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Trade Union Position on the REV 1 Political Declaration of the “World Social Summit” under the title “the Second World Summit for Social Development”

Organisation: [INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION \(ITUC\)](https://www.ituc-ctsi.org/), which represents 191 million workers in 169 countries and territories, and leads the UN Workers and Trade Unions Major Group.

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General Comments:

In the chapter on Vision for the Future and an Assessment of progress and gaps in the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action and the Social dimension of sustainable development.

→ The ITUC welcomes the inextricable link between the Second World Summit for Social Development and the SDGs to give momentum towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in alignment to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations

→ Reaffirming the social development mandate of the United Nations should be also strengthened and commitment to uphold it by member states should be included (see suggested language later on in this document)

→ The ITUC welcomes the continued commitment to The Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action.

→ The ITUC welcomes the references to the reaffirmation of the commitment to effective multilateralism, to the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and the recognition that social development and social justice are indispensable for the achievement and peace and security. Strengthening the reference to democracy is fundamental (see suggested language later on in this document)

In the chapter Eradication of Poverty:

→ The ITUC welcomes pursuing broader metrics to capture progress on sustainable development to complement and go beyond GDP. However, this should be aligned with the SDGs framework, strengthening data availability, and avoid proliferation of monitoring frameworks and review processes (see suggested language later on in this document)

→ The ITUC welcomes the proposed target for extending coverage by at least two percentage points per year as a starting point.

In the chapter Full and productive employment and Decent work for all:

→ The ITUC welcomes the inclusion of living wages. We call for the inclusion the reference to the International Labour Organization Tripartite Agreement on Living Wages. We welcome reference to policies that create decent jobs; strengthening the labor market institutions, including promoting, protecting, and investing in social dialogue; upholding fundamental principles and rights at work and encouraging to ratifying and implementing all relevant ILO conventions.

→ The ITUC strongly calls for overall consistency and alignment with the UN CSW69 Political Declaration 2025 agreed language (see suggestions later on in this document), when referring to the care: comprehensive care economy frameworks, based on the recognition, reduction and redistribution of unpaid care work; reward for care work and more and decent jobs; and ensuring representation of care workers.

In the chapter on Social Integration:

→ the ITUC strongly supports the inclusion of the reference to decent work as a key factor to ensure human dignity and decent life for all (see suggested language later on in this document)

In the Cross-cutting issues Section:

→ the ITUC strongly supports prioritising public health and education systems (see suggested language later on in this document)

→ In the chapter related to technology and artificial intelligence:

The ITUC welcomes the reference to bridging all digital divides, ensuring equitable access within and between countries. We also need to ensure that these transformations do not lower labour standards or come at the expense of workers protection (see suggested language later on in this document)

→ In the chapter related to Gender Equality:

it is fundamental to include women access to employment and decent work as a precondition for their full and equal participation in economies and societies. The ITUC strongly calls for overall consistency and alignment with the UN CSW69 Political Declaration 2025 agreed language (see suggestions later on in this document)

→ In the chapter related to Migration:

The ITUC strongly calls for the inclusion of the promotion of rights-based migration pathways that protect and fulfil migrants human and labour rights, and, in addition to pathways, policies and programmes that ensure migrants economic integration with decent jobs, and social inclusion (see suggestions later on in this document)

In the chapter on Financing Social development:

→ the ITUC strongly calls on governments to include the importance of specific investments to support full employment and decent work – which are fundamental to supporting economic and social development. We support and welcome the contents related to international financial architecture reform.

In the chapter on follow up and review:

→ The ITUC strongly calls for an inclusive follow up and review process of the Political Declaration with relevant stakeholders at national, regional and global level and aligned with the SDGs overall framework to grant policy coherence. We strongly call for a 5 year review process (see suggestions later on in this document).

Detailed language inputs:

- Language we highly support and suggest in retaining in the text **Highlighted**
- Suggested language **bolded, underlined and highlighted**
- **Suggested deletions** highlighted in red

18 June 2025- REV1

Draft Political Declaration of the “World Social Summit” under the title “the Second World Summit for Social Development”

A Vision for the Future and an Assessment of progress and gaps in the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action and the Social dimension of sustainable development.

- 1. We, Heads of State and Government and high representatives, have gathered at the Second World Summit for Social Development to build a more just, inclusive, equitable, and sustainable world, by addressing the gaps, reviewing progress, and recommitting to the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action and give momentum towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.**
- 2. We acknowledge the urgent need to address profound social challenges, especially poverty, unemployment and social exclusion that affect every country. It is our task to**

address both their underlying and structural causes and their distressing consequences **in accordance with our human rights obligations** in order to reduce uncertainty, **inequality** and insecurity.

3. We recognize that the three core themes of social development, namely, poverty eradication, full and productive employment and decent work for all and social integration, are interrelated and mutually reinforcing, and that an enabling environment therefore needs to be created so that all three objectives can be pursued simultaneously.

