



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
12 July 2024

2024 session

Agenda item 19 (b)

Social and human rights questions: social development

Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 5 June 2024

[on the recommendation of the Commission for Social Development (E/2024/26)]

2024/6. Fostering social development and social justice through social policies to accelerate progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to achieve the overarching goal of poverty eradication

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution [2023/12](#) of 7 June 2023, in which it decided that the priority theme of the 2024 session of the Commission for Social Development would be “Fostering social development and social justice through social policies to accelerate progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to achieve the overarching goal of poverty eradication”,

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 Development¹ and the further initiatives for social development adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session² 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 25 years after the convening of the World Summit for Social Development, progress

¹ *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.

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



has been slow and uneven between and within countries and regions, and major gaps remain,

Recalling that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development gave the highest priority in national, regional and international policies and actions to the promotion of social progress, justice and the betterment of the human condition, based on full participation by all,

Recalling also 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 leaving no one behind and reaching 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 further 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,

Taking note of the political declarations of the high-level meetings on health convened under the auspices of the General Assembly during the seventy-eighth session³ as efforts to highlight the importance of health on the high-level political agenda, recognizing that respecting the human right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and building equitable national health systems are essential to achieve universal health coverage, to build prevention, preparedness and response to pandemics, as well as other health emergencies, and to ending epidemics such as tuberculosis,

Recalling General Assembly resolution [78/1](#) of 29 September 2023, entitled “Political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly”, and urging timely action to ensure its implementation,

Recalling also the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,⁴ 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,

Recalling further relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council which established the International Year of the Family and called for its observance on its tenth, twentieth and thirtieth anniversaries, including Council resolution [2014/8](#) of 12 June 2014,

Noting that the family plays an important role in social protection and that over 4 billion people still lack social protection, that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has intensified the reliance of persons vulnerable to poverty on their family, and recognizing the importance of responsive family-oriented policies, especially in the areas of poverty reduction, full and productive employment, and decent work and to confront social exclusion, recognizing the multidimensional aspects of social exclusion, focusing on inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning

³ General Assembly resolution [78/3](#), annex, resolution [78/4](#), annex, and resolution [78/5](#), annex.

⁴ See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

for all, health and well-being for all at all ages, social security, livelihoods and social cohesion, including through gender-responsive and age-sensitive social protection systems and measures, such as child allowances and pension benefits, and to ensure that the rights, capabilities and responsibilities of all family members are respected,

Noting also 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 Work⁵ 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 Development⁶ and regional initiatives, such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme,

Taking note of the Durban Call to Action on the Elimination of Child Labour from the fifth Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour, held in South Africa from 15 to 20 May 2022,

Recalling the guiding principles on extreme poverty and human rights⁷ adopted by the Human Rights Council in its resolution [21/11](#) of 27 September 2012,⁸ 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,

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,

Emphasizing that all human rights, including the right to development, are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, and also that the right to development is vital for the full realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and should be central to its implementation,

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 full and productive employment, decent work, and 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 slowed down and, in some cases, even reversed the progress in achieving many of the Goals by 2030, including Goal 1, which aims to end poverty in all its forms everywhere, Goal 8, which aims to promote

⁵ [A/73/918](#), annex.

⁶ [A/57/304](#), annex.

⁷ [A/HRC/21/39](#).

⁸ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/67/53/Add.1)*, chap. II.

sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all, and Goal 10, which aims to reduce inequality within and among countries, and recognizing that those who are in vulnerable situations have been the hardest hit by the pandemic,

Noting with great concern that the multiple crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic, have increased the number of those living in poverty, led to further impoverishment of those already living in poverty, widened inequalities, including gender inequality, increased unemployment, informal employment and the number of people who have left the labour market, and continue to disproportionately impact people in vulnerable situations, including older persons, persons with pre-existing medical conditions, women, children, including girls, youth, persons with disabilities, persons living with rare diseases, persons affected by conflict, migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons, people of African descent and Indigenous Peoples, local communities, workers in the informal economy, people living in rural areas and other people in vulnerable situations,

