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# COMMISSION for SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

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United Nations

Department of  
Economic and  
Social Affairs



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## Inputs of the Commission for Social Development to the 2022 HLPF and ECOSOC on the theme “Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”

These inputs are based on the outcomes of the 60<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission for Social Development, which took place from 7 – 16 February 2022. Paragraphs were drawn from the resolutions on the priority theme of the 60<sup>th</sup> session, “Inclusive and resilient recovery from COVID-19 for sustainable livelihoods, well-being and dignity for all: eradicating poverty and hunger in all its forms and dimensions to achieve the 2030 Agenda” as well as on the “Social dimensions of New Partnership for Africa’s Development”, that were adopted by consensus at the Commission. The inputs are organized using the suggested template for inputs contained in the letter of the President of ECOSOC of 23 November 2021 addressed to the Chair of the Commission. [Paragraph numbers are from the resolution on the priority theme (E/CN.5/2022/L.3) unless otherwise indicated.]

### Overview

The 60th session of the Commission for Social Development took place from 7-16 February 2022, with the priority theme of ***“Inclusive and resilient recovery from COVID-19 for sustainable livelihoods, well-being and dignity for all: eradicating poverty and hunger in all its forms and dimensions to achieve the 2030 Agenda”***.

The Commission also reviewed relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups, the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development. The Commission convened 5 panel discussions: a high-level panel on the priority theme, a Ministerial Forum under the theme of “Strengthening multilateralism to deliver well-being and dignity for all by addressing food insecurity and the eradication of poverty, including through the promotion of sustainable food systems”, a high-level panel on Emerging Issues: “National policies and measures implemented by Member States to combat hunger and poverty in times of the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond: Challenges to get on track towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda”, a multi-stakeholder forum on the priority theme, and an interactive dialogue with senior officials of the United Nations system on the priority theme.

39 high-level government officials (Ministerial level and First Lady) participated in the Commission session.

The Commission adopted by consensus two draft resolutions on: the priority theme; the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development; and one decision on the priority theme of the 61<sup>st</sup> session of the Commission as ***“Creating full and productive employment and decent work for all as a way of overcoming inequalities to accelerate the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”***. The two resolutions are recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council.

(a) Progress, experience, lessons learned, challenges and impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the implementation of SDGs 4, 5, 14, 15 and 17 from the vantage point of your intergovernmental body, bearing in mind the three dimensions of sustainable development and the interlinkages across the SDGs and targets, including policy implications of their synergies and trade-offs;

- At this critical moment in the decade of action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 the visions, principles and commitments made at the World Summit for Social Development remain valid and are central to addressing emerging global challenges, and recalling that social policies have a key role to play in addressing the immediate effects of socioeconomic crises and in the design of recovery strategies (PP16).
- Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, for all people everywhere, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, as well as an overarching objective of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, of which the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development is an integral part, supporting and complementing it (PP5).
- Acknowledges the urgent need to accelerate action on all levels and by all stakeholders to fulfil the vision and Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and emphasizes that the international community, through the outcome documents of the major United Nations conferences and summits adopted by the General Assembly, has reinforced, inter alia, the urgency of eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, combating inequality within and among countries, protecting the environment, creating sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and fostering social inclusion within the United Nations development agenda, including the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the New Urban Agenda (OP2).
- Acknowledges that recovery from COVID-19 pandemic gives additional opportunity to develop integrated long-term policy frameworks to achieve the SDGs, and that such frameworks should aim to simultaneously eradicate poverty and hunger as well as malnutrition, combat inequalities, enhance people's capabilities and well-being, promote acceleration actions at the national, regional and international levels and ensure sustainable livelihoods for all, and also recognizes that a multi-dimensional analysis of poverty and hunger should inform these recovery strategies (OP6).
- Reaffirming the right of everyone to have access to safe, sufficient and nutritious food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger, so as to be able to fully develop and maintain their physical and mental

capacities, and underlining the need to make special efforts to meet nutritional needs, especially of women, children, older persons, indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities, as well as of those living in vulnerable situations (PP33).

