bangladesh where temperatures are increasing and droughts are on the rise, are disproportionally vulnerable to the impacts of climate change due to their social, economic and political exclusion. Raising awareness among the Adibashi communities about climate change and its impacts on their life and livelihoods is one important component of the climate change adaptation activities in the HEKS/EPER Bangladesh programme. Together with the communities, hazards, vulnerabilities and capacities are assessed and their needs for a strengthened resilience analysed. Based on these assessments, HEKS/EPER facilitates dialogue with local level authorities to lobby for pro-poor and climate-responsive planning and budgeting. Furthermore, Adibashi communities are capacitated with knowledge and skills to take up alternative, climate-resilient livelihoods. HEKS/EPER lobbies with microfinance and insurance institutions to grant Adibashi access to finance and insurance so that they can finance climate-resilient livelihood activities. HEKS/EPER also lobbies with local, regional and national authorities to include minority communities into existing and upcoming climate change strategies, policies, action plans and investments, in the sense of leaving no one behind.

3.3 Climate Change and Land

The IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land[21] has clearly highlighted the importance of land use for the implementation of the Paris Agreement. By securing community land rights, protecting and restoring natural ecosystems (such as forests, peatlands and grasslands) and achieving an ecological agricultural and food transition, major progress can be made not only in climate change mitigation, but also in climate change adaptation as well as in preserving biodiversity and overcoming hunger and poverty.[22] Besides this, traditional practices and indigenous knowledge offer immense potential to respond effectively to climate change. Across the world, indigenous peoples' and local communities' understanding of local ecosystems and their ability to identify, manage and respond to environmental fluctuations, has enabled them to live sustainably off natural resources while developing resilience to drought, floods or other shocks. Major carbon sinks and approximately 80% of the world's remaining biodiversity are stewarded by indigenous and local communities in communally-owned land.[23] Yet communities also suffer due to rapid and unexpected changes in climatic conditions, disrupting their traditional systems. And in many contexts, there is an increasing competition over the few resources like land, forest and water due to ongoing degradation. Climate change exacerbates existing land scarcity by causing the loss of even more arable land.

Moreover, the increasing influence of climate policy on land use also entails considerable risks: many climate protection scenarios rely on large-scale afforestation and the massive expansion of bioenergy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS), which will cause a sharp rise in global demand for land and other natural resources such as water. This will lead to negative effects on food security, livelihoods, and nature's contribu-

21 IPCC (2019): Special Report Climate Change and Land

22 Climate Land Ambition and Rights Alliance – CLARA (2018): Missing Pathways to 1.5°C, www.climatelandambitionrightsalliance.org/report

23 Minority Rights Group (2019): Minority and indigenous trends 2019 – Focus Climate Justice, https://minorityrights.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/MRG-Key-Trends-Report-2019-FINAL-1.pdf

tion to people. The associated conflicts over land and natural resources will take place primarily in the global South and may cause serious social and ecological damage.[24] Together with local and international partners, HEKS/EPER advocates for the right of local communities and indigenous peoples to their land and the protection of their territories. Whilst the growing interest in traditional knowledge and its application to climate change adaptation strategies is welcomed, it needs to be ensured that it is in line with the right of minorities and indigenous peoples to meaningful participation and their right to free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) with respect for their right to maintain their lands, resources and intellectual property. HEKS/EPER also supports communities in protecting and stabilising their natural environment by strengthening traditional management systems, introducing adapted methods of building up natural buffers and restoring degraded land, and working with particularly vulnerable groups like pastoralists.

Ethiopia – Borana pastoralists: custodians of biodiversity and healthy ecosystems

For the Borana pastoralists, who live in the semi-arid lowlands of Ethiopia, prolonged dry periods and droughts have always been part of life. Over centuries, the Borana people have developed a common production system that makes sustainable use of the scarce grazing and water resources in the region and is very resistant to climatic fluctuations. With their mobile way of living and their traditional knowledge, the Borana in Ethiopia are protecting the important ecosystem services of the rangeland, such as provision of food and water, or the protection of biodiversity, all important prerequisites to mitigate climatic shocks such as heavy precipitation events or extreme drought, which are on the increase in Borana. However, the upkeeping of this traditional management system is challenged, on the one hand, due to changing climatic conditions, widespread rangeland degradation and population increase, while on the other hand, the Borana lack formal recognition of ownership or user rights to their rangelands.

