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Statement submitted by organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council *

The Secretary-General has received the following statements, which are being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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2. ACT Alliance-Action by Churches Together, Anglican Consultative Council, Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches, Lutheran World Federation, Presbyterian Church (USA), United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society
3. Adolescent Health and Information Projects, European Health Psychology Society, Institute for Multicultural Counseling and Education Services, Inc., International Committee For Peace And Reconciliation, International Council of Psychologists, International Federation of Business

* The present statements are issued without formal editing.

¹ The joint statements are presented first, followed by individual statements.

and Professional Women, International Federation on Ageing, International Union of Psychological Science, Manhattan Multicultural Counseling, Inc., Murna Foundation, National Alliance of Women's Organization, UK, Sisters of Charity Federation, Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues, Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology, World Council for Psychotherapy, World Organization for Early Childhood Education

4. American Psychological Association, International Association of Applied Psychology
5. Associated Country Women of the World, Casa Generalizia della Societa del Sacro Cuore, Conseil international des organisations de festivals de folklore ed d'arts traditionnels, Institute of Cultural Affairs International, Mother's Union, National Alliance of Women's Organizations, Northern Ireland Women's European Platform, Solar Cookers International, Soroptimist International, Soroptimist International Great Britain and Ireland (SIGBI) Limited, Women for Water Partnership
6. Association of Commonwealth Universities, International Association of Universities
7. Association pour l'Intégration et le Développement Durable au Burundi, Union des peuples autochtones pour le réveil au développement
8. CESVI NGO, COOPI - Cooperazione Internazionale, INTERSOS - Humanitarian Aid Organization
9. Christian Blind Mission, Disabled Peoples' International, International Disability Alliance, World Blind Union
10. COBASE - Cooperativa Tecnico Scientifica di Base, Gherush92 - Committee for Human Rights
11. FIA Foundation for the Automobile and Society, Global Alliance of NGOs for Road Safety, Stichting Youth for Road Safety (Yours)
12. Kuentai Non-Profit Organization, Kuentai USA
13. Ligue pour la solidarité congolaise, Pleaders of Children and Elderly People at Risk "PEPAINGO"
14. Plan International, Inc., Save The Children, SOS Children's Villages, World Vision International
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35. Ankara Foundation of Children with Leukemia
36. Apostle Padi Ologo Traditional Birth Centre
37. Arab Lawyers Union

38. Architects for Peace Inc.
39. Art of Living Foundation & International Association for Human Values
40. Asia Initiatives Inc
41. Asian Consultancy on Tobacco Control Limited
42. Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW)
43. Assembly of First Nations - National Indian Brotherhood
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58. Association Of Professional Social Workers And Development Practitioners
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60. Association of United Families International
61. Association pour la Diffusion des Droits Humains aux Peuples Autochtones (Humanitarian Law Agency)
62. Association pour une jeunesse africaine progressiste
63. Association-Santé-Education-Démocratie (ASED)
64. Associação Brasileira dos Organizadores de Festivais de Folclore e Artes Populares
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67. Asociacion Cubana de las Naciones Unidas (Cuban United Nations Association)
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72. Bangladesh Mahila Parishad
73. Banjara Seva Samithi
74. Barzani Charity Foundation / BCF
75. Bäuerliche Erzeugergemeinschaft Schwäbisch Hall w.V.
76. Biedriĭba "Donum Animus"
77. Brain Sluice Africa Child's
78. Cámara de Instituciones de Diagnóstico Médico (CA.DI.ME)
79. Campanha Latino-Americana pelo Direito à Educação - CLADE Brasil
80. Canadian Network for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health / Réseau Canadien sur la Santé des Mères, des Nouveau-Nés et des Enfants
81. Caritas Internationalis (International Confederation of Catholic Charities)
82. Celtic League
83. Center for Convention on Democratic Integrity Ltd / Gte
84. Centre Africain de Recherche Industrielle (C.A.R.I.)
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86. Centre Europe - Tiers monde
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88. Centre for Health Science and Law (CHSL)
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92. Centro Internazionale Sindacale per la Cooperazione allo Sviluppo (CISCOS-UGL)
93. Centro UNESCO de Donostia-San Sebastián
94. C-Fam, Inc.
95. CGFNS International, Inc.
96. Children Education and Social Welfare Society
97. "Children of the World" - Regional Public Charitable Fund of Assistance to Cultural and Sports Development of Children and Young
98. China Charity Alliance
99. Chinese American Parent-Student Council of New York City Inc.
100. Christian Children's Fund
101. Christian Conference of Asia
102. CIBJO - The World Jewellery Confederation
103. CLAN (Caring & Living as Neighbours) Incorporated
104. CLIPSAS
105. Comisión para la Investigación de Malos Tratos a las Mujeres
106. Commission on Voluntary Service and Action Inc.
107. Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative
108. Community Systems Foundation
109. Compass Housing Services Co Ltd
110. Compassion Soul Winners Outreach International
111. Confédération des organisations familiales de l'Union européenne
112. Confederation of Indian Healthcare Foundation (CIHF)
113. Confederazione Generale Italiana del Lavoro - General Italian Confederation of Labour
114. Conglomeration of Bengal's Hotel Owners
115. Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd
116. Congressional Black Caucus Political Education & Leadership Institute
117. Convention of Independent Financial Advisors
118. Coptic Orphans Support Association
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134. Emmaus International Association
135. Enable India
136. End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes,
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137. Energy Vision

