



9 February, 2021

In 2021, several important decisions will be taken at the international level as the world community strives to find ways out of the COVID 19 crisis. The focus will be on the vaccination efforts that are now beginning in many countries. An essential complement to that is to overcome the devastating social and economic consequences of the pandemic and build resilience going forward. To that end, and in advance of the G20 Employment Working Group meeting on February 15–17, we call on the G20 to launch an initiative to establish a Global Fund for Social Protection.

We write to you on behalf of the Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors, a group of over 100 national and international non-governmental organizations promoting the right of all people to social security.¹

The crisis has not only created unprecedented demand on national healthcare systems, but it has also decimated jobs and workers' livelihoods, and it has fuelled greater poverty and inequalities. In order to support those affected, as well as better prevent comparable crisis situations in the future, well-functioning social protection systems are needed. In many parts of the world, however, such systems are not in place. According to the International Labour Organisation, even before the crisis less than one half of the world's population had access to any form of social protection, and more than two-thirds of the world's population were unable to count on a comprehensive set of protections set out in international labour standards². In many cases, it is not the political will that is lacking, but sufficient financial resources, especially in low-income countries. To support those countries lacking fiscal space in setting up appropriate social protection systems, a broad, solidarity-based and well-coordinated initiative by the international community is therefore needed.

This is why Magdalena Sepúlveda, former UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, and Olivier de Schutter, current UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, have called for the establishment of a Global Fund for Social Protection.³ This call is supported by the government of France⁴, a number of civil society organisations and trade unions.⁵ The Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors strongly backs this initiative and has published a global call for the establishment of a Global Fund.⁶

A Global Fund for Social Protection would provide technical assistance for governments to offer a set of benefits that would guarantee a minimum income security for all over the lifecycle. It would also provide temporary matching funds to low-income countries.

¹ <http://www.socialprotectionfloorscoalition.org/>

² ILO World Social Protection Report 2017-2019

³ <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/underwriting-poor-global-fund-social-protection-briefing-note-special-rapporteur-right>; <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Poverty/Pages/global-fund-social-protection.aspx>. A similar proposal has been made by Michael Cichon, former Director of the ILO Social Security Department, see <https://www.unrisd.org/road-to-addis-cichon>

⁴ <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/initiative-mondiale-en-faveur-de-la-protection-sociale-pour-tous-renforcer-la>

⁵ <https://www.ituc-csi.org/global-social-protection-fund?lang=en>

⁶ <http://www.socialprotectionfloorscoalition.org/civil-society-call/civil-society-call-for-a-global-fund-for-social-protection/>

This year's G20 is a critical opportunity for the world's largest economies to come together and coordinate a response to overcome the consequences of the pandemic. We therefore urge you to use your political means within the framework of the G20 to advocate for such a Fund. Such an act of international solidarity would unite the world on the path towards an equitable recovery from this pandemic.

We look forward to an opportunity to talk to you about our call. Please do not hesitate to address any question you may have to Ana Zeballos at anaclau@item.org.uy. For your commitment, we thank you very much.

Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors

List of member organisations:

Act Church of Sweden
Action Contre la Faim - France
Africa Platform for Social Protection (APSP)
Asia Monitor Resource Centre (AMRC)
Brot für die Welt
Centro de Implementación de Políticas Públicas para la Equidad y el Crecimiento (CIPPEC)
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd
Dullah Omar Institute, University of the Western Cape
Free Trade Union Development Center (FTUDC)
Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Geneva
Friends of the Disabled Association (FDA)
Global Social Justice
Gray Panthers
HelpAge International
Human Dignity
International Movement ATD Fourth World
Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary Loreto Generalate
International Presentation Association (IPA)
International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)
JusticeMakers Bangladesh
Labour Education Foundation (LEF)
Olive Community Development Initiatives(OCDI) Nigeria
Olof Palme International Center
OXFAM
Save the Children UK
Shanta Memorial Rehabilitation Center (SMRC)
Social Justice in Global Development
SOLIDAR
The Grail
UNANIMA International
VIVAT International
World Federalist Movement – Canada
WSM (We Social Movements)

Individual members:

Markus Kaltenborn (Germany)
Michael Cichon (Germany)

Attachment: [Civil Society Call for a Global Social Protection Fund](#)