



GENEVA CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
ADVANCEMENT AND GLOBAL DIALOGUE

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Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights

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OPENING REMARKS

Mr. Olivier DE SCHUTTER, Special Rapporteur (SR) on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights

The SR recalls he addressed for the first time the UNHRC in May 2008, in his capacity then as SR on the right to food. When a special session was convened to address the **food price crisis**, the price of oil was through the roof, speculation was driving up the prices of essential food commodities, and dozens of countries were facing riots because people feared they would be unable to pay for their food. In **Haiti**, the government fell as a result. Seventeen years later, around 750 million people are still hungry, and 838 million, more than 10% of the world's population, are in extreme poverty, living on less than 3 US dollars per day.

This is an improvement since 2008, when almost one quarter of the world's population was extremely poor, representing **1.6 billion people**. But there is no reason for complacency. The fall in global poverty figures is primarily attributable to progress in **South Asia**, where the number of people in extreme poverty decreased between 2008 and today by more than 80%, from 583 million to 95 million. In contrast, figures remain stubbornly high in **Africa**. In 2008, 439 million people in sub-Saharan Africa were in extreme poverty. There are now even more, 587 million. While **demographic growth** partly explains this appalling result, the situation barely looks better



even in relative terms. 51% of people in sub-Saharan Africa were in extreme poverty in 2008. They are now still, 17 years later, 44%.

Only by strengthening social protection can we hope to combat poverty and to reduce inequalities. This, however, remains a largely unfinished task. Almost half of the world's population, **3.8 billion people** today, have **no social protection at all**. Even those that enjoy some form of protection are rarely provided with the full range of social security guarantees, as defined in the Social Protection Floors Recommendation No. 202, unanimously endorsed by the 2012 International Labour Conference.

The **universalisation of social protection floors**, however, cannot be achieved without a renewed commitment to international solidarity. The reason is simple. Low-income countries simply cannot afford to invest in social protection because of the financing gap that they face. Low-income countries, the 26 poorest countries on Earth, representing 9% of the world's population, would require US\$308.5 billion per year to provide their populations with social protection floors. This amounts to 52.3% of their total GDP. It is thus **unaffordable for low-income countries** to close the social protection financing gap.

It is, however, **affordable for the international community**. US\$308.5 billion, the amount needed for low-income countries to finance social protection for their populations, represents roughly 1.5 times the level of official development assistance reached in 2023. If donor countries were to meet the target of 0.7% of their gross national income in Official Development Assistance (ODA), nearly 200 billion additional funds could be made available annually, increasing ODA to US\$423.2 billion annually. But this is not going to happen. Only five countries are currently meeting or exceeding the 0.7% target – Denmark, Germany, Luxembourg, Norway and Sweden – and the overall trend is not promising. ODA fell in 2024 for the first time in six years, with predictions estimating a drop of almost 20% in 2025.

These cuts are hampering humanitarian assistance and deepening poverty, leaving vulnerable populations increasingly exposed to the intensifying climate crisis. The decision made by the United States of America alone to **suspend the operations of USAID** on day one of the Trump administration is causing **100 deaths per hour**. According to independent scientific evaluations, will result in time in 25 million avoidable deaths, a typical case of the richest people condemning the poorest to despair.

Cuts to ODA have since been announced by many other traditional donors in the name of **reducing deficits and investing more in defence**. Beyond ODA, therefore, other avenues should be explored. In the SR's contribution to the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development in Seville, the SR highlights a number of **financing mechanisms that could be used in support of low-income countries' efforts** to strengthen social protection.

First, **debt for social protection swaps** could be explored. In 2024, a record 54 developing countries allocated 10% or more of government revenue to paying off the interest on their debts, diverting critical public spending away from essential services like social protection and healthcare. Indeed, 3.3 billion people today live in countries that spend more on interest payments than on education or health. Debt for social protection swaps would mean that a creditor would agree to cancel or restructure a part of a debtor country's debt in exchange for a



binding commitment from the debtor to redirect the freed-up resources to social protection programmes. This would hit two birds with a single stone. Such swaps would reduce the debt burden while at the same time encourage social investment.

Second, the IMF could be asked to **issue new special drawing rights (SDRs)**, with allocations distributed based not on quotas but rather on predetermined needs. When in August 2021 the IMF allocated the equivalent of US\$650 billion in SDRs to help stabilise the global economy during the COVID-19 pandemic, only around US\$275 billion went to emerging and developing countries and only a meagre US\$21 billion, about 3.2% of the total, was allocated to low-income countries. If SDRs were allocated based on the imperative to support countries that are most in need, that could make a much greater difference and this would be essentially costless.

Third, a **tax on billionaires**. US\$250 billion per year could be raised annually simply by imposing on individuals with more than US\$1 billion in wealth, and that means 3,000 individuals in the world, a 2% tax on their wealth, as proposed by **economist Gabriel Zucman** in a report commissioned by the Brazilian presidency of the G20.

Fourth, **solidarity levies** on financial transactions, on aviation or maritime transport could raise substantial funds for climate action and social protection in low- and middle-income countries. In order to encourage low-income countries to invest in social protection, they should be provided with incentives to do so. The international community could provide matching funds through a mechanism such as the **Global Fund for Social Protection (GFSP)** to reward countries making such investments and to support efforts to increase domestic resource mobilisation. The SR had already proposed such a mechanism in his previous capacity as SR on the right to food in 2012. Then the idea was revived in 2020 as the COVID-19 pandemic laid bare the gaps in social protection. The International Labour Conference expressed its support for this idea in June 2021. Despite this high-level political commitment, the SR regrets that no more progress was made to operationalise the GFSP.

PRESENTATION OF THE THEMATIC REPORT

The SR introduces his new report titled '**Weathering the storm: poverty, climate change and social protection**'. Droughts, floods, storms, heat waves, wildfires are becoming the new normal in all regions, but poor countries are still largely unprepared to face the impacts of climate change. Focussing on the financing of social protection as a condition for adaptation to climate change, the SR's thematic report presented in advance of the FFD4 conference in Seville calls for strengthening protection against climate change-related risks. As a result of **climate change, 132 million additional people will be pushed into poverty** within this decade.

Despite the fact that **social protection is the single most important adaptation tool** against climate change, only 1 out of 10 nationally determined contributions submitted within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) assign a role to social protection in climate action. This is why climate finance should be directed to social protection, and it is the responsibility of large emitters of greenhouse gases, the most advanced economies, to support adaptation to climate change in the most affected countries by committing more to support efforts to establish social protection floors. Unless governments are wise enough to take **bold**



actions to combat poverty by investing in social protection, they will have to deal with major crises resulting from the impacts of climate change.

Remembering his country visit to **Syria in September 2010** in my capacity as SR on the right to food. The visit took place after five successive years of droughts in the northeastern part of Syria, the provinces of Al-Hasakah and al-Raqqa. People there felt abandoned, and when they started losing their herds, which they were unable to feed, they migrated in large numbers to Aleppo, to Damascus, to Deraa, to Homs. Public services were already overwhelmed, however, in part because of large influx of refugees from Iraq. Rents were spiralling out of control.

At the end of his mission, the SR told the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs – ‘*sir, you have a crisis on your hands.*’ The Deputy Minister looked at the SR and answered – ‘*don’t worry, things are under control.*’ Well, just a few months later, protests erupted, starting a bloody civil war that lasted for 14 years. Drawing to a close, the SR addresses a serious warning. Unless governments do more to combat poverty, they will have **a crisis on their hands**.

PRESENTATION OF THE COUNTRY VISIT REPORT

The SR carried out a country visit to **Colombia** at the end of August 2024, and to **Rwanda** in May 2025. Grateful to both governments for their cooperation, the SR also expresses his gratitude to **Morocco** for having agreed to a country visit in January 2026. The report on Rwanda will be presented at #HRC62 in June-July 2026

The SR moves on to the presentation of his country visit report on **Colombia**, which shows that the country is making progress in the fight against poverty. This is a remarkable achievement, since the country continues to pay a high price for the legacy of the conflict, which the 2016 Peace Agreement sought to close. Colombia still has to deal with almost 9 million internally displaced people, and political violence from non-state armed groups still seriously hampers the efforts towards the eradication of poverty.

