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Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly:

Priority Theme: “Fostering social development and social justice through social policies to accelerate progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to achieve the overarching goal of poverty eradication”.

Statement submitted by Gray Panthers (1981) and the International Movement ATD Fourth World (1991), non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council* and members of the Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors (GCSPF)

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



Statement

The Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors (GCSPF) consists of more than 120 CSOs, NGOs and Trade Unions from all parts of the world, united in their motivation to realize social protection for all. We welcome the theme of the 62nd Commission of Social Development of “**Fostering social development and social justice through social policies to accelerate progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to achieve the overarching goal of poverty eradication**”.

Halfway to Agenda 2030, we are nowhere near achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Member States are failing to commit to the urgent action required to accelerate response towards poverty eradication and rising inequalities, to uphold human rights, to make tangible progress on gender equality, to tackle violence and discrimination of all types, to end ageism and xenophobia and to take clear and lasting decisions to halt and reverse climate change. We need clear pathways for social and climate justice, to achieve peace and the end of militarism, and for all to double down on efforts for the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Governments must match the political determination and persistence of civil society and activists, many of whom face significant dangers in calling out our failure to achieve the SDGs, which if allowed to happen will be catastrophic for humanity and our planet.

We are extremely concerned that with seven years to go, barely 15% of the targets of the SDGs have been reached and the transformative vision of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is in jeopardy. The principle of leaving no one behind and of upholding human rights is fundamental to achieving the topic of this Commission. It is imperative therefore that we focus on the full implementation of target 3 of Goal 1.

Universal Social Protection (USP) and the full implementation of Social Protection Floors in all countries must be at the heart of social and economic policies required to achieve the SDGs. Universal Social Protection is a right enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. USP is an essential lever to realise the sustainable development goals and their targets (specifically SDGs 1.3, 3.8, 5.4, 8.5 and 10.4) and underpins the global commitment to end poverty and reduce inequalities for all people within and between countries (SDGs 1 and 10). USP is a driver of social development and affords agency and self determination to recipients over the life course. It is a core lever to tackle poverty and marginalisation. The inclusion of target 3 of Goal 1 to end *poverty ‘to implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable’* is a clear acknowledgment that social protection and social protection floors are recognized as foundational to ending poverty.

National floors of social protection are vital to leave no one behind. They ensure universal access to essential health care and basic income security across the life course and are a human right. However currently only 47% of the global population are effectively covered by at least one of the guarantees; in Africa this is a mere 18%. This is at a time when as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, ongoing conflicts and wars and highly volatile situations affecting millions of children and adults of all ages, the number of people facing acute food and economic insecurity has more than doubled - from 135 million in 2019 to 276 million in 2022. In this challenging environment multiple studies have shown that ensuring a basic level of social protection for all is not only urgently needed now, but doable and affordable for most countries. It is entirely achievable through the solidarity and political will of the international community. And while many national governments are developing, financing, implementing and monitoring social protection floors, with the participation and monitoring of civil society, trade unions and informal worker organizations, and while generally and principally the financing of social protection systems must be within national budget frameworks, some countries will require temporary international co-financing of social protection floors, while they strengthen domestic resource mobilisation and digital and technical support in their establishment.

This is why the UN Secretary General, the International Labour Conference and the Un Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights have expressed their support for mechanisms to increase financing for SPFs including the establishment of a new international financing mechanism, such as a Global Fund for Social Protection.

A Global financing mechanism for Social Protection must be based on the principle of global solidarity, to support countries and their citizens to design, implement and, in specific cases, provide temporary co-financing for national social protection floors as described in ILO recommendation 202.¹

Recommendations:

- Establish a well coordinated Global Financing Mechanism with a long term perspective to ensure the introduction and full implementation of rights based national social protection floors;
- Adopt governance principles for the Financing Mechanism to guarantee democratic (not donor driven) and effective participation of social partners, organisations representing people of all ages, including women, people with disabilities, older persons, minorities, and those living in poverty, in their design, implementation and monitoring;
- Commit to ambitious and relevant financial contributions for the Mechanism;
- Pay special attention to the participation of the people experiencing persistent poverty and historically excluded in the design and monitoring of USP to ensure that it corresponds to the reality of their lives;
- Address the obstacles that currently prevent many people from benefiting from social protection, such as lack of legal identity, overly complicated administrative procedures, disabilities, and residence in remote areas;
- Guarantee gender -responsive and age friendly public services including childcare and long-term care for dependent relatives and ensure they do not exacerbate unequal distributions of care work to the detriment of women's labour and social protection entitlements;
- Ensure that national social protection floors are embedded in national legislation, budgets and programmes with long term budget provision to provide for sustainability and reach, and to support their expansion in the event of climate and conflict related shocks that affect entire communities, from the very young to the very old.

¹ https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_INSTRUMENT_ID,P12100_LANG_CODE:3065524