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,

Expressing its deep concern that the progress in reducing poverty remains uneven, with 1.1 billion people still living in multidimensional poverty, half of whom are children, and over 600 million people living in extreme poverty, and, on the basis of current trends, it is expected that there will still be 575 million people living in extreme poverty in 2030, and that these numbers continue 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,

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 with concern that high out-of-pocket health-care expenditures create significant health risks and impose a substantial financial burden on people, with 1 billion suffering catastrophic out-of-pocket costs annually, which can push people and their families into poverty, especially in developing countries, and that these challenges may have a disproportionate impact on women and girls,

Noting with concern also that progress toward education for all has slowed and that poor households often struggle to afford the costs of sending their children to school, which can affect their future well-being and reduce opportunities later in life,

Acknowledging that the social integration of people living in poverty and hunger should encompass access to quality education, lifelong learning opportunities, full and productive employment, decent work, health-care systems and adequate housing through integrated development strategies,

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,

Recognizing that social justice for all is the foundation for overcoming inequalities, and that social development and social justice cannot be attained in the absence of peace and security or in the absence of respect for respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and noting that fostering social justice implies the recognition that individuals do not have the same starting point in life and that systemic barriers and societal biases create and perpetuate inequalities,

Recognizing also that social justice cuts across various sectors, such as health, education, food, water, housing, investment, trade and employment, and that in the world of work, social justice implies non-discrimination, fair wages, labour rights, social dialogue and access to social protection for all,

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 Member States and the international community,

Reaffirming also that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, particularly in Africa, in the least developed countries, in landlocked developing countries, in small island developing States and in some middle-income countries, and underlining the importance of accelerating sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth, recovery and sustainable development, including full, productive employment and decent work for all, with a view to reducing inequalities within and among countries,

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 all countries to better target, coordinate and monitor poverty eradication measures,

Recognizing also the important contribution that entrepreneurship makes to sustainable development by creating jobs and promoting decent work, 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 further that information and communications technologies, including artificial intelligence, present new opportunities and challenges to achieve social development and social justice and that there is a pressing need to address the major impediments that developing countries face in accessing new technologies for social development, stressing the need to close the digital divides, both between and within countries and including the rural-urban, youth-older persons and gender digital divides, and to harness information and communications technologies, including artificial intelligence, for development, and recalling the need to emphasize quality of access to bridge digital and knowledge divides to promote capacity in social policy design,

Recognizing that sport is an enabler of social development and can be used as a means to access quality education and decent work, 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 international best practices on assets return and recovery as one of the sources of financing for development with a view to promoting decent work and reducing inequality within and among countries,

Stressing that domestic public finance remains the primary source of financing for social spending globally, and in many countries, domestic public resources are insufficient to provide all people with adequate quality public services and match the scale and ambition of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Deeply concerned about the disproportionate impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had 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 estimated additional 60 million children living in income-poor households in 2021,

Recognizing the importance of new and emerging challenges and vulnerabilities in regard to developing country external and domestic debt sustainability, and the importance of improved international debt mechanisms to support debt review, debt payment suspensions and debt restructuring, as appropriate, with an expansion of support and eligibility to vulnerable countries in need,

Noting the proposal contained in the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Our Common Agenda”⁹ to convene a world social summit in 2025, to be discussed and agreed upon by Member States, including its modalities, title, objectives, scope and possible outcomes, and emphasizing that the possible summit’s outcome should have a social development approach, including the need to place people at the centre of development and the pledge to make poverty eradication, full employment, and social integration the overriding development objectives, and give momentum towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;¹⁰
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,¹¹ 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, creating full and productive employment and decent work for all, 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,¹² the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030¹³ and the New Urban Agenda;¹⁴
3. *Reaffirms* the commitment to implementing the 2030 Agenda for all by ensuring that no one would be left behind and reaching the furthest behind first,

⁹ [A/75/982](#).

¹⁰ [E/CN.5/2024/3](#) and [E/CN.5/2024/3/Corr.1](#).

¹¹ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

¹² General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex.

¹³ General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II.

