



A STRATEGY FOR CHANGEMAKING IN TIMES OF CRISIS

5-YEAR STRATEGY

MAY 2023

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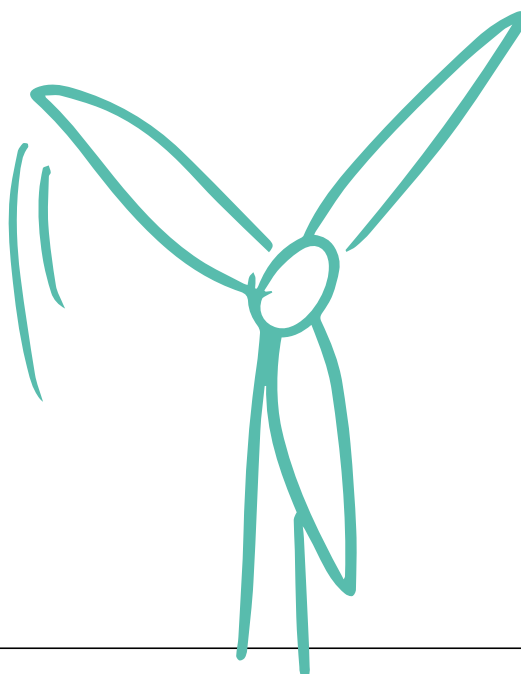
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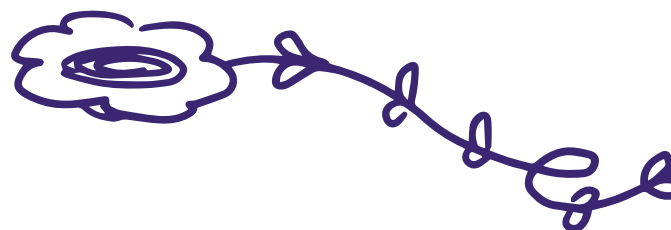
WHAT BRINGS US TOGETHER

Climate Action Network is a global network of more than 1900 civil society organisations in over 130 countries and CAN Europe represents over 180 of those organisations in 37 countries. Our impact in Europe is part of a united, global effort to drive a just ecological transition. We work and act within a global movement for change based on care, respect for human rights and for planetary boundaries.

Our strategic coordination is a key element in our success and this 5-year strategy aims to take our Network through new fights and struggles, offering a series of lenses to approach our collective work and embolden our Network to play a significant role in catalysing change at all levels of governance across Europe.

CAN Europe has a rich history of advocating for strong climate and energy policy across Europe and this work has meant that CAN Europe has had a number of clear successes since the adoption of our Plan23 5-year strategy in 2018, contributing to:

- Establishing the 1.5c target of the Paris Agreement as the mainstream target in politics today;
- The EU accepting a second commitment under the Kyoto protocol, a necessary building block for the Paris Agreement;
- Thanks to relentless action and campaigning on the ground against coal and other forms of pollution and in favour of renewables and other solutions, actual emissions in the EU were 31% below 1990 levels in 2020. This is a massive overshoot of the 20% target (with COVID being responsible for 3-4% of this overshoot) showing that the EU can actually also overshoot the 55% target;
- Whilst yet to align with CAN Europe's established position of reducing at least by 65% (as well as the Paris Agreement Compatible scenario¹) the EU's adoption of its at least -55% 2030 target and the EU Climate Law enshrining the climate neutrality by 2050 objective are significant steps in the right direction;
- the rise of litigation cases through the People's Climate Case;
- CAN Europe's leading role in pushing forward the campaign for the end of the Energy Charter Treaty.
- Increased attention to raising and improving the quality of climate finance for adaptation by the European Commission and some Member States;
- A shift in the EU position at the UNFCCC on loss and damage funding arrangements and a fund to support developing countries which are particularly vulnerable to climate change;
- Accelerating the renewable energy revolution at the EU and Member State level through our 100% RES campaign.



However, we see poor levels of progress at the European level on overall ambition and certain issues:

- In terms of targets, the EU is still falling way short of its commitments to the Paris Agreement, particularly under global equity considerations, its historical responsibility as a major emitter and its consumption-induced impact on global emissions;
- The slow pace of pushing fossil fuels out of the energy system and transitioning towards sustainable renewable energy at scale and speed;
- The EU Taxonomy's inclusion of nuclear and gas;
- A failure to ensure a fair distribution of efforts across different economic and societal sectors;
- Populist and autocratic regimes, both in Europe and beyond, have been strengthened further and threaten civil society whilst worsening inequalities, as well as the rise of anti-rights movements

This means that while we have achieved much together, the status quo is dominated by crises, the road ahead is challenging, and we need to build our strategic direction on a sober assessment of the context in which we operate.

