



# Global Coalition for **SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOORS**

## **GLOBAL COALITION FOR SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOORS**

### **Terms of Reference**

#### **Background and Guiding Principles**

The concept of Social Protection Floors are expressed in Recommendation 202<sup>1</sup> of the International Labour Organization (ILO) on national floors of social protection. The recommendations was adopted unanimously by all ILO MS in 2012. Its core provisions are: access to a nationally defined set of goods and services, constituting:

- (a) essential health care, including maternity care, that meets the criteria of availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality;
- (b) basic income security for children, at least at a nationally defined minimum level, providing access to nutrition, education, care and any other necessary goods and services;
- (c) basic income security, at least at a nationally defined minimum level, for persons in active age who are unable to earn sufficient income, in particular in cases of sickness, unemployment, maternity and disability; and
- (d) basic income security, at least at a nationally defined minimum level, for older persons.

The recommendation goes on to provide that:

- (1) Members should formulate and implement national social security extension strategies, based on national consultations through effective social dialogue and social participation, (and that) national strategies should:
  - (a) prioritize the implementation of social protection floors as a starting point for countries that do not have a minimum level of social security guarantees, and as a fundamental element of their national social security systems; and
  - (b) seek to provide higher levels of protection to as many people as possible, reflecting economic and fiscal capacities of Members, and as soon as possible.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100\\_INSTRUMENT\\_ID:3065524](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_INSTRUMENT_ID:3065524)

- (2) For this purpose, Members should progressively build and maintain comprehensive and adequate social security systems coherent with national policy objectives and seek to coordinate social security policies with other public policies.

Social protection floors are universal and human rights-based. The Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors (Coalition<sup>2</sup>) was formed in June 2012 by NGOs, other CSOs and Trade Unions to promote the implementation of Recommendation 202, as it is a key tool to achieve universal provision of economic and social security through basic guarantees on income and essential social services throughout the life course. These strategies are underpinned by concerted financing commitments, most notably those enshrined in Addis Ababa Action Agenda (eg. Paragraph 12), to provide coordinated modalities internationally for sustainable national systems. Such guarantees reduce vulnerabilities, risks and deprivation, and enhance the capacities and resilience of all people, particularly those living in poverty / facing multiple deprivations.

The objective of universal, human rights-based, social protection is embedded in numerous international laws and agreements, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as well as the ILO Convention 102 on Social Security, and the ILO Social Protection Floors Recommendation No. 202. The UN Sustainable Development Goals affirm States' commitment to social protection floors. Extending social protection is also a declared objective of the Global Partnership on Universal Social Protection, bringing together the World Bank, ILO, OECD, African Union, IADB and numerous other stakeholders.

In its work, the Coalition embraces the principles of inclusivity, solidarity, non-discrimination, gender equality, openness and transparency, fostering a supportive team environment to achieve the shared objectives.

### **Vision**

Promoting the implementation of social protection floors and the extension of social protection to all.

### **Mission**

Working strategically, collaboratively and in spirit of global solidarity, to provide a space and virtual platform for coalition members united by the common purpose of promoting the extension of social protection floors and systems.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.socialprotectionfloorscoalition.org/>

## **Goals**

- Strategically influence and have dialogue with the United Nations, Specialized Agencies, Member States and civil society working within the remit of various intergovernmental organs to encourage debate and positive action on human rights-based social protection floors and social protection systems through collective actions;
- Coordinate initiatives and activities at all levels, national, regional and international, enhancing the effectiveness of collective political strategy aimed at universal human rights-based social protections floors and social protection;
- Foster the formation of and cooperation between inclusive national and regional coalitions aimed at promoting the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of human rights-based social protection floors and social protections systems;
- Raise the visibility of research by civil society organizations promoting inclusive, rights-based social protection floors and social protection systems to inform national and global policy discussions; and
- Strengthen collaboration between NGOs , other civil society organizations, trade unions and other stakeholders to promote human rights-based social protection floors and social protection systems by creating a platform for learning experience and exchanges.

