



THE YEAR IN REVIEW 2025

The 2025 year-in-review captures a period of intensified effort and significant achievement for the IEJ. This year was defined by South Africa's landmark presidency of the G20, a moment we helped shape to centre the demands of the Global South. Our work across economic justice, climate finance, and social protection continued to challenge orthodoxies and advance our vision of a just society where an equitable distribution of resources, the democratisation of economic decision-making, and systemic change are secured and entrenched for the realisation of rights and planetary wellbeing.

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THE TEAM

The IEJ closes out 2025 with a staff complement of 32. This strategic expansion was essential to meet the demands of our ambitious work programme, particularly our leading role in South Africa's G20 Presidency.

We welcomed two new members to the IEJ Board, further strengthening our governance:

- Mohamed Sultan is a development professional with over 15 years of experience driving economic, social, and justice initiatives in the energy, waste, and agricultural sectors across Africa.
- Tingo Tengela brings a vital perspective from organised labour, currently serving as the Trade and Industry Policy Coordinator in the COSATU Policy Unit.



THE WORK

Our activities in 2025 were strategically focused on leveraging the G20 moment while deepening our core work to secure tangible victories for economic justice.

ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In 2025, the IEJ deepened its commitment to building an organisation that is resilient, strategically aligned, value-based, and equipped to deliver on its mandate. Building on the work initiated in 2024, the organisation focused on strengthening internal systems and enhancing staff well-being.

Following an organisational health assessment and human resources needs assessment, the organisation has moved decisively into the implementation phase. Over the course of the year, several of these interventions began to take shape, resulting in early and encouraging improvements within the organisation.

Teams report greater clarity, stronger support structures, and smoother internal processes. These gains, while still early, reflect the positive impact of well-sequenced organisational development efforts and demonstrate momentum towards an enhanced, more sustainable working environment.

ADVOCACY

At the 2024 end-of-year staff retreat, staff and leadership identified the need to strengthen the organisation's advocacy work through more planning, coordination, and coherence.

During the period under review, each project team assessed its specific advocacy terrain and formulated a tailored advocacy plan. This process was successfully implemented across the organisation, with project teams reporting that the approach has brought clarity, strategic focus, and a more grounded understanding of the opportunities and challenges in their respective areas.

G20

As an Official Resource Partner to the South African government's G20 Presidency, IEJ played a pivotal role. Across Task Forces, Working Groups, and civil society spaces, the IEJ shaped core components of the G20 agenda from sustainable industrial policy and food security to debt justice, energy transitions, and women's empowerment. Our contributions strengthened South Africa's leadership and ensured that the priorities of the Global South remained central. The IEJ [welcomes the G20 South Africa Summit Leaders' Declaration](#).

Task Force 1: Inclusive Economic Growth, Industrialisation, Employment, and Reducing Inequalities

As an official resource partner, the IEJ played a central role in shaping deliverables and supporting negotiators:

- Served as a member of the technical steering committee for the High-Level Principles on Sustainable Industrial Policy and the G20 Critical Minerals Framework.
- Co-hosted the launch of the [G20 Sustainable Industrial Policy Principles](#) report with the Department of Trade, Industry, and Competition (DTIC) and the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO).
- Contributed to the G20 Critical Minerals chapter, *Value Beyond Extraction*.
- Co-hosted the [Industrial Policy Principles for G20 Cooperation](#) event in Washington, DC.

- Released a statement on [the first G20 Task Force meeting on inclusive economic growth, industrialisation, employment, and reduced inequality and the high-level principles on green industrial policy](#).

Task Force 2: Food Security

The IEJ served as an official resource partner and technical steering committee member of this task force. Details of this work are reflected in the Building Resilience: Food Systems project section.

