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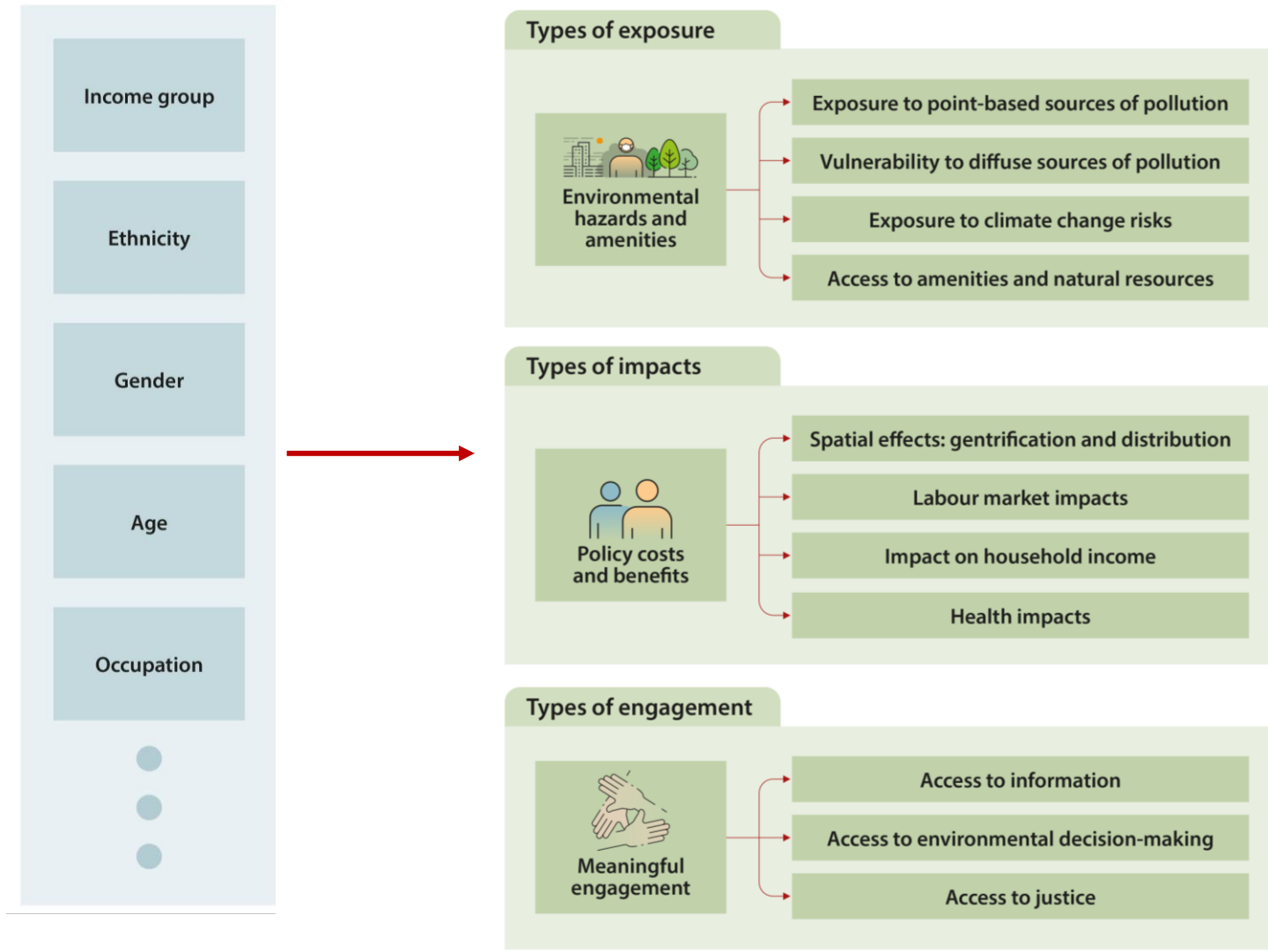


