



# **Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors Narrative Report January 2018 – October 2019**

## [Contents](#)

I.	KEY AREAS OF WORK .....	2
A.	Advocacy impact.....	2
B.	Statements .....	7
C.	Publications .....	8
D.	Future advocacy at country level .....	9
II.	STRENGTHENING GCSPF.....	10
A.	Membership .....	10
B.	Secretariat .....	10
C.	Meetings.....	11
D.	Terms of Reference .....	12
E.	Information and communications.....	12
	ANNEX.....	13

## I. KEY AREAS OF WORK

The main activities in the period included advocacy for social protection floors at global and regional political forums, disseminating position statements and research reports, and preparing for an advocacy project in selected developing countries which will be carried out in 2020-2023.

### *A. Advocacy impact*

During this period the GCSPF maintained its presence as an active participant in several international policy-making processes, including intergovernmental fora.

#### **a) United Nations Commission for Social Development**

The Commission for Social Development (CSocD)—tracing its roots to the United Nations Social Commission, founded in 1946—advises the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on a range of social policy matters that the Council might act upon. Members of the GCSPF participated in various activities of the fifty-sixth session (29 January – 7 February 2018) and the fifty-seventh session (11 – 21 February 2019) of CSocD, each of which was held at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

- 1) The side event “Social Protection Floors as Key Tool for Eradicating Poverty: Best Practices and Strategies for the Future” organized by the International Movement ATD Fourth World in partnership with the GCSPF, Bread for the World, the International Trade Union Confederation and the NGO Committee on Social Development was held on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018. The invitation is [here](#), further information is [here](#) and a more detailed summary is [here](#).
- 2) As part of its advocacy at CSocD56 and as a follow-up of the GCSPF strategy meeting held earlier in Kenya, a letter to the Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Labour, Social Services and East African Affairs, Ms. Susan Mochache, was sent on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2018. The letter requested that her government support the initiative for a Resolution of ECOSOC on social protection floors and the eradication of poverty. Read the letter [here](#). Much of the language proposed by civil society in New York was included in the resolution adopted by ECOSOC on the recommendation of CSocD56, titled “Strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all” (2018/5). See the resolution [here](#).
- 3) The side event “Leaving No Child Behind: toward greater synergy between social protection and child protection systems” co-organized by the International Movement ATD Fourth World, SOS Children’s Villages, UNICEF, the Global Coalition to End Child Poverty, and the GCSPF was held on 14 February 2019. The side event explored how to strengthen the links between child protection and social protection in a way that is more supportive of family-based and community-based responses. It also addressed the prevention of violence, including institutional violence. The flyer is [here](#) and the concept note is [here](#).
- 4) The side event “Accountability dimension: social protection as a tool for the reduction of inequalities” was organized both to discuss emerging challenges on social protection as a tool for the reduction of inequalities and to look at both conceptual issues and practical solutions. The presenters explored the accountability dimension in designing and delivering social protection schemes; the links between social protection and human rights in reducing inequalities; and the role of civil society in social protection accountability monitoring. This side event was sponsored by the GCSPF and co-organized by SOSTE, the Finnish Federation for Social

Affairs and Health, The International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW), the International Association of the Schools of Social Work (IASSW), the African Platform for Social Protection (APSP), UNESCO-MOST, and the Centre for Economic and Social Rights (CESR) and it was held on 14 February 2019. The report is [here](#), the flyer is [here](#) and the concept note is [here](#).

## **b) United Nations Commission on the Status of Women**

Members of the Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors participated in the 63<sup>rd</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW63) that took place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 11 to 22 March 2019. The Priority Theme for the 2019 Session was social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and the review theme was women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development.

- 1) The GCSPF submitted a written statement that called attention to how social protection systems in many countries do not reach most workers, especially those in informal employment. Social protection systems have been designed around a male breadwinner model, assuming an uninterrupted and full-time career in the formal economy. This tends to penalize women, who are lower paid, disproportionately represented in precarious and informal work, and shoulder most unpaid care, resulting in substantially lower coverage rates and benefit levels. The Statement is [here](#).

## **c) United Nations Forum on Financing for Development Follow-up**

Members of GCSPF have participated in discussions and lobbying at the ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development (FfD) Follow-up, which continues intergovernmental discussions and monitors implementation of the 2015 Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development.

