

To the kind attention of:

Co-chairs of Discussion Group II: Recovering Better for Sustainability
Fiji, Rwanda, European Union and United Kingdom

Subject: Civil Society FfD Group Inputs

27 August 2020

Your excellencies,

We appreciate your leadership in steering this discussion group and welcome the opportunity to share our inputs again to the final stage of this process.

Kindly find enclosed as annex highlighting the 3 policy suggestions we had submitted earlier in the process and hope very much that this is taken on board positively.

We would also welcome a stronger framing to the document that highlights this moment as an opportunity and the need to address challenges that existed before the crisis. In prioritizing the list of policy options, we would suggest highlighting those that are truly transformational, provides space for building consensus and shifts political burden from developing countries to global norm setting.

We look forward to continuing engaging constructively in this process and urge your leadership in including these civil society policy asks to ensure this is seen as an inclusive outcome.

Thank you in advance for your kind cooperation. We remain at your disposal for any further clarifications.

Sincerely yours,

Civil Society FfD Group (including Women's Working Group on FfD)
DG II input is facilitated by Bread for the World, Equidad de Genero, International Trade Union Confederation, Oxfam International and Society for International Development.

Annex

Option name	Option description	Benefits
International Economic Reconstruction and Systemic Reforms Summit at the UN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Summit should work to provide the necessary fiscal, judicial and policy space needed to ensure a decolonial, feminist and just transition for people and planet. This means promoting a rebalancing of the global economy with more vibrant, inclusive and circular local/national economies; promote decent work and responsible business conduct; advance ecological resilience; reduce resource consumption; restore biodiversity; and move away from extractive, discriminatory, military, racist and androcentric economies that erode the ecological basis of our collective wellbeing. • The Summit should promote the interrelation and progressivity of human rights of all people in a healthy environment, with accessible global public goods respecting planetary boundaries. Structural inequalities and environmentally destructive behaviour are not natural, but political choices. Our long term planetary and human wellbeing continue to be conditional to systemic transformations for socio-ecological and financial justice. • The Summit should ensure democratization of global economic governance, recognizing the right of every country to be at the decision-making table, and not only those with concentrated power or resources. A new global governance should promote national economic sovereignty and common but differentiated responsibilities on global commons. At every level of decision-making, meaningful participation of rights-holders should be enhanced and guaranteed. 	<p>The Summit would work towards a global consensus on a new global economic governance architecture that could foster systemic reforms while promoting human rights, gender equality, social equity and environmental justice. Some institutions have spoken of such a new global consensus in terms of ‘Green New Deal’ which can be reflected on in such a Summit. Most recently, the UN Secretary General noted at his Nelson Mandela lecture that “we need a New Global Deal to ensure that power, wealth and opportunities are shared more broadly and fairly at the international level.” This Summit would provide the space for such a multilateral conversation and corresponding decisions to be taken. This would also allow for outcomes of all 6 Discussion Groups to be an input towards a broader systemic framework. This is the time for the UN to promote again a global transformation based on the human rights framework, as it did 75 years ago.</p>
Global Financing Mechanism for Social Protection	<p>The proposal is to create a solidarity based Global Financing Mechanism for Social Protection to support countries design, implement and, in specific cases, finance national floors of social protection. Social</p>	<p>The co-financing of the Global Financing Mechanism for Social Protection, if only channelled to the 10 countries that would need more than 10 per cent of</p>

	<p>Protection Floors (SPFs) are a direct and fast-acting mechanism to reduce poverty that can save millions of lives and alleviate misery in further millions of cases. A few poorest countries need support for the set-up of national social protection floors and co-financing of the international community are needed due to multiple factors including high socio economic vulnerability and persisting low national revenue levels. A Global Financing Mechanism for Social Protection Floors should be accessible for countries that need support to introduce or complete social protection floors or to sustain and expand protection in times of crises. While generally the financing of national social protection systems has to come from national budgets, there are countries where the support for the set-up of national social protection floors and co-financing of the international community is needed.</p>	<p>their GDP to guarantee basic social protection to all, it would help to pull about 132 million people out of abject poverty and social insecurity. Technical assistance in further countries which would lead to the set-up or completion of nationally financed social protection floors within a medium term timeframe will reduce poverty by many more millions of people. Social Protection boosts opportunities for inclusive economic development and social cohesion. Furthermore, the Global Financing Mechanism for Social Protection would also have an important task in crisis situations. Even countries that already have functioning and adequately funded systems in place may be forced by external shocks to temporarily reduce or even completely suspend benefits. The need to extend programmes to additional groups or to increase benefits may arise. Such crises can, for example, be triggered by natural disasters or epidemics. A temporary weakening of social protection systems can also be caused by international economic crises. During humanitarian disasters some countries accept large numbers of refugees within a short period of time. This can be a further reason why a country's social protection system is not able to cope with the additional needs. In such situations, which would mean the loss of basic protection for many millions of people, the Global Financing Mechanism could stabilise social protection programmes in partner countries and cover the</p>
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		increase in the social protection gap caused by external shocks.
Global Technology Assessment Mechanism at the UN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As the UN, governments and institutions grapple with the governance of digital technologies, there is an urgent need for broad, transparent, inclusive, accessible and participatory deliberations on the current and potential impacts of these technologies on the environment, the labour market, livelihoods and society; • Horizon scanning and foresight capacities need to be developed and should involve identifying options beyond technological solutions. Governance measures on technologies is not just about regulation but ensuring that the common good remains as the ultimate goal and takes precedence over profits. • The energy requirement and environmental footprints of new technologies in finance need to be part of the discussions now, not later when society has to deal with wastes and environmental damages. While all new technologies claim to be a solution to climate crisis and resource pressure, we need to look at the ecological and energy realities, and resource requirements of bitcoin mining, smart phones, supercomputers, cloud storage and AI. We should not overlook the often invisible costs to society and the environment which are only felt and named when the damage is already serious, often irreversible. 	<p>It is widely recognized that newly emerging technologies and associated rapid transformations would have social, cultural, environmental and economic impacts, many of which are unforeseen, particularly on the most vulnerable populations in the Global South. The transboundary nature of such impacts highlights the need for a global technology assessment mechanism that should especially support developing countries and potentially affected populations and regions whose populations do not have the means to anticipate risks and conduct these assessments by themselves. The global character and transboundary impacts of emerging technologies such as gene drive organisms, geoengineering, artificial intelligence and digital platforms should be assessed from a multilateral perspective.</p>