4. **We share the conviction that social development and social justice are indispensable for the achievement and maintenance of peace and security within and among our nations. In turn, social development and social justice cannot be attained in the absence of peace and security or in the absence of respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms.**

(NEW) We are convinced that democracy and transparent and accountable governance and administration in all sectors of society are indispensable foundations for the realisation of social and people-centered sustainable development *(Rationale: from Copenhagen Declaration - para 4)*

5. We meet thirty years after the first World Summit **for** Social Development and days after **the commemoration of** the 80th anniversary of the United Nations, with a determination to promote **the United Nations** social development and social justice **mandate** anchored in a strengthened and effective multilateral system and we remain guided by the **purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.**

6. We **recommit to** the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action as they remain relevant and valid **and the further initiatives for social development adopted by the General Assembly.**

7. **We reaffirm the full and timely and effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals, upholding all the principles enshrined in it, including the promise to leave no one behind and reach the furthest behind first, and to place people at the center of development, with due consideration to the needs of present and future generations, and a strong commitment to safeguard our planet.**

8. **We also reaffirm the intergovernmental agreements reached at international conferences** relevant to social development, including, the political declarations of the SDG Summits in 2019 and 2023, and the Pact for the Future and its annexes.

9. We reaffirm the Addis Ababa Action Agenda as an integral part of the 2030 Agenda. **We are committed to its full implementation which is critical for the realization of the SDGs and their targets.** [+ Placeholder for the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) Outcome Document.]
10. We reaffirm all human rights, **which are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated**, including the right to development and fundamental freedoms for all.
11. We reaffirm that the **goal of** eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, remains the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.
12. We gather here in Doha in a Summit of renewed hope, driven by commitment and collective action. **While facing** urgent and complex challenges, **we see** new opportunities. **We are convinced** that meaningful progress **is possible** through genuine solidarity, effective multilateralism, inclusive international cooperation, and shared responsibility, **taking into account diverse national contexts, particularly in developing countries.**
13. We welcome the progress made towards the full implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action through concerted action at the national, regional and global levels. The global wealth of nations **has grown** significantly since 1995 **and** international trade has grown even more. **Global labour productivity has increased**, and the global unemployment rate **has** reached a historic low. Extreme poverty **has been** reduced and access to education, health and social protection **has** improved considerably.
14. Yet, 30 years after the convening of the World Summit for Social Development, progress **remains** slow and uneven, and major gaps **persist**.
 - a. **With only five years remaining until the 2030 deadline, progress towards achieving most of the Sustainable Development Goals has been far too slow, with some goals stalled or even regressing—despite notable advances in a few areas.**
 - b. **Although great strides have been made in reducing poverty since 1995, millions of people still live in extreme poverty and over one billion people endure acute multidimensional poverty. Children, women and girls, and people living in rural areas remain particularly vulnerable and experience higher poverty rates than the rest of the population. Hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition are still a reality for countless families, with global undernourishment rising in recent years. While access to education has expanded, still too many children are out of school.**
 - c. **In addition, while millions have been lifted out of poverty, vulnerability remains high: billions of people live close to the poverty line and face a constant risk of falling into extreme poverty. Despite significant global progress in expanding social protection coverage and implementing social**

protection floors, over one billion people still lack access to any form of social protection.

- d. Millions of workers continue to live in poverty, earning wages and incomes that are not sufficient for an adequate standard of living or to sustain their families. Informal employment remains pervasive, with billions of people making their living in the informal economy. Women and young people are disproportionately affected by informal and precarious employment. Furthermore, progress toward ending child labour has stalled.
 - e. Millions of youth are not engaged in education, employment or training, the majority of whom are young women. In the labour market, young people experience high levels of unemployment, informal employment and working poverty. These decent work deficits can have long-lasting consequences on poverty and affect the well-being of current and future generations of youth.
 - f. Today, inequality has reached staggering levels. Since 1995, income inequality has increased in many countries—developed and developing. Global wage gaps remain significant. Gender inequality is deeply entrenched **due to regressive backlashes on rights and civil liberties**. On average, women earn less than men. Millions of women worldwide are outside the labour force because of unpaid care responsibilities.
 - g. Persons with disabilities continue to be more likely to live in poverty, are under- and un-employed, and face significant social and economic barriers to inclusion in society.
 - h. Billions of people currently do not have access to the Internet. Digital divides within and among countries persist, particularly in rural and remote areas, the least developed countries are also the least connected. Digital infrastructure, connectivity and access in these countries remains challenging.
 - i. Persistent and new challenges are reversing development gains, including: climate change, natural hazards, biodiversity loss, environmental degradation and pollution; geopolitical tensions, armed conflicts and humanitarian crises; mass displacement of populations; pandemics and other health emergencies; demographic shifts, including rapid population growth in some regions, and population ageing in all regions; uneven technological advancements; unsustainable debt burdens and unequal access to technology and capital.
15. While these problems are global in character and affect all countries, we clearly acknowledge that **each** country faces specific challenges in its pursuit of **sustainable** development, **including its social dimension**. The most vulnerable countries and, in particular, African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, deserve special attention, as do countries in

situations of conflict and post conflict countries. **There are also serious challenges within** many middle-income countries.

