

CIVIL SOCIETY MEETING
Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond
Monday, 2 November 2020

Closing Segment

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Your excellencies,

Thank you for inviting Oxfam to participate in this civil society meeting. From the UN Heads of State meeting on May 28th, which kicked off this process, through the six working groups to the Ministers of Finance Meeting, Oxfam has been working closely with the CSO FFD group, echoing our collective call for broader systemic finance reform, needed now more than ever before.

We all know that the greatest impact of the pandemic is, sadly, falling disproportionately on those who were already living precariously. Oxfam estimates that by the end of the year, 12,000 people could die per day from hunger linked to Covid-19 - potentially more than will die from the virus itself. **The pandemic has revealed the deep harm to which we expose people and economies when we do not invest in public services.** The pandemic is unearthing severe gender inequities. With school closures and more care for illness occurring within households, women are continuing to bear [more than 70% of unpaid work](#).

Around the world, citizens are rising. They are pushing back on the use of development finance to further the commercialisation and financialization of public services for the benefit of the few. **People are demanding an end to an extractivist global economic system that is destroying people and the planet – and which sometimes takes a racial dimension. All of us at this meeting –from UN agencies to organizations like ours –must heed these calls – and create sustainable economies.** Civil society perspectives and calls to action is critical in this global endeavor. **Let's not forget that governments around the globe, are using the pandemic to close and restrict civic activism.**

To build back better and with justice, we need more transformative, bold, and ambitious policy solutions – like ones that have been proposed here today. **Allow me to highlight 4 key priorities:**

- 1. Tackling debt** - We need to stop the hemorrhaging of money from developing countries through debt repayments. While the G20 took some action, it's far from what's needed. **We echo the call for extensive debt cancellations and the establishment of a Sovereign Debt Workout Mechanism at the UN to support comprehensive, systematic, timely and fair restructuring of sovereign debt.** We join our civil society allies and push for a liquidity injection commensurate with the level of need among developing countries through a **new allocation of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs).**
- 2. Realizing Aid Commitments** - Developed countries must meet their 50-year-old promise (or shall I say moral debt) of 0.7 percent of GDP commitment. This is serious because **Oxfam has calculated that nearly \$5.7 trillion in aid- or \$114 billion a year was lost because developed countries never reached this commitment.** These commitments are especially important now.

Just 28 percent of the \$10.19 billion the UN requested to help poor countries tackle the crisis has been pledged to date.

- 3. Coordinating a global effort for social protection** - Governments, both in north and south, must do more to deal with the social impact of losing jobs and access to basic services. **Governments must provide a basic social floor to all citizens, with richer nations contributing to a Global Fund for Social Protection to support those who lack adequate resources.**

And finally, we believe that an **International Summit on Economic Reconstruction and Systemic Reform, held under the auspices of the UN, could be an opportunity to agree on ambitious responses to the pandemic and remove barriers to socio-economic transformation.**

I thank you very much.