



**United Nations**

# **Commission for Social Development**

**Report on the sixtieth session  
(17 February 2021 and 7–16 February 2022)**

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*Note*

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

## *Summary*

The sixtieth session of the Commission for Social Development was held on 17 February 2021 and from 7 to 16 February 2022. Taking into account the prevailing conditions relating to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the Commission was convened in a hybrid format, with its opening and closing meetings held in person and its general discussion and panel discussions held virtually. The Commission deliberated on the priority theme “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”. It also reviewed relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups, as well as the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development. The Commission held a high-level panel discussion on the priority theme, a ministerial forum, a high-level panel discussion on emerging issues, a multi-stakeholder forum on the priority theme to share solutions and an interactive dialogue with senior officials of the United Nations system on the priority theme. A total of 24 Ministers and Vice-Ministers participated in the general discussion of the Commission.

The President of the General Assembly, the President of the Economic and Social Council, the Deputy Secretary-General, the Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Co-Chairs of the NGO Committee on Social Development and a youth representative participated in the opening session. In his opening remarks, the President of the General Assembly emphasized the need for embracing the Sustainable Development Goals and targets to enshrine resilience and sustainability in all their actions in order to build back better, while ensuring that no one was left behind in the recovery period, in particular women and girls. He stated that investing in universal social protection systems was critical for preparing for future crises and ensuring access for all to comprehensive social support systems that guaranteed a basic level of social security. The President of the Council recognized that the Commission had been contributing consistently to the Council’s main theme and highlighted its essential role in developing policy guidance towards building back better and advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. He saw the Commission as the home for Goal 10 and commended the Commission for providing a platform for sharing innovative, evidence-based and impactful social policies that had proved to be essential during the pandemic.

The Deputy Secretary-General emphasized that social policy was at the heart of recovery strategies to address inequality, poverty, hunger and food insecurity and to enhance the resilience, sustainable livelihoods and well-being of all people. As proposed by the Secretary-General in his report entitled “Our Common Agenda”, they needed to renew the social contract so that everyone, everywhere, had access to food, shelter, health care, education and opportunities and, to that end, consideration should be given to holding a world social summit in 2025, building on the World Summit for Social Development of 1995. The deliberations of the Commission could serve as the springboard for the 2025 summit that would re-energize efforts to accelerate progress in achieving the Goals.

The Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs noted that the world was not on track to meet the most fundamental Goal of eradicating extreme poverty, as the prospect of global recovery was darkened by uneven access to vaccines. He highlighted four priority areas to accelerate progress towards achieving the Goals: (a) progressively achieve universal access to health, education and affordable housing; (b) address multiple causes of poverty, hunger and inequality; (c) build nationally appropriate universal social protection systems that

are adequate, comprehensive, sustainable and gender-sensitive; and (d) strengthen food systems to deliver healthy diets to end hunger.

The Co-Chairs of the NGO Committee on Social Development pointed out that the pandemic had revealed the extent to which the old social contract had been broken. Rethinking existing systems and policies that had perpetuated vulnerabilities and inequalities was necessary to secure sustainable livelihoods for all. The Civil Society Declaration recommendation included extending social protection to all, including informal workers; establishing a global fund for social protection; and promoting early and lifelong education and the well-being of all people over their life cycle. A representative of the children and youth major group presented the devastating impact of the pandemic on poverty, jobs and education in her country. In particular, children and young people were negatively affected. Girls were at an ever greater risk of dropping out of school owing to increasing care work at home. The representative called for closing the digital divide, investing in young people as leaders and inclusive and gender-sensitive social protection systems.

During the general discussion on sub-items (a) and (b) of agenda item 3, most Member States expressed their appreciation for and commitment to the work of the Commission and thanked the Secretary-General for his comprehensive and insightful reports. That year's priority theme was highly relevant to support their efforts to enable an inclusive and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and implement the 2030 Agenda while leaving no one behind. The pandemic had increased the number of people living in poverty and hunger and exacerbated pre-existing inequalities. At that critical juncture, the visions, principles and commitments made at the World Summit for Social Development remained valid and were central to recovery efforts. Integrated long-term social policy frameworks should be developed to simultaneously eradicate poverty, hunger and malnutrition, as well as combat inequalities and enhance people's capabilities and well-being. Greater efforts were called for to strengthen food systems to deliver healthy diets; invest in science, technology and innovation to increase agricultural productivity, resilience and sustainability; and strengthen policy coherence and coordination among government institutions. Significant gaps in social protection coverage needed to be addressed by making progress towards universal, adequate, comprehensive and sustainable social protection systems.

During the high-level panel discussion on the priority theme, panellists shared good policies and new initiatives at the national level in such areas as strengthening food systems, strengthening social protection systems and measures, addressing the long-term impacts of school closures on children and using dignity as the lens of measurement in every action. The Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, a keynote speaker, stated that, while the drivers of poverty and hunger (the impact of climate change, conflicts and economic slowdowns/downturns) had existed before the pandemic, their interaction created multiple, compounding effects. Increased and targeted investments in rural development, especially in agriculture, were needed to rebuild from the pandemic.

The ministerial forum was held on the theme "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". Ministers across regions participated, sharing national policies and measures and emphasizing the need for strengthening multilateralism to ensure inclusive and resilient recovery.

During the high-level panel on emerging issues, entitled “National policies and measures implemented by Member States to combat hunger and poverty in times of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and beyond: challenges to getting on track towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda”, policymakers and experts made the following policy recommendations, which were in four main areas: (a) consolidate the gains from the expansion of social protection measures during the pandemic; (b) use targeted social policies, in addition to universal ones, to address the specific needs of those in vulnerable situations; (c) continue to expand digital opportunities so that no one is left offline; and (d) and engage all stakeholders, including the private sector and civil society partners representing all population groups, in the socioeconomic recovery from COVID-19.

During the interactive dialogue with senior officials of the United Nations system, the Deputy Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Deputy Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the Chief Economist of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Deputy Executive Director for Policy, Programme, Civil Society and Intergovernmental Support of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the Special Representative and Director of the International Labour Organization Office for the United Nations discussed major trends, common challenges and recent activities with regard to eradicating poverty and hunger during the COVID-19 pandemic and shared their insights on, approaches to and strategies for an inclusive and resilient recovery. The multi-stakeholder forum in 2022 comprised the perspectives of diverse stakeholders, including the Minister of Social Affairs and Health of Finland, the General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation, the Secretary-General of the Asian Farmers Association for Sustainable Rural Development, the President of the International Cooperative Alliance, civil society organizations, and a social entrepreneur, to reflect the real lives of people and bring solutions.

Some 300 representatives of civil society organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council participated in the session. The Commission received 47 written statements from non-governmental organizations and hosted over 50 side events, organized by Member States, United Nations entities and civil society organizations accredited to the Council. The session was covered well in social media. A successful outreach and campaign strategy resulted in over 3,000 engagements and the potential reach of 45 million on social media platforms.

The Commission decided that the priority theme for the sixty-first session would be “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 Commission adopted two draft resolutions, on: (a) the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development; and (b) 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. Both draft resolutions were recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council.

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## Chapter I

### Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

#### A. Draft resolutions for adoption by the Council

1. The Commission for Social Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

#### **Draft resolution I** **Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995,<sup>1</sup> and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled “World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world”, held in Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,<sup>2</sup> the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>3</sup> and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,<sup>4</sup> and reaffirming the United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development of 16 September 2002,<sup>5</sup>

*Recognizing* the commitments made at the 2005 World Summit with regard to meeting the special needs of Africa<sup>6</sup> and reaffirmed in the political declaration on Africa's development needs adopted at the high-level meeting held at United Nations Headquarters on 22 September 2008,<sup>7</sup> and noting the relevant decisions of African Union summits related to the New Partnership for Africa's Development,<sup>8</sup>

*Reaffirming* General Assembly resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which the Assembly adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets and affirmed its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

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<sup>1</sup> *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

<sup>2</sup> General Assembly resolution [S-24/2](#), annex.

<sup>3</sup> General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).

<sup>4</sup> General Assembly resolution [69/313](#), annex.

<sup>5</sup> General Assembly resolution [57/2](#).

<sup>6</sup> General Assembly resolution [60/1](#), para. 68.

<sup>7</sup> General Assembly resolution [63/1](#).

<sup>8</sup> [A/57/304](#), annex.