Moreover, while poverty is generally receding in the country, certain **segments of the population remain behind**. In particular, 58.4% of the Indigenous population were living in poverty in 2023, a rate that is almost 50% higher than that of the national average. During his visit, the SR also addressed other challenges facing the country. Income inequality remains among the highest in the world, and **social mobility is very limited**. The single most important reason for this is the **stratification system** on which the country relies.

During his visit, the SR discussed with the Colombian authorities the limits of this system and how the establishment of a **universal income registry** (*Registro Universal de Ingresos*) was an opportunity to move beyond it. The SR proposed that the design and rolling out of this new social registry should involve people in poverty, to ensure not only that their views are taken into account, but also that they can contribute their unique expertise to designing a system that works, allowing to identify people in need of support, and limiting both the risks of under-inclusion and of stigmatisation. The tool developed with the international movement ATD Fourth World, which was discussed at a major event co-organised with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington D.C., could guide the organisation of such a participatory process.



REPLIES AND CONCLUDING REMARKS

On a **personal note**, Mr. Olivier DE SCHUTTER, following two mandates as SR on the right to food and on extreme poverty respectively, extends his gratitude to OHCHR's staff for having supported his work, in whose absence nothing would have been possible. As OHCHR is experiencing a financial crisis, they deserve all of our support. The SR addresses a special thank to those in poverty, who have taught him so much. It is actually from the peasants and those in poverty that the SR has learnt the most from, thereby stressing how much we will lose if we do not listen to them more. The best way to combat poverty, effectively, is to **foster the participation of those in poverty** from the outset to ensure that their expertise can genuinely inform our choices.

Taking the Council through broader reflections, the SR recalls that **international law has no police force to call on**. In the area of human rights, we cannot impose economic sanctions, as can be done in the area of investment and trade, for instance. Therefore, we have to count on states to impose the respect for international law through a decentralised mechanism of checks and balances in order to foster the respect for international law. We count on states to bring the voice of human rights to the various fora, the Global Forum that took place in Doha, for example. The SR counts on states to respect the obligation to bring to bear pressure compatible with the UN Charter on states who are guilty of violations of international law.

The SR warns diplomats that **history will judge us** at this very point in time when we are seeing **ethnic cleansing and genocide unfolding before our eyes in Gaza**. It is not only history that will judge us. It is not just our children and our grandchildren who will judge us. It is also the fact that a lack of respect for international humanitarian law triggers our collective responsibility. It is not appropriate to retain commercial relationships or provide weapons to a state that is guilty of genocide today, and it is not just a genocide, 55,000 people killed. That would be 1.8 million people if you compare it to a country like France. Imagine France under a humanitarian embargo where 90% of the territory is not accessible because there are no-go areas.

In closing, the SR emphasizes that the situation in Gaza is not just a humanitarian crisis. It is an **international law crisis**. From his side, whatever the SR's future roles will be, he counts on states to fight for the respect for human rights so that international law may be based on **the rule of law rather than might is right**.

VIEWS EXPRESSED BY COLOMBIA AS CONCERNED COUNTRY

The delegation of **Colombia** expresses its gratitude for the SR's visit last year, which represented a very valuable opportunity to foster frank and respectful dialogue with the mandate holder. Colombia is profoundly committed to the protection and guarantee of human rights, overcoming extreme poverty in all of its dimensions and the construction of a more equitable and inclusive society. Praising international scrutiny as a tool that enriches its public policies, Colombia reaffirms its preparedness to continue to progress with a differentiated and territorial focus towards the guarantee of a dignified life for all.

Colombia is going through a profound transformation process, which has included **structural reforms** aimed at tackling historic and multidimensional causes of poverty, as well as closing social, territorial, ethnic and gender divides. The national government has been committed to



reducing poverty in all of its facets in this connection, and as the SR's report mentions, the economic poverty rate went from 36.6% of the population in 2022 to 33% in 2023, and the extreme poverty rate went down from 13.8% to 11.4% over the same period. The multidimensional poverty rate also has been reducing from 19.1% in 2018 to 12.1% in 2023. There are a number of **monetary transfer programmes** that have benefited the most vulnerable populations. According to the recent results that have been published, monetary poverty has been supported by government aid in 2023. With governmental aid, it stood in 2023 at 33.0%, so this is a drop as a result of that support.

In terms of the persisting connection between **armed conflict, poverty and inequality**, the government has been working tirelessly in order to provide the appropriate conditions for a sustained and lasting peace. According to data published by the Ministry of Defence, the average rate of homicide from 2023 to 2025 has dropped by 11%. Over the same period, there has been a drop of more than 95% in the enforced disappearances indicators, as well as summary executions and torture cases. It is nonetheless necessary to step up efforts to ensure that these are forever consigned to history.

Colombia agrees with the SR that agrarian reform and access to land rights are fundamental to overcome poverty. In the context of the peace agreement, Colombia has established 16 rural **reform plans** to support its peasants who are considered to be special subjects under constitutional protection as of 2023. Colombia has also recognised the **feminisation of poverty** as a factor which creates particular vulnerability for women and girls across the entire country. In Colombia, as in many other countries, poverty has a female face all too often. Furthermore, one of the most significant initiatives promoted by the national government has been passing a law reforming the healthcare system. This had its third debate in the Senate a few days ago, and this corresponds to a vision of **healthcare as a public and universal good**, but rooted in solidarity, primary healthcare being the gateway to the system.

Finally, with regard to the protection of workers, the national government has just approved its labour reform with a focus on decent work conditions. Admitting it has not been easy, and there is still road to walk on that project. In closing, Colombia thanks the SR the observations in the report, which are a road map for the implementation of necessary reforms to eliminate extreme poverty and reduce inequality in the country.

INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

Views Expressed by State Delegations

Bahrain on behalf of the Arab group appreciates the SR's efforts in preparing the report and stresses that the Arab region suffers from challenges because of climate change and its direct impact on poverty, including scarce water and the rise of the temperature. This negatively impacts food security and also leads to risks of extreme poverty. Despite this, Arab countries have made great strides in addressing these challenges. There is a comprehensive strategy to eradicate extreme poverty, including the initiative of the Council of Arab States in coordination with ESCWA and other international partners in order to eradicate multi-dimensional poverty and to implement SDGs, including SDG 1. The Arab group draws the SR's attention to what is being endured by the Palestinian people in terms of starvation and blockade, denying more than 2



million people food and electricity. This is a great violation of international law. The Arab group calls on the UNHRC for a quick move and action in order to enable people to live in dignity.

Benin recalls his President's words during the Western African Summit – '*Poverty is the mother of all disasters.*' This statement particularly resonates with the SR's thematic report which highlights the connection between poverty and climate change as well as the need to respond to that by strengthening social protection systems. This is the path Benin has resolutely taken through the 2024 adoption of a holistic social protection policy on the basis of an eloquent vision according to which by horizon 2030 the Benin population, in particular the most vulnerable sectors, will be resilient in the face of climate security or natural disasters and will effectively participate in an inclusive sustainable development process. The adoption of this government policy follows the implementation of a series of relevant measures such as the 2018 launching of a project titled Human Resilience and Capacity-Building and the Compulsory Health Coverage Programme with a comprehensive coverage for extreme and non-extreme contexts. Thanking the SR for the relevance of his last thematic report, Benin takes due note of its recommendations.