Scope of the report

- I. Examine the plurality of the concept of Environmental Justice (EJ), building blocks and underlying causal mechanisms
- II. Review how EJ concerns have emerged in different contexts around the world
- III. First of its kind policy stocktake of how governments across the OECD and beyond are identifying, assessing and addressing EJ



I. Three sets of outcomes... mediated by socio-economic variables





II. Environmental justice conflicts are global



North America



- Triggered by evidence of disproportionate exposure of racial minorities to toxic waste in the US (1980s)
- Scope gradually expanded to include exposure to air, water and noise pollution
- More recent activism in Canada, e.g. on water contamination and exposure to mercury in First Nations and other communities

Latin America



- Disproportionate **impact of industrial pollution** on marginalised communities (“sacrifice zones” in Chile; export oriented industrial parks in Mexico)
- Exposure of **informal settlements** to **natural and man-made hazards**
- Emphasis on **regional cooperation**, rights to access to information, participation and legal recourse, leading to the **Escazú Agreement (2018)**

Europe



- Environmental health disparities, links to economic deprivation; less emphasis on ethnicity/race
- Aarhus Convention (1998) rights to access to information, participation and legal recourse
- More recent, widespread social concerns about the “just transition”

Africa



- Concerns over disproportionate impacts of **resource extraction**, electronic waste
- Attention to EJ specifically in **South Africa** since the late 1980s against the backdrop of the struggle against apartheid
- **Recognition of environmental rights** in the 1994 Bill of Rights, adopted in the new Constitution in 1996

Asia-Pacific



- Generally not a widely used concept
- Chemical accidents - Bhopal gas tragedy (1984)
- Explicit focus on EJ in Korea, spurred by concerns of unequal access to safe drinking water in the 1990s
- EJ aspects reflected in initiatives like culturally informed approach to policy in New Zealand



III. The OECD Environmental Justice Survey

Approaches to Environmental Justice

- Usage of the term
- Identification of groups and communities at risk
- Regional considerations

