

## **Draft Political Declaration of the “World Social Summit” under the title “the Second World Summit for Social Development”**

**A Vision for the Future and an Assessment of progress and gaps in the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action and the Social dimension of sustainable development.**

We, Heads of State and Government and high representatives, have gathered at the Second World Summit for Social Development to build a more just, inclusive and sustainable world, by addressing the gaps, reviewing progress, and recommitting to the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action and give momentum towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We acknowledge that people continue to show in different ways an urgent need to address profound social problems, especially poverty, unemployment and social exclusion, that affect every country. It is our task to address both their underlying and structural causes and their distressing consequences in order to reduce uncertainty and insecurity in the life of people.

We recognize that the three core themes of social development, namely, poverty eradication, full and productive employment and decent work for all and social integration, are interrelated and mutually reinforcing, and that an enabling environment therefore needs to be created so that all three objectives can be pursued simultaneously.

We share the conviction that social development and social justice are indispensable for the achievement and maintenance of peace and security within and among our nations. In turn, social development and social justice cannot be attained in the absence of peace and security or in the absence of respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

We meet thirty years after the first World Summit on Social Development and days after the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations, with a determination to promote social development and social justice anchored in a strengthened multilateral system. We remain guided by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and by the intergovernmental agreements reached at international conferences relevant for social development.

We gather here in Doha in a Summit of renewed hope, driven by commitment and collective action. We face urgent and complex challenges yet also new opportunities. We do so with the conviction that meaningful progress has, can, must and will be achieved—through genuine solidarity, effective multilateralism, inclusive international cooperation, and shared responsibility.

We welcome 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. The global wealth of nations grew significantly since 1995 with two-thirds of countries having an increase in real wealth per capita. International trade has grown even more dramatically and the global unemployment rate reached an historic low. Extreme poverty

was reduced and access to education was improved. Life expectancy increased and access and health systems were considerably improved whilst the long-term effects of the COVID-19 pandemic persist.

Yet, 30 years after the convening of the World Summit for Social Development, progress has been slow and uneven, and major gaps remain. The multiple and interlinked crises facing our world, marked by technological advancements, climate change and natural disasters, geopolitical tensions undermining peace and security, economic shifts, social disruptions, worsening of refugees' crisis, and other emerging global challenges have impacted progress on social development and have resulted in unmet expectations, eroding trust, and threaten social cohesion, with disproportionate impacts on developing countries particularly countries in special situations and those facing specific challenges as well as on people in vulnerable situations, reflecting deepening and persistent inequalities:

- a) The achievement of the SDGs is in peril. With only five years left for the 2030 deadline, less than a fifth of the targets is on track. The progress on most of the SDGs is moving much too slowly, and over one third is stalled or regressing.
- b) Over 2.8 billion people, more than a third of the world's population, live on between the extreme poverty line (\$2.15) and \$6.85 a day and up to 35 per cent of people that exited poverty relapsed back in the past three decades.
- c) Hunger and malnutrition are becoming more prevalent.
- d) Informal employment remains pervasive, with an estimated two billion people – 57.8 per cent of the world's employed population – making their living in the informal economy.
- e) Youth unemployment remains a pressing concern and around 160 million children are involved in child labor.
- f) 65 percent of the world's population live in countries where income inequality is growing.
- g) Demographic shifts, including population ageing, are reshaping societies and challenging existing policies.
- h) The financing gap has widened significantly over the last five years and will continue to increase without major reforms, which is leaving many developing countries, especially the heavily indebted ones, with little room to invest in essential social services. The financing gap for social development remains a significant challenge.
- i) Globally, two billion women and girls remain without any access to social protection, compared to 1.8 billion men and boys. If current trends continue, by 2030, an estimated 8 % of the world's female population – 342.4 million women and girls – will still be living on less than \$2.15 a day.
- j) Global wage inequality remains very high. Millions of workers continue to earn wages and incomes that are insufficient for a decent standard of living. Men continue to earn more than women, and workers in the informal economy are overrepresented at the low end of the wage distribution.
- k) While efforts have been made to increase social protection coverage, 3.8 billion people lack any kind of social safety net, including 1.8 billion children worldwide.