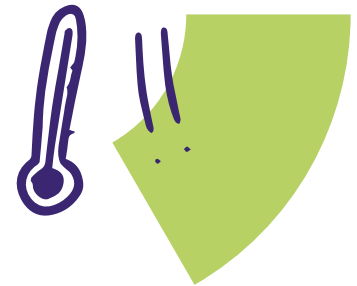


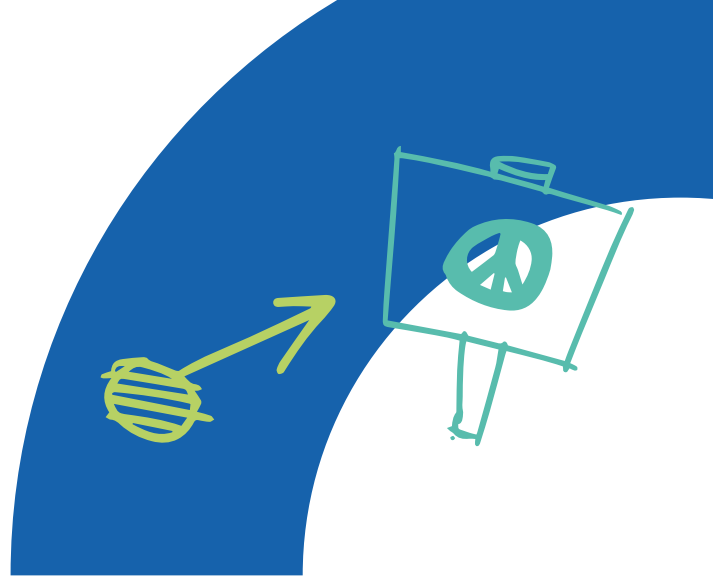
THE REALITIES WE FACE

At 1.2°C degrees of warming our lives are being lived out in the face of worsening ecological and climate crises that threaten all living systems and with them the fabric of our societies and political systems. Not only is the window to stop catastrophic, runaway climate change closing rapidly, as the IPCC 6th Assessment Report makes clear, but the loss of natural ecosystems and the biodiversity they support continues apace, with a mass extinction on the horizon on the scale only known from the fossil record. Nature is one of our most important allies in both climate mitigation and resilience, and the climate and biodiversity crises must be tackled together.

The IPCC 6th Assessment Report is also clear that we are in the era of climate-induced loss and damage, which is disproportionately experienced by developing countries and most climate vulnerable communities. In the face of perpetual crisis, there are specific trends and happenings that are informing the specific context we are operating within. Most immediately, the ongoing Russian war in Ukraine directly threatens not only the future of Ukraine but also security and stability in Europe and beyond. The conflict is having global impacts on food security and energy prices, fueling a gold rush for new fossil fuel sources, and leading countries to the doors of other autocratic regimes in rushed attempts to escape the grip of Russian fossil fuel dependency. The humanitarian crisis stemming from the war in Ukraine is significant with over 5 million internally displaced people and over 8 million refugees from Ukraine recorded across Europe.² The human impact of this conflict and others we see globally is vast and provides a visceral and immediate reminder of the linkages between conflict and an economy based on fossil fuels. A reminder of the need of acknowledging the interconnection of the crises humanity is living as well as to rebuild and nurture global solidarity as an essential element for future sustainable and just pathways.

This conflict, in addition to the Covid-19 pandemic and other recent crisis trends, is another disruptive example which yet again exposes deep contradictions and inequities in the global economy and exacerbates inequalities and exploitation of people and nature at the national level, globally and in Europe. These present-day divides are directly linked to historical legacies of injustice and discrimination fuelled by inter alia, patriarchy, (neo)colonialism, wealth accumulation by the few, and funnelled through the crisis tendency of a predominant current growth-centred, extractivist, rent-seeking economic model. This is also expressed by the



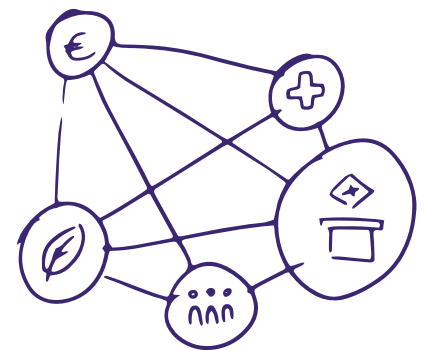


fact that the gap between rich and poor nations is now expected to rise for the first time in a generation. Developing countries are also facing another cyclical debt crisis that has been building for the last decade. Simultaneously, exorbitant individual wealth is growing with a new billionaire created every 26 hours since the pandemic began; the 10 richest men in the world own more than the bottom 3.1 billion people.³

Such extreme concentrations of wealth threaten already fragile democracies which are undermined and weakened by corporate interests and growing populism, autocracy and authoritarianism; all trends that we are witnessing also in Europe. This is coupled with the fact that the emissions gap within countries is now greater than ever,⁴ driving inequity and inequality,⁵ corroding our societies and democracies, while wreaking havoc ecologically.⁶

Furthermore, the climate crisis exacerbates inequalities with gender inequalities as a key example, increasing the threat of a resurgence of the extreme-right and a faltering of multilateralism in the face of the climate emergency. The European project cannot sidestep the core social issues at the centre of the climate and ecological crisis.