16. We are convinced that addressing today's **global challenges to social development** requires strengthening **global** solidarity, **upholding human rights**, building trust, and a renewed commitment to multilateral action **on the implementation of the sustainable development agenda in its social, economic and environmental dimension. We will advance** innovative solutions, and inclusive international cooperation to fully translate the **commitments of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action and social dimension of the 2030 Agenda into concrete actions to achieve social development for all, in particular to the benefit of developing countries.**
17. We recognize that the multilateral system and its institutions, with the United Nations and its Charter at the centre, must be strengthened to keep pace with a changing world. **They must be fit for the present and the future – effective and capable, prepared for the future, just, democratic, equitable and representative of today's world, inclusive, interconnected and financially stable.**
18. We **will** explore bold and effective social policies that are woven into a whole-of-government, whole-of-society, people-centred, and integrated approaches aiming at enhancing social-policy coherence, **building effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels, achieving social justice for all, upholding democracy** and access to justice and reinforcing **national** coordination as well as multi-stakeholder engagement and integrated responses and avoid policy silos across sectors.
19. *On the basis of our common pursuit of social development, which aims at social justice, solidarity, harmony and equality, within and among countries, with full respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as policy objectives, development priorities and religious and cultural diversity, and **full respect for all international human rights and fundamental freedoms**, we reaffirm our global drive for social progress and development.*
20. **We strive for a future that is inclusive, resilient, sustainable and just. We envisage a world free of poverty, hunger, unemployment, preventable diseases, racism, discrimination and insecurity and a world of equality, prosperity and peace, where the dignity of all people is respected, where no one is left behind.**

A Call to Action to close the gaps in the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and give momentum towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

1. We recommit ourselves to creating an enabling economic, political, social, cultural, and legal **environment to achieve social development for all.**

I- Eradication of Poverty:

2. We will adopt a holistic approach towards the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, **including extreme and multidimensional poverty**, address the disproportionate impact of poverty on people in vulnerable situations and combat the feminization of poverty while **ensuring** that the focus is **to build resilience to**

challenges and vulnerabilities and sustainably rise above the poverty line, avoiding exiting and relapsing back into poverty. In this regard we commit to:

- a. Reinforcing the necessary measures to close financing gaps for poverty eradication and invest in capacity building, technical assistance and programs.
- b. Ensuring sustainable and equitable financing for social protection systems as one of the enablers for eradicating poverty, reducing inequality and fostering social inclusion, particularly for all women and girls, as well as investing in programs for poverty eradication to address underlying causes of inequality by promoting sustainable economy for the wellbeing of all.
- c. Focusing our efforts and policies on addressing the root causes of poverty and underlying causes of inequality, providing for the basic needs of all and increasing resilience for interconnected shocks. These efforts should include the elimination of hunger and malnutrition; the provision of social protection, food security, education, decent employment and livelihood, primary health-care services including reproductive health care, safe drinking water and sanitation, and adequate shelter; and participation in social and cultural life, with special priority given to the needs and rights of women and children, who often bear the greatest burden of poverty, and to the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups and persons.
- d. Integrating education as core components of poverty reduction strategies with focused efforts on access, equity and inclusion within a lifelong learning approach.
- e. Advancing the transition from informal towards formal economy, including the formalization of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, to eliminate poverty and catalyse social transformation and social inclusion.
- f. Strengthening social protection systems and measures, including social protection floors, and universal coverage, including by extending social protection coverage by at least two percentage points of the population covered by at least one social protection benefit per year, taking into account national circumstances, capacities, and priorities and providing capacity building to developing countries.
- g. Promoting child-sensitive poverty eradication strategies within social protection programmes that deliver an integrated package of essential services, including investments in nutrition, early childhood development and universal child benefits.
- h. Developing and implementing adequate Multidimensional Poverty Measurements (MPM) to better measure the various dimensions of poverty and the interactions among them, as well as to support the development of targeted national public policies, based on disaggregated data.
- i. Implementing in full and timely manner the commitments contained in resolution 79/1 to establish measures of progress on sustainable development that complement or go beyond GDP, in line with the SDGs indicators framework. ~~to have a more inclusive approach to international cooperation, and inform access to development finance, through the establishment of an independent high-level expert group to develop recommendations for a limited number of country-owned and universally applicable indicators of sustainable development that complement and go~~

beyond GDP and a subsequent UN-led intergovernmental

~~process and in this context note that the ongoing process should take into account the different levels of development of countries.~~ (Rationale:

Avoid proliferation of monitoring frameworks and avoid the creation of separate indicators from the SDG indicators and ensure coherence with the post-2030 SDG process for a review of indicators)

- j. **Incorporating multidimensional vulnerability, including the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index, into existing practices and policies to inform development cooperation.**
- k. **Strengthening investment** in social development at national, **as well as** regional, and international levels **including through enhanced international cooperation, South-South and triangular cooperation**, and ensuring predictable and sustainable resources, **especially** for **supporting** developing countries to implement poverty eradication policies.