Together with the Borana grassroot organisation Gayo Pastoralist Development Initiative (GPDI), HEKS/EPER is implementing a comprehensive resilience-building project in the Borana rangelands. The project supports Borana customary institutions in emphasising the vital importance of their traditional production system for the resilience of the Borana region and people. Towards zonal and regional governmental institutions, the project is advocating for the inclusion of the customary institutions in any planned or ongoing land governance processes. Besides the governance component, the project also intends to strengthen the anticipatory, absorptive and adaptive resilience capacities of the Borana pastoralists. Through measures of sustainable land management (erosion control, grass and shrub, tree plantation), particularly degraded areas in the rangelands are rehabilitated. In order to increase the preparedness of Borana pastoralists, the project is bringing together traditional weather forecasters and meteorologists to produce climate forecasts, which are then communicated to the wider population to plan for the growing season and make appropriate decisions (e.g. regarding cropping or selling livestock).

24 CLARA (2018)

Senegal – mangrove protection and restoration to face rising sea levels

In the Sine Saloum Delta in Senegal, HEKS/EPER, together with the local partner organisation 'Association pour la Promotion des Initiatives Locales (APIL)', contributes to the conservation and restoration of mangrove forests. Tropical mangroves are among the most productive and valuable ecosystems on earth, providing coastal residents with food, clean water, raw materials and resilience against impacts of climate change such as increasing storm intensity or salt intrusion and coastal erosion due to sea level rise. Moreover, mangroves are important for climate change mitigation as they absorb five times more carbon than terrestrial forests. Mangrove forests in the Saloum Delta are declining at an alarming rate due to destructive human action and accelerated by the impacts of climate change. Economic opportunities have been greatly reduced in recent years and pose a threat to people's livelihoods.

The aim of the project is to build the capacity of the coastal population in the Sine Saloum Delta, particularly women, to conserve, restore and sustainably use their coastal ecosystem as a livelihood source, and to make them more resilient to the future impacts of climate change which are threatening their livelihoods. In each village, a protection and restoration plan is negotiated in a participatory process under the facilitation of APIL and HEKS/EPER. Village committees are set up which are responsible for implementation and compliance with the plans. Moreover, in order to protect the mangroves from logging, each village plants fast-growing trees on a small area, to be used as firewood at household level. At the same time, the project promotes the use of locally available, energy-efficient stoves to lower the amount of wood used for cooking and the carbon emissions. To further increase the resilience of the coastal population in the Sine Saloum Delta, the project also promotes the ecological production and processing of seafood as well as its fair marketing.

3.4 Climate Change and Energy Transition

A transition to clean, renewable energies is key to phase out the use of fossil fuels and to fight the climate crisis. However, this transition must not be achieved at the expense of poor and vulnerable communities in the Global South.[25] Wind and hydropower or solar parks require large surfaces and often lead to land grabbing from local communities, while skyrocketing demand for minerals to produce solar panels and batteries to power electric vehicles increases existing environmental and human rights risks in the extractive industry. A large proportion of battery minerals are mined in countries with high poverty rates and poor administrative and governance structures. Mining activities lead to the relocation of entire villages, violations of indigenous rights, the destruction of agricultural land and the pollution of water sources. The negative impact on local peoples' health and security is well documented. The need for key battery minerals, such as lithium and cobalt, is expected to increase four- to five-fold until 2050.[26] If the economy powered by fossil fuels is merely replaced by one powered by renewable energies, while consumption and production continue to increase, demand for primary minerals will further grow, despite the anticipated leaps in efficiency and recycling based on new technologies.[27]

25 War on want (2019): A Just(ice) Transition is a Post-Extractive Transition, https://waronwant.org/sites/default/files/Post-Extractivist_Transition_WEB_0.pdf

26 World Bank (2020): Minerals for Climate Action, The Mineral Intensity of the Clean Energy Transition, https://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/961711588875536384/Minerals-for-Climate-Action-The-Mineral-Intensity-of-the-Clean-Energy-Transition.pdf

27 War on want (2021): A Material Transition, https://waronwant.org/sites/default/files/2021-03/A%20Material%20Transition_report_War%20on%20Want.pdf

HEKS/EPER supports local communities in mining countries and holds companies violating human rights and environmental standards accountable. At the same time, vehicle and battery producers as well as investors and public buyers in Switzerland are reminded of their responsibility regarding human rights due diligence in their supply and value chains, especially in connection with raw materials. Furthermore, HEKS/EPER requests politicians and lawmakers in Switzerland to promote a circular economy, including the reuse and recycling of batteries and raw materials in order to help decrease the risks and negative impact on local communities in mining countries. And finally, HEKS/EPER encourages an energy transition rooted in justice, promoting "clean energy – without dirty mining". Consumers and policy makers in Switzerland are requested to consider alternative ways of transport such as cycling, car-pooling and public transport, in order to downsise the number of individual cars, and thereby reduce the harmful extraction of raw materials.