*Reaffirming also* General Assembly resolution [69/313](#) of 27 July 2015, containing the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

*Reaffirming further* Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union at its twenty-fourth ordinary session, held in Addis Ababa on 30 and 31 January 2015, and the first 10-year implementation plan (2014–2023) of Agenda 2063, in which flagship projects, priority areas and policy measures to support the implementation of the continental development framework were outlined and form the strategic framework for Africa’s inclusive growth and sustainable development and optimization of the use of the continent’s resources for the benefit of all its people,

*Recalling* the African Common Position on Good Practices in Family Policy Development and Implementation for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family (2014) and the renewed Continental Plan of Action on the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2010–2019), which were endorsed by the Heads of State and Government of the African Union in January 2013, and noting the adoption of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa in January 2016,

*Acknowledging* the importance of supporting Agenda 2063 and the programme of the New Partnership, both of which are integral to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to achieving an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena, and underscoring in this regard the importance of a coherent and coordinated implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda,

*Reaffirming* General Assembly resolution [71/254](#) of 23 December 2016, entitled “Framework for a Renewed United Nations-African Union Partnership on Africa’s Integration and Development Agenda 2017–2027”, and welcoming in this regard the signing on 27 January 2018 of the African Union-United Nations Framework for the Implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to promote the integrated and coordinated implementation and monitoring of and reporting on both Agendas through joint activities and programmes,

*Acknowledging* that the attainment of the seven aspirations of Agenda 2063 is critical to ensuring a high standard of living, quality of life and well-being for all citizens of Africa through income security, jobs and decent work, poverty and hunger eradication, inequality reduction, social security and protection floors, particularly for persons with disabilities, modern, affordable and liveable habitats and quality basic services, healthy and nourished citizens with access to health care, environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient economies and communities, full gender equality in all spheres of life and engaged and empowered youth and children,

*Recalling* the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa adopted by the African Union, which calls for the creation of an enabling environment for adequate investments and the adoption of the sector reforms aimed at promoting economic and social development and reducing poverty on the continent through the implementation of integrated regional infrastructure networks,

*Recalling also* the adoption by the African Union Executive Council in 2019 of several policy frameworks following the recommendations of the third ordinary session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Social Development, Labour and Employment, including the African Union Social Agenda 2063, the African Union Commission-International Labour Organization Joint Programme on Decent Work for the Transformation of the Informal Economy (2020–2024), the Ten-Year Action Plan

on Eradication of Child Labour, Forced Labour, Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery in Africa (2020–2030), five-year strategies for the African Union campaigns to end child marriage and female genital mutilation, including a clear accountability framework, the African Union Disability Strategic Framework, and the draft Protocol on the Rights of Citizens to Social Protection and Social Security,

*Noting with concern* the continued high prevalence of child, early and forced marriage, as well as violence and other harmful practices against children, including female genital mutilation, and reaffirming in this regard the Africa-wide campaign to end child marriage in Africa, launched at the fourth session of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Social Development, held in Addis Ababa from 26 to 30 May 2014, the Southern African Development Community Model Law on Eradicating Child Marriage and Protecting Children Already in Marriage and the endorsement by the Pan-African Parliament in August 2016 of a ban on female genital mutilation,

*Recognizing* that, after the latest global financial crisis, the global economy is still facing difficult macroeconomic conditions, low commodity prices, subdued trade growth and volatile capital flows, that, notwithstanding the impact of the financial crisis, financial flows and the share of developing countries in world trade have continued to increase, that these advances have contributed to a substantial reduction in the number of people living in extreme poverty, and that, despite these gains, many countries, particularly developing countries, still face considerable challenges and some have fallen further behind, emphasizing that the African Union and the regional economic communities have a critical role to play in the implementation of the New Partnership programme, and in this regard encouraging African countries, with the assistance of their development partners, to increase and coordinate effectively their support for enhancing the capacities of these institutions and to promote regional cooperation and social and economic integration in Africa,

*Recognizing also* that investments in people, especially in their social protection, health-inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all, are essential to enhancing productivity in all sectors, including agriculture, and thereby key to sustainable and equitable growth and poverty reduction, through increasing decent job creation and employability opportunities for all, especially for women and youth, improving food security and nutrition and building resilience,

*Recalling* the outcome of the high-level meeting of the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly on universal health coverage, and reaffirming its political declaration, entitled “Universal health coverage: moving together to build a healthier world”,<sup>9</sup> in which it reiterated, inter alia, the importance of scaling up the global effort to leave no one behind and to build a healthier world for all, as well as accelerating efforts towards the achievement of universal health coverage by 2030 to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all throughout the life course,

*Recognizing* that gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and the enjoyment of all human rights, will make a crucial contribution to progress across all of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets and that the systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is crucial, and in this regard recalling the adoption, at the second ordinary session of the Assembly of the African Union, of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, in Maputo on 11 July 2003, and the African Women’s Decade (2010–2020), commending the adoption of the African Union Strategy for Gender Equality and

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<sup>9</sup> General Assembly resolution [74/2](#).

Women's Empowerment at the third session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, held in Addis Ababa from 7 to 11 May 2018, and commending also the adoption of the New African Women's Decade (2020–2030) as the Decade of Women's Financial and Economic Inclusion at the thirty-third ordinary session of the Assembly of the African Union in Addis Ababa on 10 February 2020,

*Recognizing also* that the lack of access to safe drinking water and proper sanitation contributes to slow progress in reducing Africa's disease burden, particularly among the poorest populations, in both rural and urban areas, and conscious of the impact of the lack of sanitation on people's health, poverty reduction efforts, economic and social development and the environment, in particular water resources,

*Reiterating* 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,

*Noting with appreciation* that the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and its advancement, the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative, and bilateral donors have provided substantial full debt relief to 31 African countries that have reached the completion point under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, which has considerably reduced their public debt, improved their debt management, boosted their social spending and reduced their poverty level,

*Bearing in mind* that African countries have primary responsibility for their own economic and social development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, bearing in mind also the need for their development efforts to be supported by the international community and an enabling international economic environment, reiterating the need for the international community to implement all commitments regarding the economic and social development of Africa, and in this regard recalling the support given by the International Conferences on Financing for Development to the New Partnership,<sup>10</sup>

*Underscoring* that, for all countries, public policies and the mobilization and effective use of domestic resources, underscored by the principle of national ownership, are central to the common pursuit of sustainable development, including achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and recognizing that domestic resources are first and foremost generated by economic growth, supported by an enabling environment at all levels,

*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,

*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

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<sup>10</sup> See *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex; and General Assembly resolution 63/239, annex, and resolution 69/313, annex.

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,

*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,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>11</sup>
2. *Welcomes* the progress made by African Governments in fulfilling their commitments in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development to deepen democracy, human rights, good governance and sound economic management, and encourages them, with the participation of stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, to intensify their efforts in this regard by developing and strengthening institutions for governance and creating an environment conducive to attracting foreign direct investment for the development of the region;
3. *Takes note* of the strengthening of the African Peer Review Mechanism through the decision of the Assembly of the African Union to make the Mechanism an organ of the African Union in line with article 5, paragraph 2, of its Constitutive Act,<sup>12</sup> and welcomes the progress that has been achieved in implementing the Mechanism;
4. *Reaffirms* the importance of supporting Agenda 2063 of the African Union, as well as its first 10-year implementation plan, as a strategic framework for ensuring a positive socioeconomic transformation in Africa and its continental programme embedded in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the New Partnership and regional initiatives, such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme;
5. *Takes note* of the development of the monitoring and evaluation framework for the first 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063 by Africa's regional economic communities, the African Union Development Agency, the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and the African Symposium on Statistical Development, as well as the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa, both of which have fostered convergence in the monitoring and evaluation of the first 10-year implementation plan and the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as a unified implementation and monitoring plan for Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and notes the incorporation of the first 10-year implementation plan into national planning frameworks by 42 countries;
6. *Welcomes* the adoption of the governance structures of the African Union Development Agency, the implementing mechanism for the African Union Agenda 2063 development strategy, during the thirty-fifth ordinary session of the Executive Council of the African Union, held in Niamey on 4 and 5 July 2019, and whose mission is to foster the development of the continent through effective and integrated planning, coordination and implementation of Agenda 2063 with Member States, regional economic communities and pan-African institutions by leveraging partnerships and technical cooperation;

<sup>11</sup> E/CN.5/2022/2.

<sup>12</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2158, No. 37733.

