



## Global Coalition for SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOORS

### **"End poverty in all its forms everywhere: Implement social protection by 2030"**

Do we need to be disappointed? As there is no stand-alone goal calling for universal rights-based social protection floors among the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). No, we should be proud!

The SDGs preparatory process provided a new impetus to the social protection discourse worldwide. More and more governments are coming up with innovative social protection schemes. More and more international agencies are cooperating in this area, trying to avoid duplication of efforts, improve effectiveness of their policy advice on the ground and help people who need assistance and support.

The key premise of the SDGs—“leave no one behind” resonates well with aspirations of the members of our Global Coalition. We know that SPF-oriented efforts will not fade away from the international and national agendas.

In five of the seventeen SDGs, social protection is embedded as a key component for the implementation of the goals: *1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable; 3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all; 5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate; 8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value; 10.4 Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality.*

The 2030 Agenda is not simply another international document full of lofty goals and nice words - written for experts and diplomats. These goals are “a charter for people and planet in the twenty-first century” as stated in the resolution. The stakes are too high to ignore the existing challenges.

At the *Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors* we are ready to join forces to ensure that the prescribed “journey is successful and its gains irreversible”. Today, the SDGs may be nothing more than a noble dream of making our world a better place. But much depends on us, on our vision, our commitment and our perseverance. So the implementation of universal rights-based social protection floors is crucial in making the journey a success.

Without the SPF guarantees, “fostering social inclusion” will be impossible. Without social protection floors, “dynamic, sustainable, innovative and people-centred economies” will not be possible. Without social protection floors, we will not succeed in “ending poverty”... in all its forms.

Social protection floors could be considered a linchpin and navigation system for this journey. The direction is clear. “Billions of our citizens (...) continue to live in poverty and are

denied a life in dignity". We, the *Global Coalition*, want this to change and only with universal and rights-based social protection floors will this change be possible.

With global and regional support social protection floors must be implemented in particular at the national and the local level. They must be implemented in all countries, in least-developed and developing countries, in landlocked countries, in island countries, in middle-income countries and in developed countries. No one should be left behind.

Will social protection floors be implemented automatically? No, they will not.

We need to ensure that governments take real actions.

We need to lobby and press governments to provide the necessary financial resources. We know these resources *are* available and make social protection floors affordable. After all policy trade-offs are based on political decisions.

We need to ensure that social protection floors are administered in an efficient and effective way; designed to be easily accessible for all those in need and be comprehensive.

We need to ensure that everyone providing social and related services including care are well educated and adequately equipped through public funding and not dependent on mere good will gestures.

We need to make every effort that governments implement social protection floors in a participatory manner. It would be too much to ask government officials to be aware of all the stumbling blocks of people in need. People in need must have access to decision-makers, either directly or through an appropriate representation of their interests. Without this access, social protection floors will fail to achieve their targets.

We need to ensure that governments put social protection floors at the heart of their overall policy. Social protection floors must not be exclusively supported by social security focus and expertise. They must be embedded in all policy areas.

We need to ensure that social protection floors are not perceived to be a drain antagonistic to dynamic and sustainable economic development, but are understood as a complementary economic, social and human necessity. Economic and social development go hand-in-hand and neither of them can succeed without the other.

We need to ensure that universal and human rights-based social protection floors are effectively implemented - within the context of a coherent framework of social, economic and environmental policies rather than as isolated and individual social policy programmes. Universality is also key to ensure social protection for all in need, without discrimination.

Will we have universal and human rights based Social Protection Floors by 2030?

We do not know. But we hope that we achieve this goal.

What we do know is that the *Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors* will not let this unique chance pass without making every effort "to succeed in ending poverty" in ALL its forms.

We are bound to monitor the progress on National Social Protection Floors.

We will not ever cease to remind governments of their promises and make them accountable.

We will demand action wherever and whenever necessary.