Within this context, recognising the climate crisis as a social crisis becomes increasingly important as the opportunities for decisive climate action are narrowed in the face of multiple crises - ecological, social, political, economic, health - that must be tackled in an interrelated way. Especially as significant progress has been made at the European level with the European Green Deal opening up the political space for climate action and with the intention of offering an economy-wide, holistic approach across sectors and policies. This has been best seen in the EU's commitment to at least -55% net emission reductions by 2030 and climate neutrality by 2050. However, this commitment is below the bloc's responsibilities historically and its duties under the Paris Agreement, as clearly outlined by science. Furthermore, it does little to tackle the underlying issue of the pursuit of perpetual economic growth on a finite planet and the EU needs to do far more to tackle inherent and historical injustices that are interwoven with the climate emergency.



The latest IPCC reports have taken steps to investigate and pronounce equity and justice aspects more strongly in this direction with the language of the latest IPCC report from Working Group II shifting significantly. The Sixth Assessment Report is different from previous iterations in many ways, but one of the most striking is a new approach to framing the issue of global climate equality. While previous versions referenced “poor” or “developing” countries often, they barely talked about them in the context of “equality,” “inclusivity,” or “justice” at all.⁷ The reiterated call in the Sixth Assessment Report for “inclusive planning initiatives informed by cultural values, Indigenous knowledge, local knowledge, and scientific knowledge” is highlighting the continued need to promote a more equal voice to be given to those same frontline communities. On top of this, the IPCC 6th Assessment Report recognises the disproportionate impact of climate change on women and the need for gender-responsive approaches. Furthermore, this is the first IPCC report to reference and acknowledge degrowth in rich countries and regions in different ways as part of IPCC scenarios, as an alternative sustainability model, although it was neither mentioned in the Summary for Policymakers nor in the Technical Summary of the mitigation Working Group.⁸

During this time of seismic change, CAN Europe has been through significant shifts and finds itself in 2022 with a Network of over 180 members and a Secretariat of approximately 50 staff (more than double the size of the organisation in 2018). The scope of our work has grown, shifting to cover topics including fiscal policy, trade, industrial development, and litigation, adapting to the growing understanding across society of the need to tackle climate change and for us to work in the spaces where we see opportunity to enact influence and bring about change. Equally, the breadth and depth of the membership has increased, with more organisations joining with different approaches to making change, bringing new voices and perspectives into the Network and diversifying the types of organisations and people we represent to the European institutions and into political processes overall.

Climate Action Network International is a global network responding to these global issues, and finds itself in a period of significant transformation and realignment. The Network must recognise that we need to know well what we fight against, but also what we fight for and have a clear vision for the world we want. Aligning ourselves as a global movement as best as possible is crucial and recent outcomes from the Annual Strategy Meetings of CAN demonstrate strong convergence, with key principles and approaches being:

- **Defending 1.5 degree target**
- **Recognising we will not achieve the world we want without disruption of the current system**
- **Recognising that colonialism, extractivism and capitalism are the root causes of the climate crisis**
- **Committing to a bottom-up, people centred approach with grassroots and frontline communities as the nucleus**
- **Recognising the necessity of connecting local to global, building power and solidarity**
- **Reaffirming intersectionality between climate, equity, justice, human rights and the rights of nature as the core basis of our work**
- **Standing in defence and protection of environmental and social justice defenders**



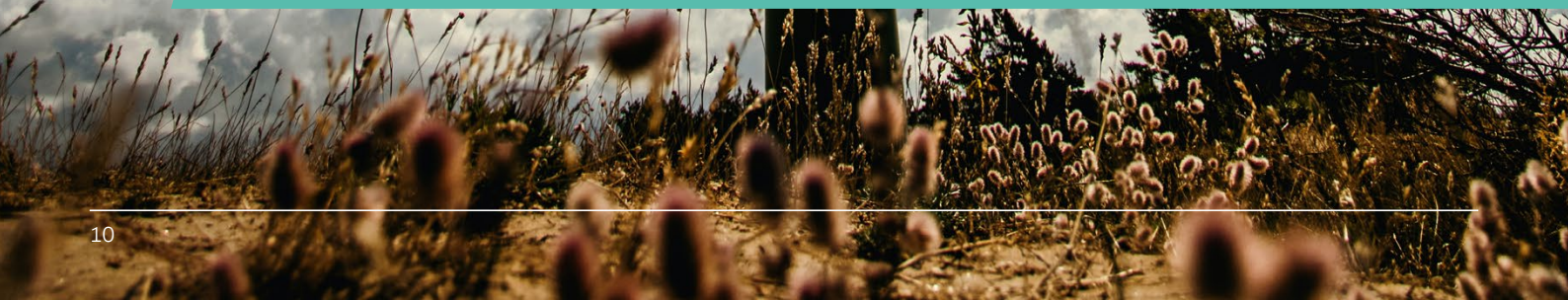
We see strong links into the strategic framework and believe this sets us a pathway for enhanced global action across the CAN family. Building the collective strength of CAN requires us to be increasingly attentive and active in reconstructing the power relations in our own organisations, and in the Network, to operationalise processes for institutional change to begin decolonising our structures and approaches to our work and to attend to injustices not only in the wider world but also within our Network. These processes have begun between Nodes and will require a strong commitment from larger, more well resourced Nodes like CAN Europe who have a historical responsibility to support the deconstruction of power structures allowing priorities and strategies to be shaped with a growing leadership from nodes from the global south.