II- Full and productive employment and Decent work for all:

- 3. We reaffirm our commitment to promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. To this end, we commit to:
 - a. **Adopting macroeconomic policies that promote job creation, decent work and living wages including by developing roadmaps for their realization in alignment with the International Labour Organization Tripartite Agreement on Living Wages, including policies formalizing the informal economy,** fostering inclusive and sustainable **economic** growth, recognizing the important role of **both the public and the private** sector in generating decent employment opportunities **for all** and engaging ~~the private sector,~~ **employers and workers, and their respective organizations, as essential partners.**
 - b. **Strengthening the role of international community to support countries to achieve higher levels of economic productivity, increasing investments in structural transformation and enhancing productive capacities through diversification, technological upgrading, industrial development, digital transformation and innovation and underlining the need to enhance technical and financial assistance to developing countries for the implementation of programmes of macroeconomic policies.**
 - c. **Supporting entrepreneurship by creating an enabling environment**, in particular for women, **persons with disabilities** and youth, **supporting** micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), cooperatives **as well as** the social and solidarity economy.
 - d. ~~Harnessing the positive contribution by the private sector to job creation, decent work and raising living standards.~~ (rationale: redundant)
 - e. **Investing in inclusive, equitable, quality education at all levels, skills development, digital literacy education, vocational education and training and life-long learning, in particular regarding skills needed for labour market transitions and supporting capacity building of developing countries in this regard.**
 - f. **Encouraging** ~~to consider supporting~~ the implementation of the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions **and acknowledging the work and contribution of the Global Coalition for Social Justice to contribute to the implementation of the relevant recommendations to its work.**
 - g. **Taking all necessary measures to tackle high rates of youth unemployment**

and address their integration in the labour market, including through creating decent jobs, promoting policies for quality education, vocational training, lifelong learning, entrepreneurship and ensure young people's access to

universal, adequate, comprehensive, sustainable and nationally owned social protection systems. **Member States with NEET rates above 10 per cent should adopt time-bound national targets to reduce these rates to 10 per cent or lower, taking into consideration national contexts** (*Rationale: target oriented commitment*)

- h. Encouraging education and training opportunities for older persons to enable them to participate actively in society and the labour market and promoting intergenerational knowledge transfer in the workplace.
- i. Enforcing effective labour laws with regard to labour relations and working conditions of migrant workers, while acknowledging the important nexus between international migration and social development.
- j. **Strengthening labour market institutions and social dialogue, including through promoting respect for international labour standards and workers' rights, and promoting, protecting, and investing in mechanisms for social dialogue, freedom of association and collective bargaining.**
- k. **Considering a renewed spirit to deliver social justice and social development through a proposed renewed global social contract to be developed in close consultation with employers' and workers' organizations that ensures equal opportunities and cohesion of societies and fosters inclusive social dialogue.**
- l. **Reinforcing investment in universal, inclusive and sustainable social protection systems, as a critical enabler of inclusive growth.**
- m. Responding to the challenges and opportunities posed by the energy, technological and demographic transitions, through appropriate social and labour market policies including through the development of skills, promoting the formalization of informal work, **social protection** and guaranteeing living wages, safe and healthy working conditions, and full respect for workers' rights.
- n. **Taking effective measures to eradicate forced labour, human trafficking and eliminate all forms and manifestations of child labour.**
- o. **Upholding the fundamental principles and rights at work through encouraging the ratification and full implementation of the International Labour Organization Fundamental Conventions on freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining, the effective abolition of child labour, the elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour, the elimination of discrimination in respect to employment and occupation, and the right to a safe and healthy working environment.**
(NEW) Protect workers' rights down the value chain of enterprises, including through implementing the 'Protect, Respect and Remedy' Framework of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the ILO's Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy
- p. **Taking effective measures to ensure rewarding and representation of care economy workers, and** **R** recognizing, reducing and redistributing women's disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work by promoting the equal sharing of responsibilities between men and women. (*Rationale: in line with comprehensive care economy frameworks, based on the recognition, reduction and redistribution of unpaid care work; reward for care work and more and decent jobs; and ensuring representation of care workers through collective bargaining - See UN CSW69 Political Declaration 2025, para 15 (b)*)

- q. Considering the multiplier effects of the care economy in terms of increasing labour participation, **fostering gender equality**, facilitating the transition from informal to formal work and decent working conditions in the care sector, investing in social infrastructure and strengthening social protection, as well as the returns on the investments in care policies and systems.
- r. **Enhancing women's full access to decent work and equal opportunities in the labour market, improving equal opportunities and working conditions for women entrepreneurs by eliminating discrimination in access to job markets, financial assets and services, productive resources, decision making and social security protection, and providing and increasing, as appropriate, family benefits and social support, such as health care and quality childcare and promoting the work-life balance.**

(Rationale: this applies to all women who want to enter the labour market)

- s. **Strengthening capacity building for upskilling and reskilling existing workforce to equip them to handle the Artificial Intelligence impact in various industry sectors** ~~and strengthening international cooperation for mutual recognition of skills and qualifications to facilitate labour mobility.~~ (Rationale: the last sentence is not related to the contents in this point)

III- Social Integration.