While these problems are global in character and affect all countries, we clearly acknowledge that every country faces specific challenges in its pursuit of social development. The most

vulnerable countries and, in particular, African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, deserve special attention, as do countries in situations of conflict and post conflict countries as well as many middle income countries.

We are convinced that addressing today's social challenges requires strengthening international solidarity, building trust, and a renewed commitment to multilateral action on the social pillar of sustainable development, innovative solutions, and inclusive international cooperation to fully translate the promises into concrete outcomes for all.

We envision to explore bold and effective social policies that are woven into a whole-of-government, whole-of-society, people-centred, and integrated approaches aiming at enhancing social policy coherence, building effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels, upholding democracy and access to justice and reinforcing inter-ministerial coordination as well as multi-stakeholder engagement and integrated responses and avoid policy silos across sectors.

*On the basis of our common pursuit of social development, which aims at social justice, solidarity, harmony and equality within and among countries, with full respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as policy objectives, development priorities and religious and cultural diversity, and full respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, we reaffirm our global drive for social progress and development.*

*We strive for a future that is inclusive, resilient, and just. We envisage a world free of poverty, hunger, disease and a world of equality where all people can live in equity, dignity, shared prosperity and peace, where no one is left behind.*

### **A Recommitment to core principles.**

We reaffirm:

- i.** The Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action as they remain relevant and valid.
- ii.** The full and timely implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, upholding all the principles enshrined in it, including the promise to leave no one behind and reach the furthest behind first, and to place people at the center of development, with due consideration to the needs of present and future generations, and a strong commitment to safeguard our planet.
- iii.** The Addis Ababa Action Agenda as an integral part of the 2030 Agenda.
- iv.** The SDG Summit outcomes (2019; 2023) and the Pact for the Future and its annexes (2024).
- v.** The three core and mutually reinforcing pillars of social development: poverty eradication, full and productive employment and decent work for all, and social integration.

- vi. The eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, as it remains the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.
- vii. The promotion and protection of all human rights, including the right to development and fundamental freedoms for all.

**A Call to Action to close the gaps in the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and give momentum towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.**

We recommit ourselves to creating an economic, political, social, cultural, and legal enabling environment that will enable people to achieve social development in all its dimensions.

**I- Eradication of Poverty:**

We will adopt a holistic approach towards the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, and to combat the feminization of poverty, while ensuring that the focus is not on a bare minimum measure to be just perched above the poverty line threshold, but to ensure building resilience to shocks to avoid exiting and relapsing back. In this regard we commit to:

- a) Reinforce the necessary measures to upscale investment in social protection as an enabler for eradicating poverty and fostering social inclusion.
- b) Advance the transition to formal employment whilst enhancing resilience to interconnected shocks like pandemics, conflicts, and climate change, including through the funding of social protection floors, with particular attention to the needs of people in impoverished and vulnerable situations.
- c) Strengthen social protection systems to guarantee universal coverage including by extending social protection coverage by at least two percentage points per year.
- d) Implement Multidimensional Poverty Measurements (MPM) to better measure poverty in its various dimensions and targeted public policies.
- e) Develop a framework on measures of progress on sustainable development to complement and go beyond GDP, focusing on broader metrics that capture human wellbeing, environmental sustainability, and social equity.
- f) Strengthen financing for social development at national, regional, and international levels and ensuring predictable and sustainable resources for developing countries to implement poverty eradication policies.

**II- Full and productive employment and Decent work for all:**

We reaffirm our commitment to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. To this end, we commit to:

- a) Adopt macroeconomic policies that promote decent job creation, transition from informal to formal economy, foster inclusive and sustainable growth, recognizing the important role of the public sector in generating decent employment opportunities and

engaging the private sector, employers and workers as essential partner in advancing social development strategies.