Debt and Development Finance

The IEJ advanced a strengthened Global South agenda for debt justice:

- Provided inputs to the African Expert Panel allies and met with its secretariat.
- Developed a memo for the Presidency on actionable next steps for the G20 debt agenda.
- Participated in the FfD CSO Mechanism and UN Financing for Development Forum in Seville and spoke on private finance and sustainable development.
- Successfully [launched](#) the Debt Paper Series at the South African Embassy in Washington, DC. The series includes:
 - [Diverting Development: The G20 and External Debt Service Burden in Africa](#),
 - [A Coherent Framework for Sovereign Debt and Economic Transformation](#), and
 - [Designing Human Rights-Aligned Reforms for Debt Restructurings](#).
- Hosted G20 Engagement Groups for discussions on sovereign debt (L20, B20, C20, W20, Y20, T20) and coordinated a Joint Engagement Groups Statement on Debt.
- Mobilised civil society to produce an [Open Letter to the President](#) calling for stronger action on debt justice.
- Attended IMF and World Bank Annual Meetings, hosting a private roundtable on Expert Support for a Debtors Club.
- Released a G20 statement on [Africa paying the price for global inequality](#).

Empowerment of Women Working Group

The IEJ served as an official resource partner to this working group. Details of this work is reflected in the Care Economies project section.

Energy Transitions Working Group

In its role as a resource partner in both the Energy Security and Socioeconomic Safeguards for Just Transitions priority areas, the IEJ:

- Contributed to [The Future of Oil and Gas: Strategies, Challenges, and Realities of Phase-Out in the G20](#) working paper and accompanying [policy brief](#).

High-level Engagements:

- Spoke at the *G20 Policy Dialogue on Socio-Economic Safeguards for Fossil Fuel-Dependent Regions*.
- Participated in the *Panel on Ingredients for Just, Affordable, and Inclusive Energy Transitions*.
- Co-hosted a high-level working group side-event with senior government and international agencies.

G20 Civil Society Work

Published eight G20 fact sheets for civil society.

- G20 Factsheet 1 | [What is the G20? An introductory factsheet](#).
- G20 Factsheet 2 | [Who Profits from a Weakened International Taxation System: Multinational corporations, the super-rich or states?](#)
- G20 Factsheet 3 | [Why Do Countries Pay Financial Institutions Instead of Building Schools and Hospitals?](#)
- G20 Factsheet 4 | [Food on the Dinner Table or Corporate Profits?](#)
- G20 Factsheet 5 | [A Path to a Cleaner Future](#).
- G20 Factsheet 6 | [Who Should Pay for the Planet's Bill? Understanding climate finance and its challenges](#).
- G20 Factsheet 7 | [Building a Fair and Sustainable Future Through Green Industrialisation](#).
- G20 Factsheet 8 | [A World Defined by Justice and Care: Universal social floors](#).

- Co-authored the [G20 at a Crossroads Report](#) assessing two decades of G20 performance. This report is the result of an international collaboration between the New Economics Foundation (NEF), the Institute for Economic Justice (IEJ), the Institute for Policy Studies (IPS), Transforma, and the Centre for Economic and Social Rights (CESR).
- Hosted a Train the Trainers workshop for civil society organisations, community groups, and students.
- Co-hosted a Tax Summit and participated in the FAIR Network.
- Collaborated on the We the 99% People's Summit, hosting three side events.
- Published [A Care Approach to Achieving Gender Justice in Southern African Food Systems in the Context of Climate Change](#).
- Prepared and published, in collaboration with the IEJ's Food Systems project, [a toolkit to support regional work at the intersection of care, climate change, and food systems](#).
- Hosted two workshops with a cohort of Southern African activists to develop the toolkit and advance a care approach to climate and food systems.
- Hosted the fifth Feminist Economics Summer School under the theme of [Feminist methods, methodologies, and epistemologies](#).

Support to the South African Sherpa and Presidency

- Developed and submitted a strategic communications memorandum for the G20 Presidency.
- Participated in G20 Sherpa meetings and a government deep-dive policy assessment workshop.
- Engaged with the African Expert Panel as required.