- 1) The side event "Domestic and International Financial Instruments for Universal Social Protection" co-organized by the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway (MFA), the Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany (BMZ), the Permanent Mission to the UN of Mongolia, the GCSPF, the NGO Committee on Financing for Development (NGOsonFfD) and Action by Churches Together (ACT) Alliance was held on 23 April 2018 at the UNHQ during the 2018 ECOSOC Forum. The video with the intervention "Protecting social protection floor spending in times of economic crisis" by Barry Herman on behalf of the GCSPF is [here](#). The webcast of the event is available [here](#).
- 2) The negotiated outcome document of the 2019 FfD Forum, as usual a comprehensive review of the broad scope of FfD, renewed its endorsement of social protection as members of GCSPF have advocated and that had been contained in the Addis Agenda and reflected in the 2017 outcome document. In particular, the agreed text, adopted by consensus, said "We emphasize the importance of ensuring that social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, are consistent with national development strategies, well designed, efficiently operated, responsive to shocks and sustainable in the long term" (E/FFDF/2019/3, para. 9 of section I), available [here](#).

#### **d) High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development**

The High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development is convened annually under the auspices of ECOSOC to monitor and follow up on the United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development, which contains the sustainable development goals (SDGs). The 2018 session was held from 9 -18 July 2018 under the theme of “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies”. The 2019 session was held from 9 -18 July 2019 under the theme “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”. GCSPF members participated in various events at HLPF.

- 1) The Report *Spotlight on Sustainable Development 2018* was launched at a side event “Conversation with authors of Spotlight on Sustainable Development 2018”. The GCSPF and several members of the Global Coalition contributed to the Spotlight Report. The chapter on SDG 1 “Mobilize the financial means for social protection systems for all” is available in English [here](#) and in Spanish [here](#).
- 2) The Policy Brief “Social Protection: an essential building block to reduce inequality” was released by the Global Coalition on 3 July 2019 in the context of HLPF. Reducing inequalities is important for development because the adverse impacts of high inequality undermine efforts to overcome poverty. Inequality endangers social cohesion and peace, it negatively affects economic, social and political participation and undermines trust in institutions. Social protection and its progressive financing are essential pillars for achieving the SDGs, and in particular SDG 10 that aims to reduce inequality within and between countries. Building them requires concerted efforts. The Policy Brief is [here](#).
- 3) The GCSPF contributed to the Report *Spotlight on Sustainable Development 2019* with an article on SDG 1 entitled “Applying human rights standards for the governance of social protection will unleash its transformative potential”. The article by Sylvia Beales and Nicola Wiebe includes contributions of members of the coalition and it is available [here](#). The report was launched during the High-Level Political Forum in July 2019.

#### **e) International Labour Organization**

The GCSPF looks to the leadership of the International Labour Organization (ILO) as the primary international forum—indeed, the only tripartite forum of representatives of governments, employers and workers—for developing the concepts and standards of social protection and the social protection floor, as through its recommendation 202, adopted in 2012. Trade union members of GCSPF regularly participate as delegates to ILO meetings while CSO members may engage in consultation with ILO. Specific activities are noted below, as well as engagement with the ILO and World Bank initiative called USP 2030 (see following forum).

- 1) Odile Frank participated on behalf of the Global Coalition in the panel discussion at the workshop “Tripartism plus: Rethinking Social Dialogue in times of Globalization and Information.” The workshop was held in conjunction with the 107<sup>th</sup> Session of the International Labour Conference in Switzerland on 30 May 2018. The flyer is [here](#).
- 2) The statement “The legal, political, economic and moral imperatives to finance social protection for all” was launched as the position of the Global Coalition on financing Social Protection on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the International Labour Organization (ILO), on Thursday, 11 April, 2019. The statement is [here](#).