- All people must enjoy a basic standard of living, including through social protection systems, and to end hunger and to achieve food security as a matter of priority and to end all forms of malnutrition (PP17).
- Stressing the need to design sustainable food systems, and recognizing that agricultural technology and digitalization can contribute to food security and nutrition and help to build resilience (PP35).

#### **SDG 4 Quality Education**

- The COVID-19 pandemic has had a negative impact on education (OP15). Non-income dimensions of poverty and deprivation, such as access to quality education or basic health services, and relative poverty remain major concerns (PP23).
- The COVID-19 pandemic has had a disproportionate impact on children, especially girls, including on their access to essential health-care services and education. School closures have hit the poorest and most vulnerable children and their families the hardest; many children may never return to education as they are forced into child marriage or child labour (PP37).

#### **SDG 5 Gender Equality**

- The COVID-19 pandemic increased the number of those living in poverty and has also led to further impoverishment of those already living in poverty. Those who are vulnerable or in vulnerable situations, particularly women, children, including girls, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, people of African descent and indigenous peoples, have struggled with and continue to face the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic (PP19).
- While women contribute more than 50 per cent of the food produced worldwide, they also account for 70 per cent of the world's hungry. Women and girls are disproportionately affected by hunger, food insecurity and poverty, in part as a result of gender inequality and discrimination, that in many countries girls are twice as likely as boys to die from malnutrition and preventable childhood diseases, and that it is estimated that almost twice as many women as men suffer from malnutrition (PP20).
- Member States recognize the critical role and contribution of rural women, including smallholders and women farmers, and indigenous women and women in local communities, and their traditional knowledge in enhancing agricultural and rural development, improving food security and eradicating rural poverty (PP21).
- Violence and harassment is a threat to equal opportunities, is unacceptable and incompatible with decent work and may prevent women from accessing, remaining and advancing in the labour market (OP14).

#### **SDG 17 Partnerships**

- The COVID-19 pandemic requires a global response based on unity, solidarity and renewed multilateral cooperation (PP15).

- Addressing interlinked challenges such as eliminating hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition and increasing the resilience of livelihoods can be done by further strengthening global partnership for sustainable development and leaving no one behind (PP24).
- Effective poverty eradication policies require partnerships between national and local governments and civil society organizations. Civil society organizations can help in identifying and addressing the needs of those who are vulnerable or in vulnerable situations, and draw attention to who is being left behind, as well as facilitate the identification of, outreach to and communication with them (PP29).
- Equitable and timely access for all to safe, quality, effective and affordable COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics are an essential part of a global response based on unity, solidarity, renewed multilateral cooperation and the principle of leaving no one behind (OP24).
- International cooperation has an essential role in assisting developing countries, including highly indebted poor countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing Member States and middle-income countries, in strengthening their human, institutional and technological capacity (OP41).

(b) Assessment of the situation regarding the principle of “leaving no one behind” against the background of the COVID-19 pandemic and for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, within the respective areas addressed by your intergovernmental body;

- With less than 10 years left to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has slowed down the progress in achieving many of the Goals by 2030, including Goal 1, which aims to end poverty in all its forms everywhere, and Goal 2, which aims to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture, as well as Goal 10, which aims to reduce inequality within and among countries. Those who are vulnerable or in vulnerable situations, are the hardest hit by the pandemic (PP18).
- The COVID-19 pandemic is one of the greatest global challenges in the history of the United Nations, and its impact on physical and mental health and the loss of life and well-being, as well as the negative impact on global humanitarian needs, the enjoyment of human rights and across all spheres of society, including on livelihoods, food security and nutrition, and education, the exacerbation of poverty and hunger, disruption to economies, trade, societies and environments, and the exacerbation of economic and social inequalities within and among countries (PP15).
- The COVID-19 pandemic increased the number of those living in poverty and has also led to further impoverishment of those already living in poverty. Those who are vulnerable or in vulnerable situations, particularly women, children, including girls, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, people of African descent and indigenous peoples, are the hardest hit by the pandemic and have struggled with and continue to face the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic (PP19).
- Significant progress has been made in several parts of the world in combating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, however, poverty persists and has increased because of the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, in all countries of the world, regardless of their economic, social and cultural situation, and is particularly severe in developing countries. Poverty extends to and manifests itself in, among other things, social exclusion, hunger, discrimination, the