Assessment and Data

- Tools and methodologies
- Data and methodology challenges

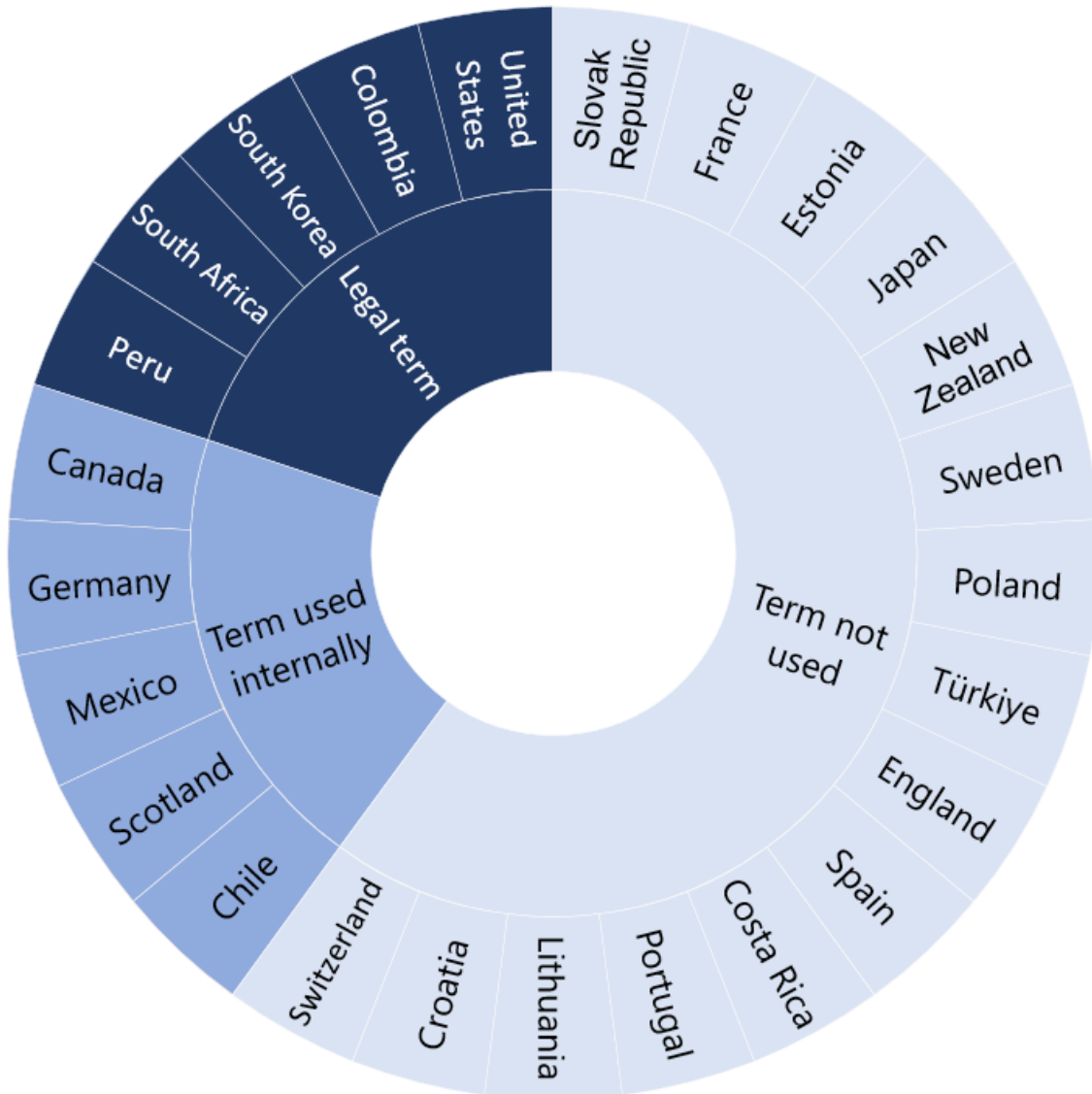
Policy Measures for Environmental Justice

