

## **Editor's Note by Nandika Karunakaram.**

In this edition, we bring together three essays that critically explore the governance of the green transition, highlighting how climate policy, sustainability standards, and economic instruments shape power, equity, and environmental outcomes across national and global contexts.

The first essay, *The Need for a Unified Carbon Tax System*, interrogates the United Kingdom's fragmented environmental taxation framework in the post-Brexit era. The author examines how the uneven taxing system can have an impact across sectors and households has an impact on economic and social fairness. Taking inspiration from Sweden and Canada on the uniform tax policies alongside progressive revenue recycling, positioning fiscal coherence as central to a credible and equitable net-zero strategy.

The second contribution, *Regulatory Gatekeeping and Geopolitical Power: How Green Classifications Reshape Energy Security and Conflict Dynamics*, shifts the focus to the international political economy of decarbonisation. This essay focuses on critically analysing regulatory tools like green standards and taxation policies, revealing how they act as a mere tool for reinforcing political power. Utilising case studies from Africa, Latin America, China, and Venezuela, the author highlights the tensions between environmental integrity, development, and security, and calls for more inclusive and transparent global standard-setting.

The final essay, *Greening the Common Agricultural Policy: A Framework for Biodiversity Governance and Sustainable Agriculture*, discusses one of the European Union's most influential policy regimes. While acknowledging the CAP's success in ensuring food security and farmer income support, the essay assesses its role in driving biodiversity loss and environmental degradation. It argues for a reorientation of agricultural governance towards outcome-based, ecologically grounded mechanisms that better align climate, biodiversity, and social objectives within the EU's agrifood system.

These essays underscore a central theme: the green transition is not merely a technical challenge, but a deeply political and distributive process. Whether through taxation, regulatory standards, or subsidy regimes, climate policies embed choices about who bears costs, who captures benefits, and whose priorities are reflected in the rules that govern sustainability. We hope this collection contributes to a more critical and inclusive dialogue on how environmental governance can be designed to support both ecological resilience and social justice..

*Nandika Karunakaram.*