

Madam President.

The Lutheran World Federation¹ (LWF), the World Council of Churches² (WCC), ACT Alliance³ and their partners worldwide are deeply concerned by the ongoing increase in extreme poverty, hunger and human suffering and the lack of most basic protection of impoverished communities, especially in low income countries.

While in high-income countries an average of \$695 per capita could be invested in COVID-19 social protection spending, it was only \$4 in low-income countries, with the level of domestic financing being nearly zero.⁴

Studies have shown that social protection can prevent and combat extreme poverty and counteract the dramatic increase in inequality.

We therefore call upon the international community:

- To prioritize social protection floor spending nationally and internationally to deliver on the human right to social security at a time when extreme poverty is increasing, while global wealth continues to grow.

And we call upon the Human Rights Council to:

- Support the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights to establish a Global Fund for Social Protection in order to manage this and future crises.

¹ The Lutheran World Federation is a global communion of 148 churches in the Lutheran tradition, representing over 75 million Christians in 99 countries. The LWF acts on behalf of its member churches in areas of ecumenical and interfaith relations, theology, human rights, ecological justice, humanitarian assistance, communication and the various aspects of mission and development.

² (Add presentation)

³ ACT Alliance is a coalition of 135 churches and faith-based organisations working together in over 120 countries.

⁴ Where is the Money Coming From? Ten Stylized Facts on Financing Social Protection Responses to COVID-19, The World Bank and UNICEF, Social Protection and Jobs, Policy and Technical Note. Nov 2020.