- Policy focus and levers
- Challenges in implementation

- Responses received from 22 OECD members, the EC and 3 non-member countries



Few countries address EJ directly, many do so indirectly



Legal approach

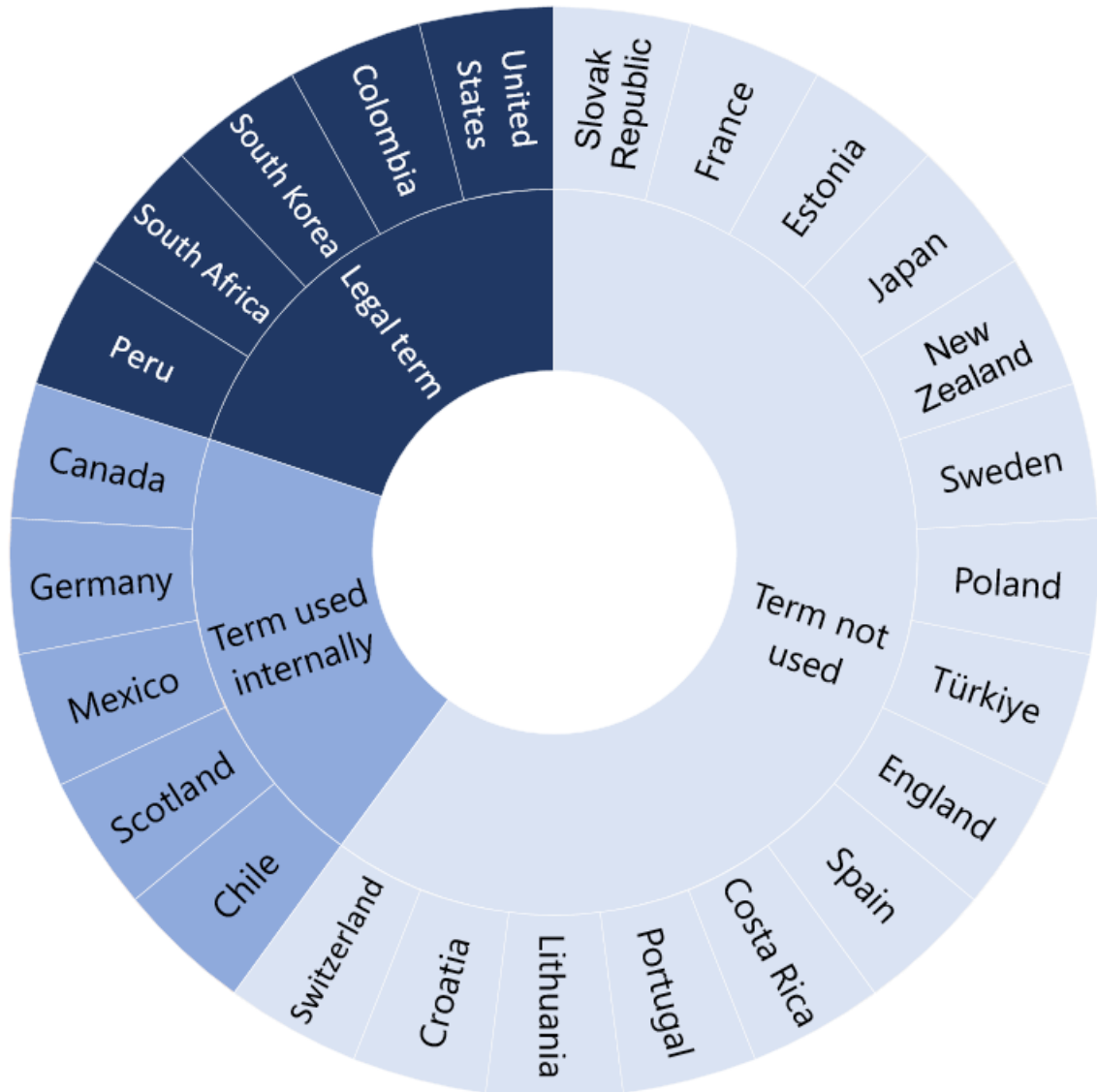
- United States: Executive Orders 12898 (1994) and 14096 (2023)
- Colombia: EJ defined in the rulings of the Constitutional Court
- South Korea: EJ referenced in the Framework Act on Environmental Policy (2019)

Term used in policies and initiatives

- Canada: Draft legislation on EJ and environmental racism
- Germany: Policy research and toolbox on enhancing EJ in municipalities
- Scotland: Reports and public consultations on EJ



