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**NAME OF ORGANISATION:** 100 Million (*co-conveners of the Justice for Africa campaign*)

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## Chapeau

Alongside the reaffirmation of the Charter of the United Nations, the UDHR and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, it is imperative that the Pact for the Future's Chapeau acknowledges that we are in an era of polycrisis. Rising poverty and inequality, climate catastrophe, spiralling conflicts, democratic decline, increased authoritarianism and unrestrained pursuit of profit not only threatens the success of the Pact, but the safety, dignity and survival of people and planet.

Therefore, we urge the zero-draft to:

- Recognise that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is currently dangerously off track, with the SDGs related to children particularly at risk of not being achieved.
- Acknowledge that we are in a new age of extreme inequality. World wealth has doubled since 2000 and trebled since 1980. We are \$60 trillion richer, yet it has been shared so unequally that on average GDP / capita has increased more every six weeks in high income countries than it has in the last 42 years in low-income countries.
- Take into account that eradicating poverty is not progressing equally, with sub-Saharan Africa falling the furthest behind. The number of undernourished people has risen in Africa from 160 million to 280 million in the last 12 years alone. Child stunting is increasing in Africa and there are now more child labourers in Africa than there are children in Europe.
- Reaffirm that the United Nations is the most globally representative and democratic system to address global challenges fairly and restore trust in multilateralism.

## Chapter I. Sustainable development and financing for development

Without a significant increase in financing for development from richer countries to low income countries the Sustainable Development Goals will not be achieved. Ending poverty and inequality should be tackled with the same urgency as other protracted crises such as conflict and climate disaster.

Therefore, we urge the zero-draft to:

- Address international injustices affecting African countries including the inequality in the allocation of Special Drawing Rights at the IMF and World Bank.
- Make a firm commitment for all high income countries to meet the 0.7% GNI target for ODA with 0.3% GNI committed to ODA to Africa.
- Full debt cancellation for all low and lower-middle income countries
- Encourage the negotiations on the new UN Tax Convention: High-income countries must support fairer international tax and trade rules, and better tax collection in countries. Taxes must be paid in the countries from which profits are generated, and the exclusion of the extractive industries from the Global Tax Agreement must be reversed.

- African governments must commit to stop exemptions for multinational and national corporations and strengthen their capacity to collect taxes and stop illicit financial flows.
- Launch a new Global Child Benefit Initiative to provide benefits for all children and new mothers living in a low income country.
- Call for IFI and MDB reform including an immediate transition to a more inclusive governance. The IMF must roll back the imposition of austerity measures – which have been proven to repeatedly fail to stimulate growth – and focus on ensuring countries are increasing spending on public services including health, education, and social protection.

## **Chapter II. International peace and security**

Total world military expenditure passed \$2 trillion in 2021 for the first time. The five biggest spenders in 2020 were the United States, China, India, Russia, and the United Kingdom, which together accounted for 62% of world military spending. Even a fraction of this expenditure would be enough to fully fund the Sustainable Development Goals.

Civilians fleeing conflict and terrorism must always have their right to seek asylum, guaranteed in international law such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 1951 Refugee Convention, upheld. The Pact for the Future must be vigilant against rising hostility towards refugees and asylum seekers in Member State policy and practice, and reiterate the need for a shared global responsibility for their protection.

Considering the above, we urge the zero-draft to:

- Encourage Member States to realign excessive military spending to invest in essential public goods such as education, healthcare and social protection.
- Reaffirm the UN Arms Trade Treaty, encourage universal ratification and reinforce the need for more corporate accountability in the defence sector.
- Call on Member States to adopt and enforce a legal framework requiring defence companies to do human rights due diligence and only grant export licences to those who have assessed the human rights impact of proposed arms exports.
- Recognise that the vast majority of the world's refugees are hosted by developing countries.
- Note with concern the rising hostility to refugees and asylum seekers in the Global North and reiterate Member State's compliance with their obligations to refugees and asylum seekers under international law, especially to children and unaccompanied minors.

## **Chapter III. Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation**

- Tackling the digital divide must acknowledge that African minerals have been critical in the global tech boom. For example 90% of the world's Cobalt comes from the DRC alone and is used in the batteries in many of the world's phone and laptop devices, but most of the profits are made in other countries. The government of the DRC receives such little tax revenue that it doesn't have enough funds to support its children, some of whom are forced to work in the very same Cobalt mines to survive.
- The strategy for an inclusive digital economy must go beyond infrastructure to also address the economic, technical, and social barriers of digital exclusion.
- Universal Service and Access Funds are critical and public financing is an important aspect of broadband policy. This can be financed through a percentage of the profits of private telecommunications companies such as in Thailand where 2.5% of annual revenue finances fairer access. It is important that schemes are co-designed by the communities they intend to serve

- A UN review should be established into international pharmaceutical patent mechanisms, their contribution to global vaccine inequality and a more responsible use of scientific research that facilitates greater technology transfer on mutually agreed terms to developed countries.

#### **Chapter IV. Youth and future generations**

Youth- and student-led movements have a long and proud history of organising themselves, many long before most INGOs and even the United Nations. Yet too often when students and young people are invited to policy-making forums and processes, collective and democratic youth- and student-led groups are ignored in favour of token individuals.

This approach undermines the self-organised leadership of students and young people, risks co-option by governments and other organisations and often means their engagement is unrepresentative of their peers. Therefore, we urge the zero-draft to:

- Call on Member States to endorse a global standard for meaningful youth engagement and review their national mechanisms for formal youth engagement in policy formation at the national and local level against this standard.
- Commit to creating self-organised, democratic constituencies of young people and youth-led organisations within all UN organs and mechanisms with equal decision-making power as other stakeholders.
- Recognise the importance of *representative*, self-organised, youth- and student-organisations and their role in promoting democratic values and safeguarding against tokenism or co-option of the youth voice.

#### **Chapter V. Transforming global governance**

Global injustice and inequality is fuelled and sustained by unjust and discriminatory global governance structures which overwhelmingly benefit the interests of the world's richest countries. Africa, the poorest continent in the world, continues to face enormous discrimination on the international stage. No African country is a member of the G7, and only one African country out of 54 is in the G20. The OECD has 38 member countries but not a single one is African, and voting power at the World Bank and IMF is dominated by non-African countries – the United States has three times more votes than all African countries together.

Global decision-making fora must be equal, democratic, and decolonised - it is unacceptable that the world continues to allow the wealthiest to make the rules the poor must live by with another glaring failure at the IMF's 16th Quota Review to redistribute voting power equitably. Global governance cannot keep giving some people in the world a greater voting weight than people from other countries in the world.

To address this glaring imbalance of power, we urge the zero-draft to:

- Accelerate progress to deliver SDG 10.6 (*ensure enhanced representation and voice of developing countries in decision making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions*) by:
  - Redistribute voting rights within the IMF by increasing basic votes to the proportion of 20% to deliver a more equal representation of countries
  - Provide greater regional balance to the Development Committee of the World Bank and IMF

- Ensure that the OECD has no leadership role in determining global tax arrangements given the disproportionate membership including the absence of any African members.