



# POWERING THE GLOBAL MUTIRÃO:

A CALL TO CO-DESIGN MORE AND BETTER ENERGY SYSTEMS TOGETHER



“Beneath net zero lies the real challenge - redesigning energy systems for billions of lives and a healthy planet.”

**Angela Wilkinson,**  
Secretary General & CEO, World Energy Council

## MOVING FORWARD, TOGETHER

The world needs connection, coordination, and care. Energy systems support every aspect of modern, decent lives.

Where energy flows, civilisation grows. Yet today's systems encompass increasingly diverse regional realities and diverging technology pathways moving at different paces, shaped by different needs, rules, and starting points.

Energy is much more than a techno-economic optimisation task, it is the story of us all, and we need to write it together.

It is no longer a question of energy security or equity or sustainability. Energy additions and transitions are human challenges – how we refresh common sense, generate trust, learn across differences and collaborate without consensus.

In short: **what got us here will not get us where we need to go.**

The good news: many and new ways of collaborating are essential and already emerging. There is no shortage of technology or finance, the challenge is getting these to flow to where they will do most good.

## WHY THE GLOBAL MUTIRÃO MATTERS

The Brazilian Presidency's vision for COP30 – a Global Mutirão – is incredibly timely.

A mutirão is not a programme. It is a practice – people showing up, helping one another, and building what they value, side by side.

Markets can't do this alone. Command-and-control won't scale it. Real progress depends on participation, empathy, and shared purpose.

## THE TRUE SPIRIT IS OF ENERGY SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION:

- Work that is shared, not centralized.
- Knowledge that is situational, not standardised.
- Trust that is generated, not assumed.
- Sustaining collaboration with others.

## GROUNDING IN REALITY, POINTING TO POSSIBILITY

The World Energy Council connects more than 100 national communities as an open-to-all, actively neutral platform where business, government, innovators, and citizens meet as equals.

### WORLD ENERGY COUNCIL IN NUMBERS



**3000+**  
ORGANIZATIONS



**100+**  
COUNTRIES

## THE REALITY CHECK IS CLEAR

Energy affordability is a major concern globally, and frustration with institutions is rising, especially among young adults, over half of whom now see confrontational activism as a viable means to force change.

Yet youth and community actors remain under-engaged, even though they are the primary drivers of long-term legitimacy and adoption.

This is not a question of knowing *what* to do. This is a question of *how we learn and do it together*.

## THE CENTRAL CONSTRAINT IS NOW UNMISTAKABLE

The challenge is not invention, it is trust, agency, and belonging. Progress depends on participation, and participation depends on being seen.



**660+**

Million people worldwide still lack basic access to electricity



**44%**

Of people don't trust major institutions worldwide



**65%**

Of energy megaprojects are over budget or delayed

Sources: Sustainable Development Goals Report, 2025; Edelman Trust Barometer, 2025; Oxford University Study on Megaprojects, 2019.

## TWO COMPLEMENTARY FRAMEWORKS →

Together, they allow us to move from technology choices to co-designing societal transformations.

### WORLD ENERGY TRILEMMA

Grounds us in reality, balancing security, equity, and sustainability.

### WORLD ENERGY COMPASS

Points to possibility – guided by resilience, circularity, and the ambition of a better future for all.

## FROM MOMENTUM TO COLLABORATION

Across the World Energy Council community the *mutirão* spirit is already alive – in women entrepreneurs, youth innovators, indigenous leaders, cities, and communities. The action is happening everywhere. The learning needs to be better connected.

The **27th World Energy Congress**, taking place in Riyadh from 12-15 October 2026, will be another pivotal moment to connect, share, reflect and reshape more and better energy futures together.

## LET'S CREATE CONFLUENCE.

Let's make energy systems a story about all of us, built on empathy, imagination, and trust.

Keep in touch. Get more engaged.

CONNECT FOR IMPACT