

## **Joint initiative for social protection**

**A new international initiative focuses on coordinated, joint efforts to support countries build adaptive social protection systems and better address future crises. Civil society calls for long-term technical and financial cooperation on a partnership basis to build rights-based social protection systems.**

The German Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development Svenja Schulze announced on June 15 at the close of the Global Forum on Adaptive Social Protection that she would provide 7 million euros for a new initiative under the umbrella of the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection. The Global Accelerator, launched by the UN Secretary-General in 2021, aims to provide minimum social protection to 4 billion people in the long term. To date, more than half of the world's population lives without any access to social protection. The Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors welcomes the fact that the German government is committed to the worldwide implementation of the human right to social protection and, to this end, is advocating for increased cooperation between the international organizations active in this field.

### **Establishment of social protection systems is of high urgency**

The minister is thus pushing ahead with an initiative whose urgency has been made clear not least by the experience of the Covid pandemic. After all, social protection not only helps to prevent individuals from falling into poverty during crises, but also stabilizes entire societies. The great interest in the conference also shows how important the topic has become for a world that is affected by multiple crises. Over 200 participants from 58 countries, including 10 ministers, came to Berlin to discuss the development and design of responsive social protection systems.

Today, no one doubts that social protection is an indispensable instrument for reducing poverty and inequality, but also for achieving greater gender equality and preventing child labor. It is therefore all the more astonishing that too little is invested in this area, both nationally and internationally. So far, only a very small share of public development cooperation has been spent on this sector - just 2.4% of global funds flow into this so important area. Against this background, the Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors would have liked the International Community to send out a much stronger signal for joint international action. In order to achieve the goals of the Global Accelerator, considerably more funding is needed so that people can be granted a minimum level of social protection, especially in low-income countries that do not yet have sufficient financial resources of their own in the medium term.

### **Long-term partnership is needed**

Civil society hopes that this first step will be followed by others. Involved partners should agree on an international financing mechanism based on the principle of partnership that makes an effective contribution to the expansion of global social protection and thus to the eradication of extreme poverty.

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