



# World Systemic Forum (WSF) 2025

## Manifesto for the World Economic Forum 2025, Davos

### Status of the global transformation in the energy sector

#### Key elements of a trust-based sustainability strategy

The world is navigating a critical era where the transition to renewable energy is not just an environmental necessity but also an economic and societal imperative. This manifesto, created as an output of the World Systemic Forum held in Flums, Switzerland, reflects the insights and expertise of a distinguished panel of experts spanning industry, academia, research, insurance, and standardization. This document aims to serve as a guiding framework for urgent and transformative action toward a clean future.

### Challenges and pain points of the global clean energy sector

#### 1. Fragmentation and Lack of Trust in Stakeholder Collaboration

The energy transition is hindered by fragmented cooperation among governments, industries, the financial and insurance sector as well as research institutions. Mistrust between stakeholders currently slows decision-making and implementation of essential projects.

#### 2. Insufficient Policy and Regulatory Alignment

Global energy efforts suffer from inconsistent policies and regulations, leading to delays in deployment, market uncertainty, and inefficiencies in scaling clean and sustainable solutions.

#### 3. Barriers to Funding and Investment

The renewable energy and energy storage sector faces substantial funding challenges, driven by disproportionate fossil fuel subsidies and the high investment risks associated with emerging clean technologies.

#### **4. Sustainability and Circularity in Supply Chains**

Resource Rarity: Critical materials like lithium, cobalt, and rare earth metals are concentrated in a few regions, leading to geopolitical dependencies and supply chain vulnerabilities.

Ethical Concerns: Supply chains often involve unethical labor practices and environmental degradation, undermining the sustainability goals.

#### **5. Technological Interoperability and Standardization Gaps**

The rapid pace of technological advancements is surpassing the development of global standards, leading to uncertainty among developers, investors, and policymakers, which in turn undermines trust-building efforts.

#### **6. Skills Shortages and Workforce Gaps**

The clean energy sector faces an acute shortage of skilled workers in specific areas, hindering the speed and quality of the energy transition.

### **Outcomes of panel discussion**

The high-level panel discussion at the World Systemic Forum produced the following key outcomes:

#### **1. Consensus on Technology Openness**

The experts agreed that all renewable and clean energy technologies must be explored without premature exclusions, fostering innovation and adaptability.

#### **2. Recognition of Trust as a Critical Pillar**

Trust in institutions, verification bodies, and supply chains was identified as the foundation for accelerating the energy transition. Establishing neutral, independent verification mechanisms was highlighted.

#### **3. Focus on Leadership**

The panel highlighted the need for a trustworthy leadership approach to ensure fresh ideas and equitable decision-making in the energy transition process.

#### **4. Global Cooperation as Non-Negotiable**

Cross-border collaboration and the pooling of resources, expertise, and data were deemed essential for addressing the systemic challenges of the energy transformation.

## **5. Call for Unbiased Research and Standards**

The experts stressed the importance of unbiased, independent research and the fast-tracking of global standards to support rapid technological implementation.

## **Recommendations and key findings**

### **1. Strengthening Global Standards and Verification**

- Developing interim "pre-standards" to provide guidance for emerging technologies.
- Establishing independent global bodies to verify compliance with standards, ensuring transparency and accountability.

### **2. Reforming and Strengthening Financing Structures**

- Phasing out subsidies for outdated technologies, which negatively impact our climate goals and let the economy run on its own.
- Collaborating with insurance providers to de-risk investments in clean technologies.

### **3. Prioritizing Circularity in Supply Chains**

- Enforcing transparency in the sourcing of critical materials to build up confidence.
- Promoting recycling initiatives and secondary markets for clean energy components, reducing dependency on raw materials.

### **4. Accelerating Workforce Development**

- Investing in education and training programs at all levels to prepare the workforce with the skills required for clean energy technologies.
- Incentivizing cross-sector reskilling initiatives to bridge the existing skills gap.

### **5. Promoting Cross-Sector and Cross-Border Collaboration**

- Establishing and strengthening platforms for knowledge sharing and joint projects between governments, industry players, and academia.
- Supporting global research initiatives addressing energy storage, grid optimization, and alternative materials for clean energy systems.

### **6. Ensuring Long-Term Corporate Accountability**

- Encouraging corporations to embed reliable sustainability goals within their business strategies, with measurable milestones.
- Developing clear and simple frameworks to hold companies accountable for their net-zero pledges.

## About the platform and the experts involved:

The World Systemic Forum serves as a unique platform for tackling the systemic societal challenges of our time. This manifesto is the result of a collaborative effort by a distinguished panel of experts, co-moderated by VDE and the Club of Rome—two organizations recognized globally for their leadership in innovation, sustainability, and systemic thinking.

The panel included experts in science, energy policy, and economics from the academic sector; leaders in renewable energy, clean technology, and supply chain management from industry; representatives from global standardization bodies and testing laboratories; and specialists in risk mitigation and green investment from the finance sector.

The thoughtful impulses from the panelists provided a comprehensive and multidisciplinary perspective, ensuring that the recommendations are both actionable and future-proof.

## Conclusion

The global clean energy transition is a moral, economic, and existential imperative. This manifesto presents a clear roadmap for addressing the challenges and leveraging the opportunities of a sustainable energy future. This should support the discussions at the World Economic Forum 2025 in Davos reflecting the courage, collaboration, and long-term vision required to lead this transformation.

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Vaduz / Liechtenstein, Davos / Switzerland, 19.01.2025