Bolivia stresses that scientific evidence and ethical commitments allow to observe the close connection and mutually interconnected dynamic between poverty, social protection and climate change. The global crisis is connected to other crises, the energy crisis, the financial crisis, the water crisis, the food crisis, the crisis in values and the spiritual crisis, as well as the crisis in international solidarity. How can we deny and ignore the droughts, floods, heat waves and storms? It is these perturbations to climate change which directly impact marginalised communities in particular, those living on the periphery in rural areas, including Indigenous people and peasants and within those communities, particularly women. As emphasised in the report, there is a double disproportionality in this vulnerability and a double injustice. Because of this, social protection policies are an effective tool to strengthen the capacity of their resilience and ability to recover in the face of crisis. Bolivia aligns itself with the SR's call to renew states' commitment to multilateralism.

Brazil jointly with France believe that at this pivotal moment it is more crucial than ever for states to renew their commitment to the international human rights system, including by addressing gaps in efforts to promote and protect human rights for all. The growing number of persons in street situations is a matter of concern in both developing and developed countries. The complex interplay of poverty, discrimination, loss of family, unemployment and other socio-economic issues can only be properly addressed by a multidisciplinary and integrated approach that takes into consideration the different needs and reasons that lead people to live on streets. Brazil and France urge all countries to fight discrimination against this heterogeneous population group and to refrain from measures that criminalise street situations. At the same time, it is important to step up efforts to fully reintegrate them into society, promote their social inclusion and restore their dignity. France and Brazil look forward to continued and constructive engagement on this issue in upcoming UNHRC sessions.

Brazil notes that in the SR's conclusions, while private insurance has an important role, government-funded protection systems are essential. Severe floods in south Brazil in 2024 showed just that, the key role of government and the limitations of private insurance given the scale of disruption caused by nature in the context of climate change. In Brazil's view,



development must be measured not by GDP growth only but by its sustainability and capacity to provide opportunities and well-being for people. Brazil has developed a social programmes which also help mitigate the effects of climate change for the most vulnerable. The main one is the family grant programme which currently helps 20.5 million families. There is no justification for anyone to feel hungry in this world of plenty. This conviction is reflected in Brazil's G20 presidency initiative, the global alliance against hunger and poverty. Brazil's actions at home and abroad reflect the country's commitment to building a development model that strengthens social justice inclusion and sustainability with a view to provide security and enjoyment of human rights for all.

Burkina Faso thanks the SR for the relevance of his analysis on the cross-cutting issues of social protection, climate change and poverty. Welcoming the call for greater international solidarity in the contest of growing climate vulnerabilities, Burkina Faso aims to tackle the climate change crisis and the degradation of our planet Earth. Strongly committed to strengthening its social protection in an inclusive and resilient way, Burkina Faso has undertaken action which focusses on women, IDPs and vulnerable households affected by climate shocks. This has been done through the adoption of a plan for stabilisation and development, as well as a national policy for social protection. Burkina Faso has also created a universal healthcare coverage system in order to protect persons against risks related to ill health. With regard to the SDGs, Burkina Faso has been integrating the climate dimension into its social protection systems by supporting local systems, in particular social safety nets, local reforestation and the promotion of agroecology. In closing, Burkina Faso expresses support for the creation of a Global Fund for Social Protection, which is indispensable to ensure adaptation to climate change and protect the most impacted countries.

Cabo Verde on behalf of the community of Portuguese-language countries (CPLP) congratulates the SR on his quality report. In this struggle, it is urgent to address the consequences of climate change, which with particular intensity affect the most vulnerable populations, and in particular those that do not have a social protection network, as highlighted in the report. The CPLP states, reaffirming their commitment to public priorities, promoting equal opportunities and well-being as enshrined in their respective constitutions, have adopted a coordinated approach in the fight against extreme poverty, focused on food security and family training. However, challenges persist, especially in rural areas and among vulnerable groups such as women and children. The CPLP countries continue to be committed to dealing with these challenges in line with the SDGs and the elimination of poverty more generally by the Horizon 2030. They call on the international community to join the CPLP's call in the fight to protect the most poor and vulnerable people in society.

Cameroon shares the SR's view according to which climate change and social protection mechanisms as well as poverty constitutes a multidimensional threat for the most fundamental human rights. Cameroon fully shares the need to strengthen social safety nets and adaption policies with a climate justice and solidarity perspective. This requirement is at the heart of the 2020-2030 National Development Plan, which is based on an inclusive and regionalised approach which is interconnected, in particular around inequalities and equitable access to basic social services. By way of example, the social safety net policy in partnership with the World Bank has allowed in 2024 the support of 58,500 families which are particularly vulnerable. On the



basis of the transfer of 7 billion CFA, Cameroon reiterates its commitment to adaptive social support mechanisms in line with the report's recommendations and emphasises the importance of effective international solidarity. The establishment of an effective social protection fund could be a significant lever to support national efforts.

Djibouti appreciates the SR's report, which speaks about the need to ensure the right to effective social security through supporting LDCs, through international solidarity and creating a global fund for social protection. Djibouti has made the fight against poverty, precarity and inequality one of its absolute policy priorities and believes that social protection is not just a human right but a sustainable investment for its future. Social protection plays a key role in Djibouti to fight against poverty, in particular through its National Strategy for Social Protection, which aims to strengthen its human capital 2023-2027. This national strategy aims to support households to tackle the risks they face, including climate shocks, and maintain their resilience. Djibouti believes that international solidarity should continue to support LDCs and developing countries by creating sustainable means of protection which are rights-based. This should also be flanked by innovative financing mechanisms to reach the goals.

Dominican Republic is grateful to the SR for this report, which recognises progress and highlights persistent challenges in combating poverty and social exclusion. The Dominican Republic greets the reforms adopted by Colombia, in particular the Law of 2022, aimed to have a fairer tax law and strengthen economic, social and cultural rights. It further appreciates the agrarian reform, which highlights the sovereignty and wellbeing of rural communities, in particular the victims of the armed conflict. The Dominican Republic supports the protection of peasants, young people, persons with disabilities and ethnic peoples. Furthermore, it reaffirms its commitment to cross-cutting public policies, such as the Progressing with Solidarity Programme, which has improved the most vulnerable communities lot in the Dominican Republic. Finally, the country encourages participatory and multicultural approaches and international cooperation and support to confront the ramifications of climate change in line with the 2030 Agenda.

Ecuador agrees with the SR's vision concerning the consequences and risks of climate change, droughts, floods, storms, deforestation increasingly frequent across the world, as well as the disproportionate impact on the poorest and most vulnerable populations in terms of their access to water, housing, education and health, all of which leads to a double injustice. Ecuador, despite being responsible for hardly 0.19% of these, is a country highly affected by climate change, not only in terms of its unique and fragile infrastructures and ecosystems, but across the entire population, particularly the poorest indigenous people, peasants, women, boys and girls. As a result, as a part of its full commitment to the Paris Agreement, Ecuador was one of the first to update its targets for the 2026 to 2035 period, as well as the fifth national communication and its first biennium of transparency, all with a gender focus and a focus on vulnerable groups. Acknowledging that these efforts are not sufficient to confront a global crisis, Ecuador regrets the gap in solidarity and international cooperation in financing and capacity-building, as well as technology transfer. This does not only deepen structural inequality, it also jeopardises a fair return to sustainable low-carbon economies based on social justice and the respect for human rights, including the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.



Egypt shares the SR's conclusions in terms of the social impact and the burden of debt, which prevents certain states from implementing social and economic rights. Egypt recalls that combating poverty requires to confront structural imbalances in the international financial order, allowing countries to have access to financial and technological resources to attain goals in the area of development, thanks to a reform of the international global monetary system. In this context, Egypt has adopted plans connecting fighting poverty to food security on the basis of programmes around food access, rural development and social protection programmes. Reaffirming its commitment to continue its efforts to combat poverty and ensure social justice, Egypt calls for multilateral cooperation in this area, allowing states to roll out the Horizon 2030 Sustainable Development Programme.

