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Trade Union Position on the REV 2 Political Declaration of the “World Social Summit” under the title “the Second World Summit for Social Development”

Organisation: [INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION \(ITUC\)](#), 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
- 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)**
- **reference to the ILO and social partners should be strengthened**

In the chapter Eradication of Poverty:

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

→ **Inclusion of criteria for blended finance in development cooperation**

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)**

→ In the chapter related to technology and artificial intelligence:

We need to ensure that technological 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:

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 and a stronger engagement of the ILO and its constituents (see suggestions later on in this document).**

Detailed language inputs:

➤ Language we highly support and suggest in retaining in the text **Highlighted**

➤ Suggested language **underlined and highlighted**

➤ **Suggested deletions** highlighted in red

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, **assess** progress, and recommitting to the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action **and its implementation** 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 international law, including** human rights obligations in order to reduce uncertainty **and promote equality and security**.
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 social development and social justice 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, **including its twenty - fourth special session**, and to a continued global dialogue on social development issues.
7. We reaffirm the full, 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 **commitments related to social development** , including **those in** the political declarations of the SDG Summits in 2019 and 2023, **as well as the relevant commitments in** 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 **and to the full, effective and timely implementation of the “Compromiso de Sevilla” (the Sevilla Commitment) as a key step towards strengthening the global financing framework for sustainable development to close the financing gap in achieving the SDGs.**
10. We reaffirm all human rights, including the right to development, **which are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated**, and fundamental freedoms for all.
11. We reaffirm that the 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 **and regional** 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 and inequalities **persist within and among countries**. 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.
 - a. Although great strides have been made in reducing poverty since 1995, **in recent years progress has slowed** and millions of people still live in extreme poverty and over one billion people endure **poverty in different forms and dimensions, including** acute **and** multidimensional poverty. Children, women, **persons with disabilities** and people living in rural areas **and those in vulnerable situations** experience higher poverty rates than the rest of the population. Hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition are still a reality, with global undernourishment rising in recent years. While access to education has expanded, still too many children are out of school.
 - b. In addition, while millions have been lifted out of poverty billions of people live close to the poverty line and face a constant risk of falling into extreme poverty. Despite significant global progress in **gradually** expanding social protection coverage, **including** social protection

floors, **over three** billion people still lack access to any form of social protection, **including more than 1 billion children**.

- c. 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 **engaged in** informal and precarious employment. Furthermore, progress toward ending child labour **is too slow**.
 - d. Millions of youth **are not in** education, employment or training, the majority of whom are young women. In the labour market, young people experience higher 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.
 - e. 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 human 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.
 - f. Persons with disabilities continue to be more likely to live in poverty, are under- and unemployed, and face significant social and economic barriers to inclusion in society, **including additional disability related costs, including medical costs**.
 - g. Billions of people currently do not have **digital infrastructure, connectivity and** access to the Internet. Digital divides within and among countries persist, particularly in rural and remote areas, the least developed countries, **along with landlocked developing countries and small island developing States** are also **less** connected. Digital infrastructure, connectivity and access in these countries remains challenging.
 - h. **Multiple**, persistent and new challenges are reversing development gains, including: geopolitical tensions, armed conflicts and humanitarian crises, **economic crises, inequalities within and among countries**, climate change, natural **disasters**, biodiversity loss, environmental degradation, **water scarcity and desertification** and pollution, **conflict induced famine and starvation**, mass displacement of populations; pandemics and other health emergencies; **gender inequality**; uneven technological advancements; unsustainable debt burdens and unequal access to technology and capital. **And we recognize the complex and interrelated opportunities, challenges and risks related to** demographic shifts, including rapid population growth, **declining birth rates** and population ageing.
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. **We recognize the special challenges facing all developing countries**, in particular,

African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States, as well as the specific challenges facing middle-income countries and countries in conflict and post-conflict **situations. There are also serious challenges within** many middle-income countries.