Democratic Republic of Congo – Lobbying for Human Rights Due Diligence in the cobalt industry

Cobalt is a key raw material in the manufacture of batteries, found almost exclusively in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). It is mined and sold for the most part by relatively small companies from countries such as China, Lebanon, India and DRC, and by large mining multinationals which have been facing criticism from local populations for decades. Complaints have ranged from the contamination of rivers to the desertification of fields, gardens and crops caused by toxic materials from the mines.

Mining concessions are often awarded under questionable circumstances. The local population suffers from displacement and relocation, with insufficient compensation to make a fresh start elsewhere. Some 20% of the cobalt extracted in the DRC stems from small-scale mining operations, sometimes in locations attributed to mining corporations. Violence and lethal conflicts with their security forces are frequent. Furthermore, in artisanal and small mining, hardly any safety measures are taken around the hand-dug wells, and serious accidents are the order of the day. Small-scale cobalt mining is also notorious for its use of child labour, which is widespread.

HEKS/EPER supports organisations in the DRC that conduct and publish research on human rights abuses committed by mining companies and provide legal support to affected communities and small-scale miners. In Switzerland, HEKS/EPER lobbies for binding regulations regarding the respect of internationally agreed Human Rights Due Diligence in the supply chains of Swiss multinationals.

See also: https://stories.bfa-fo.ch/im-schatten-des-kobaltbooms/

3.5 Climate Change and Food Systems

Around one quarter (25%) of global GHG emissions can be attributed to agriculture and to related changes in land use. Deforestation, conversion of wetlands or grassland into arable land, the use of artificial fertilizers and heavy machinery as well as intensive livestock rearing all contribute to a large extent to GHG emissions and the large-scale loss of biodiversity. If we go beyond the farm gate and take into account the wider global food system, including food processing, storage, transport and food-waste, the GHG emissions of food systems rise to around 40%.[28] The GHG emissions from agriculture have doubled between 1961 and 2016 due to the intensification of the sector.[29]

At the same time, agricultural production and food systems are also heavily affected by the impacts of climate change: a changed water balance with new, unpredictable precipitation patterns, extreme events such

28 IPCC (2019): Special Report Climate Change and Land
29 IPCC (2014): 5th Assessment Report

as cyclones, heavy rainfall and droughts, but also the increase in pest, disease and weed pressure heavily affect agricultural productivity. Already today, 500 million people live in areas affected by desertification and thus by water and food shortages. It is expected that agriculture will have to be abandoned in certain areas or that production will be relocated.[30]

A fundamental transformation of the way in which we produce and consume food bears great climate change mitigation potential. The promotion of a healthy diet in line with the recommendations of the World Health Organization (limiting the consumption of meat, dairy and overall calorie intake) would release arable land for food-systems change and restoration. Less livestock could be produced sustainably on natural grassland (e.g. holistic management, mob grazing), thus contributing, even potentially, to carbon sequestration.[31] And finally, further emission reduction can be achieved by reduced food loss and waste, reduced food miles travelled and reduced use of fossil-fuel heated greenhouses to artificially extend growing seasons.[32]

To support small-scale farmers in adapting to the impacts of climate change and to build resilience, HEKS/EPER and its partners promote the adoption and extension of agroecological farming practices. Agroecology promotes a diversified production system, so that if one product fails in case of climatic extremes, others could still be harvested. Alternative production like animal husbandry, honey production, soap making etc., helps to compensate for losses in farming. Besides diversification, the use of synergies, an efficient resource use and recycling measures also allow farmers to become more flexible to prepare for and react to climate variability. Local production and consumption systems, for example based on traditional species, local markets and social safety nets are less prone to global climate impacts, causing less market volatility. Agroecology promotes significant changes in the way in which we produce and consume food. It asks for fair economic conditions for all actors in the value chain and requires political governance that fosters the balance between ecological, economic and social food production. Giving local communities, and particularly women and indigenous people, a voice in decision making processes around the way food is produced, sold and consumed, is part of an agroecological transformation. All together, this will trigger avoidance of future emissions from the food system.