4. We reaffirm our collective commitment to promoting social integration **by fostering inclusive, just, stable, safe, equitable and cohesive societies based on the promotion and protection of human rights, as well as on dignity, non-discrimination, equal opportunity, solidarity, tolerance, respect for diversity** (Rationale: ex Copenhagen Commitment 4) **and full and equal participation for all.** In this regard, we commit to:
- Promoting intergenerational solidarity, inclusive dialogue, and social cohesion, and creating an enabling environment to ensure that all individuals enjoy dignity and a decent quality of life **throughout their life course, leaving no one behind.**
 - Promoting and creating an enabling environment to ensure human dignity and decent work for all with** ~~Creating~~ inclusive societies that enable full and meaningful participation of all, including but **not limited to**, women, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples, people living in poverty and in rural and remote areas, as well as people who are vulnerable or in vulnerable situations and integrating their needs and perspectives into social and economic policy frameworks.
 - Taking action to combat inequalities within and among countries and pursue policies that stem the tide of rising inequalities and ensuring fair and equitable income and wealth distribution, and universal access to basic services including healthcare, education, water, sanitation and hygiene, adequate housing, electricity, digital infrastructure and connectivity, and social protection.**
 - Responding to demographic shifts, **including declining fertility rates, rapid population growth and population ageing,** and their implications for social integration, **including by social policies adapted to older persons and youth, through strengthened social protection systems, access to healthcare, long-term care, lifelong learning, skills development, and digital inclusion and financial and digital literacy access to inclusive and equitable quality education and promote employment opportunities** and skills **development, including** in science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM) **with the special focus on people in rural and remote areas, and women, particularly young women.**
 - Investing in **integrated** early childhood development, **by ensuring, inter alia access to inclusive and equitable quality education, healthcare, nutrition and their protection from violence, exploitation and abuse.**
 - Ensuring the full and effective **participation and** inclusion of persons with disabilities, **in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,** including through **removing barriers and implementing inclusive, accessible, and rights-based policies and services.** These efforts must be carried out in collaboration with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, in line with the UNCPRD's guiding principles, to ensure their equal participation in all aspects of life and development.
 - Ensuring that social development policies and programmes integrate persons with disabilities as both development agents and beneficiaries in all aspects

of development and equal access for persons with disabilities to social protection floors and safety nets, address additional disability-related costs

in the design of social protection schemes, and enhance responsive support and services to persons with disabilities which are critical to promoting inclusive development for all.

- h. Designing public care systems that address the vulnerabilities different persons face across their life course, with special attention to persons in situations of dependency, including children, persons with disabilities and older persons. These systems should **be based on the reward and representation of care economy workers and** aim to recognize, reduce and redistribute unpaid care and domestic work, as appropriate, and alleviate the disproportionate burden historically faced by women. (*Rationale: see above*)
- i. Advancing the role of culture as well as sport in contributing to social integration and social cohesion and more effective, inclusive, equitable and sustainable development, and integrating culture into economic, social and environmental development policies and strategies and ensure adequate public investment in the protection and promotion of culture and intercultural dialogue.
- j. Recognizing and supporting Indigenous Peoples in their pursuit of economic and social development, with full respect for their identity, traditions, forms of social organization and cultural values.
- k. Stepping up our efforts to fight against **all forms of** racism, all forms of racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, stigmatization and hate speech **including online and offline manifestations**.
- l. Encouraging volunteerism at all levels – local, national, and international – recognizing that these efforts contribute to social cohesion by promoting civic engagement.
- ~~m. Strengthening institutions that enhance social integration and apply a holistic social development approach, which integrates the role of the family as a central enabler and contributor to social development and promoting social and economic policies that are designed to meet the needs of families and their individual members.~~ (*Rationale: responsibilities to contribute to social development does not pertain to families, this is why we need comprehensive care economy frameworks in place, see above*)
- n. Taking urgent national and international action to address homelessness as an affront to human dignity and an obstacle to the enjoyment of human rights and the attainment of social development.

IV-Cross-cutting issues in the context of social development.

Food security and nutrition:

- 5. We remain deeply concerned that one third of the world's population remains food-insecure, **mainly in developing countries, with children disproportionately impacted**, and we **reaffirm our commitment to end** hunger, **malnutrition** and poverty and to ensure the right to food for all, as part of our shared responsibility to achieve inclusive social development. In this regard, we commit to:
 - a. **Accelerating** actions to end hunger, poverty, food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition, through coordinated global action, including by investing in **sustainable, resilient and inclusive food systems**, rural infrastructure, strengthening and expanding initiatives such as the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty and enhancing international cooperation and solidarity.

- b. **Reinforcing** measures to build sustainable, inclusive, and resilient agriculture and food systems, with the aim of ensuring food security and adequate nutrition for all,

particularly during early childhood, **including mother-and-child nutrition programmes, and school meal programs, including in conflict affected contexts** recognizing its foundational importance to human development, and lifelong well-being.