¹⁴ General Assembly resolution 71/256, annex.

including by fostering social development and social justice through social policies, and by recognizing human rights and that the dignity of the human person is fundamental;

4. *Recognizes* the need for strengthening international cooperation to provide necessary financial assistance, technical support and capacity-building to developing countries for attaining Sustainable Development Goals related to social development, by creating full and productive employment and decent work for all;

5. *Calls upon* Member States to promote, respect and protect human rights, in accordance with their obligations under international human rights law;

6. *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, of which the Addis Ababa Action Agenda is an integral part, supporting and complementing it;

7. *Stresses* that the benefits of economic growth should be inclusive and distributed more equitably and that, in order to close the gap of inequality and avoid any further deepening of inequality, comprehensive social policies and programmes, including appropriate social transfer and decent work and job creation programmes and social protection systems, are needed;

8. *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 build a more inclusive, equitable and adaptable labour market with full and productive employment and decent work for all, enhance people's capabilities and well-being, address the feminization of poverty, 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 unemployment should inform these recovery strategies;

9. *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;

10. *Acknowledges* that investment in human capital and social protection has been proven to be effective in reducing poverty and inequality, and invites Member States to mobilize innovative sources of financing, including through public-private partnerships, to secure adequate levels of social expenditure necessary for expanding coverage towards universal access to health, education, innovation, new technologies and basic social protection;

11. *Recognizes* that ensuring access to inclusive and equitable quality education for all and promoting lifelong learning opportunities are essential to helping people to overcome poverty and vulnerability, and in this regard emphasizes the importance of addressing the shortage of qualified teachers and inadequate curricula, school equipment and infrastructure;

12. *Recognizes and promotes* lifelong learning and training for all, in both formal and informal settings, and supports domestic literacy programmes, including

vocational education components and non-formal education, to support employment growth, enhance the quality of jobs, support skills development for the new forms of work, foster equal opportunities and reduce inequality in the labour market;

13. *Encourages* Member States to address underlying causes of inequality by promoting a sustainable economy for the well-being of all, investing in programmes for poverty eradication, as well as in the promotion of equitable and universal access to basic services and in quality and resilient infrastructure, including health-care services; education, lifelong learning and skills training; education infrastructure; safe drinking water and sanitation; affordable housing; affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy services; sustainable transport systems; and affordable access to the Internet and connectivity, including by working to ensure that service delivery is aimed at progressively reaching universal access, with particular attention given to the needs of those in vulnerable situations;

14. *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, create full and productive employment and decent work for all, and ensure the well-being of all at all ages in order to achieve the 2030 Agenda;

15. *Stresses* the importance of establishing and implementing targeted policies and measures to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, by formulating development strategies with clear poverty eradication goals, strengthening national statistical capacity and monitoring systems, including innovative use of telephone surveys and high-resolution data facilitated by remote sensing, and implementing nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, and taking concrete actions to prevent the return to poverty, especially when the past three years have witnessed a sharp setback in poverty reduction, with a view to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions, economic, social and environmental, and building the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations;

16. *Calls upon* Governments to adopt measures to combat trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants, modern slavery, and sexual and other forms of exploitation that victimize persons in situations of poverty, and to address the underlying economic and social causes of trafficking in persons and other forms of exploitation, including by discouraging the demand which fosters all forms of exploitation of persons, especially women and children;

17. *Invites* Governments to undertake the necessary adaptations to policies and regulations to support decent work and employment growth, foster equal opportunities and reduce inequalities and discrimination in the labour market, by enhancing effective labour market institutions, by enabling adequate remuneration through measures such as statutory or negotiated minimum wages, equal pay for work of equal value, employment protection legislation and employment law, and their effective implementation so that all workers enjoy labour rights;

18. *Reiterates* the commitment of Member States to promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services, in both rural and urban sectors, and promote technologies that generate productive employment and decent work;

19. *Invites* Governments to incorporate the provision of digital competencies, including but not limited to entrepreneurship and complementary soft skills, in formal education curricula and lifelong learning initiatives to address the implications of fundamental changes in the digital economy and industry 4.0 for labour markets;