In Switzerland, current agricultural policies fail to address the impact of agriculture on GHG emissions and do not give any political framework conditions that incentivise the reduction of emissions. Together with like-minded organisations working on agroecology, HEKS/EPER calls for transformational change towards fair, just and sustainable food systems which can transform power structures globally, fight hunger and reduce the impacts of climate change on vulnerable communities in the Global South.

Niger – increasing food security despite rising temperatures and advancing desertification

In the semi-arid region of Maradi, in the South of Niger, people have always had to deal with water scarcity. However in the last 40 years, drought events have become considerably more frequent due to a steady increase of temperatures. Recurrent drought events, coupled with increased variability of rainfall, advancing desertification and increasing pest infestation due to higher temperatures, have led to decreasing yields of the two main staple foods, millet and cow pea, which are crucial for people's food security in Maradi. On top of the climatic impacts described above, high population growth is putting a lot of pressure on the already very small amount of arable land in the country.

30 IPCC (2019): Special Report Climate Change and Land
31 Savory, A., & Butterfield, J. (1998). Holistic Management: A New Framework for Decision Making. Washington DC: Island Press
32 CLARA (2018)

To adapt to increasing temperatures, HEKS/EPER and the local partner Sahel Bio support 1,500 pilot farmers in testing improved local millet and cow pea varieties using different agroecological farming practices and monitoring their success. The tested varieties are early and fast maturing and more tolerant to heat stress. The adapted varieties are planted with different cultivation methods, either in monocultures, mixed cultivation, or by using the traditional Zai planting technique, where a planting hole is dug to increase the water retention capacity. Furthermore, the use of compost is promoted to improve soil fertility. Regarding pest control, the farmers produce and apply a natural pesticide made from the neem tree and they also release a parasitic wasp to control the very destructive millet dead worm. All pilot farmers document the plant development, growth and yields in their fields. The applied measures are promising: with the applied techniques, farmers could quadruple their yields, now having sufficient millet from their own harvest to feed their families for up to nine months in a year. Before the described measures were applied, their own harvest lasted for three months. And from the cow pea yields, there is even excess yield which can be sold on the market for additional income.

3.6 Climate Change and Gender Equality

Impacts of climate change are not gender neutral but are experienced differently by different groups of women and men, at the intersection of other social determinants such as economic status, location, age, disability, and marital status. While both women and men are physically, psychologically and materially affected by disasters and losses in agricultural productivity, these impacts are manifested differently as a result of existing societal stresses, among which the strongest are socially constructed roles and responsibilities, occupational segregation, and cultural norms. Hence, women bear most of the burdens induced by climate change and disaster, including increased time and labour workloads, health issues like malnutrition, increased rates of sexual and gender-based violence, as well as an increased risk of mortality and morbidity as a result of disasters.[33]

On the other hand, climate change has the potential of transformative change in gender relations and roles. Indeed, climate-induced impacts determine women and men to engage in different new activities, leading to new roles in the family and in the community. Women start taking a leadership role among their male counterparts as they engage in alternative livelihoods and income-generating activities. Women are also important agents of change in the fight against global heating. They play a central role in developing creative and effective solutions to build the resilience of their communities to climate shocks and stresses. Increasing women's participation and leadership in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of climate responses will ensure that resulting policies both reduce climate-related risks and reduce barriers to full equality, thereby enabling longer-term recovery and social justice for affected populations. Nationally and globally, women's meaningful participation in climate decision-making and negotiations needs to increase, both by aiming for gender parity and more women in leadership roles on government delegations, and by engaging with women's rights organisations which are on the frontlines of the climate crisis.[34]

With the Participatory Assessment of Climate and Disaster Risk (PACDR) Tool, HEKS/EPER (in collaboration with Bread for All (BfA) and Bread for the World (BfdW)) has developed a risk assessment tool which allows to systematically analyse the different risk perceptions and impacts of climate change on women and men, and hence to plan resilience-building measures accordingly. This analysis can help to improve climate change-related planning in order to address women's interests more strategically.