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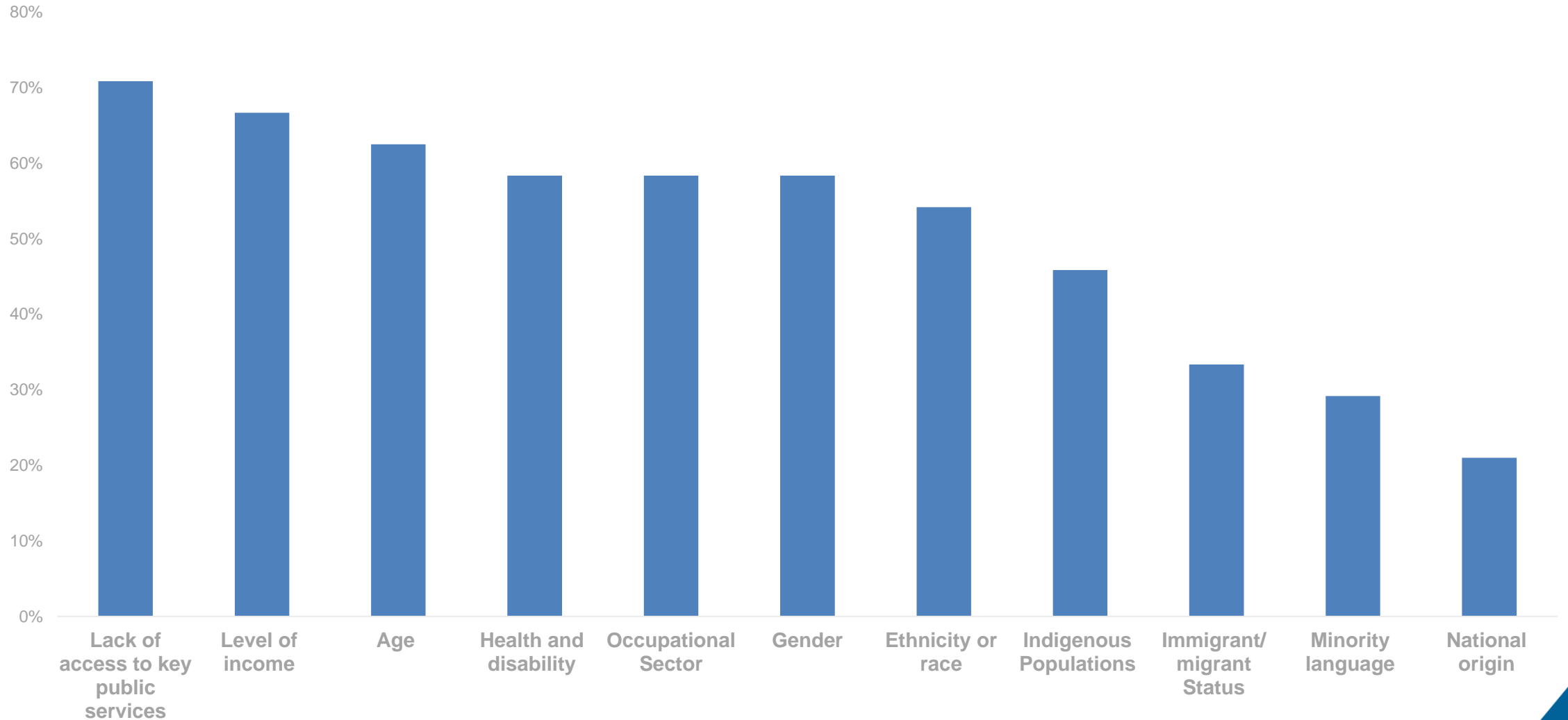


EJ addressed indirectly

- England: Added protection for vulnerable groups through anti-discrimination law
- Croatia: Right to a healthy environment guaranteed in the Constitution
- New Zealand: Safeguards for vulnerable groups in regulatory impact analysis

