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May 7, 2021

Mr. Jake Sullivan, National Security Adviser  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Email: [jacob.j.sullivan@who.eop.gov](mailto:jacob.j.sullivan@who.eop.gov)  
Cc : Peter.E.Harrell@who.eop.gov

Dear Mr. Sullivan:

We, the undersigned organizations, urge the United States government to endorse the establishment of a Global Social Protection Fund during the next G7 and G20 summits. Both provide a critical opportunity for the world's largest economies to come together and coordinate a response to the pandemic and to meet future challenges.

Less than a third of the global population has access to comprehensive social protection systems. This leaves two-thirds of the world's population unprotected in times of need, and from national or global economic shocks, such as that caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The current pandemic has demonstrated the value of policies such as income or unemployment support, allowing companies to retain workers and provide income for workers. Social protection systems also safeguard worker health and safety. Essentially, social protection systems offer flexibility and adaptability, allowing for workers and businesses to better withstand disruptions and changes to the economy.

The value of social protection systems, however, goes beyond times of crisis, providing broader economic benefits such as enabling greater workforce participation and allowing for entrepreneurial risk.

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We believe that the United States government has a key role to play in promoting social protection systems – actively contributing to, exercising critical oversight of, and ensuring transparency with their development. We urge the U.S. government to join the French government in championing a Global Social Protection Fund based in multilateral and regional development banks. The U.S. government should also direct its own development assistance towards the creation of social protection programs in key developing countries.

The attached briefer provides a summary of our recommendations for creating social protection programs in the world's poorest countries and certain priority middle income countries.

The U.S. government, supported by business, civil society and the labor community, can expand social protection to the world's most vulnerable at a reasonable cost.

We hope to meet with an interagency team from the National Security Council (NSC), U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the State Department and the Department of Labor (DOL) to discuss how to build greater support for social protection programs.

Sincerely,

AFL-CIO

American Apparel and Footwear Association

Fair Labor Association

Fontheim International, LLC

HelpAge USA

Human Rights Watch

Oxfam America

Solidarity Center