Climate change and crisis

3.7 Climate Change and Conflict

Conflicts disrupt the social, political, and economic organisation of societies, aggravate disparities, and erode development. They cause death and injuries. In protracted conflicts, the persistence of such disruption often leaves indelible marks on people and societies. Climate risks and environmental degradation only make mat-

33 WMO (2019), Gendered Impacts of Weather and Climate: Evidence from Asia, Pacific and Africa, https://library.wmo.int/doc_num.php?explnum_id=10106

34 CARE (2019)

ters worse. The convergence of climate risks and conflict further worsens food and economic insecurity and health disparities, and limits access to essential services, while weakening the capacity of governments, institutions, and societies to provide support. They also exacerbate existing vulnerabilities and inequalities. Countries in situations of armed conflict are disproportionately affected by climate variability and extremes. Sixty per cent of the 20 countries considered to be the most vulnerable to climate change by the ND-Gain Index[35] are also affected by armed conflict, and 14 of the 34 countries in food crisis experienced the double burden of conflict and climate shocks in 2017.[36]

Consequently, disasters linked to natural hazards need to be understood as a contextual risk, thus exacerbating existing conflicts or creating new ones. Open or underlying conflicts, on the other hand, need to be better incorporated as a programmatic risk to climate-related interventions. The influence of fragile and conflict-affected contexts needs to be better reflected in the planning and implementation of climate-related projects and programmes, e.g., through a do-no-harm approach, conflict-sensitive programming, thus reflecting that interventions can both foster trust among conflict parties or fuel existing conflicts.

HEKS/EPER supports its partners in conflict-sensitive planning to better link conflict transformation to resilience building. A participatory risk analysis including all community actors can create a better understanding of local fragility and climate-related issues.

3.8 Climate-induced migration

According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), 24.9 million people were newly displaced by disasters in 2019, 23.9 million of them due to weather-related disasters[37]. Environmental factors have, together with other factors, always acted as a driver of human mobility[38]. Fast- or slow-onset climate impacts, such as extreme weather events, sea level rise and accelerated environmental degradation, including costal erosion, desertification, and biodiversity loss, result in temporary or permanent migration of those affected. However, it is rarely climate change alone that leads to flight and migration. Migration is a multi-causal phenomenon, where climate change acts as an amplifying factor, thus adding new complexity to the environment-migration nexus.[39]

In recent years, science has become increasingly aware of the connections between the climate crisis and migration. According to the 2018 IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, climate-induced migration and displacement will further increase in the future: "multiple drivers and embedded social processes influence the magnitude and pattern of livelihoods and poverty, and the changing structure of communities related to migration, displacement, and conflict."[40] While it is difficult to determine exactly who will have to move because of the consequences of climate change, estimates vary accordingly from 25 million to one billion people who will have to migrate worldwide by 2050 because of the climate crisis. Very few of those migrating will make it beyond their own country's borders and move internationally. Migration associated with environmental change is typically directed from rural to poor urban areas, where the displaced continue to be disproportionately exposed to hazards.[41]

The connections between the climate crisis and migration have also become an integral part of several multilateral processes. So far, however, there are no legally binding conventions protecting the rights of "climate migrants". The Global Compact on Migration of 2018 recognises climate change as a reason for migration, and the UNFCCC also talks extensively about climate-induced migration. However, so far, the Conference of the Parties' (COP) decisions on "displacement and migration" have only been directed at knowledge genera-

35 https://gain.nd.edu/our-work/country-index/
36 ICRC (2020): When rain turns to dust, www.icrc.org/sites/default/files/topic/file_plus_list/rain_turns_to_dust_climate_change_conflict.pdf
37 IDMC (2019), Global Report on internal displacement, www.internal-displacement.org/sites/default/files/publications/documents/2020-IDMC-GRID-executive-summary.pdf
38 Human mobility refers to three forms of population movement: 1. Displacement – forced movements of peoples, 2. Migration – predominantly voluntary movements, 3. Planned relocation – organised, planned process of settling persons/groups of persons to a new location (UNFCCC 2011).
39 SDC (2016), Climate Change and Environment Nexus Brief – Migration, www.shareweb.ch/site/Climate-Change-and-Environment/Documents/Nexus%20brief%20Nr.1%20(July%202016).pdf
40 IPCC (2018)
41 Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung (2019), The climate crisis leads to loss, damage and displacement, www.rosalux.de/en/news/id/41266/the-climate-crisis-leads-to-loss-damage-and-displacement

tion, development of technical papers and strengthening coordination among different actors, while bypassing the obligation of the countries to correct the "manifested injustice" that causes and/or exacerbates the crisis.[42]

In the project countries, HEKS/EPER is committed to building resilience and capacities to cope with the effects of climate change so that climate-induced migration can be prevented as far as possible. On a policy level, HEKS/EPER calls on Switzerland for an active and long-term engagement on an international level to identify, develop and strengthen solutions for those people who are forced to leave their homes as a result of the adverse effects of climate change and environmental degradation (see also to HEKS/EPER policy paper on migration).