- c. **Strengthening international cooperation to address the impact that excessively volatile food prices can pose to the fight against poverty and hunger and to the efforts of developing countries to attain food security and improved nutrition.**
- d. **Supporting family farmers and** small-scale producers, including women producers, in adopting and scaling up **climate resilient and** sustainable agricultural practices to improve productivity, **livelihoods** and supporting rural communities.
- e. **Ensuring** equitable access to land, water, and other productive resources, particularly for women, recognizing their central role in empowering rural populations, eradicating poverty, achieving food security and sovereignty and promoting inclusive rural development.
- f. **Strengthening international cooperation, capacity-building and financial support for sustainable agricultural development in developing countries as an important tool for achieving food security and nutrition for all and facilitate access to essential nutrition needs and agricultural markets.**

Physical and mental health to meet Universal Health Coverage:

6. We reaffirm **the universal right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health**. In this regard, and recognizing the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic **and other health emergencies**, we commit to:
 - a. Achieve universal health coverage and attaining the goals of universal and equitable access to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health for all.
 - b. Leveraging **safe, accessible, inclusive, equitable and affordable use of digital health technologies, that enhance public health surveillance, enable personalized care, including through telemedicine, and improve equitable access to health services**, and **strengthen** international cooperation in the transfer of technology on **mutually agreed terms, while promoting cooperation on related know-how and strengthen resilient, inclusive and sustainable health systems and infrastructures and accelerate progress towards universal health coverage, particularly in developing countries, while recognizing that digital health interventions are not a substitute for functioning health systems and have significant limitations.**
 - c. Mobilizing **domestic and international innovative and sustainable** sources of financing, **prioritising public health systems support** ~~including through public-private partnerships~~, to secure adequate levels of social expenditure necessary for expanding coverage towards universal access to health **and supporting research and development and innovation in health programs.** (*Rationale: the ITUC strongly supports the inclusion of public universal health systems*)
 - d. Strengthening **integrated, resilient, inclusive, equitable, accessible and universal health systems, based on a foundation of strong primary health-care approach**, that are **affordable** and adequately financed **and supported by a competent health workforce and adequate health infrastructure.**

- e. Ensuring **robust** prevention, preparedness, and response to future pandemics and health emergencies, including local, national, and regional production capacities **and adequate infrastructure and logistics** for medicines, vaccines, diagnostics, and other health-related technologies while ensuring **technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and equitable access, particularly in developing countries.**
- f. **Ensuring appropriate and safe use of health data, proper legal and technical safeguards to the patient's privacy.**

Harnessing technology and artificial intelligence to advance social development:

7. We reaffirm that digital transformation has the potential to **contribute to** social development. **We recognize the urgent need to close persistent and widening digital and knowledge divides between and within countries, to ensure that the benefits of digital technologies, including artificial intelligence, promote decent jobs and social progress for all.** In this regard, we commit to:
 - a. Ensuring equitable, **safe**, reliable and affordable access to digital technologies, **digital public goods and digital public infrastructure** for developing countries **and to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications.**
 - b. Leverage digital technologies, **including** artificial intelligence to support inclusive social development, by improving public service delivery, strengthening digital public infrastructure for social inclusion, and enhancing access to **quality** education **for all, ensuring a science-based and age-appropriate use of digital tools**, healthcare, and **decent work and employment opportunities while ensuring that these transformations do not violate international labour standards** **avoiding the one size fits all approach**, and advancing context **and country** specific solutions. *(Rationale: We suggest including recognition that technological transformations including generative AI are driving rapid changes in the world of work and the need to ensure that these transformations do not violate international labour standards)*
 - c. **Bridging the artificial intelligence and other digital divides between and within countries, and enhancing international cooperation on capacity building in developing countries including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, with the aim of harnessing the benefits of artificial intelligence, minimizing its risks, and accelerating innovation and progress in line with their national priorities.**
 - d. Tackle the spread of misinformation, disinformation, hate speech, and digital threats in a way that protects democratic values, and upholding freedom of expression.
 - e. **Preventing and addressing any adverse impact on human rights, especially of people in vulnerable situations, arising from the use of digital and emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence.**

Quality education and life-long learning:

8. We reaffirm that **the right to** education is **universal and that access to quality education constitutes** a cornerstone for social development and social cohesion, in this regard we commit to:
 - a. **Promoting public, universal, safe, inclusive, equitable, affordable and resilient**

quality education systems.

- b. Expanding **inclusive** access to technical and vocational education and training (TVET), **including in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), physical education and sport, lifelong learning, financial and digital literacy and skills development for all.**

- c. **Striving to ensure intercultural and multilingual education for all, and addressing negative social norms and gender stereotypes in education systems as well as implement inclusive policies and programmes to promote girls' participation in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, including information and communications technology, throughout their education.**
- d. **Strengthening investment and cooperation in research and development, innovation and training in emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, in particular by supporting developing countries, in line with their priorities and contexts.**

Climate Resilience and Just Transition

- 9. We recognize that the **adverse** impacts of climate change, biodiversity loss and environmental degradation — exacerbated by inequality and weak infrastructure — **are interrelated and may** pose challenges to social development, particularly in developing countries. In this regard we commit to
 - a. **Taking urgent and ambitious climate action in the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement¹ in relation to climate mitigation, adaptation and the provision of the means of implementation, especially finance to developing countries.**

Disaster Risk Reduction

- 10. We recognize that the adverse impacts of disasters pose serious challenges to social development, particularly in developing countries. In this regard, we commit to:
 - a. Strengthening adaptive social protection systems by enhancing social safety nets, improving access to essential services, and developing targeted support programs to safeguard **those in vulnerable situations against the adverse impact of** climate change and disasters.
 - b. **Promoting a risk-informed approach to social development that integrates accessible disaster risk reduction measures into policies, programmes and investments at all levels, and advancing inclusive early warning systems, early and anticipatory approaches,** and preparedness initiatives by developing comprehensive risk management plans and investing in resilient **inclusive,** sustainable and **resilient** infrastructure **according to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.**
 - c. Ensuring that education systems are resilient and adaptable to disasters.