- 16. We commit to support and implement the relevant development agendas, strategies and programmes of action for countries in special situations including the Doha Programme of Action, the Programme of Action for LLDCs, and the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS, and reaffirm our support for the achievement of the African Union Agenda 2063. We look forward to the elaboration of a specific inter-agency, comprehensive, system-wide response plan for middle-income countries by the United Nations Development System.**
- 17. We are convinced that addressing today's challenges to social development requires strengthening international solidarity, upholding human rights, building trust, and a renewed commitment to multilateral action on the attainment of social development and 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.**
- 18. We reaffirm the role and the mandate of the Commission for Social Development in addressing inequality in all its dimensions, in the context of the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action, as well as the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.**
(NEW) We recognize the role and positive contributions of the International Labour Organization and its constituents, namely Governments, employers and workers, to promote social justice and decent work for all (Rationale: following the modality resolution)
- 19. We recognize the contributions of multi-stakeholder engagement to social development. We will continue to collaborate meaningfully with all relevant stakeholders, including civil society, social partners, and the private sector, and encourage multi-stakeholder collaboration and partnerships.**
- 20. 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.**
- 21. 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, transparent and inclusive institutions at all levels, achieving social justice for all, upholding democracy, the rule of law, good governance and access to justice, combatting all forms of corruption and reinforcing local, national and regional coordination as well as multi-stakeholder engagement and integrated responses and avoid policy silos across sectors.**

22. *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.*
23. *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 **shocks and** challenges, rise above the poverty line sustainably and avoid relapsing back into poverty. In this regard we commit to:
 - a. **Reinforcing countries' capacities to achieve poverty eradication as well as** the necessary measures to close financing gaps for poverty eradication and **invest in** capacity building, technical assistance and programs.
 - b. **Exploring opportunities to mobilize additional finance, both public and private, through official development aid-funded activities that are responsive to country needs and focused on long-term development and poverty eradication, while ensuring that additional private finance mobilized has a development objective towards counties most in need, with sustainable risk-management frameworks** ~~is not a substitute for existing commitments~~.
 - c. 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.
 - d. **Taking effective measures, including policies and programmes, to address** the root causes of poverty and underlying causes of inequality, providing for the basic needs of all and increasing resilience for interconnected **crises**. These efforts should include the elimination of hunger and malnutrition; **the provision of social protection, food security, education, employment, livelihood and decent work for all, clean water and sanitation, adequate shelter and reliable health systems**; and participation in social and cultural life, with special priority given to the needs and rights of women and children **and persons in vulnerable situations**, who often bear the greatest burden of poverty.

- e. Integrating **quality** education as core component of poverty reduction strategies with focused efforts on access, equity and inclusion within a lifelong learning approach.
- f. Advancing the transition from **the informal to the formal economy**, including the formalization of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, to eliminate poverty, **create decent jobs and catalyse social transformation and social inclusion.**
- g. **Strengthening investment in social protection systems and measures, including social protection floors, in line with International Labour Organization recommendations and intergovernmentally agreed standards, and progressively achieve universal coverage, including by extending social protection coverage by at least two percentage points per year,** taking into account national circumstances, capacities, and priorities and providing capacity building to developing countries **upon their request.**
- h. 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.
- i. 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.
- j. **Reaffirming the commitment contained in the Pact for the Future to urgently develop a framework of measures of progress on sustainable development that complement or go beyond gross domestic product through the work of the 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 gross domestic product and a subsequent United Nations-led intergovernmental process.**
- k. Incorporating multidimensional vulnerability, including the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index, **as a complement to** existing practices and policies to inform development cooperation.
- l. 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.
- m. **Recognizing that the social and solidarity economy can play a key role in eliminating poverty and catalysing social transformation,** thus helping to achieve the objective of leaving no one behind and to achieve the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, while ensuring social inclusion.
- n. Promoting innovative solutions, inclusive international cooperation and initiatives for poverty eradication, such as the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty.