138. Engender
139. Entrepreneurship Development and Support Initiative
140. Environmental Development Action in the Third World
141. Ethiopia Africa Black International Congress Church of Salvation
142. Euro Atlantic Diplomacy Society Association
143. Europe Business Assembly Limited
144. European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO)
145. European Union Association in the United States
146. EURORDIS European Organisation for Rare Diseases
147. Family Planning NSW
148. Farasooye Taaly Institute
149. Federación de Mujeres Progresistas
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151. BPW Spain (Federacion Internacional De Empresarias BPW Spain)
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176. Fundacion para Estudio Investigacion de la Mujer
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178. Fundacion Pro Humanae Vitae
179. Fundación SES (Sustentabilidad, Educación, Solidaridad)
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181. Fundación Ronda
182. Gain International
183. Global Campaign for Education
184. Global Civil Initiatives, Inc.
185. Global Forum for Media Development
186. Global Forum on Human Settlements
187. Global Health Council
188. Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
189. Global NeuroCare
190. Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption

191. Global Utmaning
192. Global Vision India Foundation
193. Global Voices
194. Globethics.net Foundation
195. Govardhan EcoVillage
196. Graduate Women International (GWI)
197. Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Council of North and South America
198. Habitat International Coalition
199. HaritaDhara Research Development and Education Foundation
200. Heal The Planet Global Organisation - HTP
201. Heavenly Shower of Peace Church of God
202. Hellenic Association of Political Scientists
203. Hellenic Research and Educational Institute "Panos Mylonas" for the Road Safety and the Prevention/Reduction of Traffic Accidents
204. Helpline Foundation for the Needy, Abuja
205. High Atlas Foundation
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207. Human Impacts Institute, Inc.
208. Human Rights Association for Community Development in Assiut
209. Humanitarian Ambassadors NGO
210. IBON. International Foundation Inc.
211. IDP Foundation, Inc.
212. Il Cenáculo
213. Imamia Medics International
214. Independent Noncommercial Organization Road Safety Promotion Centre – Movement for Safe Traffic
215. India Water Foundation
216. Initiative: Eau
217. Intercontinental Network for the Promotion of the Social Solidarity Economy
218. International Academy of Environmental Sanitation and Public Health
219. International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness
220. International Alliance of Patients' Organizations
221. International Alliance of Women
222. International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience, association sans but lucratif
223. International Association of University Professors and Lecturers
224. International Charitable Initiative for Girl Child and Women Development Foundation
225. International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment
226. International Council of Nurses
227. International Council Supporting Fair Trial and Human Rights
228. International Dental Federation
229. International Federation for Family Development
230. International Federation of Associations of the Elderly
231. International Federation of Medical Students' Associations
232. International Federation of Psoriasis Associations
233. International Mayor Communication Centre Limited
234. International Movement for Advancement of Education Culture Social and Economic Development
235. International Organisation of Employers (IOE)
236. International Organization of Automobile Manufacturers
237. International Prison Chaplains' Association
238. International Public Relations Association (IPRA)
239. International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance

240. International Real Estate Federation
241. International Shinto Foundation (ISF)
242. International Society for the Study of Trauma and Dissociation
243. International Women's Year Liaison Group
244. Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers
245. Institute for Planetary Synthesis
246. Institute for Security and Safety GmbH
247. Investment Migration Council
248. Irene Menakaya School Onitsha
249. Israel Trauma Coalition for Response and Preparedness (R.A.)
250. J'ai Rêvé Foundation
251. Japan Center for a Sustainable Environment and Society
252. Japan Federation of Democratic Medical Institutions (MIN-IREN)
253. KARP
254. Kathak Academy
255. Khair al Kuwait Charity Organization
256. Khubaib Foundation
257. Korea NGO Council for Overseas Development Cooperation
258. Kriyanand UNESCO Club Jamshedpur
259. Kuwaiti Society for Autism
260. La Manif Pour Tous
261. Ladli Foundation Trust
262. Leadership Initiative for Transformation & Empowerment
263. Legion of Good Will
264. LICHT FÜR DIE WELT - Christoffel Entwicklungszusammenarbeit
265. Lion Damien Club
266. Make Mothers Matter
267. Managing Committee of Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences
268. Martial Arts Academy
269. Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic, Inc.
270. Migrant Offshore Aid Station Foundation (MOAS)
271. MIROSLAVA International Alliance
272. Miss Caricom Int'l. Foundation CIP, INC
273. Moorish Holy Temple of Science / Moorish Science Temple
274. Mosaic
275. Movimento Italiano Casalinghe
276. Musawah Global Vision Berhad
277. National Association of Women Entrepreneurs
278. Nesakkarangal Charitable Trust
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281. Nobel Laurate Mother Teresa Charitable Trust
282. Nor Luyce Mentoring Center for Youth
283. Northern Ireland Women's European Platform
284. OneMama Incorporated
285. Organisation Mondiale des associations pour l'éducation prénatale
286. Organização Nova Acrópole Lago Norte
287. Osdife Osservatorio sulla Sicurezza e Difesa CBRNe
288. Osservatorio per la Comunicazione Culturale e l'Audiovisivo nel Mediterraneo e nel Mondo
289. OutRight Action International
290. Pan Pacific and South East Asia Women's Association
291. Panoramic Charity Foundation
292. Partenariat français pour l'eau (PFE)

