



Global Call to Action Against Poverty

People Rising to End Inequalities

Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP)

Written Input for the Preparation of the Zero Draft of the Pact for the Future

<https://gcap.global>

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The Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP) is a global movement with national coalitions in 66 countries around the globe with 18400 civil society member organisations, which represent from grassroots organisations and from marginalized groups including like indigenous people, persons with disabilities, older persons and communities discriminated by work and descent.

GCAP organizes the “bottom up” People’s Assemblies – in 2023, for the UN SDG Summit, with community assemblies and national People’s Assemblies in 40 countries, 4 regional assemblies and the 4th Global People’s Assembly in New York on 17 and 18 September 2023. This had 2040 registrations online and offline and 350 participants in New York and was organized with 64 global, regional and national CSO networks including Amnesty International, Greenpeace Oxfam, Save the Children, Action for Sustainable Development and several Major Groups and other Stakeholders.

The following messages which we submit for the Pact for the future came out of this process:

Chapeau

No Future with Poverty

Our future has to be without poverty. Humanity has all the means and instruments to end extreme poverty and halve poverty by 2030, which is the goal of the 2030 Agenda. There is enough food to feed everyone on the planet. Yet in 2023 more than 800 million people go hungry and live in extreme poverty. This number has increased in recent years. In 2020, a shocking 2.4 billion people, or more than 30% of the world’s population, were moderately or severely food insecure and lacked regular access to adequate food. Four billion people worldwide, over half the global population, still live without adequate social protection. Those denied social protection lack important means of escaping extreme poverty, ensuring sufficient food security for themselves and their families and accessing essential health and other services. Without effective social protection, inequalities within societies and between

countries are increased – in particular, women and girls, people with disabilities and older persons are severely disadvantaged.

More than the general confirmations of past agreements are required. The global community needs concrete plans, political will and financial commitments to lead us to fulfillment of SDG 1 and 2 by 2030. Concrete commitments to establish Social Protection Floors for all by 2030 are long overdue.

Global Justice is the core of sustainable future: The Pact for the Future must be a road map to deliver the three pillars of global justice:

- Social Justice
- Climate Justice and
- Financial and Economic Justice.

The political, financial, economic, and social architecture, as well as the individuals who lead these systems, are failing us. The crisis and the context of global injustice has its roots partly in colonial history and deepening inequalities brought about by a shift from public policy to benefit all, to neo-capitalism, where social well-being for all is trumped by profit seeking by the few, and the poorest suffer the consequences. The 1% richest has captured 54% of new global wealth in the last decade. Most global institutions are still dominated by rich countries which reflects global politics at the end of the second world war.

Recommendations:

1. The chapeau of the Pact for the Future must clearly express both the political will and the actions needed to realise the goals to eradicate poverty by 2030 and to eradicate hunger by 2030. This means ensuring universal social protection for all, having in place Social Protection Floors for all by 2030 and ensuring food security for all.
2. Reforms are needed now, including the reform of the that of the global financial architecture

Chapter I. Sustainable development and financing for development

Without adequate social protection, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to achieve several of the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In particular, the fight against poverty, the reduction of inequalities within and between societies, adequate food supply and health care, regular school attendance for children and the elimination of gender discrimination are goals that are inextricably linked to target 1.3 of the 2030 Agenda. Some countries have succeeded in generating adequate domestic resources to ensure rights-based and sustainably financed social protection systems for the entire population. Other countries, however, do not yet have sufficient financial resources nor the political will to fully guarantee their population this protection.

It is therefore essential and urgent that the international community supports the rollout and the financing of social protection floors worldwide. With the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection proposed by the UN Secretary-General, global solutions to these problems are currently being sought. A Global financing mechanism for Social Protection is recommended, be based on the principle of global solidarity, to support countries and their citizens to design, implement and, in specific cases, provide temporary co-financing for national social protection floors as described in ILO recommendation 202.

Recommendations:

- 1 Concrete text in the Pact for the Future that ensures that all Governments **develop voluntary national plans to achieve universal social protection floors** by 2030 to achieve target 1.3 of the SDGs
- 2 All Governments, the UN and International Finance Institutions be required to **Financially** support national plans to establish universal social protection floors

In all cases financial support must be significantly expanded, otherwise it will not be possible in many parts of the world to successfully implement social protection floors – the basis for achieving some of the key objectives of the 2030 Agenda. This is why international tax reform is needed globally to address lost revenues that must be recaptured for domestic government expenditure and international funds. Member States can advance towards a UN Convention on Taxes that allows to fight tax evasion and illicit financial flows and thus generate the domestic resources indispensable for social protection.

Recommendations:

1. To create a **just global financial architecture** that allow governments to create domestic resources to implement the national plans especially on the financial architecture related to debt, tax and ODA
2. The establishment of a new international mechanism to finance human-rights based Social Protection Floors, in particular for low-income countries and countries in crisis situations with commitment to ambitious and relevant financial contributions for the Mechanism and with governance principles for the Financing Mechanism to guarantee democratic (not donor driven) and effective participation of social partners, organizations representing people of all ages, including women, people with disabilities, older persons, minorities, and those living in poverty, in their design, implementation and monitoring.
3. To **enable multilateral debt relief via a multilateral legal framework for a debt work out mechanism** under the aegis of the UN to cancel, restructure, suspend, and lower rates on existing debt, and cease including austerity conditionalities in any new debt issued.
4. **Adoption of a UN Tax Convention** through establishing a binding convention and a global tax body under the auspices of the UN.
5. **New Financing through new Special Drawing Rights** and reallocation of Special Drawing Rights based on need and in support of an SDG-led recovery and investments.
6. An increase in development cooperation and **delivery of the commitment to 0.7% ODA.**
7. IFI and MDB reform, including more inclusive and balance governance of these bodies.