Gender equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls:

- 11. We reaffirm the need for every woman and girl to enjoy full gender equality and that all legal, social and economic barriers to their empowerment are removed. We commit to:

(NEW) Ensuring women's economic empowerment by promoting, respecting, protecting and fulfilling women's rights to work and rights at work, taking into account obligations under relevant International Labour Organization conventions, enhancing women's full access to and equal opportunities in the labour market and decent work, taking effective action against discrimination, including based on maternity, as well as violence and harassment in the world of work, enforcing labour rights, including the right to organize and bargain collectively, promoting equal pay for work of equal value,

providing social security, supporting the transition from informal to formal work in all sectors, adopting all necessary measures to reduce labour market segregation, and closing the pay and pension inequality

- a. Taking comprehensive measures to achieve gender equality and **the** empowerment of women and girls both as a prerequisite and a goal of **the social dimension of** sustainable development.

¹ Adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

- b. **Supporting measures to ensure fair living wages for women and equitable care work, implement integrated care economy systems based on recognition, reduction and redistribution of unpaid care work and reward and representation of care workers, eliminate gender stereotypes and negative social norms against women, promote access to sexual and reproductive health and eliminating all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls, including gender-based violence and harassment in the world of work and implement policies that ensure women's economic empowerment.**
- c. **Enhancing women's full, equal, and meaningful participation and leadership in decision making processes at all levels and in all sectors, for addressing global challenges inclusively and in contributing in all spheres of society.**
- d. **Strengthening predictable, sustainable and sufficient development finance to developing countries to end poverty in all its forms and dimensions affecting women and girls.**

Rationale:

- It is fundamental to include women access to employment and decent work as a precondition for their full and equal participation in economies and societies, including ensuring equal pay for work of equal value in line with UN CSW69 Political Declaration 2025, para 15 (a)
- Inclusion of the reference to the implementation of comprehensive care economy frameworks, based on the recognition, reduction and redistribution of unpaid care work; reward for care work and more and decent jobs; and ensuring representation of care workers through collective bargaining. See UN CSW69 Political Declaration 2025, para 15 (b)
- It is crucial to include GBVH in the world of work according to UN CSW69 Political Declaration 2025, para 15 (a)

Adequate housing, urbanization, water and sanitation, electricity, digital infrastructure and connectivity and transport:

12. We reaffirm the universal **human** right to **an adequate standard of living, including access to adequate safe, accessible and affordable housing, safe drinking water, hygiene and sanitation.** We recognize that sustainable and inclusive urbanization **and transport** are essential to reducing inequality and enabling social development. In this regard we commit to:
 - a. **Promoting an adequate standard of living by ensuring sustainable financing and the provision of and investment in accessible, safe, affordable, adequate housing, resilient infrastructure, safe and clean drinking water, hygiene and sanitation.**
 - b. **Ensuring that housing policies in urban, peri-urban and rural areas address the needs of people with disabilities and older persons.**
 - c. **Strengthening international cooperation and capacity building in developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programme.**
 - d. **Reinforcing resilient and sustainable urbanization by implementing strategies to bridge the gaps between urban, rural, and remote areas, enhance connectivity, and address homelessness.**
 - e. **Ensuring universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.**

Migration:

13. We recognize migration as a driver of inclusive growth and sustainable development and **acknowledge its** positive contributions to social and economic development and promoting safe, **rights-based**, orderly, and regular migration pathways **and its relevance for the social development of countries of origin, transit and destination.**

In this regard, we commit to:

- a. Strengthening international, regional and bilateral cooperation to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration, taking into account national circumstances.
- b. **Promoting and protecting the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, including woman and children, regardless of their migration status.**

NEW: Ensure that migrant workers benefit from the protections provided by relevant national and international instruments, take concrete and effective measures against the exploitation of migrant workers, and encourage all countries to consider the ratification and full implementation of the relevant international instruments on migrant workers

Rationale:

- There are many “regular” labour migration pathways, which lead to precarity, exploitation and other rights violations, including many international labour law standards. The ITUC strongly calls for the inclusion of the promotion of rights-based migration pathways that protect and fulfil migrants human and labour rights, and, in addition to pathways, policies and programmes that ensure migrants economic integration with decent jobs, and social inclusion.
- NEW Para: as per Copenhagen Declaration (Commitment 3, point a)) related to concrete measures commitments to implement international instruments to protect migrant workers rights

Financing for Social Development:

14. We reaffirm that the realization of social development requires ambitious, sustained, and inclusive financing. In this regard, we commit to:
- a. Increasing investment in social policies, including **investments for decent job creation for all, universal** social protection systems **and floors**, inclusive **and public** education, healthcare and housing. **We will provide support to developing countries that aim to increase social protection coverage, including those that aim to do so by at least two percentage points per year.**
 - b. Accelerating the reform of the international financial architecture **to be fit for purpose and to make it more inclusive, equitable and transparent and to strengthen the voice and representation of developing countries.**
 - c. Accelerate the reform efforts of the multilateral development banks to mobilize greater financing for **the social dimension of the 2030 Agenda**, recognizing that further reforms of the banks are urgently needed, in addition to the **strengthening of domestic resource mobilization and domestic policy and regulatory environment.**
 - d. Ensuring fair and timely solutions to address sovereign debt challenges and debt distress **by establishing a UN-led debt mechanism.**
 - e. Strengthening the inclusiveness and effectiveness of tax cooperation at the United Nations, while taking into consideration the work of other relevant forums and institutions, and will continue to engage constructively developing a United Nations framework convention on international tax cooperation.
 - f. Refraining from implementing **unilateral** measures, **actions** and barriers not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that create obstacles to the achievement of social development, particularly in developing countries, **and requesting to revoke such measures, actions and barriers at the earliest possible time.**
 - g. **Strengthening multilateral cooperation to enhance fiscal space for social spending.**
 - h. Promoting and scaling up North-South, South-South and Triangular cooperation, as critical modalities to mobilize knowledge, technical cooperation, and resources to address social challenges and foster innovation in social development policies. **Recognizing that South-South and triangular cooperation is a complement to, not a substitute for North-South cooperation.**
 - i. Leverage the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) as a transformative opportunity to bridge the financing gap for the SDGs, including for social development.

Rationale:

- We strongly call on governments to include the importance of specific investments to support full employment and decent work – which are fundamental to supporting economic and social development. This is coherent not only with SDG 8.5 target, but also with the recently endorsed “Compromiso de Sevilla” (para21), where Member States commit to “invest in (...) the creation of decent jobs”.
- Likewise, an explicit commitment to invest in universal social protection is in line with SDG 1.3 and the Compromiso de Sevilla (para 54 h)), where Member States commit to “provide support to developing countries that aim to increase social protection coverage, including those that aim to do so by at least two percentage points per year”
- The ITUC welcomes the emphasis on the need for constructively engagement in ongoing negotiations on the UN Framework Convention on Tax. This instrument has significant

potential to improve international level tax coordination and support countries raise the necessary resources to support economic and social development initiatives.

- Language on debt resolution should be more explicit. With [3.3 billion people are living in countries that spend more on interest payments than on healthcare or education](#), the SDGs risk becoming a casualty of debt crises. We thus call on the WSSD Declaration to call for a permanent multilateral debt resolution mechanism under the lead of the United Nations.

Follow-up, review, and implementation of the Political Declaration.

15. We reiterate our commitment to **the full implementation of the social development agenda including through** improving and strengthening the framework for international and regional cooperation as established under **the** Copenhagen Declaration and Program of Action and following up on the political declaration of the **World Social Summit, under the title the** Second World Summit for Social Development. In this regard we commit to:
 - a. **Proceeding to a [5-10] year** review process **of this Political Declaration** to assess progress, to identify gaps and renew **the** commitments, under the **auspices of the** General Assembly. [*Periodicity of review for further reflection by delegations.*]
 - b. **Requesting** the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States, to prepare a report, in preparation of the review of the political declaration **and the [XX depending on para 15.a] anniversary** of the **Copenhagen** Summit, which

assesses progress and identifies gaps towards coherent, efficient and inclusive follow-up and review.

- c. **Reaffirming that** the Commission for Social Development (CSocD) **has the primary responsibility for the follow-up of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly and intergovernmentally agreed social development commitments and to proceeding to the strengthening of its role including in contribution to the review process.**
 - d. **Requests the UN Regional Commissions to convene preparatory meetings at the regional level in advance of the global review, in [XX, depending on 15.a.], with the aim of assessing progress made, gaps and opportunities for action towards the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development. The Regional Commissions are invited to utilize existing mechanisms and platforms to conduct the regional preparatory meetings/reviews, the outcome of which will feed into the global review.**
 - e. **Inviting** the Economic and Social Council, the relevant specialized agencies and the **relevant** funds and programmes of the United Nations Development system, within their respective mandates, to **further** integrate into their work programmes **relevant intergovernmentally agreed social development commitments** and to **be actively involved, in the follow-up on the implementation of the commitments of the political declaration.**
 - f. **Strengthen effective multilateralism and international cooperation as well as foster greater inter-agency cooperation and better policy coherence within the UN system.**
 - g. **Encouraging** stronger coordination, each within their respective mandates, between the United Nations and the International Financial institutions through regular and substantive dialogues, including during CSOCD, on enhancing financing mechanism and assistance to advance social development.
 - h. **Strengthening** multi-stakeholder engagement and partnerships, including with **parliamentarians, civil society, representatives of workers and employers, youth, academia, local and regional authorities** and the private sector to implement the commitments.
 - i. **Supporting** developing countries, particularly African countries, least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in strengthening the capacity of national statistical offices and data systems to ensure access to high-quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated social development data.
16. We commit with united efforts, political will and firm actions to advance concrete, integrated and targeted policies and actions to **implement the present declaration and achieve social development for all in line with the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action.**