7. *Also welcomes* the efforts made by African countries and regional and subregional organizations, including the African Union, to mainstream a gender perspective and the empowerment of all women and girls in the implementation of the New Partnership, including the implementation of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa;

8. *Takes note with appreciation* of the efforts of the African Union Commission, which have resulted in the launch of national campaigns to end child, early and forced marriage in 24 countries, the adoption of the African Common Position on the African Union Campaign to End Child Marriage in Africa and its extension for a five-year period from 2019 to 2023, and the endorsement by the Assembly of the African Union in Addis Ababa in February 2019 of the continental initiative known as "Saleema: African Union Initiative on Eliminating Female Genital Mutilation", in partnership with the United Nations, but remains concerned about the increased risk of child, early and forced marriages in some countries in Africa exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic;

9. *Also takes note with appreciation* of the launch, on 24 August 2018 in Addis Ababa, by the African Union Commission, in collaboration with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the International Telecommunication Union, of the African Girls Can Code Initiative (2018–2022), which is aimed at enhancing the mastering of information and communications technology for girls and women and, therefore, increasing their contribution to Africa's innovation in that sector;

10. *Recognizes* the completion of the first phase of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa in support of regional and continental integration, which was translated into the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa Priority Action Plan 1, representing a list of regional priority projects that were implemented from 2012 to 2020, and the development of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa Priority Action Plan 2, a robust infrastructure portfolio consisting of 69 transport, energy, water and information and communications technology projects with an implementation horizon from 2021 to 2030, which was approved during the African Union Heads of State and Government summit held in February 2021, and reflects the priorities of member States and African Union regional economic communities while translating the African Union Vision and Agenda 2063 calling for sustainable, inclusive and world-class infrastructure, and keeps in mind that infrastructure should be high-quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient in order to support economic development and human well-being;

11. *Acknowledges* the progress made towards ensuring free movement of persons as well as goods and services in Africa, and in this regard welcomes with appreciation the entry into force on 30 May 2019 of the agreement on the African Continental Free Trade Area, which aims to boost intra-African trade and continental integration, and which has gathered 54 signatures and 38 instruments of ratification from member States as of 9 September 2021;

12. *Recalls* the African Union Road Map on Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth and the first five-year priority programme on employment, poverty eradication and inclusive development 2017, and welcomes the declaration by the African Union of the period from 2018 to 2027 as the African Decade for Technical, Professional and Entrepreneurial Training and Youth Employment, with a focus on the creation of decent jobs for youth and women, aimed at achieving more inclusive growth and sustainable poverty eradication;

13. *Notes* the decision of the Heads of State and Government at the thirty-fourth ordinary session of the Assembly of the African Union to declare the period 2021–2031 as the Decade of African Roots and Diasporas;

14. *Urges* all countries that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the United Nations Convention against Corruption,<sup>13</sup> encourages States parties to review its implementation, committing to making the Convention an effective instrument for deterring, detecting, preventing and countering corruption and bribery, prosecuting those involved in corrupt activities and recovering and returning stolen assets to their country of origin, as appropriate, encourages the international community to develop good practices on asset return, expresses support for the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative of the United Nations and the World Bank and other international initiatives that support the recovery of stolen assets, urges the updating and ratification of regional conventions against corruption, and strives to eliminate safe havens that create incentives for the transfer abroad of stolen assets and illicit financial flows;

15. *Calls upon* African Governments to ratify the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa, to demonstrate the commitment of Member States to the dignity, empowerment and rights of persons with disabilities and older persons across the continent;

16. *Notes* that health is a precondition, an indicator and an outcome of sustainable development and that, as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, robust efforts are needed to integrate additional health issues into a broad health and development agenda, and therefore takes note of the declaration of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, at its thirty-second ordinary session, held in Addis Ababa on 10 and 11 February 2019, in which it committed to supporting and enhancing the reform of the health sector through adopting the Health in All Policies approach in order to achieve universal health coverage and curb the outbreak of major diseases in Africa and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals;

17. *Welcomes* the adoption by Heads of States and Government of the Treaty for the Establishment of the African Medicines Agency during the thirty-second ordinary session of the Assembly of the African Union, and the entry into force of the Treaty on 5 November 2021, with the mission of strengthening regulatory systems to improve access to quality, safe and efficacious medicines, medical products and technologies that will provide effective protection of public health against future pandemics and infectious disease outbreaks in Africa;

18. *Urges* African Governments to fast-track the implementation of the revised Africa Health Strategy for the period 2016–2030, which provides umbrella guidance for the development of the African Regional Nutrition Strategy, the Maputo Plan of Action 2016–2030 for the Operationalization of the Continental Policy Framework for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa and the Catalytic Framework to End AIDS and Tuberculosis and Eliminate Malaria in Africa by 2030, welcomes the Declaration on Universal Access to Immunization as a Cornerstone for Health and Development in Africa adopted by African Ministers of Health in 2016, and the 2017 declaration on committing to accelerate implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005),<sup>14</sup> and also urges African Governments to achieve ambitious targets, a business case and strategic priorities to end the three diseases as a public health threat by 2030;

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<sup>13</sup> Ibid., vol. 2349, No. 42146.

<sup>14</sup> World Health Organization, document WHA58/2005/REC/1, resolution 58.3, annex.



19. *Stresses* the importance of improving maternal and child health, and in this regard recalls the declaration of the African Union summit on maternal, infant and child health and development, notes the decision of the African Union to restrengthen the Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal, Newborn and Child Mortality in Africa during the period 2021–2030, and urges the pursuit and implementation of commitments to improve maternal and child health;

20. *Takes note* of the declaration of the special summit of the African Union on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, held in Abuja from 12 to 16 July 2013, on the progress made in implementing the Abuja actions towards the elimination of HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in Africa by 2030, also takes note of the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: On the Fast Track to Accelerating the Fight against HIV and to Ending the AIDS Epidemic by 2030, adopted on 8 June 2016 at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS,<sup>15</sup> and reaffirms the resolve to provide assistance for prevention, treatment and care, with the aim of ensuring an Africa free of HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, by addressing the needs of all, in particular those of women, children and young people, and the urgent need to significantly scale up efforts towards achieving the goal of universal access to comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention programmes, treatment, care and support in African countries, to accelerate and intensify efforts to expand access to affordable and quality medicines in Africa, including antiretroviral drugs, by encouraging pharmaceutical companies to make drugs available, and to ensure strengthened global partnership and increased bilateral and multilateral assistance, where possible on a grant basis, to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases in Africa through the strengthening of health systems;

21. *Also takes note* of the decision of the African Union to extend the African Union Road Map on Shared Responsibility and Global Solidarity for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Response in Africa from 2016 to 2020 and to use the year 2021, marked the twentieth anniversary of the Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Other Related Infectious Diseases, as an opportunity to undertake a critical review of the situation and the consequences of these diseases in Africa, notes the revitalization of AIDS Watch Africa as an African high-level platform from which to advocate action, accountability and resource mobilization for the response to HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in Africa, and requests, as appropriate, and in line with relevant international obligations, development partners and the United Nations system to support the efforts of African countries and organizations to reach the main objectives put forward in the Road Map, including achieving diversified sustainable financing, strengthening regulatory harmonization and local pharmaceutical manufacturing capacity and enhancing leadership and governance of the responses;

22. *Invites* development partners to continue to assist African countries in their efforts to strengthen national health systems, including by providing skilled health personnel, reliable health information and data, research infrastructure and laboratory capacity, and to expand surveillance systems in the health sector, including by providing support for the efforts to prevent, protect against and combat outbreaks of disease, including outbreaks of neglected tropical diseases, and in this context reiterates its support for the Kampala Declaration and Agenda for Global Action and follow-up conferences to respond to the serious health workforce crisis in Africa;

23. *Encourages* Member States to continue to provide international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries, particularly African countries, in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies, and notes the strategy of the African Ministers'

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<sup>15</sup> General Assembly resolution 70/266, annex.



Council on Water for the period 2018–2030, launched for the achievement of the African Water Vision 2025, Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals;

24. *Emphasizes* that progress in the implementation of the New Partnership depends also on a favourable national and international environment for Africa's growth and development, including measures to promote a policy environment conducive to private sector development and entrepreneurship and to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

25. *Also emphasizes* that democracy, respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, transparent and accountable governance and administration in all sectors of society and effective participation by civil society, including non-governmental and community-based organizations, and the private sector are among the indispensable foundations for the realization of social and people-centred sustainable development;

26. *Further emphasizes* that the poverty, inequality and social exclusion faced by most African countries require a comprehensive approach to the development and implementation of social and economic policies, inter alia, to reduce poverty, to promote economic activity, growth and sustainable development in order to ensure productive employment creation and decent work for all, to promote quality education, health and social protection and to enhance equality, social inclusion, political stability, democracy and good governance at all levels and the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

27. *Emphasizes* that identifying and removing barriers to opportunity, as well as ensuring access to basic social protection and social services, are necessary to break the cycle of poverty, inequality and social exclusion;

28. *Encourages* African countries to continue to prioritize structural transformation, modernize smallholder agriculture, add value to primary commodities, improve public and private institutions of economic and political governance and invest in major public infrastructure projects and in inclusive, equitable and quality education and health in order to promote inclusive growth, generate full and productive employment and decent work for all and reduce poverty;

