



The purpose of this document¹ is to highlight guiding principles across the areas of education, health, jobs and skills, and children and youth, with the aim of enhancing ambition and elevating action of the **Baku Initiative on Human Development for Climate Resilience**. These principles are not legally binding but are intended to inspire and influence actions related to human development. The renewed approach to investing in human development focuses on equipping all people with the tools, support, and opportunities to live healthy lives, gain knowledge and skills, and access the resources necessary for achieving climate-resilient development.

Principle 1 – Align climate action with human development for a resilient future

This principle emphasizes integrating human development as a cornerstone of climate action to strengthen resilience. It calls for national climate policies, including Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), to prioritize human development through greater focus on education, skills, health, the labour market and social protection measures, with specific attention to the needs of children and youth in the vulnerable communities. By aligning these priorities with economic and climate objectives, policies can drive the creation of quality jobs, and support just transition to low-carbon, resource-efficient economies.

Principle 2 – Enhance social dialogue, partnership and collaboration on human development policies for climate response

Social dialogue and partnership are key to the effective design, planning, implementation, and evaluation of policies on just transition pathways to a climate-resilient and sustainable future for all. Climate action requires robust coordination and synergy among all stakeholders, including representatives of governments, employers and workers, international organizations, civil society, academia and other relevant actors, including children and youth. The meaningful participation of all relevant stakeholders should facilitate collaboration, aligning resources, sharing best practices and ensuring their collective climate action in education, decent jobs, skills and health.

Principle 3 – Invest in integrating quality climate change education at all levels and regularly assessing student competencies to address climate change

This principle aims to ensure that all learners, including children, youth, adults, in particular girls and women, migrants, and vulnerable groups, acquire essential knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes on climate action and resilience, addressing the cognitive,

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social, emotional, and behavioral domains of learning. It seeks to integrate climate change education across all relevant subject areas, including social, economic, and environmental dimensions, at all levels of formal, informal, and non-formal education and learning, including knowledge and values from indigenous systems and practices, from early childhood to technical and vocational education and training, and higher education. Achieving this requires collaboration on greening curriculum, schools, teacher training and education systems' capacities, and communities. Assessment plays a key role in guiding educational priorities. It is crucial for education systems to gather data on learning outcomes related to environmental sustainability and climate change. Through the integration of climate literacy into national and international assessments, countries can monitor progress against benchmarks and learn from the practices of top-performing systems.

Principle 4 – Build climate-resilient and low-carbon education systems

This principle aims to enhance the climate resilience of education systems, including schools and other educational infrastructure. It seeks to both ensure that education systems will continue to function or quickly recover from disruptions caused by climate events through resilience-strengthening measures (adaptation) as well as reduce emissions from the education sector, encouraging low-carbon facilities, activities and supply chains (mitigation). Strategic investments in green, safe and adaptive educational infrastructure and systems are crucial for enabling uninterrupted access to essential services for the most vulnerable and shielding them from further harm.

Principle 5 – Enhance support to greening skills, qualifications, and occupational standards for priority sectors

This principle aims to scale up the creation of decent green jobs by equipping workers, including women and youth, with the necessary knowledge and skills through targeted skilling, reskilling, and upskilling. It involves anticipating future skills needs, developing qualifications and occupational standards relevant to the labour market requirements in green economies, and closing the gender gap in access to skills in collaboration with enterprises, industry, training institutions and workers' organizations. This helps industries, workers, and communities mitigate and adapt to climate change. The principle encourages climate-responsive enterprise development and job creation, including the decarbonization of employment-intensive sectors such as transport (road, rail, maritime), agriculture, construction, and manufacturing. Green industrial transitions, supported by gender-inclusive and accessible financing for enterprises, would facilitate the shift toward e-mobility, climate-resilient agriculture, smart cities, and other green initiatives.

Principle 6 – Invest in entrepreneurship, innovation, and talent for the application of new and green technologies with job creation potential

This principle seeks to promote entrepreneurship, innovation, and investment in clean technologies to accelerate the transition to climate-resilient development and unlock jobs for youth and workers in transition, including women and caregivers. It also aims to inspire adaptive and dynamic research to inform innovations and new developments to address systemic gaps and promote equity of the benefits of climate-resilient development.

Achieving these goals requires the development of enabling pathways for economic participation of all, including targeted subsidies, incentives, and incubators that support green and social impact entrepreneurship.