All of this brings many opportunities but also significant challenges to our identity as a Network and to our ability to maintain a cohesive and coherent approach to change making, made more difficult by the divergence in economic development, level of democratisation, and civil society space across the countries we represent organisations in; there are significant and impactful differences between EU Member States - which is crucial in shaping inequalities across the EU, replicating global patterns of inequality between north and south. Similar imbalances exist between EU Member States and accession countries like Turkey and the Western Balkan states where CAN Europe has significant and active membership contributing to the development and strength of the Network. Overall, the Network and Secretariat finds itself in a strong position with collaboration and effective political work happening in increasingly coordinated and impactful ways across a growing body of files and issues we are tackling.





OUR VISION AND MISSION





CAN Europe has recognised the need to broaden and deepen its vision and mission, to be more cognisant of the impacts we have as one species within nature, to uphold a clearer vision for social justice, and to encompass the diversity of organisations and approaches within our Network.

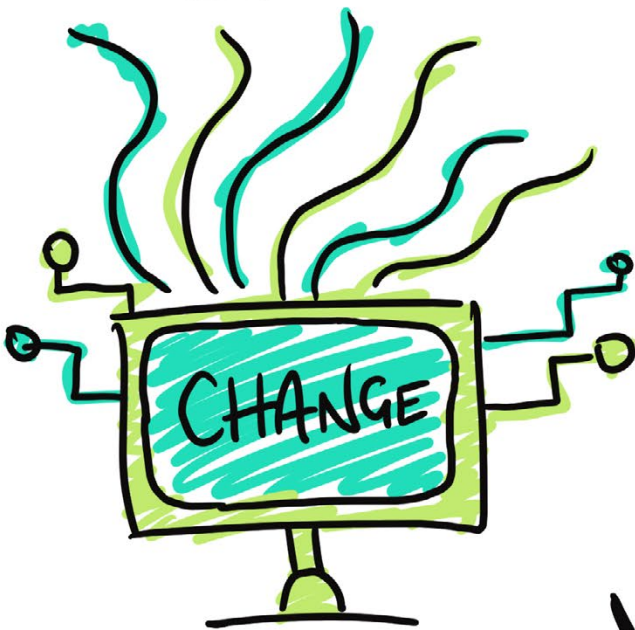
THIS REFRESHED APPROACH TO OUR WORK MEANS THAT:

The vision of CAN Europe is a world actively fighting the climate emergency and its adverse impacts on people and planet in a manner that promotes equity and social justice



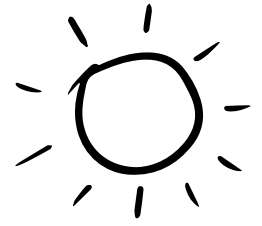
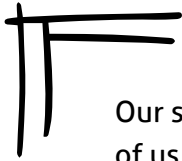
TO ACHIEVE THAT:

CAN Europe's mission is to empower civil society organisations to influence the design and implementation of effective policy in Europe through advocacy, mobilisation, and communications, to ensure Europe contributes its equitable share of global efforts to tackle the climate emergency.





OUR STRATEGY OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS



Our strategic approach will see our Network face the challenges ahead of us whilst harnessing the power and collective strength we have at our disposal. That strength is impressive and yet we understand the need to continue building power in our Network and in the wider movement to ensure change happens at the scale and pace that is necessary.

We will face the climate and ecological crises with a bold vision for a regenerative future that recognises the impediments to change and presents strategies and solutions that emphasise the need for personal hope and collective action.

We have embarked on a process to rethink our strategic approach to our work as a Network in a collective and participatory process that involved staff and members in deliberating and designing strategies for changemaking in the coming 5 years. We have strived to build a strategy capable of housing our broad and diverse Network whilst challenging us to be bold, now more than ever.