feminization of poverty, vulnerability to trafficking in persons, sexual exploitation and abuse, child, early and forced marriage, child labour and disease, lack of adequate shelter, lack of access to basic services, lack of upward social mobility, and illiteracy (PP22).

- The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is reversing hard-won development gains and hampering progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and all its Goals and targets. The pandemic has slowed down the progress in achieving many of the Goals by 2030, including Goal 1, Goal 2, as well as Goal 10 (PP15).
- Progress in reducing poverty remains uneven, with 1.3 billion people still living in multidimensional poverty, and this number continues to be significant and unacceptably high, whereas the levels of inequality in income, wealth and opportunities remain high or are increasing in a number of countries, and the non-income dimensions of poverty and deprivation, such as access to quality education or basic health services, and relative poverty remain major concerns. National and global efforts are important in creating conditions for sustainable development, inclusive and sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and decent work for all in society, taking into account different levels of national development capacities (PP23).
- According to the most recent estimates by the UN entities and agencies,<sup>1</sup> the number of chronically undernourished people in the world increased to 811 million, or as many as 161 million more in 2020 than in 2019, and that global nutrition challenges are increasingly complex as multiple forms of malnutrition, including stunting, wasting, underweight, micronutrient deficiencies, overweight and obesity, may coexist within the same country or household (PP36).
- Disruptions to food and health systems have contributed to a reversal in progress on maternal and child health and an increase in all forms of malnutrition, and contributed to an additional 142 million children living in income-poor households in 2020 (PP37).
- The exacerbation of poverty during the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in an increase in child labour (PP15).
- COVID-19 pandemic has impacted youth, including young women and girls, youth with disabilities and those who are in vulnerable situations, and has also accelerated digital transformation, which risks widening the digital divides, further exacerbating existing inequalities in learning opportunities and access to education, as well as polarizing the labour market (CSocD59 Resolution on Policies and programmes involving youth PP17).
- The promotion of well-being for all people over their life cycle should be at the core of any efforts to reduce poverty and hunger and is an essential component of inclusive and resilient recovery, and that building efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable food systems is critical for guaranteeing food security and ensuring access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food by all, while addressing other interlinked challenges such as eliminating hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition and increasing the resilience of livelihoods by further strengthening global partnership for sustainable development and leaving no one behind (PP24).
- The rural poor might be less prepared to deal with the effects of and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and could have less access to adequate sanitation, food and nutrition, health-

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<sup>1</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Food Programme, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund

care services, education, the Internet, information and communications technologies, social protection, financial services and public infrastructure (PP25).