#### **f) Global Partnership for Universal Social Protection (USP 2030)**

In 2016 ILO and the World Bank launched the Global Partnership for Universal Social Protection as a joint effort to mobilize states and their stakeholders and relevant international organizations to work toward universal access of all in need to adequate social protection by 2030 (see [www.USP2030.org](http://www.USP2030.org)). According to its website, USP 2030 has 30 members, including governments, international institutions and civil society and labour organizations. USP 2030 grew out of the activities of a group of donor agencies that meet as the Social Protection Interagency Cooperation Board (SPIAC-B), also co-led by ILO and the World Bank. Members of GCSPF have been participating in meetings, conferences and conference calls related to USP 2030 throughout 2018 and 2019. Indeed, GCSPF was invited to join the Interim Steering Committee.

- 1) The Side Event “Universal Social Protection: Towards a Partnership for All” organized by Germany and co-sponsored by Finland, ILO and the World Bank together with the GCSPF was held on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018 at the UN in New York. The GCSPF presented a statement and expressed that the social dimensions of development have to be strengthened and that the Global Coalition will contribute to that goal of the Global Partnership. It is an important step that two strong global players—the World Bank and ILO—committed to this joint initiative and agreed to focus on a universal approach seeking to overcome exclusion and fragmentation of programmes, ensuring social protection systems that leave no one behind and contributing to cohesive societies. The Global Coalition insisted on the importance of the rights-based approach in this endeavour. Download [here](#) the flyer and [here](#) the agenda of the event. The statement is [here](#) and further information is available [here](#).
- 2) Members of the Global Coalition then participated in the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of SPIAC-B, which was held on 1 February 2018 at the United Nations in New York.
- 3) On 4<sup>th</sup> February 2019, during an informal meeting organized by GCSPF in Geneva, some members held an informal exchange to discuss the continued membership of the GCSPF in USP 2030. There was a rather clear consensus to remain part of USP 2030. For the time being, Bröt für die Welt and WSM (We Social Movements) represent GCSPF in the Interim Steering Committee. The Core Team supported the idea to be part of the interim steering committee, hoping that important pending issues will be clarified taking into account our views and contributions (e.g. governance structure, principles, objectives, way forward towards implementation). The decision was that at a later stage it would be decided if the Global Coalition would like to become a full member/partner of USP2030. Meanwhile, the Global Coalition participates in the Interim Steering Committee to contribute to shaping the initiative and would later take a formal decision regarding our membership. The notes are [here](#).
- 4) The USP2030 High-Level Conference organized by the EU and USP2030 partnership was then held on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2019 at ILO in Geneva. As member of the Interim Steering Committee for USP2030, the Global Coalition gave a statement during the Conference. The statement is [here](#).

#### **g) International Monetary Fund and the World Bank**

As may be inferred from the above, the World Bank has been an important international provider of advice and loans on social protection, albeit with a somewhat different perspective than that of ILO. In addition, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has impacted government social protection programmes through its mandated oversight of national macroeconomic situations and through the terms for correction of macroeconomic

imbalances, usually involving austerity that often threatened social protection expenditures. Both institutions have thus been important international forums for discussion of social protection policies.

Members of GCSPF have sought to influence the institutions through participation in the semi-annual Civil Society Forums that are held before the ministerial meetings of both institutions. In addition, as IMF felt impelled to revisit its influence on social protection, especially in developing countries, GCSPF was invited to participate in the deliberations that went into a revised statement of IMF principles regarding social spending (see following item).

- 1) A panel session called “Financing Universal Social Protection to promote inclusive development and reduce inequality” was co-organized by ILO, GCSPF, ACT Alliance, and the NGO Committee on Financing for Development (NGOsonFfD) was held on 18 April 2018 in Washington at the World Bank and IMF 2018 Spring Meetings. Notes and further information are available [here](#).
- 2) On 18 October 2019 at the IMF in Washington, Barry Herman spoke on behalf of GCSPF at a session of the CSO Forum at the Annual Meetings of IMF and the World Bank. The theme was “How to change IMF’s austerity policy and prevent cuts of social protection floors during crises,” organized by the World Council of Churches (WCC), ACT Alliance and Brot für die Welt, with additional speakers from WCC, IMF and the Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations (SOMO), a Dutch think tank.