## **Members/Composition**

The Coalition is constituted by NGOs, other CSOs and Trade Unions, which agree to the Coalition vision and goals. Individuals with established credentials and experience in the field of social protection may become individual members at the discretion of the core group.

All members are invited to contribute to the goals of the Global Coalition by engaging in its tasks. These include information sharing, participation in its working groups, and the development of position statements, policy papers, publications, media communications and other relevant materials.

Prospective members interested in joining the Coalition may submit a letter of application to the focal point, who is responsible for informing the core team of the application. The applicant becomes member by the approval of the core team. The application is considered adopted in the absence of any explicit reservations or objections by core team members communicated to the focal point within ten days. The focal point informs the applicant and the wider membership and keeps a record of all members.

Membership in the Coalition constitutes a de facto endorsement of coalition positions unless the member expresses explicit dissent. Membership in the coalition does not, however, constitute an endorsement by the Coalition of any position that

may be taken by the individual member or by the member organization unless such position is explicitly endorsed by the entire Coalition. Members who violate the coalition's principles can lose their membership after being heard and a decision taken by consensus by the core team members.

Members wishing to withdraw from the Coalition for any reason may do so at any time by sending a letter to the focal point informing her or him of such decision.

### **Global focal point and core group responsibilities**

The Coalition will operate within a worldwide network structure, without establishing formal headquarters, and supported by a global focal point.

The global focal point provides all members with information and support pertinent for the activities of the Coalition, supports and has oversight of its website, mailing lists and social media, and is a member of the core group.

Coalition members who are qualified and willing to contribute effectively to the realization of the Coalition's goals may put themselves forward for membership of the the core group. A diverse and regionally-balanced representation in the core group is desirable. Core group membership brings with it an expectation to take an active part on the coalition, alongside an obligation to participate in one or more working groups according to the members particular interest and expertise in a specific social protection theme. Membership and engagement of those in the core group will be reviewed on a regular basis.

The core group should normally consist of between five and twenty five coalition members. Prospective members of the core group must write to the global focal point requesting to become a member. The existing core group members then make a decision through consensus as to new members joining the group. Core group members can express their approval in writing to the global focal point or by simply not stating any disapproval within ten days after having received the member's proposal to join the core group.

In the annual core team meetings a maximum of two representatives per organization is allowed. The number can only be increased by agreement of the core team members.

Core group members' main responsibilities include:

- Active involvement in the work plan and the Coalitions' working groups
- Engagement in actions prepared for the consideration and endorsement by the Coalition
- Review of all draft documentation that is produced by the Coalition
- Planning and strategizing for upcoming policy and research activities (e.g. in annual meetings or otherwise)

Each member of the core group retains the right to leave this group at any time, notably if circumstances prevent their effective involvement in planning and implementation of the Coalition's activities.

All members are welcome to offer their expertise and to the activities of the core group. To achieve the desired diversity and to strengthen its membership, the core group may decide to invite contributions of those member organizations or individuals with particular expertise on a specific social protection theme.

At any time any organization or individual who is a Coalition member may propose membership of the core group by application via the global focal point.

## **Decision**

A consensus-based decision-making model is the preferred method of work of the Coalition and of the core group.

In order to ensure the Coalition's aims, fundamental **decisions**<sup>3</sup> must be taken by the entire membership. In order to take a fundamental decision, information about the issue under consideration shall be sent by email by the global focal point to all members. The decision is considered adopted in the absence of any explicit reservations or objections communicated to the global focal point within ten working days from circulation of the proposal to the entire Coalition membership. In the case of time-sensitive decisions, the deadline may be shortened.

In the case that a Member expresses such a reservation or objection to an official position/action proposed for the Coalition, efforts will be made to address the concerns raised. If they cannot be addressed, the dissenting opinion will be recorded. In this case, only those members who would like to support the position/action will be the signatories.

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<sup>3</sup> Fundamental decisions include, for example, the decision to launch of a campaign, or the call for signatory of a joint statement action in the name of the Coalition.