THAT IS WHY WE WILL WORK TO:



ADVOCATE FOR URGENT ACTION AND POLICY AT THE SCALE OF THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY



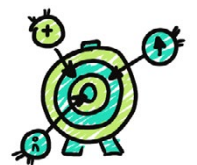
ENSURE EUROPE PLAYS ITS ROLE TO REORIENT THE GLOBAL ECONOMY TO DELIVER A SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL TRANSFORMATION WITHIN PLANETARY BOUNDARIES



BUILD A GENDER JUST AND INTERSECTIONAL APPROACH FOR TRANSFORMATIVE ACTIONS



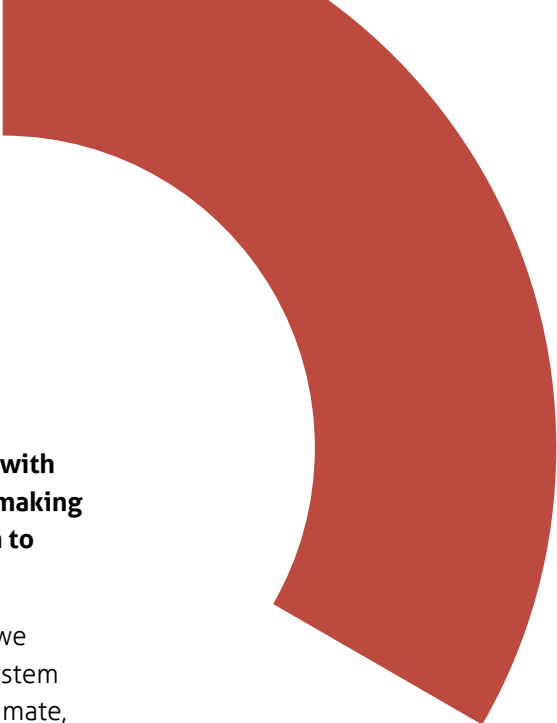
EMPOWER, CONNECT AND ACTIVATE SOCIETY THROUGH BOTTOM-UP ACTION



INCREASE THE STRENGTH AND IMPACT OF CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK



*
* **FIVE PILLARS OF
ACTION TOWARDS A
REGENERATIVE FUTURE**



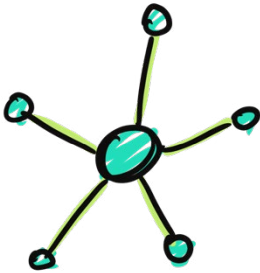
This 5-pronged approach to our work aims to provide the Network with the scope to continue and enhance its action in influencing policy making with a strong voice for an urgent, fair and just ecological transition to tackle the climate emergency and interlinked planetary crisis.

In doing so the Network recognises the need for systemic change if we are to be successful and will see us fight for a fair socio-economic system based on sufficiency that delivers well-being of people, as well as climate, environmental and social justice, and protects and restores ecosystems and biodiversity.

This requires our Network to envision a future where our social relations are markedly different. To begin building that future now we will integrate an intersectional approach which considers gender, intergenerational and social justice, race, disability and decolonial approaches in CAN Europe's work and ways of working.

We recognise we are one actor in a pluriverse of movements and our strength is increased through collaboration. This means that CAN Europe will facilitate collaboration amongst citizens, community organisations, the scientific community and other action networks and amplify inclusive, activating narratives about a regenerative future based on care, respect for human rights and for planetary boundaries.

Climate Action Network intends to be a driving force in the ecological transition/socio-ecological transformation. To do that we will improve the effectiveness of the Network by strengthening links among member organisations, and enhancing cooperation with diverse partners and allies in a mutually enriching way to promote joint action and long-term collaboration. This work encompasses all layers of society and governance: from local action to national politics and implementation; from regional dynamics and integration to European values and EU policies; from international agreements to global action.





PILLAR ONE

1 ADVOCATE FOR URGENT ACTION AND POLICY AT THE SCALE OF THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

As Climate Action Network Europe we strongly believe that improving and expanding legislation and regulation on climate action at the European and national level, including accelerating the roll out of renewables, energy savings and phasing out all fossil fuels, has a key role to play in setting the ambition level, driving relevant investments, and overcoming barriers of implementation, with the ultimate goal to keep global warming below 1.5°. Furthermore, regulations e.g. around the EU's external budgets, its Green Deal Diplomacy and international support obligations under the Paris Agreement shape to a significant extent how good (or bad) Europe performs on climate justice in support of vulnerable countries and communities in an international dimension. With policy and advocacy expertise, being one of the key strengths of the CAN Europe network, pushing the EU and national European governments to bolster socially just climate and energy policy is a clear focus of this strategy.

This is particularly important, taking into account that although many countries and the EU have enhanced their climate commitments after the adoption of the Paris Agreement, these together with the implementation of the underlying policies and measures remain far from what is needed to limit temperature rise to 1.5°C and avert the most dangerous impacts of climate change. Especially for the EU, this is evident from its climate, energy, land use, transport, funding and fiscal policies which aim to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030, compared to 1990, and achieve climate neutrality by 2050.

However, the EU can and must reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by at least 65% by 2030 and to net zero by 2040, considering the EU's historic emissions and capacity to act - key milestones we are demonstrating the feasibility of through our Paris Agreement Compatible Pathways project.