#### **h) The IMF’s new policy framework on Social Spending**

IMF’s relations with its member countries are guided by “institutional views” that are prepared by the management and staff and adopted by the Fund’s Executive Board. Owing to substantial criticism of IMF impact on social protection, especially from civil society, academia and citizen movements in several countries, the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) of IMF examined how its policies impact national programmes of social protection. Following its 2017 critical report on the Fund’s approach to social protection and [letters sent by the GCSPF](#), UN experts and economic experts, the IMF published the [implementation plan of the recommendations of the IEO report on social protection](#). The implementation plan explained that the Fund would launch a broad consultation in 2018, including with civil society, aiming to develop a strategic framework on social protection by 2019.

- 1) In February 2018 the GCSPF was invited to participate in the advisory group IMF was forming of CSOs and academics with which IMF would consult on a confidential basis while they were drafting their new framework on social protection. A group was set up to work on this. Peter Backvis, Tavengwa Nhongo and Daniel Horn represented the Global Coalition, joined by Miriam Brett of the Bretton Woods Project (also a member of GCSPF). Michael Cichon and Barry Herman (both of the Core Team) were also invited to the group as experts, owing to their work and international organization histories.
- 2) During this process the Global Coalition coordinated two phone calls to discuss this process, the calls were held on 25 July and 30 November 2018.
- 3) As part of its consultation with academia, the London School of Economics hosted a one-day workshop for IMF on social protection, at which Barry Herman made a presentation on challenges in financing social protection during times of crisis. The agenda and a report on the workshop may be found [here](#). A short video interview at the workshop of Barry Herman may be found [here](#).
- 4) In expectation of IMF soon circulating a draft report to its advisory group, the GCSPF participants in the advisory group prepared an open technical note in January 2019, “The IMF’s new policy framework on social



protection. A view from the GCSPF” to highlight a number of policy considerations the IMF should take into account in its deliberations. The letter is [here](#).

- 5) The advisory group met through conference calls (May 25 and December 3, 2018, and February 28 and June 12, 2019) and individuals sent comments to the Fund staff on the drafts shared with the group (scoping paper, intermediate draft and final paper).

The final paper, approved by the Executive Board, was launched by the Managing Director, Christine Lagarde, at the ILO centenary conference in Geneva on June 14, 2019. The paper and background papers may be accessed [here](#). The next step for IMF is to draft a guidance note for its staff on engaging with member country governments, which is targeted for completion by the end of 2020.

### **i) African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights**

The African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights (ACHPR) has undertaken to consider issues of social security and has thus drafted a protocol on social security on which it seeks political support. GCSPF is supporting these efforts.

- 1) A panel discussion on “Social protection as a human rights imperative” was co-organized by the Dullah Omar Institute, University of the Western Cape, South Africa, the Initiative for Social and Economic Rights (ISER) and GCSPF in conjunction with the Chairperson of the Working Group on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. It was held during the 62<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Session of the ACHPR on 30 April, 2018 in Nouakchott, Mauritania. The presentations emphasized the parameters of a rights based approach to social security and how the draft protocol entrenches this. The presentations also highlighted the need for African states to move from a piece-meal, welfare approach to a human rights based, coordinated approach for social protection. The report is [here](#).

## **B. Statements**

During the period under review, a number of statements were considered by the Core Team and issued on behalf of GCSPF, as follows:

- GCSPF submitted a statement to the side event of the Global Partnership on Universal Social Protection (USP 2030) held at the United Nations in New York on 31 January 2018. The statement highlighted that the social dimensions of development has to be strengthened and that the Global Coalition will be very happy to contribute to that goal of the Global Partnership. It further considered it an important step that two strong global players—the World Bank and ILO—committed to this joint initiative and agreed to focus on a universal approach and seek to overcome exclusion and fragmentation of programmes, ensure social protection systems that leave no one behind and contribute to cohesive societies. The statement is available [here](#).
- While the IMF prepared its new institutional view on how to address social protection in its work with member countries, the GCSPF prepared a technical note “The IMF’s new policy framework on social protection. A view from the GCSPF” to highlight a number of policy considerations that the Coalition believes the IMF should take into account in its deliberations. The technical note was sent to IMF executive directors on 17 January 2019. The note is [here](#).