- Special efforts need to be taken to meet nutritional needs, especially of women, children, older persons, indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities, as well as of those living in vulnerable situations (PP33)
- There is a need to address challenges faced by those working in informal or vulnerable jobs, by investing in the creation of more decent work opportunities, including providing access to decent jobs in the formal sector (OP11).
- It is important to develop and implement policies and programmes to support entrepreneurship, especially for women and youth, and emphasizes that the role of entrepreneurship, including social entrepreneurship, and micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in social and economic development is more critical than ever in the post-COVID-19 recovery and beyond (OP13).
- Nationally appropriate social protection systems for all address multiple, often interrelated and complex causes of poverty and inequality by easing the burden of certain expenditure during periods of unemployment, contributing to health-related goals, gender equality and decent work, and facilitating the full inclusion of persons with disabilities (OP16).
- There is a need to better coordinate social protection policies and measures with poverty reduction programmes and other social policies to avoid excluding people in informal or precarious jobs, and recognizes the need to promote transitions towards the formal economy, expanding and upgrading existing social assistance programmes by increasing benefit level and coverage to informal workers, including seasonal and casual labourers in rural areas (OP22).
- Expresses deep concern for the gap in vaccination rates, particularly between developed and developing countries, especially African countries, and notes with great concern the severe negative impact on human health, safety and well-being caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the severe disruption to societies and economies and the devastating impact on lives and livelihoods, and that the poorest and most vulnerable are the hardest hit by the pandemic, reaffirms the ambition to get back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by designing and implementing sustainable and inclusive recovery strategies to accelerate progress towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to help to reduce the risk of and build resilience to future shocks, crises and pandemics, including by strengthening health systems and achieving universal health coverage, and recognizes that equitable and timely access for all to safe, quality, effective and affordable COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics are an essential part of a global response based on unity, solidarity, renewed multilateral cooperation and the principle of leaving no one behind (OP24).
- Member States are concerned that the current COVID-19 crisis is likely to reverse decades of progress in social development, leaving more people behind and that it has also had a negative impact on the abilities of Governments to realize the 2030 Agenda and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, stressing that at this critical moment in the decade of action to deliver the Goals by 2030 the visions, principles and commitments made at the World Summit for Social Development remain valid and are central to addressing emerging global challenges, and recalling that social policies have a key role to play in addressing the immediate effects of crises (Resolution on the Social Dimensions of NEPAD, PP22).

- Member States are deeply concerned that the COVID-19 pandemic, owing to its severe disruptions to societies, economies, employment, global trade, supply chains and travel, and agricultural, industrial and commercial systems, is having a devastating impact on sustainable development and humanitarian needs, including on poverty eradication, livelihoods, ending hunger, food security and nutrition, education, environmentally sound waste management and access to health care, especially for the poor and people in vulnerable situations and in countries in special situations and those countries most affected, and is making the prospect of achieving all Sustainable Development Goals more difficult, including eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions by 2030, ending hunger and achieving food security and improved nutrition (Resolution on the Social Dimensions of NEPAD, PP23).

(c) Actions and policy recommendations in areas requiring urgent attention in relation to the implementation of the SDGs under review;

#### **SDG 4 Quality Education**

- Encourages Member States to promote affordable and equitable access to basic services, in particular quality formal and non-formal education, at all levels, including programmes that promote equality and inclusion through the affirmation of the fundamental dignity of the human person (OP7).
- Member States emphasize the importance of increasing international cooperation to improve the quality of and access to education, including efforts to realize girls' right to education, in particular for African countries, including through building and strengthening education-related infrastructure and increasing investment in education (Resolution on the Social Dimensions of NEPAD, OP46).
- African Member States and development partners are urged to meet the needs of young people and empower them, in particular by tackling the high levels of youth unemployment through the development of quality education, skills training and entrepreneurship programmes that address illiteracy, enhance the employability and capabilities of young people, facilitate school-to-work transitions and expand guaranteed employment schemes, where appropriate, with particular attention to disadvantaged young people in both rural and urban areas (Resolution on the Social Dimensions of NEPAD, OP47).
- Calls upon Member States to prevent the harmful effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on children by mitigating the damaging socioeconomic impacts, including by ensuring the continuity of child-centered services and policies on an equal and attainable access basis, upholding the right of the child to quality education on the basis of equal opportunity and non-discrimination and supporting education that is inclusive, equitable and accessible by implementing appropriate measures to ensure supporting families in the return of children, particularly girls and children in vulnerable situations, to school, when it is safe to do so, and access to opportunities to catch up on lost learning and while in confinement, to support school systems, teachers and families in ensuring a reliable source of daily nutrition and using accessible and inclusive distance-learning solutions to close the digital divides, while protecting children from violence, abuse and exploitation, online and offline, and recalling that no child shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his or her privacy and family (OP37).