293. Passionists International
294. Paz y Cooperación
295. Peacebuilding Solutions
296. PeaceTrees Vietnam
297. People's Cultural Centre
298. Pirate Parties International Headquarters
299. Poka Healthcare Foundation
300. Pos Keadilan Peduli Ummat
301. Pragya
302. Project 1948 Foundation
303. Public Organization "Public Advocacy"
304. Qatar Foundation for Social Work
305. Ramola Bhar Charitable Trust
306. Red Dot Foundation
307. Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary
308. RENTAS - Rede Nacional De Combate Ao Trafico De Animais Silvestres
309. Restoration World Outreach Ministries
310. Roshd Foundation
311. Sacro Militare Ordine Costantiniano di San Giorgio
312. Saint Petersburg Institute of Bioregulation and Gerontology of the North-Western Branch of the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences
313. Salesian Missions, Inc.
314. Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled
315. Saudi Green Building Forum
316. Sense International, India
317. Settlement Services International Incorporated
318. Shuchona Foundation
319. Sikh Human Rights Group
320. Sister to Sister One in the Spirit Inc
321. Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
322. Smile Foundation
323. S. M. Sehgal Foundation (India)
324. Social Development International (SDI)
325. Society for Economic Empowerment and Entrepreneurship Development
326. Society to Support Children Suffering from Cancer (MAHAK)
327. Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem (OSMTH)
328. Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust
329. Stevenson Holistic Care Foundation
330. Stichting Soham Baba Mission
331. Stiftelsen Stockholm International Water Institute
332. Stroke Association SupportNetwork – Ghana
333. Structural Analysis of Cultural Systems
334. Sulabh International
335. Sulabh International Centre for Action Sociology
336. SWASTI
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338. The Born Free Foundation Limited
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343. The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales
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345. The Next Century Foundation
346. The Sant Nirankari Mandal, Delhi
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365. US Committee for Human Rights in North Korea
366. VAAGDHARA
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368. Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund, Inc.
369. Voice of Change International
370. Win the War! Against Violence
371. Women@TheTable
372. Women and Development Association in Alexandria
373. Women's Board Educational Cooperation Society
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375. Women's Health and Education Center
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377. Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO) Limited
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379. Women's Spirit (Ruach Nashit) – Financial Independence for Women Survivors of Violence
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383. World Association for Christian Communication
384. World Family Organization
385. World For World Organization
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388. World Roma Federation Inc.
389. World Society of Victimology
390. World Woman's Christian Temperance Union Inc.
391. Yakutia - Our Opinion
392. Yayasan Pendidikan Indonesia
393. Youth Bridge Foundation
394. Youth of European Nationalities
395. Zomi Innkuan USA Inc.
396. Zonta International

1. **Abshar Atefeha Charity Institute, Chant du Guépard dans le Désert, Charitable Institute for Protecting Social Victims, The, Disability Association of Tavana, Ertegha Keyfiat Zendegi Iranian Charitable Institute, Iranian Thalassemia Society, Family Health Association of Iran, Iran Autism Association, Jameh Ehyagaran Teb Sonnati Va Salamat Iranian, Maryam Ghasemi Educational Charity Institute, Network of Women's Non-governmental Organizations in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, Peivande Gole Narges Organization, Rahbord Peimayesh Research & Educational Services Cooperative, Society for Protection of Street & Working Children, Society of Iranian Women Advocating Sustainable Development of Environment, The Association of Citizens Civil Rights Protection "Manshour-e Parseh"**

Round the world, most economies have suffered the severe adverse consequences of the pandemic which has undermined progress toward all development goals. So rebuilding the economic systems is an integral part of the process of Covid-19 recovery.

In the wake of the pandemic, States' policies centered on the reduction of cross border co-operation and focusing on the internal, national response to the unexpected health crisis. However, at the moment, there is a greater need for strengthening international cooperation, so that there will be more opportunities for rebuilding damaged economies and no country or person is left behind in the process of Covid-19 recovery.

Without concerted international cooperation, there is the risk of facing a global, so-called, K-shaped recovery, in which some countries recover faster than the others, resulting in more inequalities and discriminations in contradiction to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

We encourage all countries invest more in the promotion of international partnerships and collaboration in the phase of post-Covid recovery in order to create more opportunities for realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

We would also like to reiterate on the fact that the existing Sustainable Development obstacles such as economic sanctions and unilateral coercive measures need urgent attention because they increase the divide among affected economies in the process of Covid-19 recovery, and magnifies the adverse impact of the pandemic on all aspects of development. So, we urge the international community and the UN experts, working on the SDGs, to seek solutions to such complexities as unilateral measures and offer the affected societies with expert advice on how to deal with the multi layered complications caused by sanctions.

2. ACT Alliance-Action by Churches Together, Anglican Consultative Council, Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches, Lutheran World Federation, Presbyterian Church (USA), United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society

As networks of churches and Christian faith-based organizations with a global membership present in over 165 countries, working for decades in humanitarian response, human rights-based development and interfaith cooperation, we support the vision and aspirations of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2030. Our faith inspires us to work to address the needs of all people, particularly those that are most marginalized, honoring the fullness of humanity, and our work ensures that no one is left behind.

Our networks extend into some of the most remote areas-areas that are often out of the institutional reach of national and local governments, making us critical partners for governments and multilateral institutions. Our work is to ensure that no one is left behind

We have first-hand experience with the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has on local communities, undermining years of development, exposing pernicious inequalities and disproportionately affecting women and girls and marginalized groups already disadvantaged by deeply rooted discriminatory social, economic and political systems. We welcome the opportunity to offer comments and recommendations for consideration in relation to theme of this year's High Level Political Forum. As faith-based actors playing a critical role in promoting resilient communities and just global systems and structures, we raise the following particular issues.

SDG 5: Gender-responsive policies and ending Gender Based Violence

We welcome the inclusion of the additional section on 'other priority issues' in the final outline for the Ministerial Declaration, that serves to address 'cross-cutting issues'. This is particularly important to ensure that there is full and consistent consideration of the differential experiences and impacts of policies on men and women and boys and girls. We regret that Sustainable Development Goal 5 on gender equality was not included as an essential goal in relation to the focus of the High Level Political Forum, and fear that this omission will have dangerous consequences.