20. *Invites* Member States to consider adopting labour market policies that strengthen institutions and provide adequate labour protection to all workers, especially the most disadvantaged, including through social dialogue and 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;

21. *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;

22. *Encourages* Member States to accelerate efforts to promote the transition from informal to formal work in all sectors through integrated strategies that comprise nuanced and differentiated measures for decent work and reliable social protection, including by leveraging e-formalization policies and investing in the creation of more decent work opportunities, including by supporting new and growing sectors such as the care economy, sustainable economy and digital economy to absorb informal workers, and to establish appropriate interventions that can strengthen the capacity of employers and workers to comply with existing standards and regulations of paying taxes and making social security contributions in ways and intervals tailored to the income patterns of informal and rural economy workers, by supporting the adaptation or simplification of regulations and procedures, establishing incentives to formalize and strengthening government oversight and capacity-building of tax and labour inspection services and social security;

23. *Calls upon* Member States to establish well-designed programmes that are aimed at ensuring equal opportunities and treatment in the world of work and facilitating and supporting the inclusion in the labour market of those in vulnerable situations, including women, youth, persons with disabilities, persons living with rare diseases, older persons, Indigenous Peoples, migrants, members of national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, and people living with HIV, including by strengthening active labour market policies and social protection systems;

24. *Urges* Member States to provide specific programmes and mobilize financial resources and technologies to support women to return to economic activity, including access to decent work, training and financial services, strengthening their economic empowerment and autonomy, and to protect and promote the right to work and rights at work of all women, facilitate women's full and equal participation in the labour market and ensure the equal access of women to decent work and quality jobs in all sectors and at all levels;

25. *Calls upon* Member States to promote, respect and protect labour rights, promote decent work and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment, and recognizes that the positive contribution of women migrant workers has the potential to foster inclusive growth and sustainable development in countries of origin, transit and destination, underlining the value and dignity of their labour, in all sectors, including in care and domestic work, and also calls upon Member States to strengthen international cooperation for safe, orderly and regular migration;

26. *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 affordable and quality childcare services and facilities, work-family balance, including, inter alia, while caring for children, older persons, persons with disabilities, and by promoting their full, equal and meaningful participation in the economy, including by supporting women's entrepreneurship, and in decision-making processes at all levels;

27. *Calls upon* Member States to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and ensure non-discrimination, racial and cultural diversity and inclusion, and equity by developing and implementing an integrated and comprehensive approach through the entire life course, by removing barriers that prevent women from accessing, remaining and progressing in the labour market, such as gender stereotypes, all forms of violence, including gender-based violence, discriminatory laws and practices and the unfair division of unpaid care work, by closing gender pay and pension gaps and by further realizing equal pay for equal work, including care work;

28. *Encourages* Member States to undertake the necessary adaptations to foster an enabling business environment for the promotion of inclusive and sustainable economic growth, decent work and decent job creation, as well as entrepreneurship, including social entrepreneurship, innovation and sustainable enterprises, through the enhancement of international cooperation and partnership with the private sector, including improving access to credit, particularly for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, and adopt public policies to combat unnecessary bureaucracy and corruption, as well as illicit financial flows, and strengthen good practices on assets return and recovery;

29. *Recognizes* that family policies are most effective when targeting the family unit and its dynamic as a whole, including taking into consideration the needs of its members, and notes that family-oriented policies aim in particular at strengthening, and should be designed to enhance, a household's capacity to escape poverty, ensure financial independence and support work-family balance to help manage family functions and foster child development;

30. *Encourages* Member States to enact family-oriented and gender-responsive policies that support the creation of decent jobs in new, sustainable and growing sectors, including the sustainable economy, digital economy, care economy and, as appropriate, social and solidarity economy, through, inter alia, appropriate investments in flexible and accessible skills and qualification development policies designed with the support of social partners that are tailored to the needs of these new sectors, policies that promote an environmentally sustainable and digitally empowered just transition that is fair and inclusive, legislative frameworks that determine the employment status of digital platform workers and protect their rights, and policies that ensure their effective implementation;