Climate change, international cooperation and finance

3.9 Loss and damage

The evidence presented in the IPCC 1.5°C report underlines the devastating impacts that can be expected by a temperature increase of 1.5°C, up to 2°C or even beyond. Given that the current climate-mitigation efforts by the international community as laid out in the NDCs submitted to the UNFCCC sadly fail to achieve even a 2°C temperature increase, it has become clear that climate change adaptation will not be enough and that there will be increasingly unavoidable loss and damage caused by climate change. Already today, small island developing states (SIDS) feel the loss of their islands through sea-level rise and have already started to relocate entire communities because their land is lost to the sea[43].

Climate justice also means that the dramatic consequences of the warming of the earth's atmosphere must not be seen as a purely technical environmental problem. In all measures, the right to development, human rights, water rights, land rights of communities, etc., must be considered and respected, while losses and damage must be compensated.

Since 2013, the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Global Compact on Migration, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and many other institutions have recognised that human rights violations are taking place as a result of climate change and that there is a need to compensate for the loss and damage that small islands and least developed countries in particular are facing as a result of the ongoing climate crisis. However, the polluter states have so far refused to make additional funds available and the 'industrialised countries' hold on to their strong position against 'liability and compensation' for losses and damages. From the perspective of those affected, it is above all a question of protection and addressing the root causes of their vulnerability. Fleeing from climate hotspots is not an 'adaptation strategy', it is an attempt of 'survival' in the context of 'adaptation and mitigation failure'.[44]

HEKS/EPER supports its partners in increasing the access of marginalised communities to insurance as a way to protect them from yield losses. HEKS/EPER also supports its partners in legal interventions to address loss and damages. As part of the umbrella organisation Alliance Sud, HEKS/EPER demands that Switzerland should take a clear and ambitious position on climate-induced loss and damage. This should also include funding and other forms of support for the most climate-vulnerable countries. The recognition that the climate crisis is caused by certain actors implies that those causing it bear a corresponding responsibility. This is what the term climate justice implies, and it is part of a Just Transition.

3.10 Climate Finance

At the COP21 in Paris, the international community agreed that developing countries must continue to be adequately supported in achieving low emission and climate-resilient development pathways. Adaptation finance should equal finance for climate protection and should be directed particularly to countries and communities which are financially weak and most exposed to the impacts of climate change, such as small island

42 Ibid.
43 ActAlliance (2019) Climate Finance for Loss and Damage, https://www.brot-fuer-die-welt.de/fileadmin/mediapool/2_Downloads/Fachinformationen/Analyse/ClimateFinance_LossDamage.pdf
44 Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung (2019)

developing states (SIDS) or least developed countries (LDC). In concrete terms, this means that the industrialised countries have committed themselves to providing a total of at least 100 billion US dollars per year to international climate finance as of 2020 and to raise further climate finance in future. As the primary aim of these climate finance investments is not fighting poverty and promoting prosperity, the money should be new and additional and not be taken from the already limited resources of public development assistance (ODA).

In ratifying the Paris Agreement, Switzerland committed to providing a "reasonable" amount for international climate funding. The Federal Council puts Switzerland's responsibility at 450 to 600 million francs based on domestic GHG emissions. However, if also taking into account Switzerland's carbon footprint abroad, the fair share of Switzerland would be one billion francs (1bn CHF) annually, which is what civil society actors in Switzerland demand. Moreover, the Paris Agreement provides that "new and additional" funds must be mobilised for international climate funding, but to date, Switzerland has not used any additional sources of funding outside of the budgets for development cooperation (SDC and SECO) and the "global environment" budget of the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN). This even though polluter-pays sources, such as revenues from emissions trading, income from climate sanction payments from vehicle and fuel importers, or income from existing carbon are available. The inclusion of such financial resources would not only reduce the burden on the development budget but would also lead to longer-term planning certainty for Swiss climate finance contributions.[45]

As part of the umbrella organisation Alliance Sud, HEKS/EPER demands that Switzerland meets its fair obligation to international climate finance largely from new public funds raised according to the polluter-pays principle. Private money can at best supplement the public "climate financing billion" but can in no way replace it. Switzerland should keep its focus on adaptation and specifically target vulnerable countries and communities. In its priority countries, HEKS/EPER supports its partners to advocate that climate finance flowing into the countries gives clear support to the adaptation needs of the most vulnerable, and enables them to participate in and profit fairly from a "green" economy.