Women have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. There is mounting evidence, including in reports released by the United Nations and its agencies, documenting the extent to and manner in which women face increased burden of care, more severe reductions in economic opportunity, significant increase in gender-based violence and increased vulnerability to extreme poverty as a result of the pandemic. The effect on women and girls must be seriously taken into account in each of the goals to be addressed, and women must be part of the design and implementation of policies at all levels.

SDG 8: Sustained and inclusive economic growth and decent work

The COVID-19 pandemic has set off a global economic recession, exacerbating pre-existing socio-economic disparities and intensifying hunger, poverty, unemployment, and indebtedness

for billions of people. Those who are already marginalized by systemic injustice and based on their identities--gender, class, race, ethnicity or others--have been hardest hit.

The world of work has been significantly reshaped, marked by increasing precariousness and insecurity. At the same time, there is an unprecedented opportunity to create dignified employment in the transition to a more ecologically-friendly economy.

Moreover, the intersection of the global health, economic and climate crises have significantly affected states' ability to recover. These need to be understood as interconnected crises, and the multifaceted ways in which they impact sustainable growth. An inclusive, sustainable and life-affirming economy that prioritizes decent work for all is necessary now more than ever. In order to have a successful decade of action, the inequalities reinforced by the pandemic must be addressed systematically and at all levels--local, national, regional, and global.

SDG 10: Reduce Inequalities within and among countries

Essential to reducing inequalities is the need to confront racism and ensure racial justice is and should be our ecumenical contribution toward the renewal of the church. Although churches today understand racism to be a sin and its theological justification a heresy, this has not always been the case. The ecumenical family and the states in which we operate therefore need to continue addressing our history and our reality self-critically.

Responding to the interconnected crises and enabling a just and sustainable recovery entails tremendous resources. Low and middle-income countries cannot continue to prioritize external debt payments over saving people's lives and tackling the climate emergency. Governments that are overburdened by debt accumulated during the response to Covid 19 will face challenges that will long outlast the pandemic, reinforcing global inequalities, especially between and among countries. Governments must collaboratively work to reduce these inequalities without impacting humanitarian aid and assistance. Without access to vaccines the economies of low and middle-income countries will suffer, thus undermining the efforts of the Sustainable Development Goals. New and more durable ways of mobilizing resources must be found.

SDG 13: Urgent Action to combat climate change and its impacts

Nationally Determined Contributions to reduce greenhouse gases and work towards climate adaptation have fallen far short of what is required to avoid climate catastrophe. This demonstrates the urgent need for governments to strengthen their mitigation commitments under the Paris Agreement and ensure implementation. The Covid-19 pandemic has revealed that, when there is political will, there are resources to act and act promptly to avoid the worst consequences. This must be done also when it comes to reducing emissions and protecting the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. COP 26 is one of the last opportunities to fulfill the goals and aspirations in the Paris agreement. This is only done by substantial cuts of emissions and finances for those most affected by climate change.

SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies, justice for all and effective, accountable and inclusive institutions

While divisions, conflicts and violence grow in many parts of the world, Christians, churches, and Christian faith-based organizations continue to build ministries of peace and reconciliation. Churches and faith-based organizations speak out against any form of violence, and they also train front line mediators and hold community dialogues in societies fragmented by conflict.

Faith leaders often hold trusted positions in their communities and have considerable influence to shift attitudes and behaviours, sometimes where governments fail to reach. In this way, faith actors are critical partners in building sustainable peace. For example, in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, many faith leaders and faith communities have been reliable and powerful forces: sharing accurate health information, modelling healthy behaviour, advocating for measures to support the most vulnerable in society. Churches within our networks also are actively working to support peace processes and the quelling of violence in their own communities--from the Korean Peninsula to Colombia, Mozambique and Cameroon to the United States of America.

SDG 17: Critical need for a revitalized multilateralism

As faith-based institutions that have been working with the United Nations since its founding in 1948, we stand up for the integrity of the United Nations system and the importance of multilateralism and international cooperation as a vital means to resolve global injustices. Drawn both from our long-standing work in rights-based development, humanitarian response, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and economic justice as well as recent responses to the COVID19 pandemic, we call for strengthened international solidarity.

We need renewed multilateral collaboration as it is an important means for ensuring a sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. This is particularly true in the case of equitable distribution of vaccines against COVID-19 through the COVAX program for low and middle-income countries. These challenges know no borders, and therefore require global solutions. Furthermore, we acknowledge and stress the need to build an inclusive path to recovery and the decade of action for sustainable development, with multi-stakeholder participation, including civil society and gender parity, at local, national and global levels and at all stages of planning, implementation and monitoring.

We call on the international community to join us and implement the following recommendations:

- 1) Provide sufficient resources towards public health, particularly access to vaccines which is crucial to the recovery from the COVID pandemic, and social protection for all people, especially in the immediate future those who have lost their livelihoods during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 2) Cancel the external debts of low and middle-income countries.
- 3) Radically increase investments in community-based health care systems, and processes of building community resilience.
- 4) Guarantee that climate action, mitigation, and adaptation and the protection of ecosystems are sufficiently financed and that national commitments are commensurate with the level of global crisis.
- 5) Ensure all policies and implementation plans for COVID-19 pandemic response and recovery and for achieving the SDGs are gender sensitive, and to ensure parity of women in planning, implementation and monitoring mechanisms. cc