- b)** Accelerate structural transformation and enhancing productive capacities, including by increasing productivity and promoting sustainable industrialization.
- c)** Support entrepreneurship, in particular for women and youth, supporting the micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), cooperatives and the social and solidarity economy.
- d)** Invest in skills development and life-long learning.
- e)** Encourage to consider supporting the implementation of the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions.
- f)** Take the necessary measures to address youth unemployment and to support older workers and their employment opportunities.
- g)** Strengthen labor market institutions and social dialogue, including through promoting, protecting, and investing in mechanisms for social dialogue and collective bargaining.
- h)** Consider a renewed spirit for social justice that ensures equal opportunities and cohesion of societies and foster inclusive social dialogue.
- i)** Reinforce investment in universal and sustainable social protection systems, as a critical enabler of inclusive growth and social resilience.
- j)** Respond to the challenges posed by the energy transition and technological change, including through promoting the formalization of informal work, and guaranteeing fair wages, safe and healthy working conditions, and full respect for workers' rights.
- k)** Uphold the fundamental principles and rights at work and encouraging the ratification and full implementation of the relevant International Labour Organization (ILO) conventions.
- l)** Consider the multiplier effects of the care economy in terms of increasing labour participation, facilitating the transition from informal to formal work and decent working conditions in the care sector, investing in social infrastructure and strengthening social protection, as well as the returns on the investments in care policies and systems.

### III- Social Integration.

We reaffirm our collective commitment to promoting social integration, fostering inclusive, equitable, and cohesive societies grounded in human dignity, solidarity, tolerance, and full participation for all. In this regard, we commit to:

- a)** Promote intergenerational solidarity, inclusive dialogue, and social cohesion, and creating an enabling environment to ensure that all individuals enjoy dignity and a decent quality of life.
- b)** Create inclusive societies that enable full and meaningful participation of all, including women, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples, people living in poverty and in rural and remote areas, as well as people who are vulnerable or in vulnerable situations and integrating their needs and perspectives into social and economic policy frameworks.
- c)** Reduce inequalities within and among countries, ensure fair and equitable income distribution, and expanding universal access to basic services.

- d) Respond to demographic shifts and their implications for social integration:
  - **For older persons:** strengthen social protection systems, access to healthcare, long-term care, lifelong learning, and digital inclusion. **For youth:** promote access to quality education and skills in science, job markets, employment opportunities, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM), and digital literacy.
- e) Invest in early childhood development, including access to education, healthcare, nutrition, and protection from violence, exploitation and abuse, and remain committed to ending child labour in all its forms and manifestations.
- f) Ensure the full and effective inclusion of persons with disabilities, including through accessibility, inclusive education and employment, and equal participation in public life.
- g) Recognize the role of culture in social integration and social cohesion, and promoting cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue as drivers of sustainable development.
- h) Stepping up our efforts to fight against racism, all forms of discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, stigmatization and hate speech.
- i) Strengthen institutions that enhance social integration and apply a holistic social development approach, which integrates the role of the family as a central enabler and contributor to social development.

#### IV- Cross-cutting issues in the context of social development.

- **Food security and nutrition:**

We remain deeply concerned that one third of the world's population remains food-insecure, and we commit to addressing hunger and poverty and to ensuring the right to food for all, as part of our shared responsibility to achieve inclusive social development. In this regard, we commit to:

- a) Accelerate actions to end hunger, poverty, food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition, through coordinated global action, including by investing in rural infrastructure, strengthening and expanding initiatives such as the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty, and enhancing international cooperation and solidarity.
- b) Reinforce measures to build sustainable, inclusive, and resilient agriculture and food systems, with the aim of ensuring food security and adequate nutrition for all, particularly during early childhood, recognizing its foundational importance to human development and lifelong well-being.
- c) Support small-scale producers, including women producers in adopting sustainable agricultural practices to improve productivity and investing in rural communities and agri-food systems.
- d) Ensure equitable access to land, water, and other productive resources, particularly for women, recognizing their central role in empowering rural populations, eradicating poverty, achieving food sovereignty, and promoting inclusive rural development.
- e) Scale up climate finance to accelerate adaptation across sectors.

