

## Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP)

### Written Input for the Preparation of the Zero Draft of the Pact for the Future

<https://gcap.global>

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The Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP) is a global movement with national coalitions in 66 countries around the globe with 18400 civil society member organisations, which represent from grassroots organisations and from marginalized groups including like indigenous people, persons with disabilities, older persons and communities discriminated by work and descent.

GCAP organizes the “bottom up” People’s Assemblies – in 2023, for the UN SDG Summit, with

Those denied social protection lack important means of escaping extreme poverty, ensuring sufficient food security for themselves and their families and accessing essential health and other services. Without effective social protection, inequalities within societies and between

countries are increased – in particular, women and girls, people with disabilities and older persons are severely disadvantaged.

More than the general confirmations of past agreements are required. The global community needs concrete plans, political will and financial commitments to lead us to fulfillment of SDG 1 and 2 by 2030. Concrete commitments to

Recommendations:

- 1 Concrete text in the Pact for the Future that ensures that all Governments **develop voluntary national plans to achieve universal social protection floors** by 2030 to achieve target 1.3 of the SDGs
- 2 All Governments, the UN and International Finance Institutions be required to **Financially** support national plans to establish universal social protection floors

In all cases financial support must be significantly expanded, otherwise it will not be possible in many parts of the world to successfully implement social protection floors – the basis for achieving some of the key objectives of the 2030 Agenda. This is why international tax reform is needed globally to address lost revenues that must be recaptured for domestic government expenditure and international funds. Member States can advance towards a UN Convention on Taxes that allows to fight tax evasion and illicit financial flows and thus generate the domestic resources indispensable for social protection.

Recommendations:

1. To create a **just global financial architecture** that allow governments to create domestic resources to implement the national plans especially on the financial architecture related to debt, tax and ODA
2. The establishment of a new international mechanism to finance human-rights based Social Protection Floors, in particular for low-income countries and countries in crisis situations with commitment to ambitious and relevant financial contributions for the Mechanism and with governance principles for the Financing Mechanism to guarantee democratic (not donor driven) and effective participation of social partners, organizations representing people of all ages, including women, people with disabilities, older persons, minorities, and those living in poverty, in their design, implementation and monitoring.
3. To **enable multilateral debt relief via a multilateral legal framework for a debt work out mechanism** under the aegis of the UN to cancel, restructure, suspend, and lower rates on existing debt, and cease including austerity conditionalities in any new debt issued.
4. **Adoption of a UN Tax Convention** through establishing a binding convention and a global tax body under the auspices of the UN.
5. **New Financing through new Special Drawing Rights** and reallocation of Special Drawing Rights based on need and in support of an SDG-led recovery and investments.
6. An increase in development cooperation and **delivery of the commitment to 0.7% ODA**.
7. IFI and MDB reform, including more inclusive and balance governance of these bodies.

## Chapter II. International peace and security

Member States should cooperate with the UN to bring the 32 ongoing wars to an end and to create better and more efficient mechanisms within the UN for conflict prevention and resolution. Poverty and inequality are root causes of conflict. As countries reconstruct and communities regroup after conflict and disruption social protection plays a fundamental role

in the prevention of wider conflicts and to support access to health and education, work and small-scale investment.

Recommendations:

1. The potential benefit of ensuring the right to social protection for all to reduce and counter marginalization, radicalization, and extremism that fuel conflict should be acknowledged in the Summit conclusions and the language of the Pact.
2. Reduce military expenditure by at least three percent annually (25% by 2030) and redirect military spending towards peacebuilding and the realisation of the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals.
3. Sustainable ceasefires and humanitarian support for those affected by war and conflict, now stretching across the globe, are essential to international peace and security. Ceasefires are needed now, along with compliance in all circumstances with international law, and peace negotiations for sustainable living solutions of all peoples and nations.

### **Chapter III. Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation**

Civil society organizations, in all their diversities and across all age groups, together with academia, must be involved in efforts to bridge the digital divide. Their expertise and experiences enable them to ensure ethical monitoring of digital innovation and that no one is left behind.

System building to deliver social protection requires up-to-date technology and data

people must be able to

**Make global institutions more democratic, representative and inclusive** by limiting the use of the veto in the UN Security Council and ensuring civil society's right to meaningful participation, based on the best practices of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board and the International Labour Organization, which provide effective, transparent and formal mechanisms for inclusion. Concrete Proposals:

Recommendations:

1. **Ensure Civil Society Caucus at UN General Assemblies through People's Assemblies**  
As the UN Secretary General proposed in Our Common Agenda there should be civil society caucus during the UN General Assembly each year. This proposal is fundamental to create a process to get inputs and voices from people around the world including from marginalized groups. This should be autonomous organized. We propose to build on the model of the global bottom-up People's Assembly process, which started in 2019 and which comprises: National People's Assemblies and the Global People's Assembly during the UNGA High level week. See <https://www.peoplesassembly.global/en/>
2. Support the creation of a **UN Parliamentary Assembly** and a **UN World Citizens' Initiative** to provide meaningful access for people, elected representatives and civil society by
  - the creation of a World's Citizen Initiative to enable people to put forward proposals on key issues of global concern for discussion and further action at the highest political level. Any proposal that reaches a certain threshold of popular support could be placed on the agenda of the UN General Assembly and the UN Security Council.
  - the creation of a UN Parliamentary Assembly which enables the inclusion of people's elected representatives in decision making at the UN. The assembly will act as a representative body and watchdog connecting people with the UN and while representing a wide diversity of viewpoints.
3. Put in place a **UN civil society envoy** to enable greater participation, spur inclusive convenings and drive the UN's outreach to the public and civil society organisations. The envoy would champion a broader strategy to open up the UN to people's and civil society voices.