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 **and** 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 **for the transition from the informal economy, to the formal 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. **Supporting a favourable international economic environment for developing countries and enhancing technical and financial assistance for the implementation of programmes of macroeconomic policies, in support of sustained, sustainable and inclusive economic growth, sustainable development and full and productive employment and decent work for all.**
- c. **Promoting equitable access of developing countries to global markets and** strengthening the role of international community to support countries **upon their request** to achieve higher levels of economic productivity, increasing **sustainable and inclusive** 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.
- d. Supporting entrepreneurship by creating an enabling environment, in particular for women, persons with disabilities, **older persons** and youth, supporting **innovative mechanisms**, micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), cooperatives **as well as** the social and solidarity economy.
- e. Harnessing the positive contribution by the private sector to job creation, decent work and raising living standards, **recognizing the importance of responsible business conduct and calling for the respect of relevant international labour standards and other relevant frameworks**, 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 to protect workers' rights down the value chain of enterprises through binding national and international regulation.
- f. 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, **including for the green and digital transitions**, and supporting capacity building of developing countries in this regard.
- g. **Considering to support 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 full and productive employment and Decent work for all.**
- h. 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, **skills and** vocational training, lifelong learning, **digital literacy**, 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)

- i. 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.
- j. Enforcing labour laws **effectively** with regard to labour relations and rights, **living wages** **salary**, **ethical fair recruitment and healthy, safe and secure working conditions and the right to freedom of association of all workers**, in particular those in precarious employment and migrant workers, including women migrant workers, while acknowledging the important nexus between international migration and social development.
- k. Strengthening labour market institutions and social dialogue, including through promoting respect for international labour standards and workers' rights, **as well as** promoting, protecting, and investing in mechanisms for social dialogue **and collective bargaining**, **based on respect for** freedom of association and **the effective recognition of the right to** collective bargaining. (*Rationale: FoA is a right and prerequisite of "social dialogue and collective bargaining mechanisms"*)
- l. Considering a renewed spirit to deliver social justice and social development through a proposed renewed global social contract to be developed, **as appropriate**, in close consultation with employers' and workers' organizations that ensures equal opportunities and cohesion of societies and fosters inclusive social dialogue.
- m. Reinforcing investment in universal, inclusive and sustainable social protection systems, as a critical enabler of **sustainable and** inclusive growth.
- n. 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, and guaranteeing living wages, safe and healthy working conditions, and full respect for workers' rights.
- o. Taking effective measures to eradicate forced labour, human trafficking and eliminate all forms and manifestations of child labour.
- p. Upholding the fundamental principles and rights at work through encouraging the ratification and the implementation of the International Labour Organization Fundamental Conventions on freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining, the elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour, the effective abolition of child labour, the elimination of discrimination in respect to employment and occupation, and the right to a safe and healthy working environment. (*SUGGESTION: given its relevance we suggest to place this para as first point a) of this section*)
- a. Considering the multiplier effects of the care **and support** economy in terms of increasing labour participation **recognizing, reducing and redistributing women's disproportionate share of unpaid care**, facilitating the transition from informal to formal work and **taking effective measures to grant** decent working conditions in the care **and support** sector **through rewarding and representation of care economy workers**, **ensuring access to social protection for caregivers** investing in social infrastructure and strengthening social protection **throughout the life course**, as well as the returns on the investments in care **and support** policies and systems. (*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. **Implementing policies that ensure women's economic empowerment by, inter alia, gender-responsive budgeting, enhancing women's full access to decent work and equal opportunities in the labour market and equal pay for work of equal value, ensuring equal opportunities and working conditions** for women **workers and entrepreneurs** by eliminating discrimination in access to job markets, social protection, financial assets and services, productive resources, decision making, and providing and increasing, family benefits and social support, health care and **affordable and** quality childcare and promoting the work-life balance, **taking into account national strategies.**
- r. Strengthening capacity building for upskilling and reskilling existing workforce including to equip them to handle the Artificial Intelligence impact in various industry sectors and strengthening international cooperation for mutual recognition of skills and qualifications **and labor mobility facilitation.**

III- Social Integration.