- **Physical and mental health to meet Universal Health Coverage:**

We reaffirm that the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health is a fundamental human right. In this regard, and recognizing the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, we commit to:

- a) Achieve Universal Health Coverage and attaining the goals of universal and equitable access to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health for all.
- b) Leverage digital technologies, artificial intelligence, and international cooperation in the transfer of technology and know-how to accelerate progress and expand resilient health infrastructures.
- c) 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
- d) Strengthen resilient, inclusive and universal health systems that are people-centered and adequately financed.
- e) Ensure prevention, preparedness, and response to future pandemics and health emergencies, including through the expansion of local, national, and regional production capacities for medicines, vaccines, diagnostics, and other health-related technologies.
- f) Advance digital health systems that enhance public health surveillance, enable personalized care, and improve equitable access to quality health services, including through expanded use of telemedicine and digital health solutions as part of national strategies for achieving universal health coverage.

- **Harnessing technology and artificial intelligence to advance social development:**

We reaffirm that digital transformation must be a driver of social development. We recognize the urgent need to close persistent and widening digital divides between and within countries, and to ensure that the benefits of digital technologies and artificial intelligence promote social progress for all. In this regard, we commit to:

- a) Ensure equitable, reliable and affordable access to digital technologies as a global public good, particularly for developing countries.
- b) Leverage digital technologies and artificial intelligence, to support inclusive and accountable social development, by improving public service delivery, strengthening digital public infrastructure for social inclusion, and enhancing access to education, healthcare, and employment opportunities while avoiding the one size fits all approach and advancing context-specific solutions that reflect the realities and priorities of developing countries.
- c) Tackle the spread of misinformation, disinformation, hate speech, and digital threats in a way that protects democratic values, and upholding freedom of expression.

- **Quality education and life-long learning:**

We reaffirm that education is a fundamental human right and a cornerstone for social development and social cohesion, in this regard we commit to:

- a) Promote quality education systems that are inclusive, equitable, and resilient.
- b) Expand access to technical and vocational education and training (TVET), lifelong learning, and digital literacy, particularly for youth, women, elderly, older persons, and persons with disabilities
- c) Will prioritize STEM education to support employment and entrepreneurship.
- d) Strengthen investment in research and development, innovation and training in frontier technologies and artificial intelligence taking into account the priority issues and context of developing countries.

- **Climate Resilience, Just Transition and DRR:**

We recognize that the impacts of climate change, biodiversity loss and environmental degradation, and disasters—exacerbated by inequality and weak infrastructure—pose critical challenges to social development, particularly in developing countries. In this regard we commit to:

- a) Intensify efforts towards climate adaptation and mitigation.
- b) Strengthen adaptive social protection systems by enhancing social safety nets, improving access to essential services, and developing targeted support programs to safeguard vulnerable populations against climate change and climate-related disasters
- c) Integrate disaster risk reduction measures, early warning systems, and preparedness initiatives by developing comprehensive risk management plans and investing in resilient and sustainable infrastructure.
- d) Mobilize climate finance and supporting developing countries in their climate resilience efforts.

- **Gender equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls.**

We reaffirm the need for every woman and girl to enjoy full gender equality and that all legal, social and economic barriers to their empowerment are removed. We commit to:

- a) Take comprehensive measures to achieve gender equality and empowerment of women and girls both as a prerequisite and a goal of sustainable development.
- b) Ensure fair wages, equitable care work, access to sexual and reproductive health and combating gender-based violence.
- c) Encourage women-led development and reiterate commitment to enhancing women's full, equal, and meaningful participation as decision makers for addressing global challenges inclusively and in contributing as active participants in all spheres of society.

