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SIXTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (CSOC62)

Inputs to the 2024 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) under the auspices of ECOSOC

[Kindly submit your contribution no later than 1 March 2024 using the [2024 HLPF form](#)]

These inputs are based on the outcomes of the 62nd session of the Commission for Social Development, which took place from 5 to 14 February 2024. Paragraphs and inputs were drawn from the following resolutions and decision, which were adopted by consensus during the session: Resolution on the priority theme “Fostering social development and social justice through social policies to accelerate progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to achieve the overarching goal of poverty eradication”; Resolution on the “Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development”; Resolution on “Promoting Care and Support Systems for Social Development”; and Decision on the priority theme of the sixty-third session of the Commission.

The inputs are organized using the suggested template contained in the letter of the President of ECOSOC of 10 November 2023 addressed to the Chair of the Commission.

1. Impacts of multiple crises on the implementation of SDGs 1, 2, 13, 16 and 17 from the vantage point of your intergovernmental / expert body.

- The COVID-19 pandemic has intensified the reliance of persons vulnerable to poverty on their family.
- The multiple crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic, have increased the number of those living in poverty, led to further impoverishment of those already living in poverty, widened inequalities, including gender inequality, increased unemployment, informal employment and the number of people who have left the labour market, and continue to disproportionately impact people in vulnerable situations, including older persons, persons with pre-existing medical conditions, women, children, including girls, youth, persons with disabilities, persons living with rare diseases, persons affected by conflict, migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons, people of African descent and Indigenous Peoples, local communities, workers in the informal economy, people living in rural areas and other people in vulnerable situations.
- Climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time. It is concerning that all countries, particularly developing countries, are vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change and are already experiencing an increase in such impacts, including persistent drought and extreme weather events, biodiversity loss, land degradation, desertification, sand and dust storms, sea level rise, coastal erosion, ocean acidification and the retreat of mountain glaciers, further threatening food security, water availability and livelihoods. The substantial risks posed by climate change to health, underlines the need to address the economic, social and environmental impacts of climate change, and calls for action at all levels, including through mitigation and adaptation efforts, to build resilience that can contribute to eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions and ending hunger.

- The enduring and compounding economic and social challenges occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic, and worsened by climate change, pose a serious challenge to Africa's social development, and to a considerable extent, reversed gains attained in the medium term and exacerbating pre-pandemic vulnerabilities, leaving more people behind and having a negative impact on the abilities of Governments to realize the 2030 Agenda and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. 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. Social policies have a key role to play in addressing the immediate effects of crises.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has a continued multidimensional impact on African countries, including significant impacts on poverty, food security, unemployment, trade, disrupted supply chains, tourism and financial flows, as well as its social impacts, especially for the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including violence against women and girls, causing more challenges for African countries to achieve the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

2. Three key areas where sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions for achieving the SDGs are being effectively delivered, especially related to the cluster of SDGs under review in 2024, considering the three dimensions of sustainable development and the interlinkages across the Goals and targets.

- Investment in human capital and social protection has been proven to be effective in reducing poverty and inequality. Member States are invited to mobilize innovative sources of financing, including through public-private partnerships, to secure adequate levels of social expenditure necessary for expanding coverage towards universal access to health, education, innovation, new technologies and basic social protection. Member States are also encouraged to establish comprehensive and well-coordinated social policies, including universal social protection schemes, by investing in evidenced-based good practices, including by strengthening the capacities of national evaluation services to direct public funds towards social policies, including social protection policies and schemes that have proven to be effective and efficient.
- Member States are encouraged 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.

3. Three examples of specific actions, policies and measures that are most urgently needed to effectively deliver sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions to eradicate poverty and reinforce the 2030 Agenda, building on interlinkages and transformative pathways for achieving the SDGs.

- Member States are encouraged 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.
- African countries are encouraged to strengthen and expand local and regional, and hard and soft infrastructure resilient to climate change, recognizing the importance of quality infrastructure investment, through both foreign and domestic investment, and to continue to share best practices with a view to strengthening regional and continental integration. There is a need for Africa's development partners to align their efforts towards supporting the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, a robust infrastructure portfolio which is now in its Priority Action Plan 2 phase and consists of 69 transport, energy, water and information and

communications technology projects with an implementation horizon from 2021 to 2030, and to build a more robust system against natural disasters and extreme weather events.

- Member States are urged to consider investment in care and support and promote legal systems or frameworks in care and support policies, and infrastructure, and promote national legislation and capacity building to ensure universal access to affordable and quality services for all, including childcare, in the health and support sector for persons with disabilities and older persons, which is necessary to address care needs for persons throughout their life course and to ensure universal access to paid maternity, paternity and parental leave and social protection for all workers, including for both informal workers and those in non-standard forms of employment.

4. Follow-up actions and measures being undertaken by your intergovernmental / expert body to support implementation of the Political Declaration of the SDG Summit.

- *Recalled* General Assembly Resolution A/RES/78/1 of 29 September 2023, entitled “Political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly”, and **urged timely action to ensure its implementation.**
- The Commission also decided the theme for its sixty-third session to be “Strengthening solidarity, social inclusion and social cohesion to accelerate the delivery of the commitments of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development as well as the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” **in the context of the implementation of the political declaration of the 2023 high-level political forum on sustainable development** held under the auspices of the General Assembly.

5. Recommendations and key messages for inclusion into the Ministerial Declaration of the 2024 HLPF.

- ***Encourages* Member States to mobilize innovative sources of financing for social development; invest in evidence-based good practices**, including by strengthening the capacities of national evaluation services to direct public funds towards social policies; invest in in care and support as well as family-oriented policies and programmes.
- ***Urges* Member States to establish and implement comprehensive and well-coordinated social policies**, including universal social protection schemes as well as targeted policies and measures to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, taking concrete actions to prevent the return to poverty.
- ***Urges* Member States to place social considerations at the heart of development frameworks**, including by strengthening synergies between and among social, economic and environmental policies, as appropriate, and need to ensure the creation of enabling environments for promoting care and support systems for social development.
- ***Urges* the international community to foster an open and inclusive environment for scientific and technological development and strengthen multilateral cooperation** to enhance fiscal space for social spending.
- ***Encourages* Member States to tackle the climate emergency** by investing in strategies for adaptation and mitigation to climate change.
- ***Encourages* Member States to foster political stability, promote peace and security and strengthen the governance, policy and institutional environment** in order to enhance the prospects for inclusive and sustainable development.

- ***Urges Member States to address multiple causes of poverty, hunger and inequality***, through decent work and job creation; increasing resilience; improving coherence between social protection, food security and nutrition policies.

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