31. *Also encourages* Member States to promote and implement national, local and regional strategies, policies and programmes for supporting and enhancing the social and solidarity economy as a possible model for sustainable economic and social development, taking into account national circumstances, plans and priorities by developing legal frameworks, aiming to strengthen the integration in the economy of people living in poverty and in vulnerable situations, including Indigenous Peoples, local communities and farmers, and creating suitable environments to protect and promote their traditional practices and knowledge in productive activities;

32. *Further encourages* Member States to respect, promote and realize the right to work and to prevent and eliminate unequal division of domestic care, violence, abuse and sexual harassment, while recognizing that violence and harassment are a

threat to equal opportunities, are unacceptable and incompatible with decent work and may prevent women from accessing, remaining and advancing in the labour market;

33. *Acknowledges* that the exacerbation of poverty during the COVID-19 pandemic 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;

34. *Recognizes* that nationally appropriate universal 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 the empowerment of women and girls, and decent work, and facilitating the full inclusion of persons with disabilities, persons with rare diseases, and older persons;

35. *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;

36. *Encourages* Member States to invest in building national social protection systems that are, as appropriate, universal, risk-informed, gender-responsive and family-oriented, that combine social insurance and non-contributory (tax-financed) schemes, to ensure that everyone has access to comprehensive, adequate, progressive and sustainable social protection over the life course, through design and implementation features that support the inclusion of those in vulnerable situations who are often left out of social protection systems (including unpaid caregivers, the “missing middle” and informal workers), and contribute to just structural transformations by responding to social protection needs, including those stemming from the growth of the sustainable economy and the digital economy, and enable the increased responsiveness of programmes to disasters caused by hazards of all kinds, including through public and private investment in disaster risk reduction;

37. *Also encourages* Member States to establish comprehensive and well-coordinated social policies, including universal social protection schemes, by investing in evidenced-based good practices, including by strengthening the capacities of national evaluation services to direct public funds towards social policies, including social protection policies and schemes that have proven to be effective and efficient;

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

39. *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 families in vulnerable situations, 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 family members in vulnerable situations and help to break the intergenerational transfer of poverty;

40. *Acknowledges* the vital role that sustainable social protection systems played in the COVID-19 pandemic response, and encourages Member States to provide 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;

41. *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;

42. *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;

43. *Encourages* Member States to consider supporting the implementation of the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for a Just Transition, including through the promotion of decent work and sustainable and universal social protection systems;

44. *Also encourages* Member States to develop long-term, 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, Internet access and connectivity;

45. *Calls upon* Member States to continue to take action to bridge the digital divides within and between countries and spread the benefits of digitalization, and to expand participation of all countries, in particular developing countries, in the digital economy, including by enhancing their digital infrastructure connectivity, building their capacities and access to technological innovations through stronger partnerships and improving digital literacy, and further calls upon Member States to leverage digital technology to expand the foundations on which to strengthen social protection systems;

46. *Notes with concern* that unfair practices could hinder technological development and innovation worldwide, in particular in developing countries, and calls upon the international community to foster an open and inclusive environment for scientific and technological development;

47. *Encourages* Member States to improve accountability, transparency and capabilities of the public sector and to facilitate the effective and meaningful participation and empowerment of those in vulnerable situations, those working in the informal economy and those living in poverty in the design, implementation and monitoring of social policies, including by strengthening social dialogue and mechanisms for multi-stakeholder engagement and by supporting civil society organizations;

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

targeted cash transfers; promoting digital and financial literacy and inclusion; ensuring equal opportunities and access to healthy diets from sustainable food systems; ensuring access to quality education and lifelong learning opportunities without discrimination; 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;

49. *Also urges* Member States to place social considerations at the heart of development frameworks, including by reinforcing synergies between and among social, economic and environmental policies, as appropriate, and by making use of institutional resources such as coordination between ministries and an integrated approach;

50. *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, sand and dust storms, sea level rise, coastal erosion, ocean acidification and the retreat of mountain glaciers, further threatening food security, water availability and livelihoods, recognizes the substantial risks posed by climate change to health, 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;

