

Environment and Climate Change Policy

To Attain Environmental and Climate Justice

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1.1 Introduction

Our planet is under threat and we are in an emergency. Humanity is at a pivotal point; and we have until 2030 to turn around our current trajectory. By 2030 we must drastically cut and start reversing carbon dioxide levels; we must halt the extinction of biodiversity and start restoring and enhancing ecosystems and our natural environment; we must also bring millions of people out of poverty, and equitably ensure the attainment of environmental & human rights.

The role of civil society is crucial and central to achieving this, to ensure we Leave No one Behind.

Through our work, ForumCiv contributes towards sustainability. The aim of this Environment and Climate Change Policy is to provide a frame for our contribution to addressing the current environmental, ecological and climate emergency, together with all the negative implications it has on our economic, social, and cultural structures. This will be done by supporting and working with civil society to attain environmental and climate justice. We recognise the intrinsic value of the environment, and indigenous and other non-western perceptions of our relation and dependency on it and the urgency for addressing climate change, from a rights-based approach. We recognise the role of youth as strong drivers in the climate debate, and their efforts must be celebrated, supported and scaled-up.

In order to create the preconditions for civil society to claim environmental and climate justice, it is necessary to **enable** the agency of those best placed to address the issues that impact them; to build **capacity** and **partnership** for innovation and advocacy - both within ForumCiv as a platform organisation and with our partners globally, to **challenge** and **disrupt** the power structures which cause rights violations.

The time to act is now, let us be the change.

1.2 Purpose and Scope

This policy recognises the urgency of our current situation, and it will guide the organisation's intention and direction towards addressing the Environment and Climate Change. ForumCiv's *Operationalisation Strategy for Environmental and Climate Justice* will outline the specificities on how this will be done. ForumCiv's *Development Perspective Definition for Environment and Climate change* outlines how we understand environmental and climate justice. This policy is in relation to how we work, both internally and externally within our four roles (grant administrator, advocator, capacity developer and development actor); as well as a platform organisation. This focuses on scaling the best practices of our members, and ensuring we create and hold the space for transformation to a more sustainable and environmentally responsible society. This policy outlines our priorities and commitments for achieving environmental and climate justice. This policy recognises that to achieve environmental and climate justice, the connection between environment, conflict and gender must also be addressed. ForumCiv is committed to working in a way in which to integrate these perspectives, with a rights-based approach. We work for and are committed to lasting change, challenging unjust power structures, and striving for a just and sustainable world through a strong, dynamic and diverse civil society.

Limitations

What is not explicitly expressed in this policy, should be understood as out of scope. In the case of any doubt, the Secretary General should be consulted. The scope is flexible and responsive to ever changing needs and challenges, to continuously increase ForumCiv's ambition in relation to addressing the environment and climate change.

I.3 Environment and Climate Change Commitments and Priorities

ForumCiv is committed to:

- ***Strengthening*** and supporting a dynamic and vibrant civil society; seeing them as an actor for change, central to attaining environmental and climate justice
- ***Supporting*** international and UN agreements for human rights and the environment, Agenda 2030, and encouraging efforts to limit global warming to 1.5°C
- ***Protecting, enhancing and restoring*** biodiversity, from a rights-based approach
- ***Creating*** a world which is fit for current and future generations
- ***Operating*** within planetary boundaries and enacting the precautionary principle
- ***Creating*** the conditions needed to enable the attainment of environmental and climate justice, through disruptive and transformative change

ForumCiv prioritises:

- ***Action*** to achieve environmental and climate justice
- ***Support for the continued work of Civil Society*** dedicated to protecting human rights and the environment, especially considering shrinking civic space and the increased violence against human and environmental rights defenders.
- ***Our role to recognise & strengthen*** civil society and to promote meaningful participation.
- ***The use of our role as a platform organisation to enable transformation*** to a more just and sustainable world
 - o To set a positive example through our operations; to establish and be at the fore of new modes of working, partnership and innovation; to strengthen and increase our collective awareness, understanding, and integration of environmental/ climate justice
- ***Actively contributing*** through our four roles to achieve climate and environmental justice, ensuring we are able to contribute to biodiversity protection, enhancement and restoration
- ***The integration of the environment-conflict-gender perspectives into our work and methods***
 - o Also ensuring, the incorporation of biodiversity protection, enhancement, or restoration into our operations
 - o Creating the preconditions to enable civil society to claim their rights
- ***Use our daily operations to expand the awareness and understanding*** of environmental impacts within the organisation, choosing to generate positive impacts. And applying the precautionary principle as a minimum standard
- Our ***continuous improvement*** both internally and within our modes of working, related to environmental and climate justice

1.3.1 Environment and Climate Change Organisational Goals

It is here where ForumCiv can make its most direct and measurable impact. The goals for this policy are outlined in the *Operationalisation Strategy for Environmental and Climate Justice*.

1.4 Relation to other policies, codes, guidelines

See **Appendix** for an outline of the current documents and policies which are directly relevant for this policy and its operationalisation.

1.5 Operationalisation of this Policy

You are referred to ForumCiv's Operationalisation Strategy for Environmental and Climate Justice for further information, guidance and explanation of the available tools, methods and structures for the fulfilment, implementation, and monitoring of this policy, including accountability and transparency.

2 Appendix

2.1 In relation to other policies, codes, guidelines

The following documents are directly relevant for this policy:

- It is harmonised with the **definition paper on the environment and climate change development perspective**
- The **Operationalisation Strategy for Environmental and Climate Justice** outlines how this policy will be actioned.
- The commitments and priorities are to be considered when
 - creating criteria for purchase and procurement in line with the **Procedures for Purchase and Procurement**
 - creating criteria for investments, purchase and procurement in relation to **ForumCiv's Investment Policy** and **ForumCiv's Global Financial Manual**
 - fundraising according to **ForumCiv's Ethical Policy for Fundraising, Private Sector Partnerships and Fund Application**
 - creating criteria for travel considerations and the choice of means of transportation in relation to **ForumCiv's Travel Guidelines** and **ForumCiv's Safety & Security Travel SOP**
- Any actions that result from the Environment and Climate Change Policy will consider the commitments and priorities set by **ForumCiv's Gender Equality and Equity Policy** and **ForumCiv's Conflict and Do-No-Harm Policy** (in progress)