3. **Adolescent Health and Information Projects, European Health Psychology Society, Institute for Multicultural Counseling and Education Services, Inc., International Committee For Peace And Reconciliation, International Council of Psychologists, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, International Federation on Ageing, International Union of Psychological Science, Manhattan Multicultural Counseling, Inc., Murna Foundation, National Alliance of Women’s Organization, UK, Sisters of Charity Federation, Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues, Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology, World Council for Psychotherapy, World Organization for Early Childhood Education**

**Beyond the Human Rights Rhetoric on “Leaving No One Behind:”
Integrating the Elimination of Systemic Racism, and Racial and Ethnic Discrimination into the Implementation of the SDGs**

The United Nations (UN) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015), promised to fulfill human rights to equality and non-discrimination across the 17 goals, “leaving no one behind.” This statement from the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues and 16 NGO endorsers with general and special consultative status reflects our deep concern that this laudatory and visionary objective might not be achieved by 2030, unless the implementation and evaluative components of the SDGs take on an equally robust focus on eliminating systemic racial and ethnic discrimination and other human rights inequalities.

Systemic racism and racial and ethnic discrimination constitute global barriers to the fulfillment of human rights throughout the lifespan. Despite a mandate for disaggregated data within the SDGs Framework alongside a call by several UN human rights experts (e.g., the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Committee for the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination, and the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent) for action on this mandate, there is limited collection and analysis of disaggregated data regarding the consequences of racism on racial and ethnic populations.

Systemic racism and racial and ethnic discrimination are global phenomena

Despite some advances due to decades of anti-racism struggle, racial discrimination continues result in marginalization, exclusion, inequality, and oppression among people across the world. Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance are human rights violations transmitted across generations and structurally rooted in the values, beliefs, institutional and national norms and practices, and everyday behavior of individuals and groups in every society. These human rights violations serve to rationalize the hierarchical domination by a racial or ethnic group over other groups and to maintain psychological, social, political and material advantages for the dominant group, while producing cumulative adverse outcomes for oppressed and excluded groups. Groups most affected by historic and contemporary forms of systemic racism and racial and ethnic discrimination include Africans and people of African descent, Asians and people of Asian descent, Indigenous peoples, Latinx minorities, migrants, and refugees.

The killing of George Floyd, an African American, on 25 May 2020 in the custody of police in Minneapolis, Minnesota, led to the largest, most ethnically diverse civil protest across the U.S. against systemic racism since the 1960s. Due to the instantaneous outreach of social media images, the U.S. protest featuring Black Lives Matter and other advocacy groups became a massive global protest movement. Ethnically diverse crowds in the thousands marched both in solidarity with the protest in the U.S. and against racism in their own countries.

Disparities in human development due to systemic racism

Racial inequalities are evident in many developmental areas including: access to quality education, employment with living wages, justice, and physical and mental health; access to basic needs like food, safe drinking water, and housing; access to political participation, equal protection against climate disasters and health epidemics; and protection against racial profiling and police violence. In this section we highlight physical and mental health disparities. We should note health disparities based on race and ethnicity are inextricably linked to uneven social and economic progress.

Physical health disparities. Racism influences health across the life span beginning in childhood. A large meta-analysis of people identifying as minoritized racial groups around the world demonstrated a negative relationship between racism and health, in the Netherlands, Finland, Israel, Norway, the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, Spain, Portugal, New Zealand, and Barbados. Racism erodes health through a myriad of pathways, including a heightened stress-response, with adverse consequences for the cardiovascular, inflammatory, and immune systems. In the United States and Latin America, minoritized racial groups (Black, Native American and Indigenous) are more likely to get ill earlier in life, have faster disease progression and lower survival rates. Health disparities have been highlighted during the COVID-19 pandemic in which vulnerable racial and ethnic groups, who have faced intergenerational inequalities in healthcare access, experience higher rates of coronavirus infection, hospitalization, and mortality.

Psychological/mental health disparities

Research on the short and long-term psychological effects of experiencing racial discrimination in childhood in the United States and South Africa has found that children who experience racial discrimination develop perceptions of threat, fear, victimization, low self-efficacy and self-esteem, and hopelessness. Cumulative experiences such as these can result in symptoms of depression, anxiety, anger and trauma. Racial disparities are prominent in mental health treatment, affecting access to and quality of treatment. A study conducted in New Zealand found that perceived stigma from health professionals is one of the driving forces of racial disparities in physical and mental healthcare settings.

These physical and psychological health disparities are further exacerbated by racial disparities related to environmental justice and climate change. A study conducted in the United States found that African Americans are 8.5 times more likely to reside in areas that are more vulnerable to climate change compared to their White counterparts.

Human rights discrepancies within the SDGs framework

It is distressing to find that the focus on eliminating systemic racism, racial/ethnic discrimination and racial inequalities in the SDGs Framework remains peripheral to other aspects of inequality such as sex. We performed a content analysis of Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development document by comparing the frequency of various human rights-related identity-based words and phrases. We found that sex-related terms (e.g., woman, girl) are the most frequent identity terms, appearing a total of 68 times, followed by age-related terms (e.g., child, youth) appearing 42 times. In contrast, racial identity terms (e.g. race, ethnicity, indigenous) occur 14 times, 7 times in the goals and targets section. Winkler and Satterthwaite (2017) likewise report that racial and ethnic inequalities have not received the same attention as gender equality in the SDGs. We certainly support the focus on assessing SDG progress by gender. However, the lack of similar disaggregation by race or ethnicity is disquieting.

Urgent Call from Words to Deeds

In spite of 75 years of the UN's anti-racism engagement, systemic racism and racial and ethnic discrimination persist today as pervasive and destructive national and global forces.