El Salvador shares the concerns pursuant to which climate change must be comprehensively tackled and addressed, above all from the perspective of this mandate, given that states such as El Salvador located in a particularly vulnerable region in terms of climate change. Confronted on a daily basis with the negative effects of climate change, they are deploying efforts in terms of public policy and funding to overcome challenges in the area of poverty. However, as they are continuously impacted by extreme climate events, this further limits their ability to properly implement the measures they wish to take to protect their populations. El Salvador aligns itself with the call for proper finance and consideration of the differentiated responsibility that each state has in terms of the climate crisis.

Eritrea affirms that the intersection of poverty, climate change and social protection is of utmost relevance to its national priorities. Eritrea remains committed to ensuring food security and building the resilience of its people. The country has prioritised sustainable agricultural practises, soil and water conservation and the empowerment of rural communities. Terracing, reforestation and irrigation development are at the heart of the national strategy to protect the environment, improve productivity and combat erosion. In response to increasing droughts, water scarcity and the drying of rivers and lakes, exasperated by climate change and deforestation, the Eritrean government has invested significantly in dam construction and irrigation infrastructure. These efforts aim to secure access to agriculture and mitigate the risk of food insecurity, particularly for the most vulnerable. Eritrean social protection policies are guided by the principle of leaving no one behind. Targeted programmes focus on enhancing community resilience and strengthening local livelihoods, especially in rural and drought-prone areas. Eritrea believes that addressing climate-induced poverty requires reinforcing national initiatives through genuine international solidarity, de-politicised cooperation and respect for national ownership. Eritrea stands ready to continue contributing constructively to this global effort.

Estonia on behalf of Nordic Baltic states recognises the critical role of social protection in strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerabilities, particularly among those most affected by the impacts of climate change. The Nordic-Baltic states further acknowledge the need for a joint action to strengthen social protection systems. Strengthening social protection can also ensure that climate finance truly benefits those who need it the most. The upcoming Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development and the Second World Summit for Social Development are crucial opportunities to address the need for predictable, long-term financing to empower those in vulnerable situations. The Nordic-Baltic states are committed to integrating



human rights principles into climate action, ensuring that the adoption matters are inclusive, gender responsive and accessible to those most at risk.

Ethiopia commends the SR's report and his call for a rights-based and solidarity-driven approach to tackling climate vulnerability and poverty. As a country acutely aware of the devastating impact of climate change, Ethiopia has taken bold and proactive measures, most notably the Green Legacy Initiative, which has mobilised the planting of over billions of trees to combat land degradation, promote climate resilience and secure livelihoods. Ethiopia is also implementing the Climate Resilient Green Economy Strategy, aligning climate action with poverty eradication goals. Through integrated rural development programmes and productive safety net systems, Ethiopia is protecting millions of vulnerable households from the dual threats of climate shocks and economic insecurity. Ethiopia echoes the SR's call for international solidarity. For low-income countries, global commitments must translate into expanded physical space and climate-linked social protection finance. In closing, Ethiopia stands ready to partner for sustainable solutions that uphold the right to social security, ensure environmental justice and build resilience from the ground up.

Fiji on behalf of a group of countries points out that extreme poverty remains one of the most pressing challenges for LDCs and SIDS, further compounded by the unique vulnerabilities including limited resources and the severe impacts of climate change. These factors exacerbate existing inequalities and hinder progress towards achieving sustainable development and human rights for all. The Voluntary Trust Fund has been instrumental in enabling delegations to engage constructively and share their perspectives on pressing human rights issues before the UNHRC. In the context of extreme poverty, Fiji calls on the international community to increase financial and technical assistance and strengthen the ODA commitment to eradicate poverty, enhance action on climate justice and work towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Thanking OHCHR and the contributing states of the Voluntary Trust Fund for the support extended for the participation in the ongoing UNHRC session, Fiji urges continued cooperation in supporting the Fund to ensure that LDCs and SIDS engage equally and meaningfully in the important work of the UNHRC.

Ghana on behalf of the African group appreciates the SR's report as a stark reminder of the extent of the climate crisis and its implications for environmental, social and economic justice. It recognises the effects of poverty on the realisation of human rights and therefore remains committed to global partnership geared towards addressing poverty and inequality. The African Group notes that advancing progress towards achieving the SDGs requires cooperation and solidarity, especially at a time when climate change is driving unprecedented poverty levels and impacting millions of people on the continent. It is in this context that across the African continent, many governments in collaboration with the private sector and international institutions have developed and operationalised social protection programmes to provide essential services for citizens, especially for those who are disproportionately impacted by climate change in line with the provisions of the Protocol of the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Citizens to Social Protection and Social Security. In closing, the African Group urges all states to support the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development and the Second World Summit for Social Development. The African group believes that outcomes from these meetings would help accelerate the required reforms to the global



financial system to promote fair access to funding and revitalisation of the right to development as a key tool ending poverty.

The **Holy See** appreciates the thematic report's emphasis on the interconnectedness of climate change, poverty and social protection. A point also made in the report of the special extreme poverty and human rights. Around 2.7 billion people living at or below the poverty line are currently at risk of major climate change related disruptions. It is therefore urgent to address the disproportionate impact of this crisis on the poorest who are the least responsible for it. The poor, particularly in the least developed countries, have a very low carbon footprint. Meanwhile, the richest 1% of the world's population emits in just 10 days as much greenhouse gas as the poorest 50% does over a thousand days. This ecological debt must be acknowledged and repaid. It is deeply concerning that fewer than 9% of the people in the 20 countries most vulnerable to climate change are covered by social protection systems. This lack of access further compounds the vulnerability of the poor leaving them without support and with limited means to recover. The plight of the poor requires an integral response rooted in solidarity and justice. This approach addresses the urgent need to combat poverty while upholding the inherent God-given dignity of those most in need.

Honduras converges with the SR on the urgency to take significant steps towards the strengthening of social protection systems as a key tool to confront inequalities resulting from climate change. Honduras take notes of this important, valuable and innovative contribution which is duly enshrined in the Fourth International Conference. Climate crisis particularly affects disproportionately those suffering extreme poverty and this is the case in Honduras. This double disproportionality and double injustice requires urgent responses allowing countries to strengthen their resilience in the face of climate change and going beyond humanitarian approaches which have to protect those who have at least contributed to the global crisis. Honduras is promoting systems of protection, adaptive social protection systems including through development and the use of social registers and social programmes which have led to the significant reduction of in poverty and extreme poverty. Firmly committed to social, economic, financial and climate justice, Honduras will continue to work in this vein and believes that the SR's vision laid out in his work has been key in mobilising efforts and strengthening human rights protection the world over.

India on behalf of a group of like-minded countries welcomes the SR's report highlighting that climate change is a severe assault on the poor, with droughts, floods and extreme weather disproportionately affecting those least responsible for global emissions. Climate change and poverty are deeply interconnected. Extreme weather threatens to reverse development gains and pushes families in vulnerable situations back into poverty, especially in developing countries. Developing nations face a double injustice, minimal contribution to climate change yet suffering its harshest impacts. To address this, the group calls for enhanced, predictable and accessible climate finance, focused on adaptation and resilience for the most vulnerable. Developed countries must fulfil their historical commitments under common but differentiated responsibilities. International solidarity and social protection are essential to break the cycle of poverty and climate crisis. Climate finance must reach local communities and smallholder farmers who currently receive less than 10% of available resources. The group urges the global



community to honour pledges, fund social protection floors and channel support to those most in need. Together we can ensure a just, resilient future for all.

Indonesia on behalf of a group of friends of family takes the floor through **H.E. Mr. Mugiyo Sipin, Vice-Minister for Human Rights** of the Republic of Indonesia. Looking ahead to the World Social Summit in 2025, the international community is reminded that poverty is not merely a lack of income, but a multidimensional challenge that undermines the full enjoyment of human rights. Tackling it requires a holistic approach that places the family as the natural and fundamental group unit of society at the heart of development strategies. The family plays a pivotal role in breaking intergenerational cycles of poverty through education, value formation, and social support. In many contexts, particularly in developing countries, it remains the most immediate and reliable safety net. The group therefore calls for greater recognition of family-centred policy as an essential component of a comprehensive poverty eradication framework. Leading up to the World Social Summit, the group encourages all stakeholders to reaffirm their commitment to inclusive social development by grounding policy responses in the lived realities of those most affected by poverty, and by empowering the family as a key partner in building just, cohesive, and resilient societies.