#### **SDG 5 Gender Equality**

- Encourages Member States to implement policies that ensure women's economic empowerment by supporting the full and productive participation of women in the labour market, including women with disabilities, and those living in poverty and female heads of household, and to promote equal pay for equal work or work of equal value, the equal sharing of responsibilities between parents, access to childcare facilities, work-family balance, including, inter alia, while caring for children, older persons, persons with disabilities, and by promoting their meaningful participation in the economy and in decision-making processes at all levels (OP12).
- Urges Member States to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by guaranteeing equal access to opportunities and social protection for all, in particular for those in vulnerable situations, including by mainstreaming a gender perspective in food security programmes, especially for women and girls who experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence, considering that the empowerment of women and girls in diverse situations and conditions will make a crucial contribution to progress across all the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda (OP34).
- Encourages Member States, when designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating social protection programmes for social development, to ensure gender mainstreaming throughout this process (OP18).
- Calls upon Member States to adopt measures to recognize, reduce and redistribute women's and girls' disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work and the feminization of poverty, which is exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, including through poverty eradication measures, labour policies, public services and gender-responsive social protection programmes (OP35).
- Encourages Member States to facilitate the digital and financial literacy and inclusion of women and their equal access to formal financial services, including timely and affordable credit, loans, savings, insurance and remittance transfer schemes; integrate a gender perspective into finance sector policy and regulations, in accordance with national priorities and legislation, encourage financial institutions, such as commercial banks, development banks, agricultural banks, microfinance institutions, mobile network operators, agent networks, cooperatives, postal banks and savings banks, to provide access to financial products, services and information to women and encourage the use of innovative tools and platforms, including online and mobile banking (OP36).

### **SDG 17 Partnerships**

- Welcomes the contributions of South-South cooperation to poverty eradication and sustainable development, and reaffirms that South-South cooperation is an important element of international cooperation for development as a complement to, not a substitute for, North-South cooperation, and commits itself to strengthening South-South and triangular cooperation as a means of bringing relevant experience and expertise to bear in development cooperation (OP43).
- Encourages the international community to intensify development cooperation, including through South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation, as well as multi-stakeholder partnerships, to support countries, especially developing countries, upon their request, in building their national capacity for science, technology and innovation for social development, as well as to support research networks that reach across borders, institutions and disciplines (OP45).



- Invites all relevant stakeholders, including the United Nations system and civil society organizations, to continue to promote the exchange of information and good practices on programmes, policies and measures that successfully reduce inequality in all its dimensions (OP47).

(d) Policy recommendations, commitments and cooperation measures for promoting a sustainable, resilient and inclusive recovery from the pandemic while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda

- Calls upon Member States to ensure the promotion and protection of all human rights, in accordance with their obligations under international human rights law (OP4).
- Encourages Member States to promote affordable and equitable access to basic services, in particular quality formal and non-formal education, at all levels, including programmes that promote equality and inclusion through the affirmation of the fundamental dignity of the human person, and health-care services, including through the acceleration of the transition towards equitable access to universal health coverage, as well as access to affordable housing, nutrition and food, and access to employment and decent work, information and communications technology and infrastructure, through advancing gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls (OP7).
- Encourages Governments to continue their efforts to develop strategies and programmes aimed at strengthening national capacities to address national priorities relating to family oriented policies and to step up their efforts, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, to implement those objectives, in particular in the areas of fighting poverty and hunger, to prevent the intergenerational transfer and feminization of poverty and ensure the well-being of all at all ages in order to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (OP8).
- Member States are determined to address the COVID-19 pandemic through a global response based on unity, solidarity and renewed multilateral cooperation among States, peoples and generations that enhances the ability and resolve of States and other relevant stakeholders to fully implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Resolution on the Social Dimensions of NEPAD, PP24).