This requires rapid and far-reaching transitions in energy, land, infrastructure (including transport and buildings), and industrial systems which should be boosted considerably, even under the current agreed level of ambition, not to mention going beyond. But despite the case for this profound transformation, based on a quick phase out of fossil fuels combined with the acceleration of the deployment of renewables and significant energy savings, becoming stronger, including due to the current geopolitical context, the barriers that hamper these solutions which can respond to multiple crises remain. CAN Europe intends to be a bold voice in pushing for these solutions and overcoming these barriers.



UNDER PILLAR ONE WE WILL:

- Take an active role in the agenda setting and in the policy processes of shaping bold climate action in line with the 1.5 goal of the Paris Agreement and in addressing interlinked planetary crises.
- Actively increase outreach capacities towards European institutions and national governments to achieve our goal.
- Hold governments and decision makers accountable for commitments, implementation, compliance and transparency of EU and national policies.
- Ensure European countries deliver on commitments that align with their global responsibilities including to the Global South in respect of historical and ongoing injustices.
- Defend human rights, democratic decision-making and the effective inclusion of civil society in European policy-making and beyond.





PILLAR TWO

2

WE WILL ENSURE EUROPE PLAYS ITS ROLE TO REORIENT THE GLOBAL ECONOMY TO DELIVER A SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL TRANSFORMATION WITHIN PLANETARY BOUNDARIES

Whilst our work must continue to ensure that strong action commensurate with the climate emergency and our historical responsibilities in Europe, simultaneously we must recognise the economic system is a driving factor in the climate and ecological crises and this means we need to push for systemic change for a new ecologically grounded approach to what we produce and what we consume. GDP growth is an integral feature under the capitalist economic system and continues to guide economic policies to the detriment of all living systems, pushing us over numerous planetary boundaries in the pursuit of profit and endless increases in production and consumption. Our social welfare system is currently dependent on GDP growth, and we need to invent a new model to have robust public services while respecting planetary boundaries and curbing climate change. Advancing the socio-ecological transformation in Europe and globally is the task ahead and the systemic nature of growth must be tackled if we are to be successful in the ecological transition.

One key element of that transition is the need for a rapid global energy transition, one where Europe substantially reduces its energy demand and leaves behind burning fossil fuels by phasing out coal by 2030 and fossil gas by 2035, with renewable electricity generation increasing five-fold from 2020 to 2040. This is a vital component for humanity to escape the grip of fossil fuels and transition to a fully renewable energy system.

Ensuring this transition is equitable and doesn't exacerbate extractive relations between Europe and other parts of the world is vital, as is ensuring a just transition in Europe. Especially when resource use is increasing globally. Raw material extraction and processing activities account for around 18% of the total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with the EU's consumption of all goods and services. Under a business as usual scenario without extremely radical circular economy policies, the energy transition will exacerbate resource use trends by a lot, especially in a growth scenario where growth in other sectors is increasing also. This within a trend where global use of resources is on the rise and global GDP is still tightly coupled with carbon emissions and total resource extraction. This requires tackling how Europe approaches its own production and consumption. EU trade policy currently incentivises competition in a hyper-globalised economy based on a race to the bottom in terms of wages, working conditions, tax avoidance, and lax environmental regulation. This race to the bottom is facilitated by a greater mobility of foreign investments.





CAN EUROPE WILL WORK TO:

- Achieve a rapid and fair global energy transition to a fully renewable and democratic energy system (in Europe by 2040) including demand reduction and strengthening synergies with nature and biodiversity.
- Ensure a sustainable and fair natural resources management within and beyond the EU leading to a socially just, circular economy where the focus on sufficiency and planetary health replaces GDP growth.
- Contribute to a redistributive agenda based on sufficiency, the polluter pays principle, true costs and democratic participation.
- EU public finance serves at the scale needed for genuine and socially just climate action (mitigation, adaptation and international climate finance) and a broader socio-ecological transformation agenda, does no significant harm to nature and climate and is transparent and participatory.
- Companies, including fossil fuel companies, and financial institutions are held accountable for their climate, social and environmental impacts throughout their supply chains to generate socially and environmentally responsible business models and trade and investment agreements that do not hinder a just transition.



PILLAR THREE

3

WE WILL BUILD A GENDER JUST AND INTERSECTIONAL APPROACH FOR TRANSFORMATIVE ACTIONS

The climate crisis and ecological breakdown are worsening. Biodiversity loss rapidly increases as the 6th mass extinction is locked in, threatening ecosystems at a local and global scale. As well as the twin environmental crises we are facing polycrises of health, inequalities, that bring to the fore deeper injustices in our societies. The patriarchy and neocolonial systems are drivers of the climate and ecological crisis and other crises, as well as their impacts in terms of gender, racial and other injustices. Many policy responses are still based on a masculine model that assumes it is a neutral and objective point on which to base policies, where nature is at the receiving end and not considered as an active and crucial actor in building societies that work with and within nature.