- 4. We reaffirm our collective commitment to promoting social integration by fostering sustainable, inclusive, just, stable, safe, equitable and cohesive societies based on the **respect for human dignity**, promotion and protection of human rights **and principles of** 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:
 - a. Promoting intergenerational solidarity, inclusive dialogue, and social cohesion, **including by** creating an enabling environment to ensure that all individuals enjoy decent quality of life throughout their life course, leaving no one behind.
 - b. Creating inclusive societies that enable full, **equal** and meaningful participation of all, including but not limited to, women, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples, **people of African descent**, people living in poverty and in rural and remote areas, as well as people in vulnerable situations, **fostering social connection and reduce loneliness and isolation** and integrating their needs and perspectives into social and economic policy frameworks.
 - c. **Reducing** inequalities within and among countries, **promoting gender equality, combatting systemic racism and pursuing policies that reinforce social justice**, stemming the tide of rising inequalities and ensuring fair and equitable distribution of income and wealth **of economic growth** and universal access to basic services including healthcare, education, **access to safe and affordable drinking water and equitable sanitation and** hygiene, **adequate housing, electricity, digital infrastructure and connectivity, and social protection.**
 - d. 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 **all people at all ages particularly** older persons and youth, through strengthened social protection systems, inclusion in decision making processes, access to healthcare, lifelong learning, skills development, and digital inclusion and financial and digital literacy access to **free** 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, persons with disabilities **and women and girls**.

- e. Investing in integrated early childhood development, by ensuring, inter alia access to free, inclusive and equitable quality education, healthcare, nutrition and **the protection of children** from violence, exploitation, **child labour** and abuse.
- f. Ensuring the full and effective **inclusion and participation** 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 **accordance** with the UNCRPD's **general** principles, to ensure their equal participation in all aspects of life and development.
- g. 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 **accessible** services to persons with disabilities which are critical to promoting inclusive development for all.
- h. **Create an enabling environment for the equal, full, effective and meaningful participation of older persons in political, social, economic and cultural life, while taking into account the diversity of situation of older persons and responding to population ageing as well as to multiple forms of discrimination resulting from ageism and other inequalities throughout the life course.**
- i. **Scaling up investment from all sources in essential services for young people and ensure that their specific needs and priorities are integrated in national, regional and international social development strategies.**
- j. 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 **and sport** into economic, social and environmental development policies and strategies and ensure adequate public investment in the protection and promotion of culture, **sport** and intercultural dialogue.
- k. Recognizing and supporting Indigenous Peoples in their pursuit of economic and social development, **ensuring** full respect for their identity, traditions, forms of social organization and cultural values.
- l. Stepping up our efforts to fight against all forms of racism, all forms of racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, **religious hatred**, stigmatization and hate speech **in all its manifestations online and offline, including through the adoption of effective legal, policy and institutional measures that address racism and racial discrimination, and inclusive participation mechanisms in policy-making in order to ensure the full enjoyment of all human rights, economic, social, cultural, civil and political, which are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, as essential enabler to achieve social development for all, based on human dignity, social justice, and social cohesion.**
- m. Encouraging volunteerism at all levels, local, national, and international, **and** recognizing that these efforts contribute to social cohesion by promoting civic engagement.

- n. 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, in line with national policies,~~ and promoting social and economic policies that are designed to meet the needs of families and their individual members ~~and acknowledging the role of the family as part of a people-centred approach to social development~~ in accordance with the principles, goals and commitments of the **Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and those of the International Conference on Population and Development, as well as for community and civil society.** *(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)*
- o. Taking urgent national and international action to address homelessness as 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 **agri-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. **Investing in resilient, inclusive and sustainable food systems that ensure access to affordable, sufficient, safe and nutritious food for all.**
 - d. 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.
 - e. Supporting **small holders, family farmers and small-scale producers** including women **farmers and** producers, in adopting and scaling up climate resilient and sustainable agricultural practices to improve productivity, livelihoods and supporting rural communities.
 - f. Ensuring equitable access to land, water, and other productive resources, particularly for women, recognizing their **key** role in empowering rural populations, eradicating poverty, achieving food security and promoting inclusive rural development.
 - g. Strengthening international cooperation, capacity-building, **access to technology** and financial support, for sustainable agricultural development as an important tool, **in particular**

for developing countries, for achieving food security and nutrition for all and facilitate access to essential nutrition needs and agricultural markets.

h. Recognising the positive role that trade can play in achieving food security.