- As member of the Interim Steering Committee for USP 2030, the Global Coalition gave a statement during the Conference USP2030 on 5 February 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland. The statement is [here](#).
- The GCSPF submitted a written statement to the CSW in March 2019 that calls attention to how social protection systems in many countries do not reach most workers, especially those in informal employment. Social protection systems have been designed around a male breadwinner model, assuming an uninterrupted and full-time career in the formal economy. This tends to penalise women, who are lower paid, disproportionately represented in precarious and informal work, and shoulder most unpaid care, resulting in substantially lower coverage rates and benefit levels. The Statement is [here](#).
- The statement “The legal, political, economic and moral imperatives to finance social protection for all” with the position of the Global Coalition on financing social protection was launched on the occasion of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference of ILO on 11 April 2019. The statement is [here](#).

### **C. Publications**

Members of GCSPF prepared various policy briefs and reports for publication during the period under review.

- *Social Protection Floor Index, Update and Country Studies 2017* was published in December 2017 by Friedrich Ebert Stiftung for GCSPF. Prepared by Mira Bierbaum, Căcilie Schildberg and Michael Cichon, the SPF Index measures the amount of financial resources that a country would have to allocate to social transfers and health services in order to achieve the minimum level of income and health security that would be required under ILO Recommendation 202 concerning national floors of social protection. The publication is available [here](#).
- The discussion paper “Sustainably Financing Social Protection Floors: Toward a Permanent Role in National Development Planning and Taxation” by Barry Herman, was published by Brot für die Welt for the Global Coalition in April 2018. The discussion paper is available [here](#).
- Several members of the Global Coalition contributed to the report of the Civil Society Reflection Group on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, *Spotlight on Sustainable Development 2018*, in particular to “spotlight” the social protection target contained in SDG 1. The GCSPF contribution was titled “Mobilize the financial means for social protection systems for all” and is available in English [here](#) and in Spanish [here](#).
- Wouter van Ginneken responded to a request by a number of national SPF platforms for information on how to report on national SPF implementation to international organizations. His article, “Reporting on SPF implementation to UN Organizations: Opportunities for national platforms” was widely distributed on the GCSPF platform in October 2018. The article is [here](#).
- The article “Hardly anyone is too poor to share” by Michael Cichon was published on the December 2018 edition of the IMF quarterly *Finance & Development*, which was dedicated to the theme “Rethinking the Social Contract”. The main conclusion of the article is that financing of social protection floors in all countries is highly attainable, for which he quotes the detailed study on the SPF index noted above. The article is [here](#).
- The Policy Brief “Social Protection: an essential building block to reduce inequality” was published by GCSPF and Brot für die Welt on 3 July 2019 in the framework of the HLPF. The Policy Brief is available [here](#).



- As in 2018, the GCSPF contributed to the report *Spotlight on Sustainable Development 2019* with an article on SDG 1. This article was entitled “Applying human rights standards for the governance of social protection will unleash its transformative potential”. It was written by Sylvia Beales and Nicola Wiebe and includes contributions of other members of the coalition. It is available [here](#). The report was launched during the HLPF on July 2019.

#### ***D. Future advocacy at country level***

Through its short history, GCSPF has mainly served to bring together the concerns of national CSOs and international networks regarding social protection floors and present them at international forums as the views of a global coalition. Although many members operate mainly at national level, GCSPF has not been able to assist national platforms by bringing lessons from global advocacy back to country level. This may be changing as the European Commission (EC) has invited GCSPF to be part of a multi-country “Action Programme on Synergies in Social Protection and Public Finance Management.” After considerable preparatory discussions beginning in September 2018 and continuing through 2019, GCSPF engagement in the project is slated to begin in 2020.

Through the Action Programme, the EC’s Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DevCo) seeks to strengthen national social protection systems through technical support, explorative research and capacity development, focusing on public financial management systems, budgeting and financing of social protection. The four-year global action will be implemented primarily by the ILO, with UNICEF as a key implementing partner, in eight countries (Angola, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Nepal, Paraguay, Senegal, and Uganda) that are interested in strengthening their social protection systems. In addition to the ILO and UNICEF, national civil society is to be actively involved in the design, steering and implementation of the project. The GCSPF has been asked to facilitate this active participation of social protection-focused civil society in Cambodia, Nepal, Senegal and Uganda. After an extensive process of discussions within a dedicated Technical Working Group (made up of interested members of the GCSPF’s Core Team) and consultations with the EC, ILO, UNICEF and the full GCSPF Core Team, an implementation approach for the GCSPF in the Action Programme has been agreed.