Through intensive engagement across Task Forces, Working Groups, Sherpa structures, and civil society platforms, the IEJ played a pivotal role in ensuring that South Africa's G20 Presidency advanced a transformative Global South agenda. Our contributions strengthened strategic policy deliverables, enhanced negotiations on debt, development finance, industrialisation, food security, and energy transitions, and supported civil society mobilisation.

AFRICAN FEMINIST ECONOMIC CAPACITY BUILDING

The African Feminist Economic Capacity Building project challenged the exclusion of feminist approaches in economics by addressing power imbalances in knowledge production and policymaking by capacitating researchers, policymakers, and activists. It strengthened feminist economic analysis, teaching, and advocacy while elevating the role of feminist scholars and policy influencers.

- Hosted a four-part workshop series for the Feminist Economic Summer School (FESS) 2024 cohort, focused on developing skills to communicate feminist economics ideas in the media through opinion pieces.

In 2025, the African Feminist Economic Capacity Building project consolidated its role as a vital platform for strengthening feminist economic thought, practice, and visibility across the region.

CARE ECONOMY

Launched in April, a dedicated project, emerging from the broader feminist economics work of the IEJ, the project consolidates work on gender-responsive budgeting (GRB) and national and regional care policy development. The project aims to advance a well-resourced, rights-based national care system in South Africa and to strengthen feminist policymaking across the Global South.

- Advanced work on the development of a national care policy and the financing for care by rebuilding South Africa's Women's Budget Initiative in collaboration with the UK Women's Budget Group, the Budget Justice Coalition (BJC). Co-hosted two GRB workshops to advance this.
- Published an [opinion piece](#) which notes that gender-responsive budgeting is a powerful tool to tackle entrenched inequality in South Africa.
- As an official resource partner to the Department of Women, Youth, and People with Disabilities (DWYPD) during South Africa's G20 Presidency, the IEJ played a central role in shaping deliverables and supporting the negotiation process as follows:
 - Provided technical, strategic, research, and administrative support to the DWYPD and the G20 Empowerment of Women Working Group (EWWG).
 - Produced three policy briefs for the EWWG, particularly focused on the care thematic.

- Produced a memo on priorities and contentious issues to guide the Chair in the negotiation process with all G20 member countries.
- Produced a memo to guide bilateral negotiations with specific countries such as Argentina, the US, Russia, and like-minded countries.
- Re-drafted the various versions of the draft communique/declaration, incorporating feedback from member states.
- Drafted the final Chair's Summary.
- Reviewed and commented on the 'financial inclusion action plan and measurement framework'.
- Made inputs to all technical meetings of the EWWG and co-hosted an EWWG side-event at the first technical meeting, with DWYPD, which [included a panel discussion on mapping the global landscape of care and cross-country experiences with gender responsive budgeting and National Care Strategies](#).
- The IEJ also utilised the G20 as an engagement point, convening civil society organisations from across the Global South for a strategic workshop on Fiscal Justice for Inclusive Development. The IEJ prepared a stakeholder mapping and background paper titled [Centring Care in Africa's Fiscal Development Agenda](#) for this work, which was launched with partner organisations.
- Supporting the DWYPD in advancing the care agenda at the continental level, particularly to the specialised technical committee (STC) on gender equality and women's rights empowerment at the African Union Commission (AUC), through contributing to the concept note with recommendations and preparing the presentation for the South African delegation.

Throughout 2025, the Care Economies Project strengthened South Africa's leadership on feminist economic policy, significantly influencing national and G20-level discussions on care. By rebuilding the Women's Budget Initiative, deepening work on gender-responsive budgeting, and contributing directly to the EWWG's outputs, the IEJ played a central role in shaping a globally informed and locally grounded vision for a just, inclusive care economy.

RETHINKING ECONOMICS: CHALLENGING ORTHODOXIES

The Rethinking Economics project continued to advance its mission of transforming economics education and practice by foregrounding real-world relevance, methodological diversity, and critical heterodox perspectives. Through curriculum reviews, student organising, capacity building, and flagship events, the project underscored its commitment to reimagining how economics is taught, studied, and mobilised for social change.