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. Achieving universal health coverage and realizing universal and equitable access to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and **well-being** for all.
 - b. Leveraging digital health technologies that are safe, accessible, inclusive, equitable and affordable, that enhance public health surveillance, enable personalized care, including through telemedicine, and **contribute** to equitable **access to health care and health services**.
 - c. Strengthening 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.
 - d. **Strengthening the resilience of health systems and ensuring equitable access to safe, affordable, effective and quality medicines, vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics and other health products and technologies, to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for present and future generations.**
 - e. **Promoting health equity for persons with disabilities by ensuring availability of and access to health services for all persons with disabilities including by providing quality standards of care.**
 - f. **Promoting and improving mental health services as an essential component of universal health coverage.**
 - b. 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)*
 - g. Strengthening integrated, resilient, inclusive, **people centred, affordable**, equitable, accessible and universal health systems, based on a **solid** primary health-care approach, that are affordable and adequately financed and supported by a competent health workforce and adequate health infrastructure.
 - h. Ensuring robust prevention, preparedness, and response to future pandemics and health emergencies, including **by strengthening** local, national, and regional production capacities and adequate infrastructure and logistics for medicines, vaccines, diagnostics, and other health-related technologies while **strengthening** technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and equitable access, particularly in developing countries.

- i. 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 **recognize** 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, and to **promote social development for all in its pillars**. In this regard, we commit to:
 - a. **Strengthening** equitable, safe, reliable and affordable access to digital technologies, digital public goods and digital public infrastructure for developing countries and **harnessing** the benefits of scientific progress and its applications.
 - c. Leveraging digital **and emerging** 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, healthcare, and decent work and employment opportunities while **ensuring that these transformations do not violate international labour standards as well as** ensuring a science-based and age-appropriate use of digital tools and 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)*
 - b. Bridging digital divides between and within countries, **including through** enhancing international **support, in line with national priorities, for targeted** capacity building in **science, technology and innovation** 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 **towards the achievement of all 17 Sustainable Development Goals**.
 - c. **Addressing** the spread of misinformation, disinformation, hate speech, and **content inciting harm** in a way that protects democratic values, and upholding **the right to** freedom of expression **and to privacy**.
 - d. Preventing and addressing **adverse impacts on the enjoyment of** 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 **inclusive and equitable** 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 **and lifelong learning opportunities for all. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages.**
 - 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. **Taking effective measure** to ensure intercultural and multilingual education.
- d. 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.
- e. **Promoting the availability, accessibility and affordability of quality education in science, technology, engineering and mathematics at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels to create an inclusive social environment conducive to the advancement of science, technology and innovation and entrepreneurship.**
- f. 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 pose challenges to social development, particularly in developing countries. In this regard we commit to taking urgent and ambitious climate action in the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change¹ and the Paris Agreement² in relation to climate mitigation, adaptation and the provision of the means of implementation, especially finance to developing countries and **we reaffirm all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, including, inter alia, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, as set out in principle 7 thereof.**

Disaster Risk Reduction

- 10. We recognize that the impacts of **disasters caused by human-made or natural hazards** pose serious challenges to social development, particularly in developing countries. In this regard, we commit to:
 - a. Strengthening adaptive **universal** social protection systems, ~~including 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.

¹ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

² Adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

- c. Ensuring that education and health systems and new and existing critical infrastructure, including water, transportation and telecommunications infrastructure, educational facilities, hospitals and other health facilities, are resilient and adaptable to disasters.