Following the brutal murder of George Floyd, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres (4 June 2020) called for dismantling racist structures and reforming racist institutions as well as a one-year debate on racism within the United Nations Organization as interventions central to the 2030 Agenda. Subsequently, a group of more than 20 senior UN executives of African descent published a strongly worded editorial in which they expressed outrage at the pervasiveness of systemic racism and stressed the importance of going beyond “words to deeds”.

We strongly support this call consistent with the recent assertion of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent (WGEPAD, 2017) that the eradication of structural racism is key to the attainment of the SDGs as well as the advice of Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, High Commissioner for Human Rights during the intergovernmental negotiations on the SDGs, that without the inclusion of marginalized groups and minorities in the 2030 Agenda, the goal of “leaving no one behind” would not succeed.

Therefore, we offer the recommendations and endorsements which follow with the hope that, as we move forward during the Decade of Action on the SDGs by 2030, Member States, UN organs, funds and programmes, NGOs and CSOs, and the private sector will commit to implement observable and measurable policies and programmatic strategies to intensify and evaluate progress in eradicating systemic racism and racial and ethnic discrimination across the 17 SDGs. Parallel efforts should be integrated into the planning and assessment of post-COVID-19 recovery.

Recommendations

- 1) Make a genuine commitment to the “Leave no one behind” principle by assessing, developing and implementing laws, policies and programmes to mitigate systemic racism and racial and ethnic discrimination in each SDG. Such efforts should be extended to the recovery efforts and goals related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- 2) Monitor and evaluate progress on all SDGs by using indicators disaggregated by race, ethnicity, descent, national origin, indigenous identity, age, sex, income, language, religion, disability, migratory status, geographic location, and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.
- 3) With the leadership of the UN Statistical Commission, invest urgently in increasing significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable SDGs data disaggregated by race, ethnicity, descent, national origin, indigenous identity, age, sex, income, language, religion, disability, migratory status, geographic location, and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.
- 4) Develop partnerships for enhancing technical capacity-building support in developing countries for generating disaggregated data and statistics, consistent with SDG 17, initial Target 17.18.
- 5) Include in Member States Voluntary National Reviews, developed to assess progress on the SDGs, indicators and data from the existing mechanisms for monitoring compliance with human rights standards, especially compliance with the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), the Convention on the Eliminations of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CERD), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and the Universal Periodic Reviews (UPR) of the Human Rights Council.
- 6) Speed up urgent contributions to the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024), by Member States and all stakeholders in support of the theme “Recognition, Justice, and Development,” through strong, concrete actions to fulfill the economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights of people of African Descent through the SDGs.
- 7) Enhance strength of national dedication to human rights for all by ratifying and beginning the implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination by 2022, by Member States who have not yet done so.
- 8) Member States should “make the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action a central pillar of human rights education and implementation...combating all forms of racism...,” in their implementation of the SDGs, as strongly urged by the recent statement of Ms. Tendayi Achiume, UN Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent (23 March 2020).
- 9) Given the multiple factors that interact to influence human development, use different categories of group disaggregated data to discover and address developmental risks associated with different intersecting forms of group identity or oppression; for example: race/ethnicity x sex/gender x income; race/ethnicity x sex/gender x age; race/ethnicity x age x migration status; and other combinations of social group identities or forms of oppression.
- 10) Support genuine and effective partnerships by Member States and UN organs, funds, and programmes with non-governmental and civil society organizations and the private sectors to create and maintain strong and meaningful collaboration in addressing and evaluating systemic racism and racial and ethnic discrimination through the 17 SDGs, consistent with the theme of the 75th Anniversary of the UN.

4. American Psychological Association, International Association of Applied Psychology

We call for the inclusion of psychological science and practice in governmental policies for countries to “build back better” from COVID-19 and advance the Sustainable Development Agenda by prioritizing health equity. Specifically, it is crucial to address the combined aspirations of Sustainable Development Goals 10, to reduce inequality within and between nations, and 3, to ensure healthy lives and well-being.

Health equity is defined as assuring the conditions for all populations to achieve their best possible health, including eliminating preventable differences in the burden of disease, injury, or violence, and promoting conditions to achieve optimal health. The promotion of equity is essential to achieve the rights of all to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, recognized in the Secretary-General’s Policy Brief on COVID-19 and Mental Health, the updated Global Humanitarian Response Plan, the World Health Organization Constitution, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Reference Group on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), and the Political Declaration for Universal Health Coverage.

Psychological science and practice are vital to advancing health equity. They uncover enduring deleterious effects of poverty, racism, and stigma; promote psychosocial resilience; and offer methods to dismantle destructive practices and structures contributing to health inequities.

Marginalized populations, such as racial and ethnic minorities, refugees, women, older persons, persons with disabilities, and those living in poverty or conflict, are disproportionately vulnerable to experiencing social determinants of health that cause health disparities, such as limited access to education, employment, food, or healthcare. Health inequities are prevalent globally, with serious consequences. For example:

- Racial and ethnic minority health disparities are exacerbated in the context of COVID-19.
- In Low and Middle Income Countries, up to 85% of people with mental health conditions receive no treatment.
- Four out of five deaths of children under age five occur in sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia.
- The global economy loses more than USD\$1 trillion annually due to depression and anxiety.

To sustainably recover from COVID-19 and advance the 2030 Agenda, we call on Member States to: (1) utilize psychological science to advance health equity within a “whole of society” approach; (2) apply a health equity lens when submitting Voluntary National Reviews; (3) reference “psychosocial resilience” in efforts to achieve holistic emotional, economic, and environmental recovery; (4) increase financial and other investments to provide MHPSS in communities everywhere; (5) ensure fair and equitable distribution of vaccines and other resources to de-escalate fears and distrust; (6) apply evidence-based technological tools to increase access to healthcare; and (7) partner with the psychological community, consistent with Sustainable Development Goal 17, to “leave no one behind.”