#### **Labour policies**

- Invites Member States to consider adopting labour market policies that strengthen institutions and provide adequate labour protection to all workers, including through social dialogue, especially the most disadvantaged, including through minimum wage policies, while taking into account the role of workers' and employers' organizations, as applicable, as part of policies to boost income growth for the vast majority of workers, taking into consideration the specific circumstances of each country (OP10).
- Encourages Member States to respect, promote and realize the right to work and to prevent and eliminate violence, abuse and sexual harassment (OP14).
- Urges Member States to take immediate and effective measures to secure the prohibition and ensure the elimination of child labour in all its forms, by 2025 at the latest (OP15).

#### **Social Protection**

- Acknowledges the vital role that sustainable social protection systems play in the COVID-19 pandemic response, and encourages Member States to ensure that recovery from the COVID-

19 pandemic provides a policy window for the countries concerned to address their significant gaps in social protection coverage by making progress towards universal, adequate, comprehensive and sustainable social protection systems, by including, in accordance with their national legislations, basic income, child benefits, maternity benefits, sickness benefits, disability benefits, unemployment benefits and old-age pension, and that these social protection systems should identify and close coverage gaps, especially for those who are in vulnerable situations, including informal workers, migrants and unpaid carers (OP20).

- Encourages Member States to provide universal age-, disability-, gender-responsive and family-oriented social protection systems, which are key to ensuring poverty reduction, including, as appropriate, targeted cash transfers for people and families in vulnerable situations, such as when headed by a single parent, in particular those headed by women, and which are most effective in reducing poverty when accompanied by other measures, such as providing access to essential services, high-quality education and health-care services (OP21).

**Inclusive and resilient recovery from COVID-19 for sustainable livelihoods, well-being and dignity for all: eradicating poverty and hunger in all its forms and dimensions to achieve the 2030 Agenda**

- Encourages Member States to develop long-term, risk-informed, inclusive and prevention-oriented social development recovery plans that will improve people's capacities and well-being, through investing in social services and quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including basic school infrastructure, and health-care services, safe drinking water and sanitation, affordable housing, ensuring decent employment, adequate social protection coverage and affordable and reliable digital technology and Internet access (OP23).
- Encourages Member States to facilitate the meaningful participation and empowerment of those in vulnerable situations, including those living in poverty, in the design, implementation and monitoring of COVID-19 recovery plans (OP25).
- Urges Member States to address multiple causes of poverty, hunger and inequality, by creating decent work; increasing resilience; improving coherence between social protection, food security and nutrition policies; providing targeted cash transfers; promoting digital and financial literacy and inclusion; ensuring equal opportunities and access to healthy diets from sustainable food systems, quality education and lifelong learning; combating all forms of discrimination; empowering all people and facilitating the social inclusion and participation of those who face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination; and prioritizing investment in early childhood education, nutrition and care to break intergenerational poverty (OP26).
- Calls for greater efforts to sustainably enhance the agricultural production capacities, productivity and food security of developing countries (as sustainable agricultural production, food security, food safety and nutrition are key elements for the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions) (OP27).
- Member States reiterate the importance of strengthening policy and programmatic linkages between public health, pollution control, climate action, biodiversity conservation, ecosystem integrity, socioeconomic equity, inclusiveness and prosperity as one of the most effective strategies for Africa's post-COVID-19 recovery (Resolution on the Social Dimensions of NEPAD, PP18).