29. *Emphasizes* that economic development, including employment-intensive resource-based industrial development, with due regard to the sustainable management and use of natural resources, infrastructural development and structural transformation, in particular in the rural economy, based on pragmatic and targeted policies to enhance productive capacities in Africa that are consistent with national development priorities and international commitments, can generate employment and income for all African men and women, including the poor, and therefore be an engine for poverty eradication and for achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals;

30. *Encourages* African countries to continue 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, and to develop an enabling environment for the private sector to contribute to sustainable economic transformation and the creation of productive employment and decent work for all;

31. *Stresses* that the achievement of sustainable development and the eradication of poverty hinge on the ability and readiness of countries to effectively mobilize domestic resources, attract foreign direct investment, fulfil official development assistance commitments and use such assistance effectively and facilitate the transfer of technology, on mutually agreed terms, to developing countries, and also stresses that the resolution of unsustainable debt situations is

critical for heavily indebted poor countries, while remittances have become a significant source of income and finance for receiving economies and their contribution to the achievement of sustainable development;

32. *Notes* that preliminary data show that, between 2019 and 2020, net bilateral official development assistance flows from member countries of the Development Assistance Committee to Africa increased by 4.1 per cent to 39 billion United States dollars, while net official development assistance to sub-Saharan Africa decreased by 1 per cent to 31 billion dollars in real terms;

33. *Reiterates* that the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments remains crucial, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to the least developed countries, is encouraged by those few countries that have met or surpassed their commitment to 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance and the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to the least developed countries, and urges all others to step up efforts to increase their official development assistance and to make additional concrete efforts towards official development assistance targets;

34. *Recognizes* that middle-income countries still face significant challenges in achieving sustainable development and that, in order to ensure that achievements made to date are sustained, efforts to address ongoing challenges should be strengthened through the exchange of experiences, improved coordination and better and focused support of the United Nations development system, the international financial institutions, regional organizations and other stakeholders, and therefore requests those stakeholders to ensure that the diverse and specific development needs of middle-income countries are appropriately considered and addressed, in a tailored fashion, in their relevant strategies and policies, with a view to promoting a coherent and comprehensive approach towards individual countries, while also acknowledging that official development assistance and other concessional finance is still important for a number of these countries and has a role to play for targeted results, taking into account the specific needs of these countries;

35. *Also recognizes* that, while social development is primarily the responsibility of Governments, international cooperation and assistance are essential for the full achievement of that goal, and calls upon the international community to continue to support the resolution of challenges faced by developing countries, especially the least developed countries, including in Africa, to independently achieving sustainable development;

36. *Further recognizes* the contribution made by Member States to the implementation of the New Partnership in the context of South-South cooperation, and encourages the international community, including the international financial institutions, to support the efforts of African countries, including through trilateral cooperation;

37. *Welcomes* the efforts of the United Nations and the African Union to realign the clusters of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa to deal with the major themes of both Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and invites development partners, including the United Nations system, to continue to support the Mechanism in achieving its objectives, including through the allocation of the financing necessary to support the implementation of its activities;

38. *Encourages* African countries to intensify their efforts to strengthen the capacity of subnational and national statistical systems in order to produce reliable and timely statistics and indicators for the monitoring of national development policies and strategies and of the implementation of commitments for the achievement of all Sustainable Development Goals at the local, national, regional and international levels, and in this regard urges donor countries and organizations, including the United Nations system, and the international and regional statistical communities to support African countries in strengthening statistical capacity in support of development;

39. *Takes note* of the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2024, which aims to have an impact across critical sectors such as agriculture, energy, environment, health, infrastructure development, mining, security and water;

40. *Underlines* the importance for African Governments to build the productive capacity of sustainable agriculture, as a top priority, in order to increase rural incomes and ensure access to food for net food buyers, and stresses that greater efforts should be made to promote and implement sustainable agriculture, increase the access of smallholder farmers, in particular women, to necessary agricultural resources, including productive assets, and improve access to infrastructure, information and markets, and that, furthermore, efforts should be made to promote rural-urban linkages through small and medium-sized enterprises that contribute to job growth and increase incomes along the agricultural value stream;

41. *Urges* African Governments, within the framework of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, to expand investment financing to agriculture to at least 10 per cent of the annual budget of the national public sector while at the same time ensuring necessary action in policy and institutional reforms for enhanced performance of the agriculture industry and systems;

42. *Recognizes* the need for Africa's development partners that are supporting agriculture, food security and nutrition in Africa to align their efforts more specifically towards supporting the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, using the Programme's investment plans for the alignment of external funding;

43. *Welcomes* progress made in addressing issues such as food security through the adoption of a resolution on the development of a model law on food security and nutrition in Africa in October 2018 by the Pan-African Parliament, and the development of a technical cooperation project to incorporate indigenous crops into the African nutritious food basket for improved food security and nutrition, and notes the Initiative for Food and Nutrition Security in Africa;

44. *Reaffirms* that among the objectives of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027), proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution [72/233](#) of 20 December 2017, are maintenance of the momentum generated by the implementation of the Second Decade and support, in an efficient and coordinated manner, for the internationally agreed development goals related to poverty eradication, including the Sustainable Development Goals and their objective of leaving no one behind;

45. *Urges* African countries to pay close attention to inclusive, equitable and sustainable growth capable of being employment-intensive, including through employment-intensive investment programmes, aimed at reducing inequalities, increasing productive employment, generating decent work for all, particularly those who are vulnerable, including women and young people, and improving real per capita incomes in both rural and urban areas;

46. *Emphasizes* the need, in particular for African countries, to enhance capacity-building for sustainable development, and in this regard calls for the strengthening of technical and scientific cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, and reiterates the importance of adequate human resources development, including through training, the exchange of experience and expertise, knowledge transfer and technical assistance for capacity-building, which involves strengthening institutional capacity, including policy coherence, coordination and implementation, as well as planning, management and monitoring capacities;

47. *Also emphasizes* 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, and takes note of continental initiatives such as the African Union International Centre for Girls' and Women's Education in Africa, which implemented activities in line with its strategic plan for the period 2018–2020 and officially launched the Africa Educates Her campaign on 11 September 2020, a rallying call to get girls back to school;

48. *Urges* African countries and development partners 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, and in this regard takes note of the launch at the Pan African Youth Forum on the theme "Africa unite for youth: bridging the gap and reaching African youth", held in Addis Ababa from 24 to 27 April 2019, of the African Union 1 million by 2021 initiative, which targets direct investments in millions of African youth on four key elements, namely employment, entrepreneurship, education and engagement, through leveraging partnerships and private sector opportunities, and for which 25 partners have pledged to provide opportunities since the launch;

49. *Reaffirms* the commitment of the General Assembly to bridging digital and knowledge divides, recognizes that its approach must be multidimensional and include an evolving understanding of what constitutes access, emphasizing the quality of that access, and acknowledges that speed, stability, affordability, language, local content and accessibility for persons with disabilities are now core elements of the quality of such access and that high-speed broadband is already an essential enabler of sustainable development;

50. *Recognizes* that improving access to school for all girls and boys, especially the poorest and most vulnerable and marginalized, and their ability to receive a quality education, and improving the quality of education beyond primary school can have a positive impact in terms of empowerment and on social, economic and political participation and thus on the fight against poverty and hunger and can contribute directly to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals;

51. *Also recognizes* that Africa's youthful population creates significant opportunities for the continent's development, and underlines in this regard the importance of African countries creating appropriate policy environments, in collaboration with the United Nations system, in order to realize a demographic dividend, while adopting an inclusive results-based approach to development planning and implementation in accordance with national priorities and legislation;

52. *Encourages* Governments, international organizations, other relevant institutions and stakeholders, as appropriate, to provide relevant skills training for youth, high-quality health-care services and dynamic labour markets to employ a growing population;

53. *Recognizes* the need for Governments and the international community to continue to make efforts to increase the flow of new and additional resources for financing for sustainable development from all sources, public and private, domestic and foreign, to support the development of African countries, and welcomes the various important initiatives established between African countries and their development partners in this regard;

54. *Acknowledges* the activities of the Bretton Woods institutions and the African Development Bank in African countries, and invites those institutions to continue their support for the implementation of the priorities and objectives of the New Partnership;

55. *Encourages* African countries and their development partners to place people at the centre of government development action, to secure core investment spending in health, education and social protection and to give particular consideration to universal access to basic social security systems, recognizing that social protection floors can provide a basis from which to address poverty and vulnerability, and in this regard takes note of the Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202), adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 101st session, on 14 June 2012, which can serve as a guideline for social investment;

56. *Notes* the growing collaboration among the entities of the United Nations system in support of the African Union and its New Partnership, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to promote greater coherence in the work of the United Nations system in support of the New Partnership, on the basis of the agreed clusters of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa;

57. *Emphasizes* the importance for the cluster working on advocacy and communication to continue to muster international support for the New Partnership, and urges the United Nations system to demonstrate more evidence of cross-sectoral synergies to promote a comprehensive approach with regard to successive phases of planning and implementation of social development programmes in Africa;

58. *Requests* the Commission for Social Development to continue to discuss in its annual programme of work those regional programmes that promote social development so as to enable all regions to share experiences and best practices, with the agreement of concerned countries, and in this regard requests that the work programmes of the Commission include social dimensions of the New Partnership, as appropriate;

59. *Decides* that the Commission for Social Development should continue to give prominence to and raise awareness of the social dimensions of the New Partnership and give due consideration to Agenda 2063 of the African Union at its sixty-first session;

60. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and the Economic Commission for Africa, taking into consideration General Assembly resolution [75/322](#) of 9 September 2021, entitled “New Partnership for Africa’s Development: progress in implementation and international support”, to submit to the Commission for Social Development, for its consideration at its sixty-first session, an action-oriented report with recommendations on how to improve the effectiveness of the work of United Nations bodies in regard to the social dimensions of the New Partnership, Agenda 2063 and

its links with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, taking into account current processes related to social development in Africa.