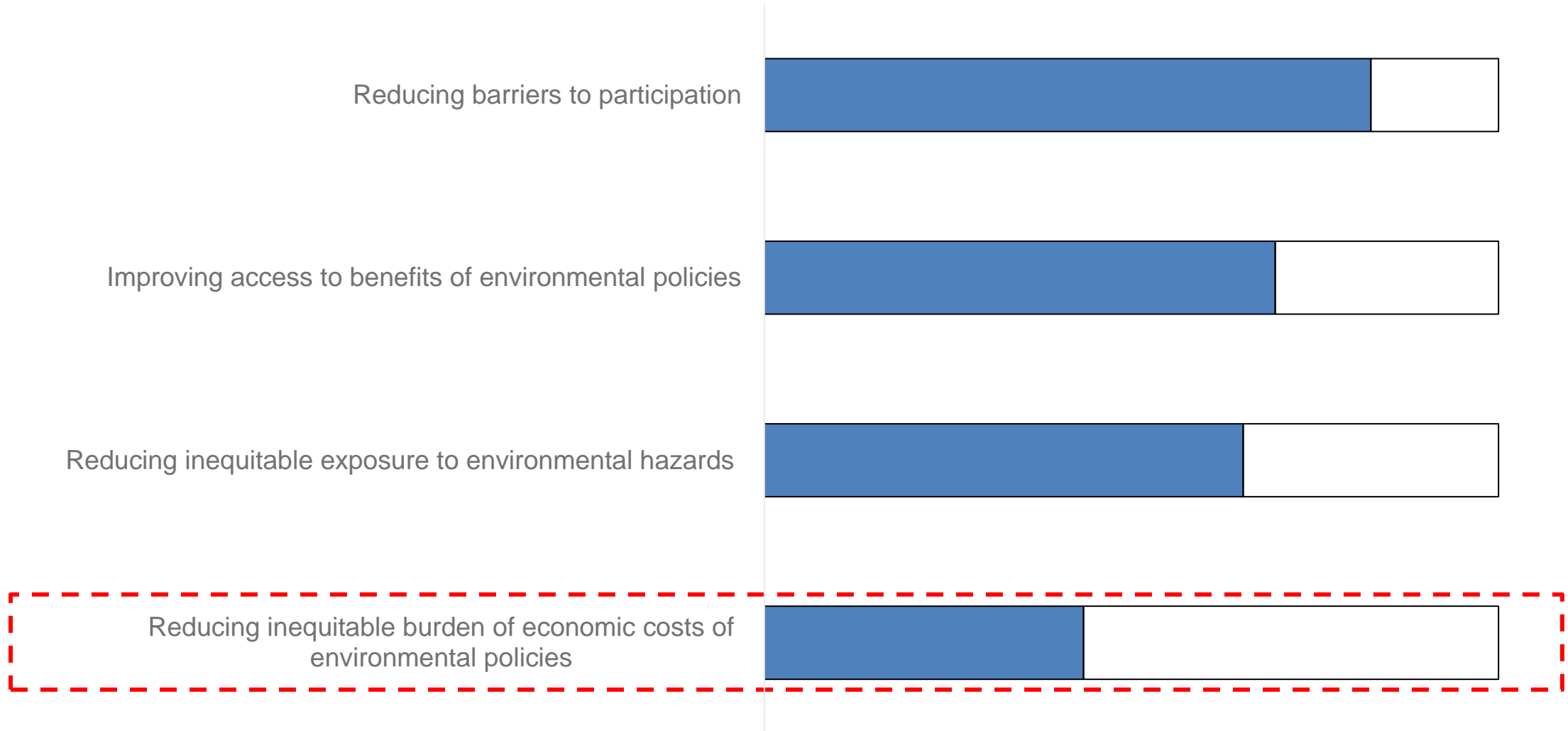


Key characteristics to identify vulnerable groups and communities








Focus of measures to address EJ concerns vary



Consideration of three building blocks of EJ by countries

		Environmental Justice			
		 Inequitable exposure to environmental hazards and access to amenities	 Inequitable distribution of the costs and benefits of environmental policy	 Barriers to environmental information and participation in decision-making	
Direct	Legal	United States	●	●	●
		Colombia	●	●	●
		South Africa	●	●	●
		South Korea	●	●	●
		Peru	●	●	●
	Policy and initiative	Canada	●	●	●
		Mexico	●	○	●
		Chile	●	●	●
		Scotland (United Kingdom)	●	●	●
		Germany	●	○	●
Indirect	Added protection and safeguards	France	●	●	●
		New Zealand	●	●	●
		Switzerland	●	●	●
		England (United Kingdom)	●	●	●
	Guarantee of rights	Japan	●	●	●
		Sweden	●	●	●
		Poland	●	●	●
		Portugal	●	●	●
		Costa Rica	●	○	●
		Spain	○	●	●
		Estonia	●	○	●
		Croatia	●	○	●
		Lithuania	○	●	●
		Slovak Republic	○	●	○

● Detailed consideration
 ● General consideration
 ○ No consideration



IV. Final remarks

- Diverse approaches to address EJ are being used, regardless of terminology
- However, even countries with the most sophisticated frameworks still face persistent challenges to address “traditional” EJ 1.0 concerns
- A new generation of EJ 2.0 challenges requires urgent global attention (yellow vests movement, protests against lithium mining, renewables expansion)
- There is value in mutual learning to propel progress



Thank you

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