# Making a Case for an All-Options Strategy: Towards a Collaborative Net Zero Pathways

**Joint Statement by Women in Renewable Energy (WiRE) and Nuclear for Climate (N4C)**

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Today, Women in Renewable Energy (WiRE) and Nuclear for Climate initiative (N4C) present a united front for a complete energy transition. After all, together is better for accelerated climate action.

At Women in Renewable Energy, also known as WiRE, our mission is simple but powerful: to ensure that women and other underrepresented groups are recognised, elevated, and fully included in the global clean energy transition. We work to make this shift truly just: a transition that creates real opportunities, opens doors, and provides the support women and underrepresented communities need to thrive as leaders, innovators, and decision-makers in the clean energy ecosystem.

We of the Nuclear for Climate initiative (N4C) are nuclear professionals and scientists, members of over 150 societies and associations, with the goal of opening a dialogue with policymakers and raising awareness among the public about the necessity of nuclear energy as a vital, carbon-free tool for climate change mitigation.

Our shared vision today is rooted in three non-negotiable pillars: collaboration, technological openness, and social justice. We know the goal is achievable, but only because together, we go farther, further and faster.

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## The Urgency and the Challenge: Bridging the Net Zero Gap

President Lula recently underscored the global consensus at the Belém Climate Summit, stating that **"Accelerating the Global Energy Transition and Safeguarding Nature are the Most Effective Pathways to Mitigating Global Warming."**

Yet the world is not on track. Current policy trajectories and emissions reduction technologies being considered will not close the emissions gap by 2050. For instance, electricity demand is expected to almost double by 2050 with emerging high-load users, such as fast-developing data centers, are already driving the critical need for accelerating reliable, massive-scale power, thereby signalling an outpacing of existing planning assumptions. Meeting this surge in demand requires more than just constructing new clean capacities; it demands energy systems that are **available 24/7, resilient** to extreme climate events and geopolitics, and **affordable**.

Furthermore, this transition also extends beyond the power grid. Achieving Net Zero requires the decarbonisation of the **"hard-to-abate" sectors**; such as the heavy industry, transportation including shipping, maritime, and high-temperature process-heat applications which require specialised solutions. As such, these sectors demand the full complementary capabilities of combined advanced renewables and nuclear energy systems at a global scale.

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**The Mandate for Technology Neutrality**

At COP28, world leaders pledged to **triple global renewable energy capacity by 2030**; at approximately 11 TW installed capacity, while at the sidelines of COP28, more than 20 nations committed also to **tripling nuclear energy capacity by 2050**. By now, 33 states have signed the nuclear pledge, with two joining this year. These are not competing goals; they are **complementary mandates** meant to deliver clean energy anytime, anywhere.

As Fatih Birol of the OECD International Energy Agency stated: **"We do not have the luxury to exclude any clean energy technologies if we are serious about climate change."**

This shared conviction is the cornerstone of our joint call: **#TogetherIsBetter**. We demand genuine **technology neutrality** in global energy policymaking.

**Policy Exclusion Undermines Progress**

In order to progress with efficient energy transition globally, we must address policies that restrict options. For example, the initial draft of the **European Union's Taxonomy Regulation** on Sustainable Activities, while well-intentioned, created significant political and market

uncertainty by initially attempting to **exclude nuclear energy** from the core 'green' list; then finally settling for 'transitional activity' under strict conditions. Such non-neutral policy decisions actively hinder the vital investments needed by some countries to achieve deep decarbonization.

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**Why Policy Must Reflect Technical Reality**

**Advanced Renewables**—like solar, wind, and geothermal—offer the **fastest deployment times** and, increasingly, the **lowest marginal operating costs**, enabling rapid scaling and energy independence in diverse geographic locations. **Nuclear energy provides high-density, dispatchable, 24/7 power** with minimal land use. This is ssential for providing a stable **firm power** that supports an otherwise intermittent grid, guaranteeing security of supply and managing system loads. Some innovative technologies offer high temperature process heat generation for hard-to-decarbonize industries and/or provide long-standing, remotely operated power production for remote locations.

Relying on one technology creates vulnerabilities such as intermittencies, dependencies on the supply chain side, and common cause failures, all leading to risks of reliable electricity provision. The unique traits of each of the clean energy sources enable mix diversification supporting energy security, resilience and reliability of provision.

The **Canadian** system provides a clear success story, leveraging its massive hydro and nuclear baseload to rapidly integrate new wind and solar, creating one of the cleanest, most reliable grids in the G7

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**A Just, Inclusive, and Resilient Transition**

**1. Prioritizing Social Justice and Inclusion**

We recognize that while technologies evolve, the transition itself must be **just, inclusive, and human-centered**. This means that communities impacted by the shift away from fossil fuels must be revitalized, not left behind. Obtaining a genuine **social license to operate (SLO)** is

mandatory for every new energy project. Crucially, the workforce must evolve with intentional inclusivity, intersectionality, and diversity. For instance, according to IRENA, women currently hold only **32% of jobs** in the renewable sector, while, according to OECD-NEA only 25% of nuclear professionals are women—even fewer in technical and senior leadership roles. This persistent gap confirms that systemic barriers remain. We have no luxury of ignoring half the population; **boosting women's participation in energy and STEM must be an immediate policy priority.**

**2. Building Climate Resilience into Infrastructure**

At the same time, climate change is already altering the context in which we build. **Resilience and adaptation** must be engineered into every piece of clean energy infrastructure. Energy systems must not only produce clean power, but must also be robust enough to withstand **extreme weather events**, shifting loads, and disrupted supply chains . **Reliability is a climate adaptation strategy.**

**3. Aligning Policy, Investment, and the Future**

To make all these goals possible, we need **stable, well-designed policies and predictable investment frameworks including all clean energy sources**. Governments must create enabling environments; industries must invest boldly, and public-private partnerships must be meticulously aligned. Transformation only accelerates when policy, innovation, and finance move in sync.

**A Final Appeal for the Future Generations:** On behalf of the younger generation, representing a large fraction of our groups, we urge nations and governments to look beyond short-term solutions. We must plan ahead responsibly, ensuring the meaningful inclusion of young people in the decision-making processes and creating a sustainable future for them and the next generations. They have the right to shape the sustainable future they will inherit.

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**Final Message: The Power of 'All'**

Our final message is clear: **Net Zero needs ALL solutions.** The goal is not choosing one system over another, but combining them wisely, inclusively, and robustly according to local needs to deliver sustainable development for all. By embracing every clean option available for the local context, investing in people and resilience, and working across technologies and sectors, we can power a global future that is fair, reliable, gender inclusive, and truly sustainable. **Our united front calls to action: #TogetherIsBetter.**