5. Associated Country Women of the World, Casa Generalizia della Societa del Sacro Cuore, Conseil international des organisations de festivals de folklore et d'arts traditionnels, Institute of Cultural Affairs International, Mother's Union, National Alliance of Women's Organizations, Northern Ireland Women's European Platform, Solar Cookers International, Soroptimist International, Soroptimist International Great Britain and Ireland (SIGBI) Limited, Women for Water Partnership

The Associated Country Women of the World along with Casa Generalizia della Societa del Sacro Cuore, the Conseil International des Organisations de Festivals de Folklore ed d'Arts Traditionnels, Institute of Cultural Affairs International, Mothers' Union, National Association of Women's Organizations, Northern Ireland Women's European Platform, Solar Cookers International, Soroptimist International, Soroptimist International Great Britain and Ireland and the Women for Water Partnership, believe that we are at a critical juncture in our journey towards the success, or failure, of the 2030 Agenda. The COVID-19 pandemic has seen much of the progress achieved in the past 5 years falter, and in some cases take significant steps backwards. As the High-Level Political Forum convenes in 2021, we recognise that the urgency of the need for accelerated and united action from all stakeholders is amplified by the huge toll the past year has taken on global health (both physical and mental), equitable employment, social and societal security, and meaningful progress on the Sustainable Development Goals.

It is more important than ever to recognise and prioritise the links between addressing the climate emergency with the eradication of poverty and hunger, uninterrupted high quality education, gender equality, forced migration, economic growth, and peace. We are concerned that in many States the focus on nationalist, protectionist priorities not only reduces the efficacy of multinational, multilateral work towards global equity, but also weakens the chances of success for the 2030 Agenda. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted that many States have inadequate and insecure social protection systems that disadvantage and discriminate against women and girls, and that this is not limited to developing States. Access to the COVID-19 Tools Accelerator initiative has shown how quickly we can take collective action for the global good when presented with utter devastation as the only alternative. However, support for this initiative has been less than universal, and must improve.

Peace is not passive. Peace is an active effort to listen, to understand, and to collaborate. Peace is the goal, and global citizenship is the pathway. The advent of 24-hour news, lightning-fast global communication through social media, and the significant efforts of more progressive Member States give us opportunities to make a real change. The Covid-19 pandemic has, undoubtedly, shown us all how important it is that we stand together and elevate our collective humanity over the unilateral priorities of political parties or national governments. It is critical that humanitarian efforts in conflict and post-conflict situations are carried out to maximise development initiatives and ensure sustainable peace. The Women, Peace, and Security Agenda established by Security Council Resolution 1325 and following Resolutions outlines the vital need to implement gender perspectives in post-conflict processes.

The achievement of the 2030 Agenda can only be realised if we also secure global respect for the human rights of all. Whilst we so often produce lists of protected characteristics, these must never become a way of excluding others or limiting those who have their rights protected. The link

between human rights and sustainable development must be recognised as critical and innate. Realising the human rights of all women and girls is the only way to achieve Goal 5 of the 2030 Agenda and is a necessary mechanism to achieve all of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Violence against women and girls has been recognised as the Shadow Pandemic alongside COVID-19, but this is not a new problem. All Member States can and must do more to address gender-based violence. Ratification and full implementation of the Istanbul Convention must be a global priority. Violence against women includes domestic violence, but also goes far beyond the home. For example, sexual violence, trafficking, slavery, Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting, and early, child and forced marriage are significant abuses of human rights committed every day, in every country. Since the start of the pandemic, rates of gender-based violence have increased globally, and there can be no doubt that the impact on society goes far beyond the personal trauma experienced by victims and survivors.

In 2018, the General Assembly adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (A/RES/73/165). This Declaration recognised that rural communities have unique and invaluable experience and expertise to offer when considering global food security and the success of the Sustainable Development Goals. It further stresses that rural women play a significant role in their national economies, and indeed non-monetized sectors of the economy, and yet are so often denied tenure and ownership of land, equal access to productive resources and financial services, and social protection systems. They suffer disproportionate levels of violence and discrimination. Initially, the concentration of COVID-19 cases in urban centres meant that rural areas reported fewer cases, it has become clear that weaker healthcare services and social protection systems have increased the damage done by COVID-19 in rural communities. This is compounded by the ageing nature of these communities as young rural people migrate to urban areas in hope of equitable employment opportunities.

The expertise of rural communities on climate change and disaster mitigation, and their significant role in global food security, highlights opportunities to harness local knowledge and solutions to national and international challenges. For example, people who use free solar energy for cooking breathe cleaner air, drink safe water, and help preserve our environment. Nearly 3 billion people cook over wood, animal waste, or charcoal fires. They breathe in smoke and soot for hours every day, rely on expensive, unsustainable fossil fuels, and suffer a myriad of associated health conditions which limit quality of life and life expectancy. The positive impacts of solar cooking go beyond reduction in emissions. Women and children are able to spend less time gathering firewood and other materials for the home, and so are able to spend more time in education and are safer from the violence they are exposed to when travelling outside of their immediate communities.

The devastating impact of COVID-19 has illustrated just how far behind we are leaving rural communities, and that this situation is only going to get worse. The significant gender inequalities that exist globally, and specifically in rural communities must be met with the implementation of gender mainstreaming and indeed gender ‘proofing’ policies. This includes prioritising the equitable participation of women in all the activities of all public institutions, the promotion of educational initiatives to address entrenched discrimination, and the mobilisation of existing gender-responsive procedures championed by Member States like New Zealand. There is a need

for inclusive models of rural economic development, focused on the well-being and social cohesion of rural communities, whilst also ensuring preservation of an ecologically diverse and safe living environment. Isolation and human capital flight increase the risk of further exclusion of women from education, healthcare, employment, and economic empowerment.

