

Global Coalition for **SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOORS**

Winning the fight against poverty and inequality:

Global coalition for social protection floors Demands to EU Member States

Brussels, 4 – 6 November 2014

Background

In recent years, social protection has come strongly back on the international cooperation agenda. The role social protection plays in eradicating and preventing poverty, and creating social and economic development is largely recognized by international agencies, donors, governments and civil society¹.

Nevertheless, more than two billion people in the world live in poverty and are not adequately covered by social protection. Less than 30% of the world's population has adequate social security coverage².

With this background, as part of the **UNIVERSAL SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOORS ADVOCACY TOUR***, between the 4th and 6th November, Civil Society Organizations from all around the world will meet EU Member States Representatives (EUMS) with the aim of exchanging views on the role of universal social protection to fight poverty and inequality, and to promote its inclusion in the post-2015 international development cooperation framework.

OUR KEY DEMANDS

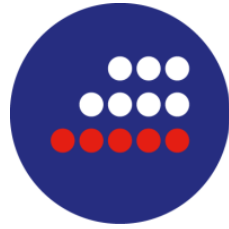
With the forthcoming Council Conclusions on Post -2015 to be adopted on December 14th and the ongoing negotiations on the post-2015 international development cooperation framework, we, CSOs members of the Global coalition for social protection floors, demand your support so that

i) The Council Conclusions of December 2014 keep a strong focus on universal and comprehensive social protection systems and floors (such as outlined in ILO Recommendation 202).

Already on 25 June 2013 the General Affairs Council meeting on the Overarching Post 2015 Agenda concluded – among other things- that “The *EU and its Member States reaffirm that an inclusive and equitable green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication is one of the important tools available for achieving sustainable development and*

¹ In 2012, all the main international agencies adopted their social protection policies. This has been the case, for example, of the World Bank, UNICEF, the WFP, the ILO, and the European Commission. At the same time, in Africa, Asia, Latina America, the Arab countries and Globally, CSOs have mobilized to demand the implementation of universal social protection systems and floors.

² ILO [World Social Protection Report 2014/15, “Building economic recovery, inclusive development and social justice”](#).



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*underline their commitment in this regard through their strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth (Europe 2020) and through other relevant policies and in particular through the EU Sustainable Development Strategy. It is also necessary in the above context to respect planetary boundaries, [...] and to promote social inclusion, **social protection floors and decent work for all.***"

"The Council emphasises that the framework should recognise that poverty eradication and sustainable development are mutually reinforcing and interlinked and therefore should:

*b) Integrate the three interrelated dimensions of sustainable development, (economic, social and environmental) in a balanced way to ensure: basic living standards, including food and nutrition security, health, education, water and sanitation, sustainable energy, **decent work and social protection floors for all***"

In line with the major UN Treaties on Human Rights, the Recommendation Concerning National Floors of Social Protection (R 202), unanimously adopted at the 101st session of the International Labour Conference in 2012, emphasises the "universality of protection" as a key principle.

ii) The post-2015 development cooperation framework supports the inclusion of a target on the implementation, by 2030, of universal and comprehensive social protection systems and quality nationally-defined social protection floors (such as outlined in ILO Recommendation 202).

The Proposal of the Open Working Group for Sustainable Development Goals of July 2014, includes under Goal 1 'End poverty in all its forms everywhere' a target on the implementation of "*nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable*". We consider this a good basis for a more ambitious target: the implementation of universal and comprehensive social protection systems and quality nationally-defined social protection floors.

Already in 2010, the UN MDG Summit outcome document acknowledged that progress towards the achievement of the MDGs could be made by "*Promoting universal access to public and social services and providing social protection floors*". More recently, the 2012 Rio+20 resolution³ stated "*the need to provide social protection to all members of society, fostering growth, resilience, social justice and cohesion, including those who are employed in the informal economy. We strongly encourage providing social protection floors for all citizens.*"

Universal social protection systems build resilience and prevent people from falling into poverty; their redistributive role contributes to reducing inequalities. Universal social protection systems

³

The Future We Want' UNGA A/RES/66/288 Para 156.



directly address many dimensions of poverty, and have major impacts on the economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

We would be delighted to discuss these points further in our meeting.

About the Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors

Established in 2011, the Coalition for a Social Protection Floor is a network of more than 60 organisations all around the world. It seeks to influence international debates on a social protection floor and raise awareness of the ILO Recommendation 202 (particularly relating to the post-2015 MDGs agenda); to create a platform for learning experiences among civil society organisations worldwide, including contributing to the development of tools. For more information: www.socialprotectionfloorscoalition.org

** The UNIVERSAL SOCIAL PROTECTION ADVOCACY TOUR is organized by the Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors, SOLIDAR, Brot für die Welt, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung - with the support of the Belgian Development Cooperation Platform (CNCD/11.11.11), Church of Sweden, HelpAge International and OGB-L. It will bring to Brussels 8 CSOs representatives from **Jordan, Zambia, Kenya, Ghana, Argentina, India, Thailand and The Philippines.***

#SocialProtection4All