Iraq stresses that poverty is one of the key challenges humanity is facing today. This requires an approach which goes beyond finance data in order to take into account all of the impacts on wider society. The Iraqi constitution guarantees the right to a dignified family and individual life and decent income. The constitution also guarantees social security and the right to employment for all Iraqis. Iraqi law also ensures social protection mechanisms such as subsidies for limited income households. Iraq has undertaken significant steps to reduce poverty as well through the creation of work and investment in infrastructure as well as diversification in the agriculture and industry sectors and the promotion of healthcare and essential services, in particular in the poorest areas. The country further has social support systems taking into account measures to combat corruption to ensure resources are more effectively streamlined. In conclusion, Iraq draws the Council's attention to the suffering of the Palestinian people due to a serious economic crisis resulting from the embargo and the impact of the occupying forces. This is depriving the Palestinian people of the right to a dignified right. The international community must take trenchant steps in order to restore their rights.

Ireland stresses that reaching the furthest behind first is the overarching frame of Ireland's international development policy, A Better World, and is a principle that should remain at the heart of international development cooperation. This is central to Ireland's shared commitments under Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals. The country notes the dual disproportionality of climate change. The impacts will be felt especially hard in low-income households in low- and lower-middle-income countries. In this respect, Ireland is particularly concerned that the most fragile contexts are home to a quarter of the world's population, but account for 72% of the world's extreme poor. In the world's 26 poorest countries, only 9.7% of the population has minimum social protection support. This underscores the need to move beyond an ad hoc humanitarian approach in responding to climate shocks towards establishing, strengthening and financing rights-based adaptive social protection. This will allow households most vulnerable to the impact of climate change and the climate shocks to prepare for, recover from and build resilience against future extreme weather events. Ireland fully supports the SR's

call for a recommitment to multilateralism to expand social protection coverage, an essential tool in countering the impacts of the climate crisis.

Luxembourg is grateful to the SR for his report and recommendations, including the respect for human rights in particular, the most vulnerable and marginalised. This must, among other things, be at the heart of our response to climate change. Luxembourg is well aware that the impact of climate deregulation has a disproportionate impact on LDCs and SIDS, and exacerbates thus existing inequalities, compromising fundamental rights to life, health and a clean environment. Luxembourg will continue to make these countries its priority partners in development cooperation. As outlined in the report, innovative finance mechanisms can play a key role in strengthening the social protection of the populations that are the most exposed to the effects of climate change. Therefore, Luxembourg continues to actively commit to the implementation of innovative funding tools. An example of this is the CAT bonds, as we call them in English. These are connected to protecting from extreme drought in partnership with the World Bank.

Malawi welcomes the SR's report requesting a move from an *ad hoc* humanitarian approach to protecting people in poverty from climate disasters towards establishing, strengthening and financing rights-based social protection. As the report notes, there is a sense of double injustice, as not only are developing countries facing the worst impacts from climate change and not only are low-income households most at risk, they are also the countries and groups that have contributed least to manufacturing the crisis. Malawi, in collaboration with stakeholders, is actively implementing social protection programmes to support ultra-poor in meeting their basic needs. Some of the programmes being implemented include the social cash transfer programme. The significance of the social protection programmes has become even more evident as Malawi grapples with challenges such as low-yield harvest due to challenges associated with climate change, including drought, inadequate rainfall and localised flooding. Malawi urges states to take a stand against attempts to undermine global solidarity by living up to their pledges to support low-income countries in strengthening the financing and operation of social protection as a powerful tool in countering the effects of climate change.

The **Marshall Islands** notes that the SR's thematic report underlines the double injustice. Low-income countries and specifically the lowest income households within them are paying the highest price from climate change despite having contributed least to it. The Marshall Islands greenhouse gas emissions are negligible but that does not protect us from the grave threat of sea level rise felt especially in the outer adults where poverty is greatest. Welcoming the SR's focus on strengthening social protection systems to support people in poverty affected by climate related disasters, the Marshallese adaptation plan had to anticipate the deepening of poverty exacerbated by climate change. But low-income countries cannot manage this risk alone. All states must unite in unlocking sustained quality and accessible climate finance and to address debt challenges constraining development, resilience and poverty alleviation. Urgent action to restrict further warming is imperative. As COP30 approaches, the Marshall Islands calls on states to provide strengthened national determined contribution (NDC) aligned with limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees. These NDCs should be ambitious economy-wide and cover all sectors and greenhouse gases. To implement these commitments, efforts must be renewed, including by a swift and accelerated transition away from fossil fuels.



Mexico jointly with Colombia and Brazil are grateful to the SR for emphasising that social protection systems have a human rights dimension. This dimension must be intersectional, taking into account the disproportionate impact of inequality on the enjoyment of rights of all women and girls. Care work pursuant to gender stereotypes has been traditionally feminized with differentiated impacts for women, particularly the lack of pay and social security, significantly increasing the risk of poverty and vulnerability in the face of climate change. In the context of the Fourth International Conference on Funding for Development, the three countries will be presenting, as members of the Civil Action Platform, the initiative entitled Care, Equality and Prosperity, a global initiative to promote a Fund for Development that has a gender perspective. This promotes dignity in and recognition of care work with a global development perspective, pursuant to institutional strengthening and differentiated mechanisms of social protection. The three countries join the SR in his call to ensure that international solidarity supports efforts of developing countries, particularly to establish minimum levels of social protection, thereby inviting countries to join this initiative.

Mongolia welcomes the SR's timely report which highlights a critical but often overlooked nexus the disproportionate burden that climate change places on people experiencing poverty. Mongolia is uniquely vulnerable to the climate crisis. Recurrent droughts, harsh winter conditions, prolonged droughts and extreme temperature shifts have disproportionately impacted its rural populations, particularly the women, children and the elderly. Currently the government is advancing a series of reforms to modernise and strengthen social protection across Mongolia. Key sector laws including the law on pensions, the family law, the law on social welfare, the law on occupational safety and health are being revised. These reforms seek to better target social protection benefits, support employment and establish a unified data system based on big data to ensure more effective and efficient delivery of social protection services. Yet challenges remain in adapting social protection to economic and climate related shocks. By addressing these challenges and leveraging digital technologies and international cooperation, Mongolia aims to further enhance the social protection system and ensure a more inclusive and prosperous future for all its citizens.

Morocco stresses the importance of adapting ad hoc measures into a universal system for social protection which can combat and face environmental shocks. Since 2021, Morocco has been aiming to expand social coverage to cover the whole of the population by the end of 2025. More than 11 million people now have mandatory health insurance, especially for those who cannot afford contributions. At the same time, Morocco currently has 3.8 million beneficiaries of the mandatory health insurance for non-salaried workers as well as direct social assistance programme with a budget of \$2.5 billion, covering 4 million families, 5 million children and 1.2 million elderly persons. In order to ensure that policies are long-standing and consistent, the Moroccan national agency for social support is coordinating social policy and piloting a unified social register, ensuring that performance indicators are followed. This work has demonstrated clearly that Morocco intends to build a social protection system based on rights to protect poor populations from climate change and promote inclusive development.

