**CSO SURVEY REGARDING ENGAGEMENT**

**ON INTERNATIONAL FINANCING OF COVID-19 RESPONSE**

As we are now in the midst of the devastating COVID-19 Pandemic, more political attention is being paid to strengthening social protection cash transfers and public health systems as necessary priorities.

A year ago, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) adopted a new policy on social spending in which the Fund committed to pay more attention to helping member countries reach adequate, efficient and sustainable social spending, including social protection, and to this end IMF would engage more with civil society in its member countries. We think that other international financial institutions, such as the World Bank, should also deepen their interactions with civil society on social protection in this time of crisis and beyond.

The GCSPF Core Team is thus interested in gathering information on the experiences of our members regarding improvements (or not) in civil society engagement with the IMF thus far on boosting social protection expenditures, especially floors, in current national anti-crisis programs, as well as with the World Bank and other international agencies.

The IMF has delivered over $20 billion recently in rapid disbursement loans to member countries, and forgiven debt servicing owed this year to IMF by over 25 countries. The World Bank has started a program of “fast track” approval over 15 months of up to $160 billion in crisis-related loans and grants. The United Nations and other agencies are deploying additional, albeit smaller, amounts.

While initial programs have been quickly devised, they are mainly short term. Recovery will take much time and additional programs will have to be developed and financed, we may hope, in an effectively inclusive way.

Please respond to the questions below to send us information on your national experiences thus far. Please respond as fully as you can. We think that your experiences will be valuable to the GCSPF community.

Your answers could facilitate comparison of national-level activities that may be particularly useful for advocacy work by members, and for follow-up with IMF and other institutions. We will compile the responses into a report back to members of the GCSPF.

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1. Please give the name of the organization/civil society coalition/trade union responding to the questionnaire, and the country (countries) where you are active:

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2. Please describe the activities of your organization or civil society coalition, including in response to the COVID-19 crisis, and in relation to:

a) Areas of Social Protection and Social Protection Floors, broadly speaking;

b) Engagement with the government with respect to social protection and social protection floors;

c) Engagement with parliamentarians with respect to social protection and social protection floors;

d) Engagement with institutional entities (IMF, ILO, UNICEF, EU, other [please specify]) with respect to social protection and social protection floors.

3. a) If you included the IMF in your response to 2d) above, please indicate whether your organization or civil society coalition has engaged with the IMF in your country since it adopted its new policy on social spending in 2019.

YES\_\_\_\_\_\_\_NO\_\_\_\_\_\_

b) If yes, please describe these engagements and their outcomes.

4.a) If you answered "YES" to question 3a) above: Has your organization or civil society coalition engaged specifically with the IMF on policy and programs to boost social protection expenditures, especially floors, and/or their financing in current national anti-crisis programs?

YES\_\_\_\_\_\_\_NO\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. b) If yes, please describe these engagements and their outcomes.

5. How do you assess the potential for initiating or stepping up engagement and advocacy, at various levels, with a view to boosting SPF expenditures?

a) with the national government

b) with parliamentarians

c) with the IMF

d) with other institutional entities (ILO, UNICEF, EU, other [please specify])

6. What do you see as priority areas that should be addressed?

7. Please share additional thoughts on these matters that you think might be useful to the GCSPF community.

8. Please state whether we might post all of the information provided on our webpage, or specify whether there is information you wish to exclude from the public domain.

**We would appreciate receiving your responses by October 1st, 2020.**

Thank you on behalf of the Core Team of GCSPF,

Gemma Adaba and Barry Herman

Social Justice in Global Development

**Please send your email communication (including your own contact information) to:
Ana Claudia Zeballos -** **anaclau@item.org.uy** **and,**

**Barry Herman -** **herman@socdevjustice.org****.**