The IPCC has begun to shift towards placing increased emphasis on global equity, inclusivity and justice. The most recent IPCC 6th Assessment Report has given strong attention to equitable, just and enabling ways to address mitigation and adaptation, with gender inequality frequently mentioned as one of those inequities that need to be addressed to advance climate resilient development. However at EU level the policy responses are lacking; the European Green Deal largely does not consider gender or intersectionality. European policies risk reproducing existing inequalities and discrimination in our society.

The concept of just transition is now recognised in mainstream politics and there is historic momentum for a just and green recovery. However movements for gender equality, rural empowerment, decolonisation and other causes are generally weakly linked to climate action. There is potential here to combine forces and work toward the same goals. CAN Europe has a strong and influential body of work in climate, energy and development policies; while it is increasingly looking at just and inclusive transition in energy work; social justice in climate work; and gender and intersectionality in international work; approaches to gender and intersectionality are not consistent and need to be strengthened. CAN Europe members also have different levels of expertise and approaches, and CAN Europe can play a role to coordinate and share a common approach working across policy, communications, networking and mobilisation. Adopting a gender just and intersectional approach in CAN Europe's core work could provide important progress in outreach and impact.

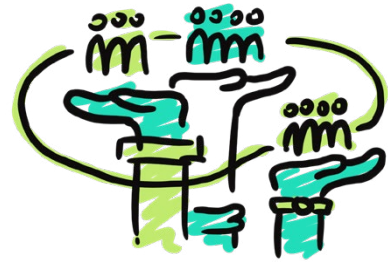




TO DO THAT CAN EUROPE WILL:

- Revise the working culture and internal procedures of the Secretariat and encourage change in the Network to reflect strong principles on gender and intersectionality. The approach should be broad, implementing an intersectional approach that embodies broader decoloniality processes in Climate Action Network and can challenge systems of power including patriarchy.
- More systematically share, learn, align and strategise on gender and intersectionality in the network and with allies, in order to integrate it in our common calls and actions across the different workstrands. Start by prioritising entry points for gender equality in our work.
- Strengthen the work of Network members on gender and intersectionality (particularly smaller NGOs / grassroots); identify synergies across the network and build on them to strengthen our contribution to more systemic change.
- Design our positions, advocacy, campaigns and actions using a systemic and holistic vision that connects different issues and perspectives, integrating the role of movements and alliances from Europe and internationally who can bring an intersectional approach.

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4

PILLAR FOUR

WE WILL EMPOWER, CONNECT AND ACTIVATE SOCIETY THROUGH BOTTOM-UP ACTION

The climate crisis has immense complexity and there is the need for a systems approach in order to make the societal changes needed to address it. For that reason, different societal actors need to work in synchronisation in order to achieve the wanted results. Citizens must be at the heart of the transition and policy implementation to ensure its success and cohesion with people and community. Vice versa, decision-makers must include citizens' knowledge, needs, and inputs in policy-making processes. However, in practice this is difficult to achieve due to the different levels and ways in which societal actors operate. Civil society organisations are one of the connectors of the diverging sides. A broad Network like CAN Europe can act as an enabler of these connections. Being based in Brussels, with a name that is valued and recognized among the political circles, this access to decision makers can be utilised to make way for the demands not only of ordinary citizens to come through, but also from existing grass-root and youth movements.

On the other hand, in order to promote citizen participation in a meaningful way, complex policies and processes at EU level need to be made accessible so that people can understand the implications of EU policies at national, regional and local level and connect them to their own realities in order to be able to deliberate and lobby for their proposals. Without the facilitative role that CSOs can play, these two processes are made more difficult.

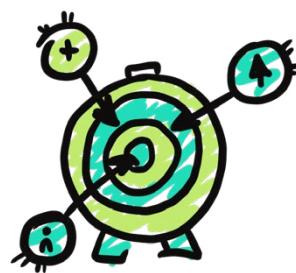
Lastly, building networks and cooperation between civil society, grass-root movements, academia, trade unions and other stakeholders is crucial, especially because of the opportunities for mutual exchange and learning. Particularly in the case of mobilisation, there is room to build a trusted space of cooperation between CAN Europe and mobilizers to identify synergies and co-create campaigns.





TO DO THAT CAN EUROPE WILL:

- Contribute to spreading empowering narratives that connect with diverse citizens, respond to lived realities of crises, and inspire regenerative ways of life and adaptive community action.
- Raise people's awareness on climate justice and mobilise them to act through advocacy at various scales and communication campaigns, educational and training programmes that are inclusive, accessible and targeted at different groups of people.
- Be a bridge between people and local organisations and European, national and international institutions to raise the voice of citizens at high political levels and bring EU policies closer to people, with a specific focus on the most marginalised and affected.
- Weave links between scientific research and people, so that academic knowledge is transferred and accessible and the experiences and concerns of communities from the edges are integrated into mainstream research.
- Strengthen our support of and collaboration with diverse, local organisations, community initiatives, grassroots movements and similar networks to join efforts and support mechanisms such as community-led local development.