3.11 Divestment

The Swiss finance industry has considerable influence over the speed at which climate change is abated since the sector provides financing to the oil, gas and coal industry.[46] Looking at the carbon footprint of Switzerland, the activities guided by the financial centre of Switzerland cause 20 times its domestic emissions – or 2 % of global emissions. Only five states emit more. Although the buyers of shares and other financial products are not directly responsible for these emissions, it is their capital that 'works' in a climate-damaging manner.[47]

Divestment is the opposite of an investment. It means that you part with stocks, bonds or investment funds that are unecological or questionable from an ethical point of view. Investing in fossil fuels is a risk for investors and for the planet – that is why HEKS/EPER as part of the Climate Alliance Switzerland calls on financial institutions, primarily the Swiss National Bank and the pension funds, to withdraw their assets from companies in the fossil fuel industry.

45 Alliance Sud (2020), Klimagerechtigkeit und internationale Klimafinanzierung: Die Position von Alliance Sud www.alliancesud.ch/de/file/51346/download?token=Xux1n-AQ

46 Greenpeace (2020), Still wrecking the climate –How Credit Suisse And UBS Continue to Finance CO^2-Emissions 2016 to 2019, https://storage.googleapis.com/planet4-switzerland-stateless/2020/05/f97e458a-still_wrecking_the-climate_greenpeace_2020_web.pdf

47 Klimaallianz (2015), Climate Master Plan, https://uploads.strikinglycdn.com/files/8e383cdf-93d2-4f80-aef6-6a1058c88ca6/Climate_Masterplan_Switzerland_EN.pdf

4. The responsibility of HEKS/EPER as an organisation

Sustainable corporate management is a decisive factor in protecting the ecosystem on Earth and achieving greater global justice. As an advocate for Climate Justice and socio-ecological transformation, HEKS/EPER is aware of its responsibility and the consistency of its own actions. HEKS/EPER therefore strives to considerably reduce its own emissions over the coming years.

Avoiding and reducing emissions is part of the responsible business concept of HEKS/EPER, and decarbonisation will be paramount to a HEKS/EPER emission reduction strategy. HEKS/EPER will consciously refrain from any compensation that stands in contrast to its understanding of climate justice, as particularly so-called 'natural climate solutions' can stand in stark contrast to the 'human rights-based approach' by which all of HEKS/EPER actions are guided.

In a strategy to avoid and lower emissions, HEKS/EPER will build on the efforts made so far from 2014 onwards to reduce its environmental footprint. At its offices in Switzerland, HEKS/EPER has already made considerable efforts to reduce paper use, electricity and air travel. However, HEKS/EPER has so far not carried out a global assessment of its CO_2 footprint, including all the HEKS/EPER offices worldwide. The most challenging discussions yet to come will have to deal with how to further reduce air travel as well as the energy efficiency of HEKS/EPER office buildings in Switzerland and worldwide. Unavoidable emissions will be proclaimed as such and discussions around if and how unavoidable emissions should and/or can be compensated without standing in contradiction with the human rights-based approach need to be assessed and discussed.

In the procurement of goods and services, HEKS/EPER strictly abides by ecological and social principles and consistently implements its procurement guidelines, both in Switzerland and abroad. HEKS/EPER also applies ethical criteria to financial investments, and ensures that these are climate-friendly and do not contrib-

ute to the financing of fossil energy production. HEKS/EPER strives for the sensitisation of its employees worldwide on sustainability issues and for them to become ambassadors of sustainability.

In the programme countries, HEKS/EPER will sensitise its partners on avoidance and reduction of emissions. In its programmes and projects, a special input is given on adaptation measures of communities to climate and disaster risks of communities. For this reason, HEKS/EPER has for many years been engaged in developing the "Participatory Assessment of Climate and Disaster Risks" methodology (PACDR, www.pacdr.net), and supports trainings for its staff and partner organisations. In its projects, HEKS/EPER supports a green and just transition, based on an economic system that provides for social fairness and human wellbeing, and that respects planetary boundaries. Instead of an economy based on growth and extraction, HEKS/EPER therefore supports projects promoting agroecology, the strengthening of local markets, sufficiency and a circular economy.

5. Policy Demands and Advocacy Pathways

Climate Change, as well as certain climate solutions, hit the poorest communities in the world the hardest, although they have not contributed to the problem in the first place.