The underlying aim of the GCSPF will be to strengthen national civil society organizations, their capacities and structures, to enable civil society actors to meaningfully participate in national social protection dialogues, amplifying the voices and concerns of communities and beneficiaries and develop capacities to engage in discussions with governments on social protection design and financing as well as on monitoring and social accountability.

Three GCSPF member-organizations with already-existing country presence were selected to enter into a contractual relationship with the ILO, which will administer the project overall, and take on the responsibility to ensure its effective implementation in line with the objectives of the GCSPF. The three organizations are HelpAge, which will take a coordinating role in Uganda, Oxfam in Cambodia and WSM in Nepal and Senegal.

A specific Memorandum of Understanding was developed to set out how the project will be implemented and to establish the link between GCSPF and the three coordinating organisations. In addition, specific Terms of Reference were drafted to operationalize the engagement of the three GCSPF members at country-level.

As the country exercises get underway in 2020, modalities will need to be developed to inform GCSPF of progress and challenges encountered, including when needs are identified for specific technical capacities and experiences for the four countries that may exist among GCSPF members.

## **II. STRENGTHENING GCSPF**

During the reporting period, GCSPF has grown in size and taken on additional activities (see above, in particular). This section of the narrative on activities during 2018-2019 reports on the growth of membership, meetings held, secretariat activities and communication.

### ***A. Membership***

As of December 2019, the Global Coalition has 102 member organizations (several of them are regional or global networks) and six individual members. The regional distribution of the organizations is as follows: 21 from Africa, 20 from Asia, 28 from Europe, six from Middle East and North Africa (MENA), 22 from North America and four from South America.

There are members in the following 43 countries: Argentina, Bangladesh, Belgium, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China (Hong Kong), Ethiopia, France, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, Peru, Philippines, Russia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The complete list of member organizations and individual members is available [here](#).

Twenty-six organisations and three individuals' members are part of the Core Team. Members of the Core Team are from the following regions: three from Africa, four from Asia, thirteen from Europe, one from MENA, three from North America, two from South America, and three individual members based in Europe. The list is available [here](#).

#### **New members**

The organizations that joined the GCSPF in 2018 and 2019 are Social Protection Platform - The Gambia (SPPG); Gray Panthers; Olof Palme International Centre; Norwegian Church Aid Tanzania Office; Community and Family Aid Foundation – Ghana; Shanta Memorial Rehabilitation Centre (SMRC) India and Olive Community Development Initiative (OCDI), Nigeria.

The individual members that joined the GCSPF in 2018 and 2019 are Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmona, Tara Patricia Cookson and Prof. Dr. Markus Kaltenborn.

Further information about them is in [Annex 1](#).

### ***B. Secretariat***

Since 2017 the secretariat or administrative coordination of the Global Coalition has been hosted by Instituto del Tercer Mundo (Third World Institute, ITeM) based in Montevideo, Uruguay with the support of Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES). ITeM is a tax-exempted, secular, non-profit institution that also hosts the international secretariat of Social Watch.

The main role of the secretariat is to ensure a timely and regular information flow between the members of the GCSPF, to facilitate the communications (see below), and to support the planning and organization of meetings and activities.

## ***C. Meetings***

### **a) Strategy meeting**

The strategy meeting “Opportunities and challenges in implementing Social Protection Floors” brought together Core Team members as well as regional members and experts to discuss pressing issues on its agenda and to chart a way for future activities. The meeting was co-organized by the Africa Platform for Social Protection (APSP) and took place in Nairobi, Kenya, from 15 to 17 January 2018.

The meeting of the core team of the GCSPF highlighted opportunities and challenges existing in the area of implementing social protection floors and charted the way forward for the activities of the Coalition. Among the key issues discussed were how to provide support to Coalition members in terms of information sharing and the coordination of regional activities, the preparation of “shadow” reports in the context of the monitoring and evaluation of international commitments, advocacy for and promotion of resolutions dedicated to social protection systems. The issue of financing social protection and new approaches in that area were also discussed.

The report of the meeting is available [here](#).

Read [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#) further information about the meeting.