5

PILLAR FIVE

WE WILL INCREASE THE STRENGTH AND IMPACT OF CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK

CAN Europe's Secretariat should continue and improve its role of being a strategic lead for both the Network, but also various civil society partners, stakeholder allies and public campaigns towards more ambitious EU climate and energy policies. To make this work successful and reflecting the needs of diversity of the civil society's landscape, this should be done at various levels, ranging from the detailed analysis of particular files, through overarching analysis of interconnected topics, to a comprehensive socio-economic vision.

To increase the visibility and impact of CAN Europe's Secretariat and Network as a whole, members need to be empowered for getting more active both within the Network as well as influence the developments at their national levels. Within the Network, the knowledge sharing practices need to be improved. In particular, CAN Europe needs to support members in a targeted way, especially in the specific EU regions (CEE, SEE) as well as countries outside the EU (UK, WB, Turkey, Switzerland, Norway and Iceland), to enhance their capacities, but also include their perspectives in its work and activities, keeping them connected to the relevant EU processes and developments. Space and encouragement should be built to invite members to (co-)lead CAN Europe's work on specific files and topics to enhance both knowledge capacities of the Network as well as build links between organisations. All these processes should lead to increased governance and cohesion of the Network, but still allow for appropriate flexibility.

Facing the multiple crises of today, CAN Europe needs to strategically increase and integrate the diversity of organisations both in the Network, as well as external partners to address various perspectives and ways for combating climate change by putting people in the centre of ambitious climate action and a just energy transition. This needs to be done with acknowledging that this process will require learning and exchange, and should be based on a partnership principle.

In parallel, the international context needs to be implemented as a complex framework to address global solidarity; CAN Europe needs to establish closer and more regular connections to the other CAN International nodes, to also provide spaces for members and partners for direct contacts to be established and bilateral cooperation to be enhanced. This to ensure we are working together to demand justice, putting those most affected by the climate crisis at the heart of our mission, fighting across our Network for the socio-economic transformation needed in the richest countries on Earth to bring about climate justice globally.





TO ENSURE OUR NETWORK IS THE STRONGEST IT CAN BE WE WILL:

- Improve CAN Europe's Secretariat role as a strategy lead for the EU policies advocacy across various civil society actors and campaigns.
- Support member organisations, both inside and outside the EU (UK, WB, Turkey, Norway, Switzerland, Iceland, and Ukraine), and promote their participation in the Network, strengthening the capacities to work together on advocacy, campaigning, communications, securing sustainable funding, and overall organisational development.
- Strengthen links and collaboration with CAN International Network and foster greater global solidarity and equity between and across Nodes.
- Strategically increase and integrate the diversity of organisations in the Network and partners working on issues related to climate change, including youth organisations, grassroots movements and other intersectional arenas as well as building alliances with social actors, academia and influencers that can contribute to CAN Europe's work.
- Strengthen the governance and cohesion of the Network, improving decision-making processes and building links between organisations by strengthening existing services and systems, and quality face-to-face meetings and events.

ENDNOTES

- 1 <https://caneurope.org/ngos-demand-fully-renewable-europe/>
- 2 https://data.humdata.org/visualization/ukraine-humanitarian-operations/?ga1&gclid=CjwKCAjwzuqgBhAcEiwAdj5dRk5PI6S5nEEdqxiBdlpzAKkFh9Lgh66_h_NmdR52str2bodLbNNFBRoCB_cQAvD_BwE
- 3 Oxfam, 2022, "Inequality Kills: The unparalleled action needed to combat unprecedented inequality in the wake of COVID-19", <https://oxfamilibrary.openrepository.com/bitstream/handle/10546/621341/bp-inequality-kills-170122-en.pdf>
- 4 <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/jan/31/emissions-divide-now-greater-within-countries-than-between-them-study>
- 5 <https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2022/12/14/how-much-should-inequality-be-reduced>
- 6 <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-022-32729-8>
- 7 <https://policy.friendsoftheearth.uk/insight/justice-moves-centre-stage-ipcc-climate-report>
- 8 <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/>





Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe is Europe's leading NGO coalition fighting dangerous climate change. With over 185 member organisations active in 38 European countries, representing over 1,700 NGOs and more than 40 million citizens, CAN Europe promotes sustainable climate, energy and development policies throughout Europe.

CAN Europe is a regional node of **Climate Action Network**, the world's largest environmental network with over 1,700 Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) active in more than 130 countries, driving collective and sustainable action to fight the climate crisis and to achieve social and racial justice by convening and coordinating civil society at the UN climate talks and other international fora.

CAN Europe members work to achieve this goal through information exchange and the coordinated development of NGO strategy on international, regional, and national climate issues.

CAN Europe members place a high priority on both a healthy environment and development that "meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" (Brundtland Commission). CAN Europe's vision is to protect the atmosphere while allowing for sustainable and equitable development worldwide.



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