Principle 7 – Promote integrated climate and health surveillance and early warning systems

With increasing frequency and severity of extreme weather events, health systems must integrate tools that enable the timely prediction, prevention, detection, diagnosis, and treatment of climate-sensitive health risks into primary health care. Moving towards integrated systems requires a close and coordinated approach to data collation and analysis for decision-making that encompasses the integration of meteorological and health data. Anticipatory action, leveraging early warning systems and health response protocols, including in the education and training activities of health professionals and occupational safety and health measures, should be enabled to protect workers and communities and address the health risks of climate change, including injuries, heat stress-related illnesses, productivity loss and the spread of infectious diseases. The age-related and gendered dimensions of these climate-related health risks should be understood, and measures developed in an age- and gender-responsive manner.

Principle 8 – Build climate-resilient, low carbon health systems and health care facilities, including supply chains

Building climate-resilient and low-carbon, sustainable health systems and health care facilities that are responding to the impacts of climate change should be approached comprehensively. The climate crisis is also a health crisis, and therefore health systems and health need to adapt to and address the increasing health risks posed by climate change, especially for vulnerable groups, including children, youth, women, indigenous peoples, people with disabilities, migrants and displaced people. To build more resilient health systems, including climate resilient health care facilities and infrastructure is crucial. It is critical to promote decarbonization of health, implement increasing energy efficiency and ensure access to reliable, clean energy sources, as well as to reduce the impacts of global supply chains, product packaging, and environmental waste from pharmaceuticals. Many health care facilities globally still lack access to power, and advancing sustainable energy solutions such as solar power will not only increase access but do so in a lower carbon way. Expanding energy access will also yield improvements in quality of care, reduce costs, and enhance efficiency. Similarly, enhancing appropriate waste management solutions and improving recycling and product recovery schemes will reduce not only carbon footprints but also the risk of dangerous waste products affecting health outcomes.

Principle 9 – Prioritize children’s unique vulnerabilities in climate action, including through investment in climate-resilient and sustainable essential services

Children are disproportionately vulnerable to the effects of climate change due to their unique physiological development, behavioral traits, and dependence on caregivers. There are unique and differentiated impacts for both girls and boys, although young and

adolescent girls are particularly vulnerable. Ambitious and child-responsive climate policies, actions, and climate finance are necessary to meet their specific needs, including targeted measures that ensure continued access to climate-resilient and sustainable essential services, which children rely on to survive and thrive. These services include health, education, water and sanitation, nutrition, child protection, and adaptive social protection. Additionally, empowering children through education, meaningful participation in climate decision-making processes, and access to justice – while promoting the interests of present and future generations – is essential to promoting the rights of children in climate action.

Principle 10 – Strengthen adaptive social protection systems to build resilience for all, especially for the most vulnerable

Climate change exacerbates the vulnerabilities and risks people face throughout their lives and erodes progress in education, healthcare, and employment, with differentiated consequences for children, youth, women, and other vulnerable and marginalized groups. Governments should provide access to universal child-sensitive social protection systems to reduce inequalities, eliminate exclusion, prevent poverty, and protect vulnerable groups from the impacts of climate change and workers' transition to climate-resilient development. Social protection systems should be adequate, flexible, crisis-ready and coordinated with care services and learning provisions for climate resilience, including psychosocial support and risk-informed education. It is also critical to provide income security for people of working age, including caregivers, and to ensure that education, healthcare, and income support are sustained to facilitate the empowerment of both current and future generations. Such strategies and associated investments can shield households, enterprises, workers, and communities from the impacts of climate shocks and stressors, thereby enhancing adaptive capacity and human development.

Principle 11 – Invest in solutions for communities and migrants affected by climate change

It is critical to prioritize comprehensive adaptation planning and implementation to enhance climate-resilient development, ensuring access to education and other essential services, so that people have the choice to live in dignity and safety in their areas of origin, including areas affected by disasters and conflicts, as underlined in the COP28 Declaration on Climate, Relief, Recovery and Peace. Ensuring the right to education, decent work and facilitating pathways for safe, orderly and regular migration is essential for strengthening people's resilience. To enable this, it is necessary to facilitate countries' and communities' access to finance for responding to climate mobility, and to promote the participation of migrants and displaced persons in decent work, including in climate action, paying particular attention to the needs and priorities of women and girls. This involves planning for skills anticipation, training and retraining while ensuring access to essential services, including health and education along the migration routes and in destination countries, and investing in migrant-sensitive health systems.

Principle 12 – Scale up public-private and innovative financing solutions to strengthen human development for climate resilience

This principle calls for scaling up financing, including through new and holistic climate financing solutions, to enhance the quality and equity of education, health, jobs and skills, and initiatives focused on children and youth. Adopting innovative financing approaches that are age and gender-responsive – alongside partnerships with and incentive mechanisms for private sector investments, social impact investors, and philanthropy partnerships – is fundamental for ensuring the long-term sustainability of innovative solutions and climate resilience.