- Using a rubric developed by Rethinking Economics International, the project conducted data collection for a curriculum health assessment of undergraduate economics courses and modules at eight universities. The curricula will be rated on: the diversity of economic schools of thought discussed; inclusion of real-world socio-economic issues like poverty, inequality, and climate change; and the use of diverse research methods for understanding the economy.
- Piloted a series of training workshops, co-hosted by REFA Nelson Mandela University, with the University of Fort Hare, Rhodes University, and the University of Cape Town REFA chapters. These workshops form part of a broader two-part series: 1) providing "out-of-the-classroom" introductions to heterodox economics for students and youth activists, and 2) building the skills of an activist-economist.
- Held the 2025 REFA Festival on Friday, 5 September at the University of Johannesburg. Over 400 students, academics and members of civil society attended, and about a dozen African countries were represented in terms of speakers and cross-participation with the Feminist Economics Summer School (FESS). The Festival's themes, many with a feminist economics lens, included:
 - topical economic policy debates: (such as the wealth tax, Operation Vulindlela and industrialisation);
 - resistance and praxis (African feminist epistemology, youth protests, case studies in community organising);
 - geopolitics and global issues (AI, conflicts in Palestine, Sudan and DR Congo, trade wars); and
 - decent work and care (care work and the climate crisis, financialisation and unemployment, migration).

- Held a REFA Students' and Academics' Convening on Saturday, 6 September, with 90 participants from chapters and partner institutions. Delegates reached a network-wide mandate on REFA's high-level programme priorities for its next phase, including public economics education, training and capacity building in heterodox economics, and continued work on curriculum reform.

In 2025, the Rethinking Economics project strengthened its position as a leading platform for pluralist, socially-engaged, and feminist-informed economics education. Through curriculum assessments, practical workshops, chapter activities, and the REFA Festival, the project deepened student and academic engagement with heterodox economic ideas and real-world socio-economic issues.

BUILDING RESILIENCE: FOOD SYSTEMS

The Food Systems project continued to advance the IEJ's work on just, sustainable, and climate-resilient food systems in 2025. The project integrates research, policy advocacy, and capacity building to strengthen South Africa's food security and to ensure that food systems policy promotes equity, sustainability, and climate adaptation.

- Prepared and issued a joint statement on [South African classrooms and children becoming fast food billboards](#).
- Served as an official resource and knowledge partner to the G20 Task Force 2 on Food Security, including membership on the technical steering committee.
 - Provided strategic, research, and policy support to the Task Force secretariat through the process and negotiations.
 - Contributed to drafting two research reports for the Task Force and the Task Force outcome documents.
 - Co-hosted a High-Level Dialogue with the Department of Agriculture and DIRCO on food buffer stocks to explore strategies for stabilising food markets and strengthening climate resilience.
 - Co-hosted a *G20 Dialogue on Buffer Stocks for Food Justice* with the Heinrich Böll Foundation and the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation.
 - Released a [statement](#) on the final declaration of the G20 Food Security Task Force.

- Published a working paper: [A Care Approach to Achieving Gender Justice in Southern African Food Systems in the Context of Climate Change](#), and co-developed [a toolkit to support regional work at the intersection of care, climate change, and food systems](#) with the IEJ's feminist economics team that involved two workshops, firstly to develop, and then to test and refine the toolkit.
- Contributed to the National Dialogue in the Just Transition in the Food Systems working group on the Climate Change Act, and contributed to the broader coordination of the network.
 - Hosted a convening group meeting of the Food Systems Just Transitions group to assess previous work and refine strategic focus.
 - Published a [factsheet](#) on how the Climate Change Act can be used to shape a more just and resilient food system in South Africa.
 - Organised and hosted a webinar with the Centre for Environmental Rights (CER) on how to advance a food systems agenda in the Climate Change Act.
 - Hosted a 3-day capacity-building workshop on the Climate Change Act and Food System Adaptation, with trade unions, informal traders, small farmers, NGOs, farm workers, and fishers, to capacitate actors on the Climate Change Act and policy engagement.
 - Held six online stakeholder consultations with different constituencies (labour, farm workers, informal traders, small-scale farmers, NGOs, academics, and climate justice organisations) on their relation to climate and food policy, as part of shaping the capacity building workshop on the Climate Change Act and Adaptation in the Food System.
 - Submitted written comments, from a just food systems perspective, on the Draft Second Nationally Determined Contribution.
- Made a submission on government's processes on the South African National Food and Nutrition Security Plan.
- Presented work on various platforms, including CRILS (Critical Research on Industrial Livestock Systems), IATP (Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy), and the close-out workshop of the EU-funded Climate Champions project.
- Published a policy brief on [food price trends in South Africa and the need for buffer stocks](#).