Chapter II. International peace and security

Member States should cooperate with the UN to bring the 32 ongoing wars to an end and to create better and more efficient mechanisms within the UN for conflict prevention and resolution. Poverty and inequality are root causes of conflict. As countries reconstruct and communities regroup after conflict and disruption social protection plays a fundamental role

in the prevention of wider conflicts and to support access to health and education, work and small-scale investment.

Recommendations:

1. The potential benefit of ensuring the right to social protection for all to reduce and counter marginalization, radicalization, and extremism that fuel conflict should be acknowledged in the Summit conclusions and the language of the Pact.
2. Reduce military expenditure by at least three percent annually (25% by 2030) and redirect military spending towards peacebuilding and the realisation of the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals.
3. Sustainable ceasefires and humanitarian support for those affected by war and conflict, now stretching across the globe, are essential to international peace and security. Ceasefires are needed now, along with compliance in all circumstances with international law, and peace negotiations for sustainable living solutions of all peoples and nations.

Chapter III. Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation

Civil society organizations, in all their diversities and across all age groups, together with academia, must be involved in efforts to bridge the digital divide. Their expertise and experiences enable them to ensure ethical monitoring of digital innovation and that no one is left behind.

System building to deliver social protection requires up-to-date technology and data accuracy. Advances in this field significantly enhance governmental accountability and can support citizen inclusion in development. They are an important contribution to ensuring that social protection measures can also be expanded to the most vulnerable groups of society. Cooperation between countries and UN agencies on digital innovation for social protection is an exciting development which is supporting the building of robust governmental institutions, essential for SDG achievement. Building age and gender inclusive social protection systems should engage national populations and be a participatory process, which demonstrates good governance and robust national institutions.

Recommendations:

1. Include strong recommendations for upholding human rights principles and ensuring human control over AI in the Pact for the Future.
2. Put in place financial and technical cooperation for universal social protection to demonstrate global commitment to inclusive, participatory and knowledge sharing processes from the local level to those at national, regional, and global levels.

Chapter IV. Youth and future generations

Ageing is very prevalent in all countries with increasing life expectancy of those aged 70, with the fastest increase in the countries of the global south. All countries should be adapting to the rights and needs of older persons in the formulation and development of health and social services, in the provision of social protection, and the development of cities, housing, educational opportunities and transportation. Older people can and do support their dependent family members and young

people must be able to develop their future prospects in a safe social and economically stable environment.

Youth are facing heightened susceptibility to enduring effects of climate change, job insecurity and ecosystem changes. It is fundamental for children and young people as they age that the protection of their welfare, health, and job prospects is given priority.

To ensure that young people can develop their future prospects in a safe social environment, and to counter the noxious effects of poverty on child development, target 1.3 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (“Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable”) must be achieved. Sustainable social protection will enable improved life conditions from the cradle to the grave. This creates pathways to equitable life chances; future generations will not be able to enjoy decent lives unless adequate social protection is sustainably guaranteed for them.

There is a high and increasing numbers of migrants many of them youths, including IDPs and asylum seekers who experience systematic human rights violations, abuses and intimidation. Instead of supporting civil and economic integration of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees according to the provisions of refugee and international law, they are scapegoated and blamed for national problems, detained and imprisoned and subjected to human rights violations. Communities and organisations of civil society are essential partners to member states in supporting migrants refugees and asylum seekers in their integration.

Recommendations

1. The Pact for the Future to call on member States to formulate enduring, effective age and gender inclusive social and economic policies, including social protection throughout the life course.
2. We ask that the Pact for the Future condemn the scapegoating of asylum seekers, migrants and refugees and recognise the role of civil society in supporting their integration.

Chapter V. Transforming global governance

Global governance structures must be designed in such a way that all states – regardless of their economic and financial strength – can influence multilateral decisions on an equal basis. If international funds are set up to deal with global problems (e.g., in the areas of climate protection, health and food security or social protection), contributors and recipients must have equal rights in the decision-making process. It is also important that the affected civilian population is adequately represented in these processes. The influence of the corporate sector, especially **multinational corporations must not take over** and silence the voices of the People and civil society as their representatives.

Make global institutions more democratic, representative and inclusive by limiting the use of the veto in the UN Security Council and ensuring civil society's right to meaningful participation, based on the best practices of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board and the International Labour Organization, which provide effective, transparent and formal mechanisms for inclusion. Concrete Proposals:

Recommendations:

1. **Ensure Civil Society Caucus at UN General Assemblies through People's Assemblies:**
As the UN Secretary General proposed in Our Common Agenda there should be civil society caucus during the UN General Assembly each year. This proposal is fundamental to create a process to get inputs and voices from people around the world including from marginalized groups. This should be autonomous organized. We propose to build on the model of the global bottom-up People's Assembly process, which started in 2019 and which comprises: National People's Assemblies and the Global People's Assembly during the UNGA High level week. See <https://www.peoplesassembly.global/en/>
2. Support the creation of a **UN Parliamentary Assembly** and a **UN World Citizens' Initiative** to provide meaningful access for people, elected representatives and civil society by
 - the creation of a World's Citizen Initiative to enable people to put forward proposals on key issues of global concern for discussion and further action at the highest political level. Any proposal that reaches a certain threshold of popular support could be placed on the agenda of the UN General Assembly and the UN Security Council.
 - the creation of a UN Parliamentary Assembly which enables the inclusion of people's elected representatives in decision making at the UN. The assembly will act as a representative body and watchdog connecting people with the UN and while representing a wide diversity of viewpoints.
3. Put in place a **UN civil society envoy** to enable greater participation, spur inclusive convenings and drive the UN's outreach to the public and civil society organisations. The envoy would champion a broader strategy to open up the UN to people's and civil society voices.