Pakistan on behalf of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) appreciates the report's emphasis on the need to protect the most vulnerable and the potential benefits of expanded social protection systems. The OIC notes with deep concern the complete dismantling of social



and other protections for the people under illegal occupation in the state of Palestine. The militarisation of essential humanitarian aid and repeated, deliberate targeting of starving Palestinians queuing up for life-saving supplies are part of a wanton campaign to create impossible living conditions and thus force the Palestinian people to leave their native land. The resulting increase in extreme poverty and hardship are not incidental side effects but an engineered outcome. In addition to the appalling genocidal campaign in Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem, the OIC draws the Council's attention to the systematic and continuous piracy carried out by the illegal occupying power targeting the funds and tax revenues of the Palestinian people. This reduced fiscal space severely limits the state of Palestine's ability to provide essential services to the people under occupation and threatens to foreclose any possibility of social protection and investments in climate resilience. The OIC wants to know from the SR how could stronger norms on social protection reinforce the safeguards by international human rights law and international humanitarian law, particularly for the Palestinian people under illegal occupation.

Paraguay agrees with the SR that social protection should be adaptive and resilient with an ability to address climate crisis leaving no one behind. Paraguay appreciates the recommendation to invest in universal social protection systems that are inclusive and climate sensitive and the strengthening of families and communities ability to adapt to the effects of disasters connected to the climate. In this regard, Paraguay has recently launched its 2024-2030 Social Protection Climate Change Plan which seeks to ensure that poor populations can confront and overcome extreme climate events in a resilient and sustainable fashion. The measures contained in the Plan are based on an adaptive social system developing measures for resilience, infrastructure improvement, basic services and sustainable management of natural resources.

Peru is very grateful to the SR for his report on extreme poverty and human rights, which offers a rigorous and timely analysis concerning the connections between extreme poverty, climate change and social protection systems. Peru entirely agrees that tax systems adopted by states should be rooted in a human rights focus, ensuring not only macroeconomic stability, but also equity, inclusion and well-being of all, in particular of those in a situation of vulnerability. In that context, Peru supports the requirement to strengthen social protection systems that are genuinely universal, sustainable and rights-based. Peru has shouldered this commitment through various public policies, including the National Development and Social Inclusion Policy for 2030. The Peruvian government is also working to ensure appropriate planning and efficient use of natural resources, thus reducing the potential negative impacts created by future climate scenarios and also at the same time identifying the possible opportunities that are being created to continue to grow.

The **Philippines** thanks the SR for his compelling analysis of the far-reaching harms caused by climate change to people in extreme poverty and the need for social protection floors. The least responsible for the climate crisis bears the brunt of its grave consequences to life, livelihood and future, which the SR has qualified as a double injustice. The Philippines agrees by adding that inadequate climate action and the breakdown of international solidarity represent a double whammy to millions of people in developing countries particularly the most vulnerable to climate change. The Philippines has mainstream climate action in its national development strategy with human rights and good governance as underpinning principles. The Fourth Philippine Human



Rights Action Plan outlines strengthened social protection measures for the poorest households in society facing multiple and compounding vulnerabilities. The Philippines assumes its fair share of responsibility in addressing the worsening climate crisis and upholds its human rights obligations, but even its best efforts will not be enough. The Philippines reiterates its call on partners to fulfil respective obligations under UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement. In the run-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development and the World Summit for Social Development, the Philippines calls for genuine international solidarity to ensure that all people especially those in the most disadvantaged situation.

Rwanda emphasizes that globally, climate change continues to exacerbate poverty, especially for the most vulnerable. The Rwandan poverty reduction strategy is grounded in climate resilience, through investments in climate-smart agriculture, land restoration and green infrastructure, key to disaster risk reduction and just transition. From 2017 to 2024, national poverty dropped by 12.4 per cent, lifting 1.5 million people out of poverty and halving extreme poverty. These results stem from integrated policies, strong national ownership and long-term planning. Rwanda is working toward eradicating extreme poverty by 2035 and reducing overall poverty to 5 per cent with a focus on equity for women, children and older persons, persons with disabilities and rural populations. Access to quality-based services remains central to this goal. Rwanda's experience demonstrates that transformative results are possible when climate action and social development go hand in hand.

Saudi Arabia reiterates the concern that extreme poverty prevents the full enjoyment of human rights. Saudi Arabia has adopted an approach which focusses on justice in order to achieve its 2030 Vision as part of the framework of sustainable development and equality for all. Saudi Arabia's dedicated National Plan aims at promoting social protection, creating jobs and bolstering the economic capacities of the most vulnerable, allowing them to enjoy decent work and to be resilient to various threats. Saudi Arabia denounces the negative approach to energy resources. Developing countries are often accused of preventing the enjoyment of human rights - an approach is not based on evidence.

Sudan commends the thematic report and appreciates the invitation to all governments to undertake positions of solidarity in order to support LDCs, as well as to create a minimum limit of social protection to allow these societies to tackle climate change adaptation. The Committee for Climate Change in Sudan aims to lift people out of poverty. That Committee has regional and international partnerships to tackle economic challenges related to conflict, focussing in particular on vulnerable sectors of the population, allowing for a dialogue between the poor and other levels of society. Sudan thanks all countries and civil society organisations who are providing humanitarian assistance to Sudan at this time of war, hoping to benefit from more assistance, especially from the United Nations, and this in order to reduce poverty. Stressing that poor families in the least developed countries are often struck by the worst impacts of climate change, Sudan calls for them to be protected.

Tanzania recalls that extreme poverty is a major inhibitor of the enjoyment of human rights. While underdevelopment and colonial legacies are partly to blame for the protracted endemic poverty, climate change and conflicts compound and multiply its adverse impacts. Instead of eroding the international system, we must reform it. Instead of resulting to unilateralism, we must strengthen



international solidarity for addressing global crisis. Seville, Spain is an opportunity to recommit to reforming the global financial architecture, scale up concessional and climate financing and embrace science and technology for achieving the SDGs. States should commit more resources and honour their pledges for addressing climate change during COP30 in Belém. The cost of inaction is too grave. In its fight against poverty, Tanzania has adopted plans and programmes for achieving economic growth, ensuring social protection, fostering generation equality, empowering youth and building a resilient and competitive society. These combined efforts underline Tanzania's unwavering commitment to uprooting extreme poverty, but it will take more than one finger to kill a lice. Tanzania invites all to join hands to end poverty.

Thailand points out that since the establishment of its Department of Climate Change and Environment, this dedicated government agency working on climate change has been addressing not only the scientific aspect of the phenomenon, but also its socio-economic impact. Special attention is given to vulnerable populations whose livelihoods are most at risk. For example, the Project on Strengthened Capacities and Local Level Plans for Climate Change Adaptation in the Agriculture and Food Security Sector, implemented in the southern and northeastern Thailand, demonstrates the country's commitment to inclusive community-based adaptation. Thailand echoes the call to shift from reactive humanitarian responses to proactive rights-based social protection systems. The country further shares the report's emphasis on ensuring climate finance that reaches those that are most in need. Thailand reaffirms its commitment to a just and inclusive climate transition that upholds human rights, advances development, and leaves no one behind.

Tunisia converges with the SR's conclusions around the impact of climate change on low-income countries and the most vulnerable social layers, in particular those suffering from extreme poverty. Greater international solidarity is needed to support communities' ability to prove their resilience and ability to adapt to combat inequalities. In the adoption of a new rights-based economic model, Tunisia is rolling out its 2023-2025 National Development Plan and the 2035 Development Plan. Remaining committed to the SDGs, Tunisia is convinced that the fight against poverty can only be won with greater funding for development internationally and a better technology transfer. Calling for reforms the international financial system to properly confront the burden of debt and favour access to finance, Tunisia recalls the need to put financial resources at the disposal of countries, because these are resources that people have the right to.

Venezuela on behalf of a group of friends in defence of the UN Charter considers that poverty and extreme poverty continues to be one of the most pressing challenges of humanity, with the greatest impact on the countries of the Global South which after centuries of colonial exploitation and due to the capitalist system imposed by some countries. Economic growth shall be accompanied by public policies for well-being and social inclusion, at a time when a new world economic order is needed, which shall be universally beneficial and inclusive. The application of unilateral coercive measures is a deliberate attack against the right to development, causes a worsening of poverty, extreme poverty and inequalities in affected countries. The group reaffirms that the 2023 Agenda continues to be the universally agreed roadmap not only to achieve more pacific, just and inclusive societies, but also to overcome poverty through collective and concerted actions based on a sense of unity, cooperation, and solidarity.