- Contributed to a range of policy fora:
 - With support from the African Climate Foundation (ACF), the team produced and presented an [issue brief](#) on philanthropic support for food system just transition research and advocacy for the African Food Systems Transformation Collective (AFSTC).
 - Helped conceptualise and co-hosted a dialogue: *Addressing Animal Welfare Within a Just Agroecological Food Systems Transition in South Africa*, with Humane World and Trust for Community Outreach and Education. Presented on the economics of the beef sector in South Africa and a just transition.
 - Presented on the nature of the food movement in South Africa at a Centre for Civil Society (UKZN) webinar.
 - Presented to the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Inter-Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Trade about the potential of utilising food buffer stocks to stabilise food prices in Africa.
- Published a [review](#) of the *Handbook on Public Policy and Food Security* published in the South African Journal of International Affairs.

In 2025, the Food Systems project reinforced its role as a critical platform connecting research, policy advocacy, and capacity building to advance sustainable, equitable, and climate-resilient food systems in South Africa. Through its engagement in the G20 Food Security Task Force, national policy processes, stakeholder consultations, and applied research, the project strengthened evidence-based policy, informed civil society and government action, and contributed to the development of just food systems that integrate care, sustainability, and climate resilience.

BASIC INCOME

The Basic Income project strengthened national advocacy for a universal, inclusive, and just income support system in 2025. Through strategic litigation, policy engagement, research, and public mobilisation, the project advanced the case for a Universal Basic Income Grant (UBIG) and challenged exclusionary practices that undermine the right to social protection.

- Secured a [positive judgment](#) in the Pretoria High Court challenge to the unlawful exclusion of millions from the SRD Grant, accompanied by [strategic communications](#) and stakeholder engagement on the way forward.
- Conducted sustained advocacy around the State of the Nation Address (SONA) and the national budget process, including detailed analysis—alongside the IEJ’s Resourcing for Rights Realisation team and the [Universal Basic Income Coalition](#) (UBIC)—of all three versions of the 2025 Budget.
- [Called for the censure](#) of the Minister of Finance following harmful public comments about the SRD grant’s affordability.
- Published a major Research Report, [Systemic Exclusion from a South African Social Assistance Transfer: Drivers, Impacts, and Who Is Most at Risk](#), supported by a [factsheet](#), webinar launch, [blog](#), and [public presentation](#).
- [Submitted inputs](#) to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights’ Roadmap for Eradicating Poverty Beyond Growth.
- Made a submission on the new SRD grant regulations through UBIC.
- Produced a [briefing note](#) and [public statement](#) highlighting how National Treasury’s conditionalities attached to the SASSA budget risk extending exclusionary SRD rules to additional grants, and wrote formally to the Parliamentary Committee on this issue.
- Led wide-ranging media outreach and launched a [digital UBIG campaign](#), including [No One Left Behind](#), a [basic explainer](#), and [Myths vs Facts](#) blog.
- Continued work on the appeal of the SRD exclusion judgment, with at least one partner joining the case as *amicus curiae*.
- Contributed a chapter to the *Handbook of Labour Studies in Africa*, on “The political economy of universal basic income in three Sub-Saharan African countries”.
- Coordinated resistance within UBIC to National Treasury’s imposed grant conditions, including direct engagement with the Chair of the Standing Committee on Appropriations.
- Issued a letter of demand to DSD, SASSA, and National Treasury relating to Treasury-imposed grant restrictions.
- Delivered a [keynote address](#) at the plenary of the 24th Basic Income Earth Network (BIEN) Congress in Brazil.
- Presented IEJ’s SRD exclusion research at the BIEN Congress, spoke at the REFA Festival on basic income and the township economy, and recorded a feature episode of the [Mobilize Podcast](#).