## **Draft resolution II**

### **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 Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* its decision 2021/8 of 8 June 2021, in which it decided that the priority theme of the 2022 session of the Commission for Social Development would be “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”,

*Recalling also* the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,

*Reaffirming* that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development<sup>1</sup> and the further initiatives for social development adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session<sup>2</sup> constitute the basic framework for the promotion of social development for all at the national and international levels, and encouraging the continued global dialogue on social development issues,

*Welcoming* the progress made towards the full implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action through concerted action at the national, regional and global levels, and expressing deep concern that, more than 20 years after the convening of the World Summit for Social Development, progress has been slow and uneven, and major gaps remain, and further welcoming the convening of the joint informal high-level meeting of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development, on 1 December 2020,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which the Assembly adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets and affirmed its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030 with a view to leave no one behind and reach the furthest behind first, and its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution [69/313](#) of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

*Recalling further* General Assembly resolutions [74/270](#) of 2 April 2020 on global solidarity to fight the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), [74/274](#) of 20 April 2020 on international cooperation to ensure global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to face COVID-19, [74/306](#) of 11 September 2020, entitled “Comprehensive and coordinated response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19)

<sup>1</sup> *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

<sup>2</sup> General Assembly resolution [S-24/2](#), annex.

pandemic”, and [74/307](#) of 11 September 2020, entitled “United response against global health threats: combating COVID-19”,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution [74/4](#) of 15 October 2019, entitled “Political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly”,

*Recalling also* the ministerial declaration adopted at the high-level segment of the 2021 session of the Economic and Social Council and the 2021 high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Council, on the theme “Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”,

*Recalling further* the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,<sup>3</sup> which, inter alia, recognizes the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself or herself and his or her family, the right to work, the right to social security and the right to education, and noting the relevance of these provisions to the formulation of social policies, including family-oriented social protection policies and measures,

*Noting* the important work undertaken by the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which has led to the formulation of global indicators, including on social protection,

*Recognizing* the particular relevance of the International Labour Organization Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work<sup>4</sup> for a socially just transition towards sustainable development, and recalling General Assembly resolution [73/327](#) of 25 July 2019, by which the Assembly decided to declare 2021 the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour,

*Reaffirming* the importance of supporting Agenda 2063 of the African Union, as well as its first 10-year implementation plan, as a strategic framework for ensuring a positive socioeconomic transformation in Africa within the next 50 years, and its continental programme embedded in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the New Partnership for Africa’s Development<sup>5</sup> and regional initiatives, such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme,

*Recalling* the guiding principles on extreme poverty and human rights<sup>6</sup> adopted by the Human Rights Council in its resolution [21/11](#),<sup>7</sup> as a useful tool for Member States in the formulation and implementation of poverty reduction and eradication policies, as appropriate, and encouraging Member States to implement the guiding principles,

*Recognizing* that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic is one of the greatest global challenges in the history of the United Nations, and noting with deep concern 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

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<sup>3</sup> See General Assembly resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

<sup>4</sup> [A/73/918](#), annex.

<sup>5</sup> [A/57/304](#), annex.

<sup>6</sup> [A/HRC/21/39](#).

<sup>7</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/67/53/Add.1)*, chap. II.



economies, trade, societies and environments, and the exacerbation of economic and social inequalities within and among countries, which is reversing hard-won development gains and hampering progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and all its Goals and targets, and recognizing also that the COVID-19 pandemic requires a global response based on unity, solidarity and renewed multilateral cooperation,

*Stressing* that 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,

*Reaffirming* the commitment to end poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including by eradicating extreme poverty by 2030, that 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,

*Acknowledging* that, with less than 10 years left to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, the 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, and recognizing that those who are vulnerable or in vulnerable situations are the hardest hit by the pandemic,

*Noting with great concern* that 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, and noting with great concern also that 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,

*Expressing deep concern* that, 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, that 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,

*Recognizing* 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,

*Acknowledging* the significant progress made in several parts of the world in combating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, deeply concerned, however, that 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, and that it 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,

*Expressing its deep concern* that the progress in reducing poverty remains uneven, with 1.3 billion people still living in multidimensional poverty, and that 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, and stressing the importance of national and global efforts to create 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,

*Noting* that 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 recognizing 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,

*Taking note* of the efforts of the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session to launch the Alliance for Poverty Eradication, which is timely and meaningful and continues to serve as a platform for the exchange of ideas, policies and best practices on poverty eradication, and stressing the importance of addressing poverty, including rural poverty issues, as 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-care services, education, the Internet, information and communications technologies, social protection, financial services and public infrastructure,

*Acknowledging* that the social integration of people living in poverty and hunger should encompass addressing and meeting their basic human needs, including safe, diverse, nutritious and sufficient food, health, safe drinking water and sanitation, housing and access to quality education, life-learning opportunities, full and productive employment, and decent work, through integrated development strategies,

*Reaffirming* that, since the existence of widespread extreme poverty inhibits the full and effective enjoyment of all human rights and may, in some situations, constitute a threat to the right to life, its immediate alleviation and eventual eradication must remain a high priority for the international community,

*Recognizing* the relevance of better understanding the multidimensional nature of development and poverty while stressing the need to use multidimensional analytical tools, including multidimensional poverty indices and risk analysis to capture the interlinked nature of deprivations and vulnerabilities as well as understand poverty dynamics and shape policy, and recognizing that appropriate national multidimensional poverty indices allow countries to better target, coordinate and monitor poverty eradication measures,

*Noting* that effective poverty eradication policies require partnerships between national and local governments and civil society organizations, and recognizing that 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,

*Recognizing* the important contribution that entrepreneurship makes to sustainable development by creating jobs, driving inclusive economic growth and

innovation, improving social conditions and addressing economic, social and environmental challenges in the context of the 2030 Agenda, and emphasizing 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,

*Recognizing also* that sport is an enabler of social development and can be used as a means to access quality education and decent jobs, promote healthy lifestyles and well-being, reinforce solidarity and social cohesion, fight social exclusion and stereotypes and create economic opportunities for all, which can contribute to lifting people out of poverty,

*Acknowledging* the need to combat illicit financial flows and strengthen good practices on assets return and recovery as one of the sources of financing for development with a view to reducing hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture,

*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,

*Taking note with appreciation* of the publication entitled *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021: Transforming Food Systems for Food Security, Improved Nutrition and Affordable Healthy Diets for All*, issued by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the World Food Programme and the United Nations Children's Fund,

*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,

*Remaining deeply concerned* that, according to the most recent estimates of the 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, 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,

*Deeply concerned* about the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on children, especially girls, including on their access to essential health-care services and education, acknowledging that school closures have hit the poorest and most vulnerable children and their families the hardest, that many children may never return to education as they are forced into child marriage or child labour, and that 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,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution [72/239](#) of 20 December 2017, in which it proclaimed 2019–2028 the United Nations Decade of Family Farming, which raises the profile of the role of family farming in contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to the achievement of food security and improved nutrition,

*Taking note with appreciation* of the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit, convened by the Secretary-General on 23 and 24 September 2021, as well as its pre-Summit, held from 26 to 28 July 2021 in Rome, and noting also the Chair's Summary and Statement of Action on the United Nations Food Systems Summit, issued by the Secretary-General,

*Taking note* of the Global Nutrition for Growth Compact, signed by more than 100 countries, companies and civil society organizations, to reduce the number of stunted children by 20 million by 2020 and the financial commitments made to support this goal, as well as the third Nutrition for Growth summit, held in Milan, Italy, in November 2017, and the Nutrition for Growth summit held in Tokyo in 2021,

*Recalling* the African Regional Dialogue, held in Morocco on 13 July 2021 ahead of the United Nations Food System Summit, with the aim of accelerating the strengthening of food systems with a regional specificity that takes its substance in African agricultural and food systems, African diets, the living conditions of African populations and the ambitions of African societies,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>8</sup>
2. *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,<sup>9</sup> 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,<sup>10</sup> the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030<sup>11</sup> and the New Urban Agenda;<sup>12</sup>
3. *Reaffirms* the commitment to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for all by ensuring that no one would be left behind and reaching the furthest behind first, and by recognizing human rights and that the dignity of the human person is fundamental;
4. *Calls upon* Member States to ensure the promotion and protection of all human rights, in accordance with their obligations under international human rights law;
5. *Reaffirms* that 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;
6. *Acknowledges* that recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic gives additional opportunity to develop integrated long-term policy frameworks to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and that such frameworks should aim to simultaneously eradicate poverty and hunger as well as malnutrition, combat

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<sup>8</sup> E/CN.5/2022/3.