- **Adequate housing, urbanization and water and sanitation:**

We reaffirm the universal right to access to safe and affordable housing, transportation, drinking water and sanitation. We recognize that sustainable and inclusive urbanization is essential to reducing inequalities and enabling social development. In this regard we commit to:

- a) Promote an adequate standard of living by ensuring the provision of adequate housing, transportation, safe drinking water, and sanitation and investing.
- b) Reinforce inclusive and sustainable urbanization by implementing strategies to bridge the gaps between urban, rural, and remote areas, enhance connectivity and address homelessness.

- **Migration:**

We recognize migration as a driver of inclusive growth and sustainable development by acknowledging the positive contributions of migrants to social and economic development and promoting safe, orderly, and regular migration pathways.

- **Financing for Social Development:**

We reaffirm that the realization of social development requires ambitious, sustained, and inclusive financing. In this regard, we commit to:

- a) Increase investment in social policies, including social protection systems, inclusive education, health, and housing.
- b) Accelerate the reform of the international financial architecture to make it more inclusive, equitable and to strengthen the voice and representation of developing countries.
- c) Accelerate the reform efforts of the multilateral development banks to mobilize greater financing for the 2030 Agenda, recognizing that further reforms of the banks are urgently needed, in addition to the strengthening of domestic resource mobilization and domestic policy and regulatory environment.
- d) Ensure fair and timely solutions to address sovereign debt challenges and debt distress.
- e) Strengthen the inclusiveness and effectiveness of tax cooperation at the United Nations, while taking into consideration the work of other relevant forums and institutions, and will continue to engage constructively in the process towards developing a United Nations framework convention on international tax cooperation; which can support fiscal space for social development in developing countries.
- f) Refrain from implementing measures and barriers not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that create obstacles to the achievement of social development, particularly in developing countries.
- g) Promote and scale up North-South, South-South and Triangular cooperation, as critical modalities to mobilize knowledge, technical cooperation, and resources to address social challenges and foster innovation in social development policies.

- h)** Leverage the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) as a transformative opportunity to bridge the financing gap for the SDGs, including for social development.

### Follow-up, review, and implementation of the Political Declaration.

We reiterate our commitment to improving and strengthening the framework for international and regional cooperation for social development agenda as established under Copenhagen Declaration and Program of Action and we will adopt the necessary measures for implementing, reviewing and following up on the political declaration of the Second World Summit for Social Development. In this regard we commit to:

- a.** Proceed to a Quinquennial (every 5 years) review process to assess progress, to identify gaps and renew commitments, under the General Assembly auspices.
- b.** Request the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States, to prepare a report, for consideration at the [84<sup>th</sup>] session of the General Assembly in preparation of the review of political declaration of the Summit, which assesses progress and identifies gaps towards coherent, efficient and inclusive follow-up and review at the global level.
- c.** Reaffirm the role of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD) as the primary follow-up body for social development commitments and to its revitalisation and strengthening its role in the review process.
- d.** Invite the UN Regional Commissions to consider a biennial meeting on the margins of the regional sustainable development forums with the aim to evaluate progress made towards the implementation of the political declaration. The regional commissions should report, through the appropriate mechanisms, to the Economic and Social Council on the outcome of such meeting.
- e.** Invite the Economic and Social Council, the relevant specialized agencies, the funds and programmes of the United Nations Development system, within their respective mandates, to continue to integrate into their work programmes and give priority attention to social development commitments and to continue to be actively involved in the follow-up on the implementation of the commitments of the political declaration.
- f.** Encourage stronger coordination, each within their respective mandates, between the United Nations and the International Financial institutions through regular and substantive dialogues, including during CSOCD, on enhancing financing mechanism and assistance to advance social development.
- g.** Strengthen multi-stakeholder engagement and partnerships, including with civil society, academia and the private sector to implement the commitments of the political declaration.
- h.** Support developing countries, particularly African countries, least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in strengthening the capacity of national statistical offices and data systems to ensure access to high-quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated social development data.

We commit with united efforts, political will and firm actions to advance concrete, integrated and targeted policies and actions to achieve social development for all.