- Contributed to an [Economic Justice Matters](#) discussion series (SMWX platform) episode to discuss UBIG and the broader politics of income support in South Africa.
- Inputted into the UN DESA consultation on the World Social Development report, focused on Principles for a New Economy.
- Presented on the South African basic income experience at a workshop in Zambia hosted by the Friedrich-Ebert Stiftung.
- Presented on basic income policy to the United Consumer Co-operatives.
- Presented a case study on robust social protection systems in Africa to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Africa Region North.
- Released a [factsheet on the extent of fraud in the social grant system](#).
- Conducted extensive fieldwork in South Africa through interviews, focus groups, ethnographic observation, and site visits to renewable energy manufacturers; supported parallel fieldwork research in Kenya and Ghana, with all partners now finalising background papers.
- Drafted research on Africa’s critical minerals sector and contributed to G20 Task Force 1 workstreams on Green Industrial Policy Principles and critical minerals exploration.
- Prepared a research report on South Africa’s energy crisis and policy landscape.
- Organised and participated in regional and international engagements, including contributions to the F20 Conference, COSATU’s Energy Transition Minerals meeting, Windaba, and a T20 side event co-hosted with CEDCA.
- Held a multi-country MEAL workshop in Kenya and a background paper development workshop with African partners to strengthen methodological alignment.

In 2025, the Basic Income project consolidated its position as one of the leading voices for social protection reform in South Africa. Through landmark litigation, rigorous research, strategic advocacy, and public engagement, the project advanced the national debate on income security and strengthened the case for a Universal Basic Income Grant as a cornerstone of a just and inclusive society.

JUST ENERGY TRANSITION

The Just Energy Transition project advanced research, policy engagement, and cross-country collaboration to promote an energy transition that reduces energy poverty, creates decent work, and drives structural transformation across Africa’s energy systems. Through multi-country research, strategic contributions to global policy platforms, and sustained stakeholder engagement, the project deepened understanding of renewable energy localisation, labour impacts, and critical mineral governance.

- Completed key research outputs—including policy scans for South Africa, Kenya, and Ghana, theoretical frameworks, and a continental analysis—while developing fieldwork protocols, Global Production Network (GPN) tools, and survey instruments to guide multi-country qualitative and quantitative research. These will all be launched in 2026.

In 2025, the Just Energy Transition project developed a series of research outputs that will help shape evidence-driven policy debates on renewable energy industrialisation, labour transitions, and critical mineral governance. By integrating rigorous research with regional collaboration and strategic engagement in global forums, the project strengthened the foundations for a fair, job-rich, and socially-grounded energy transition across Africa.

RESOURCING FOR RIGHTS REALISATION

The Resourcing for Rights Realisation project advanced a comprehensive agenda to reshape fiscal, monetary, international financial, and climate finance governance so that African countries can pursue development on just, sovereign, and people-centred terms. Through research, policy advocacy, coalition building, and sustained engagement with government, labour, civil society, and global institutions, the project strengthened the push for an equitable financial architecture that enables social and economic rights realisation.