51. *Recognizes* the efforts at all levels to establish and strengthen social protection measures and programmes, including national safety nets and social protection floors, for those in need and those in vulnerable situations, inter alia, food and cash-for-work, cash transfer and voucher programmes, school feeding programmes and mother-and-child nutrition programmes, and affordable housing, and in this regard underlines the importance of increasing investment, capacity-building and systems development;

52. *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 labour market participation, division of care work and in food security programmes, especially for those 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;

53. *Calls upon* Member States to adopt policies, programmes and other measures to recognize, reduce and redistribute women's and girls' disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work and the feminization of poverty, which was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, including through poverty eradication measures, labour policies, public services and gender-responsive social protection programmes;

54. *Recognizes* that investing in the capacities of women and girls is important for them to reach their full potential as well as in reducing poverty, food insecurity, malnutrition and inequalities, and in achieving higher productivity and boosting social returns in terms of health, lower infant mortality and the well-being of their families;

55. *Encourages* Member States to recognize, reduce and redistribute unpaid care and domestic work, particularly by women, and enhance efforts to ensure equal pay for equal work or work of equal value, and to promote work-family balance as conducive to the well-being of children, youth, persons with disabilities, persons living with rare diseases, and older persons and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, inter alia, through the improvement of working conditions for workers with family responsibilities, expanding flexible working arrangements, including through the use of new information and communications technologies, and providing and/or expanding leave arrangements, such as maternity leave and paternity leave, and adequate social security benefits for both women and men, taking appropriate steps to ensure that they are not discriminated against when availing themselves of such benefits and promoting men's awareness and use of such opportunities, for their children's developmental benefit and as a means of enabling women to increase their participation in the labour market;

56. *Also 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;

57. *Calls upon* Member States to address 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, including early childhood 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, and access to opportunities to catch up on lost learning;

58. *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;

59. *Calls upon* Member States to increase investment in social development through, inter alia, domestic resource mobilization for social policies by broadening the tax base, making use of progressive taxation and strengthening national tax services to ensure that they have the capacity to design, administer and enforce these policies;

60. *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;

61. *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;

62. *Calls upon* the international community to assist developing countries in the implementation of national human resources development strategies, and encourages the international community, including the private sector and relevant civil society actors, to provide and mobilize financial resources, capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and to supply expertise from all sources, as available;

63. *Also calls upon* the international community to strengthen multilateral cooperation to enhance fiscal space for social spending by cooperating with regional, subregional and national development banks to align lending capacities with national development priorities and help to meet the financing needs of developing countries, while continuing to assist developing countries in avoiding a build-up of unsustainable debt and in implementing resilience measures so as to reduce the risk of relapsing into another debt crisis;

64. *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;

65. *Calls upon* the international community to support countries to achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors to engage further on the implementation of existing commitments on technology transfer on mutually agreed terms;

66. *Welcomes* the contributions of South-South cooperation to the promotion of full and productive employment and decent work for all, and reaffirms that South-South cooperation is an important element of international cooperation for development as a complement to, not a substitute for, North-South cooperation, and commits itself to strengthening South-South and triangular cooperation as a means of bringing relevant experience and expertise to bear in development cooperation;

67. *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;

68. *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;

69. *Calls upon* the international community to strengthen multilateral cooperation, by mobilizing resources for an inclusive recovery and exploring the voluntary rechannelling of special drawing rights through multilateral development banks to countries most in need, while respecting the relevant legal frameworks and preserving the character of special drawing rights, 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;

70. *Urges* the Secretary-General to continue to provide information that can help Member States to prepare for the challenges that ageing poses to meeting social protection obligations, sustaining fiscal systems and strengthening social stability, especially in countries that are still developing and countries with ageing populations;

71. *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;

72. *Invites* the United Nations system to continue to support Member States, upon their request, in their pursuit of sustainable livelihoods, well-being and dignity for all, full and productive employment and decent work for all, and facilitate international cooperation to strengthen social policies to foster social development and social justice as a way of overcoming inequalities and eradicating poverty, and to achieve the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for the common future of present and coming generations.

*20th plenary meeting
5 June 2024*