Gender equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls:

11. We reaffirm the need to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and to ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all women and girls throughout their life course 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 all women and girls, highlighting their key role within the social dimension of sustainable development.
- b. Implementing policies that ensure women's economic empowerment and equal opportunities in the labour market and taking measures to ensure fair living wages for women, and implement integrated care economy systems based on recognition, reduction and redistribution of unpaid care work and reward and representation of care workers, equitable care work, eliminate gender stereotypes and negative social norms.
- c. Recognizing, reducing and redistributing women's disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.
- d. Promoting 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.
- e. Enhancing women's full, equal, and meaningful participation and leadership in decision making processes at all levels and in all sectors and in contributing in all spheres of society and encouraging women-led development initiatives.
- f. 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 right to an adequate standard of living, including access to adequate safe, accessible and affordable housing, safe **and clean** drinking water, **adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene**. 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 **persons in low-income households, female-headed households, women, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, those experiencing homelessness, those living in poverty, including extreme poverty, and those in vulnerable situations**.
 - c. Strengthening international cooperation and capacity building in developing countries in safe **and clean** drinking water, **adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene** 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 access to electricity**, and address homelessness.
 - e. Ensuring universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, **including through enhanced international cooperation**.

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 **ensuring** 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 **additional, innovative, adequate, affordable, predictable, and accessible financing from all sources, recognizing the comparative advantages of public and private finance.** 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. **Continue reforming the international financial architecture, enhancing its resilience, coherence and effectiveness in responding to present and future challenges and crises and making global economic governance more inclusive, representative, equitable and effective, while recognizing the respective mandates and governance bodies of international financial institutions and other relevant international organisations and recognizing that the international community must work together to broaden and enhance the voice and representation of developing countries in international financial and economic institutions.**
 - c. Accelerating the reform efforts of the multilateral development banks to pay greater attention to financing for **the social dimension of the 2030 Agenda**, welcoming ongoing efforts to this end and recognizing that further reform of the banks are needed in addition to **enhancing the ability of multilateral banks and other public development banks to work better as a system and strengthening of private capital mobilization**, domestic resource mobilization and domestic policy and regulatory environment.
 - d. Ensuring fair and timely solutions **by establishing a UN-led debt mechanism** to address sovereign debt challenges and debt distress **and their effect on social development.**
 - e. Strengthening the inclusiveness and effectiveness of **international** tax cooperation at the United Nations, while taking into consideration the work of other relevant forums and institutions, and continuing to engage constructively **in the negotiations** on the United Nations framework convention on international tax cooperation and its protocols and, encourage support for the process.
 - 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. **Reaffirming the importance of official development assistance as a key component of international development cooperation in helping developing countries achieve social development and acknowledging the urgency of undertaking sustained efforts to reverse**

declining trends in official development assistance and urge developed countries to scale up and fulfill their respective official development commitments, including the long-standing commitment by most developed countries to achieve the targets of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to developing countries, and between 0.15 and 0.2 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to the least developed countries.

- h. Strengthening multilateral cooperation to enhance fiscal space for social spending and supporting developing countries in ensuring predictable, adequate and uninterrupted funding on appropriate terms of social protection and other essential social spending during shocks and crises.**
- i. 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 cooperation is a complement to, not a substitute for, North-South cooperation.**
- j. Implementing the Compromiso de Sevilla, with the aim of achieving sustainable development and 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 ~~7/16~~ 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 for 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 intergovernmental social development commitments and to proceeding to the strengthening of its role including in contribution to the review **and follow up** process **of this political declaration**.
- d. **Invite** 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, the outcome of which **can** feed into the global review.
 (NEW) Invites the International Labour Organization and its constituents, namely Governments, employers and workers, to also utilize existing mechanisms, for 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.
- e. Inviting the Economic and Social Council, funds and programmes of the United Nations Development system and the relevant organizations and specialized agencies, within their respective mandates, notably the International Labour Organization, to further integrate into their work programmes relevant intergovernmental 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 the Commission on Social Development, on enhancing financing mechanism and assistance to advance social development.
- h. Strengthening multi-stakeholder engagement and partnerships, including with parliamentarians, civil society, employers' and workers' organizations, youth, organizations of persons with disabilities, academia, local and regional authorities, faith-based organisations 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.