Accountability for International Financial Institutions (IFIs) Lending

The project deepened scrutiny of IFI lending practices and their implications for national sovereignty and developmental policy space. In 2025, it:

- Participated in the FiCs meeting in Cape Town, including a UNCTAD-led side event and high-level engagements.
- Published a policy brief on [IFI lending](#), along with an [opinion piece](#), analysing the risks of externally-imposed conditionalities and proposing alternatives.
- Presented work at a [Climate Justice Coalition-IEJ webinar](#) and co-hosted a workshop with AIDC on public debt for Members of Parliament.
- Released a [statement](#) critiquing the new World Bank loan and National Treasury's unchecked authority over external borrowing.
- Contributed to public debate through co-authored op-eds with the [IFI Steering Committee](#) and the [Budget Justice Coalition](#) (BJC).
- Participated in a [webinar](#) on IFIs, debt, and climate justice, amplifying the call for democratic oversight and transparent debt governance.
- In support of the Coalition of Debt Justice, made submissions to the National Assembly's Standing Committee on Finance on [Parliamentary Oversight on International Financial Institutions Lending in South Africa](#).
- Published the [Navigating the Taxation of Wealth: Insights from theory to international experience](#) working paper and accompanying [policy brief](#).
- Participated in the Economic Justice Matters [episode](#) (with SMWX) on tax justice and progressive revenue mobilisation.
- Published an [assessment of new economic strategies](#) and a [statement](#) in the build-up to MTBPS 2025, as well as a [statement](#) thereafter, along with a presentation to Parliament.
- Continued to work with the Budget Justice Coalition, serving on the Steering Committee and attending the Annual General Meeting.
- Participated in the Civil Society Forum on the New Development Bank in both Cape Town and Sao Paolo, Brazil.

Budget and Tax Justice

The project significantly shaped national debate on fiscal policy, taxation, austerity, and the 2025 Budget cycle. Key activities:

- Attended and presented at the high-level dialogue [Talking Tax Justice at the Vatican](#).
- Published major pre-SONA and pre-Budget policy outputs, including [Six Key Pillars of a Fiscal Framework](#) and the policy brief [Fixing South Africa's Debt](#), supported by a [blog](#), [webinar](#), and [public commentary](#).
- Engaged deeply across all three versions of the 2025 Budget through statements (Pre [Budget 1.0](#), Post [Budget 1.0](#), Pre [Budget 2.0](#), Post [Budget 2.0](#), Pre [Budget 3.0](#), Post [Budget 3.0](#)), a parliamentary [submission](#), coalition coordination, and extensive media outreach.
- Hosted the 2025 Tax Summit with international, regional, and domestic experts, which produced a [public declaration](#) and [statement](#) on international tax reform during South Africa's G20 Presidency.
- Attended an advocacy workshop on building a systemic approach for aligning financial flows with the climate and development objectives in the politics of 2025 in Rome with other international NGOs and CSOs.
- Attended and participated in the inaugural gathering of African CSOs as part of the Financial Architecture International Reform (FAIR) South Africa.
- Attended and participated in the third gathering of the international FAIR network in Johannesburg.
- Published three major working papers and associated policy briefs on [DFIs](#) (policy brief [here](#)), [fiscal policy](#) (policy brief [here](#)), and [monetary policy](#) (policy brief [here](#)) for the Just Transition.
- Presented this work at key national and international forums, including the IMF-World Bank Spring Meetings, labour federations, the Presidential Climate Commission, and civil society dialogues.
- Presentation ([Financing the just transition](#)) at the UNIDO/CSIR G20 side event *Socio-economic Safeguards and local content for Fossil Fuel-Dependent Regions*.
- Made a [submission](#) on SARB mandate revisions and later on the [SARB Amendment Bill](#).

Climate Finance

The project advanced an ambitious agenda to align fiscal, monetary, and development finance with a worker-centred and climate-resilient transition. In 2025, it:

- Published an [opinion piece](#) linking the financing framework to the wider G20 programme on green industrialisation.
- Presented the framework across platforms, including COSATU green hydrogen workshops and at the Global South Exchange, the IDC, the SARB, the JET PMU, Eskom, the PCC, and on international podcasts such as [Mobilize](#), [SMWX](#), and an [expert exchange on just transitions in coal regions](#).
- Wrote an article on the worker-centred framework for financing the just transition for [COSATU's 40th anniversary edition](#) of the shopsteward.