Viet Nam appreciates the timely and insightful thematic report on weathering the storm of poverty, climate change and social protection, and sincerely thanks the SR for drawing urgent attention to the double injustices faced by countries like Viet Nam. Those that have contributed the least to the climate crisis but stand on the front lines of these consequences. As a nation highly vulnerable to climate induced disasters, rising sea levels, typhoons and droughts, Viet Nam understands firsthand how climate shock can erode development gains and inequalities. Viet Nam reaffirms its commitment to advancing universal social protection as a cornerstone of resilience and inclusive development. Viet Nam echoes the call for stronger international solidarity and a global social protection fund which would complement national efforts with predictable and adequate financing. Efforts to be resilient must reach the poorest communities, rural populations, women and informal workers. Mr special rapporteur, could you share examples of good practises in rice-based social protection systems that have successfully absorbed climate shocks and reduced poverty? How might such models be adapted for developing countries? Thank you very much.

Zambia agrees with the report that it is a double injustice that developing countries face the worst impacts from climate change when they contribute the least to creating the crisis. In Zambia, the effects of climate change have severely impacted developmental progress. The situation is worsened by climate-related events such as droughts and floods, which negatively affect food security and livelihoods dependent on agriculture. Women and children are especially vulnerable as they often are the first to bear the brunt of resource scarcity. Despite these challenges, Zambia continues to make positive strides by investing in renewable energy and social protection for vulnerable populations. Programmes such as the Social Cash Transfer Scheme and the Farmer Input Support Programme have been expanded and made climate-sensitive to ensure that they are responsive to the realities of a warming climate. In conclusion, Zambia calls upon states to strengthen international solidarity by fulfilling their pledges to support developing States in the financing and operation of social protection to counter the effects of climate change.

Views Expressed by Intergovernmental Organizations and UN Entities

The **European Union** is grateful for the SR's report and agrees on the analysis relating to the impact of climate change on extreme poverty, which recalls the urgency of working towards more resilient societies. The EU is committed to identifying an appropriate response to this. By measuring the climatic impact and the impact on extreme poverty, the EU is in line with all multilateral agreements in this area, and the implementation of, in the first place, the Paris Agreement, supporting third countries in their national and collective efforts. The EU agrees that the strengthening of national social systems constitutes one of the most significant long-term responses to this crisis. Through its cooperation programme, the EU and its 27 member states are contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to capacity-building in an approach founded on partnership and human rights. These efforts also incorporate cross-sectoral approaches, as illustrated by the European Nation Pact presented during the recent United Nations Conference on the Oceans in Nice.

The **FAO** states that almost 8% of humanity continue to live in extreme poverty. 80% of those people live in rural areas. Hunger and food insecurity are also on the rise. With nearly 300 million people experiencing acute levels of hunger in 2024, climate change, violent conflicts and fragile



food systems undermine efforts to address these challenges, exacerbating poverty and food insecurity, deepening inequalities and intensifying vulnerabilities. Social protection can play a key role in addressing these constraints by addressing losses and damages, strengthening resilience and supporting adaptation and catalysing a just transition in ways that are inclusive and equitable for the most vulnerable people. But nearly half of the world's population lacks any social protection coverage. The FAO supports governance to strengthen social protection systems to overcome these challenges and also strongly supports collaborative initiatives such as the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty and the Global Alliance for Universal Social Protection 2030. These both place inclusive social protection at the forefront of efforts to eliminate hunger and extreme poverty. By working together, we can maximise the contribution of social protection to inclusive climate action.

UN-Habitat welcomes the SR's robust recommendations outlined in his thematic report and recalls UNGA resolution 78/172 encouraging the integration of housing policies with social protection systems. Homelessness is extreme poverty in housing, which is central to an adequate standard of living. Yet, it is still unknown how many people face this challenge. UN-Habitat estimates more than 300 million, but this is unreliable because there is no common definition or comparable indicators. For example, children and those in temporary accommodation are often excluded. They are hidden homeless. Austerity measures have meant that the UNGA's allocation for work on homelessness monitoring has been cut. In a review of development finance in December 2024, UN-Habitat identified no bilateral donor that prioritised housing or homelessness. Multilateral development bank funding was focused on Europe. In per capita terms, Africa receives by far the least financial support for housing, and this concentrates on private finance solutions that rarely benefit the poorest. Challenges with homelessness, displacement and precarity are exacerbated by climate change. In Herat, Afghanistan, UN-Habitat worked with one conflict-displaced community that was unable to return because of climate impact. Their average daily income is estimated at between 18 and 50 USD cents. UN-Habitat has developed incremental self-help housing strategies, but such communities really just need help.

UNICEF draws the Council attention to the fact that across the globe, nearly 1.9 billion children four out of five are at a high climate risk. At the same time 954 million children live in multi-dimensional poverty. Alarming 774 million face both poverty and high climate risk compounding threats to their rights and well-being. Children are bearing the brunt of a climate crisis they did not create. One that threatens to deepen poverty and widen inequality. Climate shocks such as floods, droughts and heat waves disrupt parents and caregivers abilities to invest in children's health, nutrition, education and protection. Disrupting during key development stages can have lifelong consequences and children already living in poverty are disproportionately affected. UNICEF encourages an explicit inclusion of children's rights and poverties in climate discussion. UNICEF affirms that social protection is a critical response to this dual crisis. It can cushion children's families from climate shocks, support adaptation, resilience and contribute to just transitions by ensuring children and families are not left behind as economies go green. UNICEF supports calls for stronger investments in nationally owned inclusive social protection systems as a cornerstone of climate action. Building synergies and scaling up existing initiatives to support national efforts is important instead of introducing new financing tools. Establishing a dedicated

window within climate finance to support social protection would be an impactful step toward this goal.

Views Expressed by National Human Rights Institutions

The **National Human Rights Commission of Korea** has consistently stressed that climate change is a human rights issue, especially for those in vulnerable situations. In December last year, the Commission issued a recommendation to the President and relevant ministries on improving protection for climate-vulnerable groups. This included clarifying state duty to protect, ensuring access to information, expanding the use of climate funds, and securing the participation of affected communities in the decision-making process. As the SR pointed out, the climate crisis no longer matters confined to individual nations. Regional cooperation is essential, and the NHRIs play a key role in encouraging both governments and businesses to adopt a human rights-based approach to climate action. In this regard, the Commission would appreciate SR's suggestions on key action NHRIs should bolster to protect vulnerable groups from the impact of climate change.

Views Expressed by Non-Governmental Organizations

Sikh Human Rights Group (SHRG) commends the report of the SR which highlights the injustices that persons experiencing poverty face and which puts forward a proposal for the GFSP. But words will not suffice. The countries who are the most impacted by climate change are those who have contributed the least to it. This is a structural injustice. We have to attack the root causes of this. The Global Fund for Social Protection shall be activated without delay, with no preconditions that undermine sovereignty or inclusion, harmonise financing to fight against climate change with human rights, focussing on the poorest and the most vulnerable rural communities, IDPs, informal workers and social care workers. We should also integrate social protection into the nationally determined contributions under the framework of the UNFCCC, in line with the engagements undertaken at COP28. We should recognise and support community partners. Faith-based initiatives such as the *gurdwaras* are true living centres of solidarity, and such community partners be recognized and supported. Finally, we should reform global financing, ensuring well-planned unconditional financing for the climate and debt alleviation.