### **b) Informal meetings**

Members of the GCSPF took advantage of opportunities that came from participating in different meetings or conferences to hold informal meetings. The aim of these meetings was to exchange information and develop proposals for further action to be discussed by the full Core Team for final decision.

The following informal meetings took place during this period:

- 31 January 2018 in New York during the CSocD56.
- 18 April 2018 in Washington, during the Civil Society Policy Forum, World Bank & IMF Spring meetings 2018.
- 16 July 2018 during the HLPF 2018 in New York.
- 4 February 2019 in Geneva during the Conference of the Global Partnership on Universal Social Protection 2030. The notes are [here](#).
- 19 February 2019 in New York during the CSocD57.
- 16 July 2019 during the HLPF 2019 in New York. The notes of the meeting are [here](#).

## ***D. Terms of Reference***

The Terms of Reference of GCSPF were reviewed and discussed during the meeting in Kenya and a new version was approved by all the members in February 2018. The new version is available [here](#).

## ***E. Information and communications***

Given the vast scope of the GCSPF and its members, successful communication plays a vital role in a wide array of its functions. As such, the GCSPF recognizes the importance of effective and up-to-date communication methods, and strives to implement them in an innovative and practical manner.

The main communication tools to reach the Global Coalition membership are the mailing lists. News and information are disseminated by the secretariat through three email lists, one for all the members, another one for the members of the Core Team and the third one is for the wider distribution of the electronic newsletter to members and non-members.

The GCSPF monthly E-newsletter, with articles featuring news from the Global Coalition, the members as well as new resources and articles of interest has been published monthly since June 2017 by the secretariat.

Twenty-four issues have been published from January 2018 to October 2019. There is a specific mailing list which is set only for distribution of the monthly newsletter. The newsletters are also published on the website and are available [here](#). Special issues have been published during international meetings; some of them were sent to those that participated in those particular meeting, such as HLPF, CSocD, etc.

The [website](#) is permanently updated by the secretariat, with input from the members.

As another means of fostering communication in and between the members and civil society in general, the Global Coalition has a [Facebook page](#) and a [twitter account](#) (not in use). The Facebook page has now five thousand “friends”.

## ANNEX

(ONLY THE INFORMATION THAT IS NOT PUBLISHED ON THE WEBSITE IS INCLUDED HERE.)

### Annex 1. New members

The following organizations and individual members joined the GCSPF in 2018 and 2019.



#### **Social Protection Platform - The Gambia (SPPG)**

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) composed of Non-governmental Organization (NGOs), Community Based Organizations (CBOs), Faith Based Organizations (FBOs) as well as other stakeholders such as humanitarian and relief organizations came together to establish The Social Protection Platform – The Gambia (SPPG) in 2013.

The vision of SPPG is “A society where the poor, vulnerable and disadvantaged in The Gambia a secure and dignified life” “To promote an active and more equitable distribution of resources to enable People living in the Gambia to lead a decent and dignified life through their participation in social protection programs”.



#### **Gray Panthers**

Today the Gray Panthers can be described simply as a rapidly growing network of people old and young drawn together by deeply felt concerns for human liberation and social change. The old and young live outside the mainstream of society. Agism – discrimination against persons on the basis of chronological age – deprives both groups of power and influence. The Gray Panthers believe that the old and the young have much to contribute to make our society more just and humane, and that each needs to reinforce the other in goals, strategy, and action.

For more information visit <http://graypanthersnyc.org/>



#### **Olof Palme International Center**

The Olof Palme International Center is the umbrella organisation for the Swedish labour movement and works in the spirit of Olof Palme for democracy, human rights and peace. The Swedish labour movement has a long tradition of solidarity and we are proud to keep this tradition alive. The Palme Center and our member organisations are engaged in over 200 development projects in more than 20 countries.

For more information visit <https://www.palmecenter.se/en/>



#### **Norwegian Church Aid Tanzania Office**

By harnessing transformative interfaith action in communities, Norwegian Church Aid – Tanzania (NCA Tanzania) engages community members and local partners to uphold peace and promote social cohesion. Our interfaith community projects on budget monitoring, and savings and loan groups have proved vital for harmonious networking and interaction.