In 2025, the Resourcing for Rights Realisation project strengthened its position as a leading voice for a fair, development-oriented financial architecture in South Africa and across the Global South. Through rigorous research, high-level advocacy, coalition mobilisation, and deep engagement with fiscal, monetary, climate, and international finance debates, the project shaped national discourse and influenced policy processes at critical moments. Its work laid essential groundwork for ensuring that African governments have the policy space, financing tools, and democratic accountability mechanisms required to realise rights, drive inclusive development, and achieve a just transition.

CLIMATE AMBITION TO ACCOUNTABILITY PROJECT - A LEGACY PROJECT

Through this project, now wrapped up, the IEJ, alongside WWF South Africa and the Climate Action Network - South Africa, advanced civil society participation in climate governance. The Climate Ambition to Accountability Project (CAAP) strengthened cross-sector collaboration to drive climate ambition, implementation, and accountability. It fostered a cohort of youth climate champions through training and internships while integrating gender, climate equity, and rights-based approaches into national policy.

- Published the policy brief, [A Call to Action: Moving towards holistic climate-responsive budgeting](#).
- Published a Working Paper on [A Care Approach to Achieving Gender Justice in Southern African Food Systems in the Context of Climate Change](#).



IN THE MEDIA

Over the past year, the team continued to make valuable contributions to policy debates in South Africa through media engagements, radio and television interviews, and opinion pieces.

- 29 [statements](#) have been issued, some jointly with partners, including the Universal Basic Income Coalition, the BJC, and #PayTheGrants.
- 83 posts, covering all other IEJ outputs, have been added to the [website](#) this year.

ECONOMIC JUSTICE MATTERS DISCUSSION SERIES

Shaping national conversations on economic policy, the [Economic Justice Matters](#) discussion series has become a vital platform for interrogating fiscal rules, inequality, social grants, and South Africa's energy and trade policies. Launched in 2025, the series has hosted nine webinars, six of them co-produced with SMWX, bringing together leading experts, civil society, and policymakers to drive debate and influence public understanding.

- [Episode 1 – Budget Justice and Fiscal Rules](#)
 - Examining the politics and implications of fiscal constraints. Read an overview of the discussion [here](#).
- Episode 2 – Social Justice and VAT
 - How VAT shapes inequality and what alternatives exist. Hosted with the Centre for Social Justice. Read the [CSJ-IEJ Joint Statement](#) on the South African Budget.
- [Episode 3 – Exclusion from the SRD Grant](#)
 - Unpacking widespread exclusion from South Africa's flagship social grant. Read the IEJ [research](#) that informed this discussion.
- [Episode 4 – Contestation and Possibility: Economic Policy in the GNU](#)
 - What the GNU means for progressive economic change. In collaboration with SMWX. Read an episode overview and supporting documents [here](#).
- [Episode 5 – Trump vs BRICS? Inside Global Tariff Chaos](#)
 - Unpacking Trump-era tariffs and their global consequences. In collaboration with SMWX. Read an overview and supporting documents [here](#).

- [Episode 6 – Social Grants Crisis](#)
 - Delays. Errors. Exclusion. Lives at risk. Why a basic income is urgent. Read the [concept note](#) that framed this discussion.
- [Episode 7 – Wealth Tax?](#)
 - Inequality, power, austerity—and why Treasury refuses to tax the rich. Read the [concept note](#) that set the agenda.
- [Episode 8 – Just Energy?](#)
 - Unpacking South Africa’s energy policy amid COP30, climate justice, the JET, coal, and Eskom. Read the concept note [here](#).
- [Episode 9 – G20 Summit](#)
 - Trump boycotts the G20: geopolitics, the debt crisis, food security, and foreign policy. Read the [concept note](#) that gave context to, and set the agenda for, this conversation.