

Together to Achieve Universal Social Protection by 2030 (USP2030) – A Call to Action

Calling on world leaders and countries to live up to the pledges they made to advance the development of nationally-owned social protection systems for all, including floors, when they agreed to UN and ILO commitments including the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015.

OUR SHARED VISION: Universal social protection is key to sustained social and inclusive economic development, for individuals, communities, nations and societies. It prevents and reduces poverty and inequality; it promotes social inclusion, human rights, dignity and human development; it builds political stability and social peace, and reduces inequalities. Universal social protection also promotes inclusive economic growth, increasing productivity and employability by enhancing human capital and productive assets, raising household incomes, consumption and savings, promoting gender equality, boosting aggregate demand, facilitating just transition and enhancing people's resilience in the face of shocks and structural transformations.

Universal social protection includes adequate cash transfers over the lifecycle for all who need it, especially: children; benefits/support for people of working age in case of maternity, disability, sickness, work injury or for those without jobs; and pensions for all older persons. This protection can be provided through social insurance, tax-funded social benefits, social assistance services, public works programs and other schemes guaranteeing basic income.

Many countries have made significant advancements in the extension of social protection to date in many parts of the world. Yet, the majority of the global population still remains not or insufficiently protected. More urgent efforts are needed to ensure that the human right to social protection becomes a reality for all, and to reach the goals set by the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

CALL TO ACTION: We urge for concerted and redoubled efforts to build upon the progress made in the extension of social protection, and to support the global commitment to implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors (SDG 1.3) by 2030, specifically through:

ACTION 1. Prioritize the building of universal social protection systems, including floors, combining social insurance, social assistance and other means, anchored in national legislation and based on international social security standards;

ACTION 2. Promote national consultations based on effective social dialogue and social participation as a necessary means to develop social protection strategies and policies based on national priorities and circumstances;

ACTION 3. Ensure that social protection systems are gender-sensitive and inclusive, and meet the needs and aspirations of people;

ACTION 4. Ensure the sustainability of social protection systems by prioritizing sustainable and equitable forms of domestic financing, complemented, where necessary, by international cooperation and support;

ACTION 5. Strengthen governance of social protection systems, through tripartite oversight and participation of protected persons, to ensure effective and efficient services, including monitoring and evaluation of the systems.