- Encourages Member States to strengthen food systems, including through a holistic food systems approach, so that they become more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable, by delivering healthy diets to end hunger and improve food security and nutrition; investing in science, technology and innovation, including digital innovation, to increase agricultural productivity, resilience and sustainability and reduce disaster risk; and strengthening policy coherence and coordination among government agencies and institutions responsible for social protection, agriculture, food security and nutrition (OP29).
- Recognizes the efforts at all levels to establish and strengthen social protection measures and programmes, including national safety nets and protection programmes for the needy and vulnerable, such as food and cash-for-work, cash transfer and voucher programmes, school feeding programmes and mother-and-child nutrition programmes, and in this regard underlines the importance of increasing investment, capacity-building and systems development (OP31).
- Encourages Member States to address the impacts of COVID-19 by tackling the long-term structural challenges faced by rural populations, and to establish social protection systems that are adapted to rural populations, address the multiple dimensions of food insecurity in rural areas, invest in sustainable agricultural development and enhance multisectoral policies and national action plans to strengthen the resilience and adaptability of small-scale producers and family farmers (OP33).
- Calls upon all Member States and, where appropriate, relevant international organizations to implement policies and programmes to reduce and eliminate preventable mortality and morbidity, as a result of malnutrition, of children under 5 years of age (OP38).

#### **Financing for Social Development**

- Encourages developed countries to implement their official development assistance commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to the least developed countries (OP42).
- Calls upon the international community to strengthen multilateral cooperation, by mobilizing resources for an inclusive recovery and making use of special drawing rights and its voluntary channelling allocation to countries most in need, and recognizes the role of the United Nations and of the international financial institutions, in accordance with their respective mandates, and encourages them to continue to support global efforts towards sustained and inclusive growth, sustainable development and the external debt sustainability of developing countries (OP46).
- Invites the United Nations system to continue to support Member States, upon their request, in their pursuit of inclusive and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic for sustainable livelihoods, well-being and dignity for all, and facilitate international cooperation to end hunger and eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, with the aim of achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for the common future of present and coming generations (OP48).

(e) Key messages for inclusion into the Ministerial Declaration of the 2022 HLPF

- **Encourages Member States to promote affordable and equitable access to basic services**, in particular quality formal and non-formal education, at all levels, and health-care services, including through the acceleration of the transition towards equitable access to universal health coverage, as well as access to affordable housing, nutrition and food, and access to employment and decent work, information and communications technology and infrastructure, through advancing gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.
- **Encourages Member States to develop long-term, risk-informed, inclusive and prevention-oriented social development recovery plans** that will improve people's capacities and well-being, through investing in social services and quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including basic school infrastructure, and health-care services, safe drinking water and sanitation, affordable housing, ensuring decent employment, adequate social protection coverage and affordable and reliable digital technology and Internet access.
- **Urges Member States to address multiple causes of poverty, hunger and inequality**, by creating decent work; increasing resilience; improving coherence between social protection, food security and nutrition policies; providing targeted cash transfers; promoting digital and financial literacy and inclusion; ensuring equal opportunities and access to healthy diets from sustainable food systems, quality education and lifelong learning; combating all forms of discrimination; empowering all people and facilitating the social inclusion and participation of those who face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination; and prioritizing investment in early childhood education, nutrition and care to break intergenerational poverty.
- Encourages Member States to ensure that recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic provides a policy window for the countries concerned to address their significant gaps in social protection coverage by **making progress towards universal, adequate, comprehensive and sustainable social protection systems**, by including, in accordance with their national legislations, basic income, child benefits, maternity benefits, sickness benefits, disability benefits, unemployment benefits and old-age pension, and that these social protection systems should identify and close coverage gaps, especially for those who are in vulnerable situations, including informal workers, migrants and unpaid carers.
- Encourages Member States to provide **universal age-, disability-, gender-responsive and family-oriented social protection systems**, which are key to ensuring poverty reduction, including, as appropriate, targeted cash transfers for people and families in vulnerable situations, such as when headed by a single parent, in particular those headed by women, and which are most effective in reducing poverty when accompanied by other measures, such as providing access to essential services, high-quality education and health-care services.
- **Encourages Member States to strengthen food systems, including through a holistic food systems approach, so that they become more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable**, by delivering healthy diets to end hunger and improve food security and nutrition; investing in science, technology and innovation, including digital innovation, to increase agricultural productivity, resilience and sustainability and reduce disaster risk; and strengthening policy coherence and coordination among government agencies and institutions responsible for social protection, agriculture, food security and nutrition.