<sup>9</sup> General Assembly resolution 70/1.

<sup>10</sup> General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex.

<sup>11</sup> General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II.

<sup>12</sup> General Assembly resolution 71/256, annex.

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 multidimensional analysis of poverty and hunger should inform these recovery strategies;

7. *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;

8. *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;

9. *Stresses* the importance of developing policies to expand work opportunities and productivity in both rural and urban sectors by achieving and recovering economic growth, investing in human resource development, promoting technologies that generate productive employment, and encouraging self-employment, entrepreneurship and small and medium-sized enterprises;

10. *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;

11. *Stresses* the 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;

12. *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;

13. *Highlights* the importance of developing and implementing 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;

14. *Encourages* Member States to respect, promote and realize the right to work and to prevent and eliminate violence, abuse and sexual harassment, while recognizing that violence and harassment is a threat to equal opportunities, is

unacceptable and incompatible with decent work and it may prevent women from accessing, remaining and advancing in the labour market;

15. *Acknowledges* that the exacerbation of poverty during the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in an increase in child labour, and 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;

16. *Recognizes* that 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;

17. *Also recognizes* that nationally appropriate social protection systems make a critical contribution to the realization of human rights for all, in particular for those who are trapped in poverty and hunger, and that promoting universal access to social services and providing nationally appropriate social protection floors can contribute to reducing inequality and poverty, addressing social exclusion and promoting inclusive economic growth, and in this regard takes note of the Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202), of the International Labour Organization;

18. *Encourages* Member States, when designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating social protection programmes for social development, to ensure gender mainstreaming throughout this process;

19. *Recognizes* the important role that families can play in combating social exclusion, and highlights the importance of investing in inclusive and responsive family-oriented policies and programmes in areas such as education, training, decent work, work-family balance, health-care services, social services, intergenerational relationships and solidarity and targeted cash transfers for vulnerable families, in order to reduce inequality and promote the well-being of all persons of all ages, as well as to contribute to better outcomes for children and other vulnerable family members in vulnerable situations and help to break the intergenerational transfer of poverty;

20. *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;

21. *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;

22. *Stresses* the 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;

23. *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;

24. *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;

25. *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;

26. *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;

27. *Emphasizes* that sustainable agricultural production, food security, food safety and nutrition are key elements for the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, and calls for greater efforts to sustainably enhance the agricultural production capacities, productivity and food security of developing countries;

28. *Notes* the need to further examine various concepts, such as "food sovereignty", and their relation to food security and the right to food, bearing in mind the need to avoid any negative impact on the enjoyment of the right to food for all people at all times;

29. *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;

30. *Reaffirms* that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time, remains deeply concerned 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, sea level rise, coastal erosion, ocean acidification and the retreat of mountain glaciers, further threatening food security, water availability and livelihoods, recognizes the substantial risks posed by climate change to health, and underlines the need to address the economic, social and environmental impacts of climate change, and emphasizes the need 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;

31. *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;

32. *Emphasizes* the importance of empowering people and creating an enabling environment for making informed choices about food products for healthy dietary practices through improved health and nutrition information and education;

33. *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;

34. *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;

35. *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;

36. *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;

37. *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-centred 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;

38. *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, and in this regard urges Member States to disseminate the technical guidance prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in collaboration with the World Health Organization,<sup>13</sup> and to apply it, as appropriate, in the design, implementation, evaluation and monitoring of laws, policies, programmes, budgets and mechanisms for remedy and redress aimed at eliminating preventable mortality and morbidity of children under 5 years of age;

39. *Recognizes* that domestic resources mobilization, underscored by the principle of national ownership and supplemented by international assistance, as appropriate, will be critical to realizing sustainable development and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;

40. *Reaffirms* the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and recognizes the need to take steps to significantly increase investment to close resource gaps, including through the mobilization of financial resources from all sources, including public, private, domestic and international resource mobilization and allocation;

41. *Also reaffirms* that 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;

42. *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;

43. *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

<sup>13</sup> [A/HRC/27/31](#); see also Human Rights Council resolution [33/11](#) (see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 53A* and corrigendum ([A/71/53/Add.1](#) and [A/71/53/Add.1/Corr.1](#)), chap. II).

South-South and triangular cooperation as a means of bringing relevant experience and expertise to bear in development cooperation;

44. *Stresses* the essential role that official development assistance plays in complementing, leveraging and sustaining financing for development efforts in developing countries and in facilitating the achievement of development objectives, including the internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Sustainable Development Goals, and welcomes steps to improve the effectiveness and quality of aid based on the fundamental principles of national ownership, alignment, harmonization, managing for results and mutual accountability;

45. *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;

46. *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;

47. *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;

48. *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.

## **B. Draft decisions for adoption by the Council**

2. The Commission for Social Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

### **Draft decision I**

#### **Priority theme of the sixty-first session of the Commission for Social Development**

The Economic and Social Council decides that the priority theme of the sixty-first session of the Commission for Social Development shall be “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”.

## **Draft decision II**

### **Report of the Commission for Social Development on its sixtieth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the sixty-first session**

The Economic and Social Council:

- (a) Takes note of the report of the Commission for Social Development on its sixtieth session;<sup>1</sup>
- (b) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the sixty-first session of the Commission as set out below:

### **Provisional agenda and documentation for the sixty-first session of the Commission**

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly:

#### **Documentation**

Report of the Secretary-General on the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

- (a) Priority theme: 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

#### **Documentation**

Report of the Secretary-General on the priority theme

- (b) Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups:
  - (i) Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities: the way forward, a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond;<sup>2</sup>
  - (ii) World Programme of Action for Youth;
  - (iii) Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002;
  - (iv) Family issues, policies and programmes;

#### **Documentation**

Report of the Secretary-General on the preparations for and observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family

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<sup>1</sup> *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2022, Supplement No. 6 (E/2022/26).*

<sup>2</sup> General Assembly resolution 68/3.

Report of the Secretary-General on policies and programmes involving youth

Report of the Secretary-General on the fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002

(c) Emerging issues: *(to be determined)*.

**Documentation**

Note by the Secretary-General on emerging issues

4. Programme questions and other matters:
  - (a) Proposed programme plan for 2024;
  - (b) United Nations Research Institute for Social Development.

**Documentation**

Note by the Secretariat on the proposed programme plan for 2024

5. Provisional agenda for the sixty-second session of the Commission.
6. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixty-first session.

## Chapter II

### **Organizational matters: priority theme of the sixty-first session of the Commission for Social Development**

#### **Action taken by the Commission**

3. At its 3rd meeting, on 16 February 2022, the Commission adopted a draft decision entitled “Priority theme of the sixty-first session of the Commission for Social Development” ([E/CN.5/2022/L.5](#)), submitted by the Vice-Chair (Portugal) on the basis of informal consultations, and recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for its final adoption (see chap. I.B, draft decision I).

## Chapter III

### Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

4. The Commission considered agenda item 3 at its 2nd and 3rd meetings, on 7 and 16 February 2022. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development ([E/CN.5/2022/2](#));

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on 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 ([E/CN.5/2022/3](#));

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the objectives of the International Year of the Family and its follow-up processes ([A/77/61-E/2022/4](#));

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the preliminary assessment of the fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002 ([E/CN.5/2022/4](#));

(e) Note by the Secretariat on the national policies and measures implemented by Member States to combat hunger and poverty in times of the coronavirus disease pandemic and beyond: challenges to get on track towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda ([E/CN.5/2022/5](#));

(f) Statements submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council ([E/CN.5/2022/NGO/1–47](#)).

5. At the 2nd meeting, on 7 February, the Director of the Division for Inclusive Social Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs introduced the documentation under agenda item 3 as a whole.

### Action taken by the Commission under agenda item 3 as a whole

#### Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

6. At the 3rd meeting, on 16 February, the observer for Pakistan<sup>1</sup> (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China) introduced a draft resolution entitled "Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development" ([E/CN.5/2022/L.4](#)). Subsequently, Turkey joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

7. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted draft resolution [E/CN.5/2022/L.4](#) and recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for its final adoption (see chap. I.A, draft resolution I).

8. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of the United States of America.

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<sup>1</sup> In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

**A. Priority theme: 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**

9. The Commission considered sub-item 3 (a) at its 2nd and 3rd meetings, on 7 and 16 February, and convened 12 virtual informal meetings to hold a general discussion on sub-item 3 (a) and sub-item 3 (b) (Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups) and interactive dialogues on item 3 and its sub-items (a), (b) and (c) (Emerging issues). The proceedings of the virtual informal meetings are reflected in annex II to the present report.

**Action taken by the Commission on agenda item 3 (a)**

10. At its 3rd meeting, on 16 February, the Commission adopted a draft resolution entitled “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” ([E/CN.5/2022/L.3](#)), submitted by the Chair (Argentina) on the basis of informal consultations, and recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for its final adoption (see chap. I.A, draft resolution II).

11. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America and Libya. Statements were also made by the observers for Hungary, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Senegal and France (on behalf of the European Union).

12. The observer for the Holy See also made a statement.

**B. Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups**

13. The Commission considered sub-item 3 (b) at its 2nd meeting, on 7 February, and convened 12 virtual informal meetings to hold a general discussion on sub-item 3 (a) (Priority theme: 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) and interactive dialogues on sub-items 3 (a), (b) and (c) (Emerging issues). The proceedings of the virtual informal meetings are reflected in annex II to the present report.



## **Chapter IV**

### **Programme questions and other matters: proposed programme plan for 2023**

14. The Commission considered agenda item 4 at its 3rd meeting, on 16 February 2022.
15. At the same meeting, the Director of the Division for Inclusive Social Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs made a statement.

## Chapter V

### **Provisional agenda for the sixty-first session of the Commission**

16. The Commission considered agenda item 5 at its 3rd meeting, on 16 February 2022. It had before it the provisional agenda and documentation for the sixty-first session of the Commission ([E/CN.5/2022/L.1](#)).

17. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda and documentation for its sixty-first session (see chap. I. B, draft decision II).

## **Chapter VI**

### **Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixtieth session**

18. At the 3rd meeting, on 16 February 2022, the Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur of the Commission, Hellen M. Chifwaila (Zambia), introduced the draft report of the Commission on its sixtieth session, as contained in document [E/CN.5/2022/L.2](#).
19. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft report and entrusted the Secretariat, in consultation with the Rapporteur, with its finalization.

## **Chapter VII**

### **Organization of the session**

#### **A. Opening and duration of the session**

20. The Commission for Social Development held its sixtieth session at Headquarters on 17 February 2021 and from 7 to 16 February 2022. The Commission held three meetings (1st to 3rd).

21. The Commission, pursuant to the organization of work adopted at its 2nd meeting, held on 7 February 2022, and taking into account the impact of the prevailing conditions relating to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on the working arrangements for its sixtieth session and the available technological and procedural solutions for the interim period, convened 12 virtual informal meetings to hold a general discussion and interactive dialogues under agenda item 3. The proceedings of the virtual informal meetings are reflected in annex II to the present report.

22. At the 2nd meeting, on 7 February, the Chair (Argentina) made an opening statement.

23. At the same meeting, the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Economic and Social Council, the Deputy Secretary-General and the Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs addressed the Commission.

24. Statements were also made by representatives of civil society and youth.

#### **B. Attendance**

25. The session was attended by representatives of 36 States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended. The list of participants is contained in document [E/CN.5/2022/INF/1](#).

#### **C. Election of officers**

26. In its decision 2002/210, the Economic and Social Council decided that, immediately following the closure of a regular session, the Commission would hold the first meeting of its subsequent regular session for the sole purpose of electing the new Chair and other members of the Bureau.

27. At its 1st meeting, on 17 February 2021, the Commission elected by acclamation María del Carmen Squeff (Argentina) as Chair and Stefano Guerra (Portugal) as Vice-Chair of the Commission for its sixtieth session. At the same meeting, the Commission postponed the election of the members of the Bureau from the African States, the Asia-Pacific States and the Eastern European States to a later date on the understanding that, upon nomination by their respective groups, candidates would be allowed to participate fully in the meetings of the Bureau held in preparation of the sixtieth session of the Commission

28. At its 2nd meeting, on 7 February 2022, the Commission elected, by acclamation, Hellen M. Chifwaila (Zambia), Guo Jiakun (China) and Iwona Lula (Poland) as Vice-Chairs of the sixtieth session.

29. At the same meeting, the Commission designated Ms. Chifwaila as Rapporteur.

30. The Bureau was thus composed as follows:

*Chair:*

María del Carmen Squeff (Argentina)

*Vice-Chairs:*

Stefano Guerra (Portugal)

Hellen M. Chifwaila (Zambia) (Rapporteur)

Guo Jiakun (China)

Iwona Lula (Poland)

## **D. Agenda and organization of work**

31. At its 2nd meeting, on 7 February, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda contained in document [E/CN.5/2022/1](#). The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly:
  - (a) Priority theme: 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;
  - (b) Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups:
    - (i) Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities: the way forward, a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond;
    - (ii) World Programme of Action for Youth;
    - (iii) Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002;
    - (iv) Family issues, policies and programmes;
  - (c) 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.
4. Programme questions and other matters:

Proposed programme plan for 2023.
5. Provisional agenda of the sixty-first session of the Commission.
6. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixtieth session.

## **E. Documentation**

32. The list of documents before the Commission at its sixtieth session is contained in annex I to the present report.

## Annex I

### List of documents before the Commission for Social Development at its sixtieth session

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title/description</i>
<a href="#">A/77/61-E/2022/4</a>	3 (b)	Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the objectives of the International Year of the Family and its follow-up processes
<a href="#">E/CN.5/2022/1</a>	2	Provisional annotated agenda and proposed organization of work
<a href="#">E/CN.5/2022/2</a>	3	Report of the Secretary-General on the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development
<a href="#">E/CN.5/2022/3</a>	3 (a)	Report of the Secretary-General on 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
<a href="#">E/CN.5/2022/4</a>	3 (b)	Report of the Secretary-General on the preliminary assessment of the fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002
<a href="#">E/CN.5/2022/5</a>	3 (c)	Note by the Secretariat on the national policies and measures implemented by Member States to combat hunger and poverty in times of the coronavirus disease pandemic and beyond: challenges to get on track towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda
<a href="#">E/CN.5/2022/L.1</a>	5	Provisional agenda and documentation for the sixty-first session of the Commission
<a href="#">E/CN.5/2022/L.2</a>	6	Draft report of the Commission on its sixtieth session
<a href="#">E/CN.5/2022/L.3</a>	3 (a)	Draft resolution on 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
<a href="#">E/CN.5/2022/L.4</a>	3	Draft resolution on the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development
<a href="#">E/CN.5/2022/L.5</a>	2	Draft decision on the priority theme of the sixty-first session of the Commission for Social Development
<a href="#">E/CN.5/2022/NGO/1–47<sup>a</sup></a>	3 (a) and 3 (b)	Statements submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

<sup>a</sup> Available at [www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/united-nations-commission-for-social-development-csod-social-policy-and-development-division/csod60.html](http://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/united-nations-commission-for-social-development-csod-social-policy-and-development-division/csod60.html).

## Annex II

### **Virtual informal meetings to hold a general discussion on sub-items 3 (a) and (b) and interactive dialogues on item 3 and its sub-items (a) to (c)**

1. At the virtual informal meeting of the Commission held on the afternoon of 7 February 2022, the Commission held a high-level panel discussion on the priority theme “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”.
2. At the same meeting, a keynote address was delivered by the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Qu Dongyu.
3. Also at the same meeting, the Chair of the Commission (Argentina) made a statement and introduced the panellists: the First Lady of Colombia, María Juliana Ruíz Sandoval; the Vice-Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Argentina (pre-recorded), Matías Lestani; the Director of Programming and Social Development at the Ministry of National Solidarity, the Family and the Status of Women of Algeria, Abdullah Haddab; the Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, Mikiko Otani; and the Co-Director of research on the multidimensional aspects of poverty at International Movement ATD Fourth World, Maryann Broxton. The panel discussion was moderated by the Chair of the Commission.
4. At the same meeting, an interactive discussion ensued, during which statements were made by the representatives of Brazil, Portugal and Morocco, as well as by the observers for the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Italy. The observer for the European Union also made comments and posed a question. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council also participated in the discussion: Red Dot Foundation and Baha’i International Community.
5. At the virtual informal meeting of the Commission held on the morning of 8 February, the Commission held a ministerial forum on the theme “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”.
6. At the same meeting, the Chair (Argentina) made a statement and introduced the panellists: the Vice-President and Minister of Development and Social Inclusion of Peru, Dina Boluarte; the Minister of Social Affairs and Health of Finland, Hanna Sarkkinen; the Minister of Labour and Social Protection of the Population of Azerbaijan, Sahil Babayev; the Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection of Liberia, Williametta Saydee-Tarr; the Minister for Labour and Social Protection of Mongolia (pre-recorded), Ariunzaya Ayush; the Minister of Social Development and the Family of Qatar, Mariam bint Ali bin Nasser Al-Misnad; and the Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan (pre-recorded), Kentaro Uesugi. The panel discussion was moderated by the Chair of the Commission.
7. Also at the same meeting, an interactive discussion ensued, during which statements were made by the representatives of Portugal, Argentina, Brazil and China, as well as by the observer for Malawi. The observer for the European Union also made comments and posed a question.
8. At the virtual informal meeting of the Commission held on the afternoon of 8 February, the Chair (Argentina) made a statement, and the Commission began its general discussion on sub-items (a) and (b) of agenda item 3 and heard statements by

the representatives of Finland (on behalf of the Nordic Countries) (pre-recorded), Morocco and Qatar.