Therefore, HEKS/EPER calls for:

> The recognition that Climate Change is not an environmental but also a social, societal and rights-based issue. HEKS/EPER advocates for **Climate Justice, for the safeguarding of the rights of the most vulnerable people and for the sharing of burdens and benefits of climate change and its impacts equitably and fairly.**

Concretely this means:

1. **Political participation of minorities and indigenous peoples in climate governance, policy development and finance**
   - **Full and equitable engagement of disadvantaged groups, minorities and indigenous peoples in climate governance and policy development at local, national and international level.** At international level, global climate change bodies and agencies, such as the UNFCCC should establish mechanisms for communities to participate meaningfully in negotiations. At country or local level, governments should establish dedicated platforms to ensure their voices are heard to promote locally-driven, community-led solutions, and to ensure that climate finance reaches the most vulnerable, e.g., in processes of defining National Adaptation Programmes (NAP) or National Determined Contributions (NDC).
   - **Mainstreaming of minority and indigenous rights into national and international climate change strategies.** This requires clear recognition of the right of minorities and indigenous peoples, particularly their right to their lands, as well as traditional occupation and livelihoods.

2. **Recognition of the importance of secured land rights, natural resources and traditional knowledge both for Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation**

   - **Enforce the right of local communities and indigenous peoples to their land and resources, and the protection of territories from industrial projects, including those threatening to exacerbate climate change** (e.g. oil and minerals extraction and logging), but also those done in the name of "green development" (e.g. bio-energy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS) or large scale afforestation, as well as mining raw materials for "green technologies" and "clean energy") threatening food security, livelihoods, ecosystem functions and services, as well as health and safety.

   - **Recognition of the rights of local communities and indigenous peoples as custodians of ecosystems and ecosystem services, as well as their traditions of ecosystem management and use.** Ensure protection of this heritage from expropriation by governments, businesses and other groups. While growing interest in traditional knowledge and its application to climate change adaptation strategies is welcomed, this must be in line with the right of local communities and indigenous peoples to meaningful participation and their right to free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) with respect for their right to maintain their lands, resources and intellectual property.

   - **Integration of traditional practices and knowledge systems into adaptation and mitigation strategies within a clear rights-based framework.** International bodies, governments and other actors should make concerted efforts to ensure that local communities and indigenous peoples are able to communicate their knowledge and perspectives into decision-making processes.

3. **Uncompromising implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement**

   - With the current vacuum of a missing CO_2 law, Switzerland's path to reach net-zero emissions is highly unclear. However, as part of the ambitious coalition to the Paris Agreement, Switzerland must do everything to **limit global heating to 1.5°C** - hence climate policy must be immediately and consistently geared towards net zero emissions by 2040 at the latest.

   - To comply with the commitment of the Paris Agreement climate financing goals, **Switzerland must contribute USD 1 billion annually to the international climate finance architecture,** derived from public funds. The money paid to international climate finance should come from new and additional sources and not compromise Switzerland's commitment in ODA. Switzerland should also focus its support more clearly on the poorest and most vulnerable developing countries.

   - In the international climate negotiations, Switzerland should take a **clear and ambitious position on climate-induced loss and damage,** including funding and other forms of support for the most climate vulnerable countries. Governments should provide significant resources to countries at risk of flooding from sea level rise to enable them, as much as possible, to remain in their territories and build their resilience.

4. **Divestment of Swiss Financial Institutions from the oil, gas and coal industry and application of due diligence in the value chain**

   - Switzerland contributes disproportionately to global heating and must reduce its direct and indirect GHG emissions abroad, which are several times higher than domestic emissions. The **Swiss National Bank and the pension funds need to divest from any investments in the oil, gas and coal industry** and consistently orient themselves towards a global economy based on sustainable renewable energies.

   - In the context of its State Duty to protect, Switzerland must require from business actors to prevent and reduce "false climate and environmental solutions" and **apply due diligence in their value chains regarding human rights risks** in connection with the growing demand for land, raw materials, and transition minerals.

5. **Transformational change towards a "green", fair, just and circular economy**

   - The current economic model built on the paradigm of growth is destructive to nature and the climate and increases social and economic inequalities. A paradigm shift towards an economic system which is "green", fair, just and circular is desperately needed. Such a system must reduce dependency on primary raw materials such as agricultural or mineral commodities, decrease risks and negative impacts

on local communities, and take into account human wellbeing as well as respect planetary boundaries. **Switzerland needs to strive for political change and steer towards a socially and ecologically just economy.**

- **Swiss and international agricultural policies still ignore climate protection** almost completely - agriculture must contribute to solutions in the climate crisis. Switzerland should **promote agroecology and organic farming** at national and international level.

HEKS EPER
Bread for all.

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