Terre des Hommes – Fédération Internationale, on behalf of a cohort of youth advocates supported by the *She Leads Consortium*, states that climate change and poverty are deeply linked, especially in vulnerable communities. In Kenya, my home country, last year's floods caused fatalities and displaced many people, especially those living in informal settlements. According to UNICEF, four out of five people displaced by climate change in Africa are women and girls. When floods, droughts, and heatwaves strike, girls are affected in many different ways. They often have to support their families while their homes are flooded, and with their caretakers frequently away trying to find alternative livelihoods, girls are left vulnerable, often becoming the first to drop out of school. As a result, many young women in the area I am from reported rising cases of gender-based violence, including child marriages and transactional sex, due to the displacement, collapse of incomes, and loss of housing. Terre des Hommes calls on governments to strengthen anticipatory action to ensure quick funding reaches communities to rebuild homes, schools, and livelihoods after climate shocks; establish social protection

systems that keeps girls safe, empowers them economically, and provides mental support; enforce and strengthen policies against GBV, especially following climate shocks; and invest in health care systems and educations to keep girls off the streets and protected from GBV.

The **International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education and Development (VIDES)** raises concern at the disproportionate impact of climate change on people living in poverty. As organisations working with young people in vulnerable communities, VIDES sees every day how the lack of social protection exacerbates the effects of climate change on the lives of children and youth. In many communities, the consequences of climate change, such as floods, droughts, and landslides, are forcing families into deeper poverty, thus leading to displacement, school dropouts, and child labour. The lack of adequate social protection turns every climate shock into a silent emergency for the most vulnerable. Stressing that social protection should not be a privilege nor an emergency measure, but it is a right and a resilience tool against the climate crisis, VIDES calls on states to:

- Establish right-based protection floors that prioritise children and youth, based on the systematic mainstreaming of their rights, including through existing UN human rights mechanisms, such as the UPR and the treaty bodies.
- Ensure climate finance effectively reaches the poorest communities, especially to strengthen essential services like education and health care.
- Invest in protection systems that allow children and youth to continue education, even during crisis.
- Create an environment where creative solutions by young people can thrive and ensure youth participation in designing climate-adaptive social protection policies.

The **Chinese Association for International Understanding** points out that among the world's 8 billion people, 700 million still live in extreme poverty, less than US\$2.15 per person per day, among whom two-thirds reside in sub-Saharan Africa. In 2020, China first achieved SDG 1 ahead of the US schedule, lifting 80% of global population out of extreme poverty, and have been assisting the others to fulfil that goal through success cooperation. Social actors of China contributed a lot in this process. Since 2011, China Agricultural University (CAU) enabled thousands of households in Morogoro region, Tanzania, in East Africa to increase maize yields and farmers' income effectively by selecting appropriate technologies and a merit-based management system. The initiative was awarded as Small Technology Big Harvest Best Practise by the UN. While going global, CAU also brings in African friends to China. In villages in Xishuangbanna, Yunnan province, they try to restructure diverse substitutive livelihoods to increase agricultural resilience by promoting maize-soybean intercropping, a small-beans big nutrition project improving the health for women and children was carried out.

FIAN International strongly supports the SR's call for a shift from fragmented humanitarian aid to comprehensive, right-based social protection systems. FIAN highlights the specific situation of Indigenous peoples in the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh, who are disproportionately affected by environmental degradation caused by corporate and military activities. For example, the ongoing Border Road Project of the Bangladesh Army severely threatens biodiversity and sacred sites. Deep-rooted historical injustices, systemic marginalisation, lack of political representation and devaluation of rights heighten Indigenous peoples' exposure to climate-

induced disaster, impacting their livelihoods, health and traditional practises. One striking example is the Bang community, of which half of the population has been displaced. More than 100 Bang, including women and children, are incarcerated. Due to restrictions on agriculture, trade and movement, they have been pushed into a famine. So right-based and adequately financed social protection systems are essential to protect such communities. Yet, in practise, Indigenous people in Bangladesh continue to face discrimination in accessing public support. Their access to justice, the ability to claim their rights, their recognition as indigenous peoples and the establishment of non-discriminatory social protection systems must be urgently addressed.

Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS) notes that in Argentina, national government policy changes are affecting access to rights with a particular impact on the most vulnerable sectors. The income in key sectors are not sufficient to cover the bare minimum. Neither wages nor pensions prevent poverty. An increasing number of people have to get into debt to pay for basic services, including their food. The largest paediatric hospital and the main hospital for mental health and addictions are being underfunded. This jeopardises the health of children and those suffering from mental health diseases. Furthermore, 800,000 older people are no longer having their medication covered by national insurance. Of the 50 policies that were in force, only four remain standing. This weakens the structures at regional levels, which were playing a key role in particular for women who were undertaking daily tasks. Furthermore, the state is transferring resources to privileged sectors to lower the tax rate and decrease the tax burden on more privileged and productive sectors. CELS requests the SR and international community monitor the brutal cuts that are affecting human rights, while reminding the Argentine state of its international obligations, with particular attention to the principle of non-regression.

The **Colombian Commission of Jurists** praises the SR's visit to Colombia. While noting a reduction in general poverty, Colombia continues to be one of the most unequal countries in the world. One of the regions most affected by the conflict coincide with those suffering from the greatest poverty. A large number of the population still live in poverty and the peace agreement prioritises the connection with the end of the conflict to mechanisms undertaken to close socio-economic gaps. The report highlights that the persistence of violence seriously jeopardises the elimination of poverty. It prevents the provision of services in areas controlled by armed groups, preventing access to health education or assistance. Confronted with the lack of opportunity, children are easy targets for forced recruitment and peasants are bogged down in the processing and trafficking of drugs for the lack of viable economic alternatives. The SR says that the restoration of land and access to land titles should be a priority, quite rightly, but land titles are not a panacea. In order for them to work, it is important that the Colombian authorities take measures to ensure compliance with rulings to restore lands. The Commission agrees with you that to build peace, the greatest challenge is to break the vicious cycle of poverty.

Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII (APG 23) welcomes the SR's report, underlining the government's failure to deliver on the commitments to climate change mitigation while ODA is cut and military spending is increased. The double injustice hanging over people in poverty in the context of climate change is worsened by the lack of universal social protection first and the still ineffective channelling of international climate finance, which hardly reached the most affected and in need of relief. It is therefore imperative to address the structural drivers of this



injustice, such as the unsustainable economic model led by the growthist paradigm, the unbalanced global governance and the neo-colonial patterns of natural resources exploitation and climate change burden sharing. APG23 strongly agrees on identifying international solidarity as the primary response to the collective failure in facing climate change and its social consequences, that the most vulnerable and the less responsible for it are paying for all. APG23 endorses the SR's call to sharply increase efforts to close the huge gaps in protecting people in poverty, from the exposure and vulnerability to climate shocks. In this regard, it is crucial to shift from reactive to preventive solidarity approaches and to grant in human rights any climate adaptation and social protection measures and their financing mechanisms.

Sambhali Trust recalls that poverty is not merely a lack of income, but a denial of dignity, equality, and access to basic human rights. It perpetuates inequality and obstructs marginalised communities from accessing health care, education, social security, and justice. Sambhali Trust works to empower LGBTQI+ marginalised women and children who are often the most affected by poverty and social exclusion. With community-based programmes, women's empowerment and micro-entrepreneurship initiatives, Sambhali Trust provides free education, vocational skills training, helping vulnerable people secure livelihoods, gain financial independence, and break the cycle of poverty within their families and communities. Until now, Sambhali Trust has changed the lives of more than 75,000 people through its grassroots efforts. India also plays a pivotal role through national schemes like the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, the Pradhan Mantri Abas Yojana for Housing, and Direct Benefit Transfer for Social Welfare. Sambhali Trust urges the UN to include inclusive capacity-building programmes, accessible funding opportunities, and platforms that amplify the voices of those living in poverty by directly involving affected communities in the design, implementation, and evaluation of poverty reduction policies. We can ensure solutions are equitable, sustainable, and uphold the dignity and rights of all.

FACTS & FIGURES ON ID PARTICIPATION

43 State Delegations

4 Inter-Governmental Organizations and UN Entities

1 National Human Rights Institution

10 Non-Governmental Organizations