9. At the same meeting, the Commission also heard statements by the observers for Pakistan (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Jamaica (on behalf of the Caribbean Community), Peru (on behalf of the LGBTI Core Group), Chile (on behalf of the Group of Friends of Older Persons), Egypt (pre-recorded), the Philippines (pre-recorded), Zimbabwe (pre-recorded), Mali (on behalf of the Group of African States) and Mongolia (pre-recorded).

10. At the virtual informal meeting of the Commission held on the morning of 9 February, the Commission held a panel discussion on emerging issues entitled “National policies and measures implemented by Member States to combat hunger and poverty in times of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and beyond: challenges to getting on track towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda”.

11. At the same meeting, the Chair (Argentina) made a statement and introduced the panellists: the President of the National Council for the Coordination of Social Policies of Argentina, Marisol Merquel; the Ambassador and Vice-Director of the Federal Social Insurance Office of Switzerland, Stephan Cueni; the Vice-President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency, Megumi Muto; and the Research Fellow and Founding Director of the Centre for Social Protection at the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex, Stephen Devereux. The panel discussion was moderated by member of the Committee for Development Policy and Emeritus Professor of employment and development economics at the International Institute of Social Studies of the Erasmus University in the Netherlands, Rolph van der Hoeven.

12. Also at the same meeting, an interactive discussion ensued, during which statements were made by the representatives of Portugal, Switzerland, the Dominican Republic, Cuba and China, as well as by the observers for Italy. The observer for the European Union also made comments.

13. At the same meeting, the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council also participated in the discussion: Soroptimist International and Haiti Cholera Research Funding Foundation, Inc.

14. At the virtual informal meeting of the Commission held on the afternoon of 9 February, the Commission held an interactive dialogue with senior officials of the United Nations system on the priority theme.

15. At the same meeting, the Chair (Argentina) made a statement and introduced the panellists: the Deputy Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Mario Cimoli; the Deputy Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, Mounir Tabet; the Chief Economist of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Máximo Torero; the Deputy Executive Director for Policy, Programme, Civil Society and Intergovernmental Support of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), Åsa Regnér; and the Special Representative and Director of the International Labour Organization, Beate Andrees. The panel discussions were moderated by the Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Maria-Francesca Spatolisano.

16. Also at the same meeting, panellists made statements on the first panel discussion, on the state of play of poverty and hunger, including the impacts of COVID-19.



17. At the same meeting, an interactive discussion ensued, during which statements were made by the representatives of Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Portugal and Argentina.
18. Also at the same meeting, panellists made statements on the second panel discussion, on the way forward: approaches, plans and strategies for an inclusive and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic to get back on track to fully implement the 2030 Agenda.
19. At the same meeting, an interactive discussion ensued, during which the observer for the European Union made comments and posed a question.
20. At its virtual informal meeting held on the morning of 10 February, the Commission held a multi-stakeholder forum on the priority theme.
21. At the same meeting, the Chair (Argentina) made a statement, and the Minister of Social Affairs and Health of Finland, Hanna Sarkkinen, delivered a keynote address.
22. Also at the same meeting, the Chair introduced the panellists: the General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation, Sharan Burrow; the Secretary-General of the Asian Farmers Association for Sustainable Rural Development, Estrella “Esther” Penunia; the President of the International Cooperative Alliance, Ariel Guarco; the President of Red Dot Foundation Global, Elsa Marie D’Silva; and social entrepreneur and the founder of Red Solidaria, Juan Carr. The panel discussion was moderated by the Executive Director of the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis, Rose Ngugi.
23. At the same meeting, an interactive discussion ensued, during which statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Portugal and China.
24. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the following non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council participated in the discussion: Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd.
25. At its virtual informal meeting held on the afternoon of 10 February, the Commission held its general discussion on sub-items (a) and (b) of agenda item 3 and heard statements by the representatives of Austria (pre-recorded), Guinea (pre-recorded), the Dominican Republic (pre-recorded), Brazil (pre-recorded) and Colombia (pre-recorded).
26. At the same meeting, the Commission also heard statements by the observers for Samoa (on behalf of the Pacific small island developing States), Guyana (pre-recorded), Liberia, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (pre-recorded), Panama (pre-recorded), Trinidad and Tobago (pre-recorded), Germany (pre-recorded), the Sudan (pre-recorded), the United Arab Emirates (pre-recorded), Malawi and Spain (pre-recorded).
27. At the virtual informal meeting of the Commission held on the afternoon of 11 February, the Vice-Chair (Portugal) made a statement. The Commission held its general discussion on sub-items (a) and (b) of agenda item 3 and heard statements by the representatives of Argentina (pre-recorded), Portugal (pre-recorded), Japan, the Russian Federation, Israel, Switzerland (pre-recorded), South Africa and Poland (pre-recorded).
28. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the observers for Mexico, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Luxembourg (live and pre-recorded), France (on behalf of European Union and its member States), Slovenia, Fiji, Chile and Bangladesh.

29. At the virtual informal meeting of the Commission held on the morning of 14 February, the Vice-Chair (Zambia) made a statement. The Commission held its general discussion on sub-items (a) and (b) of agenda item 3 and heard statements by the representatives of Cuba, Ecuador and Zambia.
30. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the observers for Lebanon, India (pre-recorded), Pakistan, Bhutan, Viet Nam, Nicaragua, Angola, Thailand (pre-recorded), Georgia, Sri Lanka, Monaco, Bulgaria (pre-recorded), Greece, Nepal, Romania (live and pre-recorded), Oman and Burkina Faso.
31. At the virtual informal meeting of the Commission held on the afternoon of 14 February, the Vice-Chair (Portugal) made a statement. The Commission held its general discussion on sub-items (a) and (b) of agenda item 3 and heard statements by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, China, the Republic of Korea, Ethiopia, Uganda, Guatemala and Libya.
32. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the observers for El Salvador (pre-recorded), Belarus, Maldives, Namibia, Italy (pre-recorded), Saudi Arabia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Peru, Côte d'Ivoire, Hungary (live and pre-recorded) and Haiti.
33. At the virtual informal meeting of the Commission held on the morning of 15 February, the Vice-Chair (Poland) made a statement. The Commission held its general discussion on sub-items (a) and (b) of agenda item 3 and heard statements by the representatives of Turkey, Afghanistan, Djibouti, Paraguay, the United States of America and Nigeria.
34. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the observers for Canada, Senegal, Kenya (pre-recorded) and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
35. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the observer for the Holy See.
36. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd (pre-recorded), FEMM Foundation (pre-recorded), Franciscans International (pre-recorded), World Youth Alliance (pre-recorded), VIVAT International (pre-recorded), Blue Tree Foundation (pre-recorded), Make Mothers Matter (pre-recorded), Transdiaspora Network, Inc. (pre-recorded), World Organization for Early Childhood Education (pre-recorded), UNANIMA International (pre-recorded), Red Dot Foundation (pre-recorded), Creators Union of Arab (pre-recorded) and Miss Caricom Int'l Foundation CIP Inc. (pre-recorded).
37. At the virtual informal meeting of the Commission held on the afternoon of 15 February, the Vice-Chair (China) made a statement. The Commission held its general discussion on sub-items (a) and (b) of agenda item 3 and heard a statement by the representative of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.
38. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Save the Children International, International Longevity Center Global Alliance, International Federation on Ageing, International Movement ATD Fourth World, Irene Menakaya School Onitsha, African Cultural Promotions Inc. and Haiti Cholera Research Funding Foundation Inc.

39. Also at the same meeting, the Commission concluded its general discussion on sub-items (a) and (b) of agenda item 3.

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