### **Community and Family Aid Foundation – Ghana**

CAFAF is a Ghanaian National Non-Governmental Organization with a global and local content thinking currently exclusively identified with promoting the empowerment of women, communities, young people to manage issues concerning their development and to advocate for and work towards adolescent and sexual reproductive health, rights and well-being; to advocate for and on behalf of young people, in the area of reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, environment, health, education, climate change, and other related issues that affect their total development. Aim at hosting the largest effort of reaching out to youth of Ghana to appreciate and respond to their sexual health rights needs for a bright future and promoting their development toward the nations building. CAFAF: exist to create possibilities to improve lives, where our development interventions will live indelible mark on people, communities and underserved populations to fashion a world, where all will be happy and useful including respectively living for others to reflect equal, participatory economy releasing that a person is a person through other persons as a lasting legacy for generations to come for replication.

For more information visit <http://familyaidfoundation.wixsite.com/cafaf>



### **Shanta Memorial Rehabilitation Center (SMRC), India**

SMRC is a leading voluntary organization working in the field of disability for the last two decades. It was 1985 when Mr. Ashok Hans thought for an organization that could rehabilitate disadvantaged spinal injury victims and give voice to the disabled for their rights and equality. With support and unwavering dedication from like-minded people, Shanta Memorial Rehabilitation Center (SMRC) came out under the leadership of Mr. Hans, who sustained a spinal cord injury after a traffic accident in 1974, which left him a tetraplegic at the age of 22.

SMRC's core area of intervention is to apply modern rehabilitation techniques creatively and comprehensively. It has adopted the essential principle that is returning or integrating a person to his home, community and work to establish a happy, productive life.

Vision: Develop a sustainable organization that responds to the rights of people with disabilities in India, particularly gendered and in the rural areas, through research, education and awareness.

Mission Statement: To support change, aimed at the creation of an environment where persons with disabilities can enjoy equal rights.

For more information visit <https://www.smrkorissa.org/>





### **Olive Community Development Initiative (OCDI), Nigeria**

OCDI is a Non-governmental, non-religious, non-political and non-profit making organization, based in Kwara State Nigeria, with commitment to support community development programs by generating relationships to foster human and community development. This is achieved by linking community based organizations to various opportunities and support that exist for rural/community development as the need arises. Community based organizations, Faith based organizations, youth organizations and women groups are in turn supported in designing, implementing and sustaining their own programs.

OCDI belongs to several coalition on health, education and environment that will also benefit from the knowledge gained from this coalition. OCDI is also part of the NGOs selected by the lead CSO in Kwara state saddled with the responsibility of monitoring and reporting on social protection programmes implemented by the Federal Government of Nigeria.

For more information visit <http://www.olivecommunitydevelopmentinitiative.org/>

### **Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmona**

Ms. Sepulveda was the United Nations Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights between May 2008 and June 2014. She is a Chilean lawyer who holds a Ph.D in International Human Rights Law from Utrecht University in the Netherlands; an LL.M in human rights law from the University of Essex in the United Kingdom and a post graduate diploma in comparative law from the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile.

Ms. Sepúlveda has worked as a researcher at the Netherlands Institute for Human Rights, as a staff attorney at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, and as the Co-Director of the Department of International Law and Human Rights of the United Nations-mandated University for Peace in San Jose, Costa Rica. She also served as a consultant to the Division of International Protection of UNHCR and to the Norwegian Refugee Council in Colombia. More recently she has been Research Director at the International Council on Human Rights Policy in Geneva.

For more information visit [here](#)

### **Tara Patricia Cookson**

Dr. Tara Patricia Cookson earned her PhD from the University of Cambridge, where she was a Gates Cambridge Scholar. She is author of "Unjust Conditions: Women's Work and the Hidden Cost of Cash Transfer Programs", an ethnographic account of women's experiences of participating in the world's most widely implemented anti-poverty programs.

In 2014 she received the Bill Gates Sr Prize for founding a leadership program called Learning for Purpose. Tara is a SSHRC Research Fellow at the University of British Columbia, a Seattle Women's Commissioner, and has served as a proud board member of the Kelowna Women's Resource Centre, not far from her grandmother's birthplace, Ladysmith. Tara is Co-Founder and Director of Ladysmith.

For more information visit [here](#)

**Prof. Dr. Markus Kaltenborn** His publications are [here](#).