As we examine the Sustainable Development Goals in 2021, we note that there have been achievements and this should be acknowledged. However, the road ahead is long and it is clear that many of us will not make the full journey. We stand with our sisters around the world in highlighting the current reality for diverse groups whose oppressions are just as intersecting as the conditions in which they are forced to live. No woman alive, young or old, single, married, or widowed, in the most or least developed world can be identified as suffering only one form of discrimination. The basic human rights of all, enshrined in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence are not too much to ask for women. The realisation of these basic rights should not require encouragement, congratulation, or celebration, nor should it be in doubt. The push-back against women's rights witnessed in recent years is unacceptable, and fundamentally contrary to the aims of the 2030 Agenda.

Our organisations, who work in different spheres, all believe that there is a need for States to ensure they are systematically collecting and analysing both qualitative and quantitative data, and that this is disaggregated by age, sex, gender, race, HIV status, ethnicity, disability, geographic location, migratory status, income, and other locally relevant characteristics. Without meaningful data and analysis, we cannot assess the reality of hunger, poverty, education, or any other critical indicator for measuring success of the 2030 Agenda. Statistical data alone will never tell the whole story, and we must also commit to the development of qualitative indicators which reflect the multifaceted nature of human experiences. Where States are unable to implement these data collection processes, we call for collaborative action across regional and international boundaries to increase capacity and support progress. We cannot address the intersecting discriminations faced by all women and girls until there is a realistic understanding of the scale of the problem. Women are suffering and dying every day because these discriminatory practices have not been sufficiently addressed.

Civil Society helped shape the Sustainable Development Goals, and the Agenda itself proclaims the importance of “an Agenda of the people, by the people and for the people”, calling for the establishment of global partnerships “with the participation of all countries, all stakeholders and all people”. We believe that the need for Civil Society involvement in United Nations mechanisms, and specifically the design, implementation, and monitoring of actions towards the success of the 2030 Agenda, has never been more important. We have welcomed the opportunities for Civil Society Organisations to participate in mass-access online meetings, but we must be sure to secure the physical access of Non-Governmental Organisations to meetings and mechanisms as soon as public health concerns allow. We call for the inclusion of civil society in all levels of local, national, and international policy-making and, critically, for the voices of those in marginalised groups to be protected and amplified. We further call for strengthened Civil Society participation in the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, and wider reform and updating of processes at the United Nations.

The Associated Country Women of the World is a global network of rural women's organisations representing more than nine million women living in rural and non-urban communities, and those who believe in the vital role in society. Casa Generalizia della Societa del Sacro Cuore is an international women's organisation in the Roman Catholic tradition, with 2000 members and over 65,000 alumni in over 40 countries. Conseil International des Organisations de Festivals de Folklore ed d'Arts Traditionnels works to safeguard and promote traditional culture and folklore in 120 countries globally. The Institute of Cultural Affairs International is a global community of non-profit organisations advancing human development worldwide, working in 48 countries. Mothers' Union is a Christian organisation with 4 million members in 84 countries. The National Association of Women's Organisations is an umbrella for more than 100 organisations based in the United Kingdom. The Northern Ireland Women's European Platform gives women and girls in Northern Ireland a voice at the national and international level. Solar Cookers International improves human and environmental health by supporting the expansion of effective, carbon-free solar cooking in world regions of greatest need. Soroptimist International aims to educate, empower and enable women and girls. 72,000 Soroptimists in 122 countries work with women and girls in their communities to develop and implement projects to realise their human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals. Soroptimist International Great Britain and Ireland is one of the Federations of Soroptimist International, with 6,000 members in 18 countries across the Indian Subcontinent, the Caribbean, and Europe, working to support the objectives of Soroptimist International. The Women for Water Partnership represents a unique partnership of 28 women's organisations and networks, uniting women leaders in more than 100 countries worldwide.

Though each of our organisations represent different stakeholders across the world, we are united in our calls for action. We present this statement in good faith, in a positive and collaborative mindset, and with the intention of encouraging creative collaboration with Member States, United Nations mechanisms, and other agencies and entities globally.

6. Association of Commonwealth Universities, International Association of Universities

UN SG António Guterres has praised the work of universities as “essential to our success” in addressing climate change. As the three global university networks, together representing over 2,000 institutions in over 200 countries, we assert that none of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can be achieved without the contribution of higher education (HEd) and research. Through research, universities play a unique role in producing new knowledge and innovation to address global challenges, providing evidence for informed public policy. Through teaching, universities develop generations of new leaders and skilled professionals who will drive social and economic development. Through community engagement, universities work with a rich variety of stakeholders – including governments, the private sector, and civil society – for local, national, and global impact.

During the pandemic, universities have demonstrated their value to society - advising politicians on coordinating national responses, in the media helping citizens to understand the impacts on all aspects of our lives; and, of course, in the labs developing in record time the medical response to protect against the virus, demonstrating the incredible benefits of international scientific collaboration. However the World Bank recognises that the tertiary education system is in deep crisis, with around 220 million tertiary education students impacted at the peak by closures of campuses globally.

There is an urgent need to get children back into school and learning following the impact of the global pandemic, and our coalition fully supports calls to address the education finance gap. However, this must be achieved through a “whole sector” approach, and not at the expense of education. HEd is an essential component of a strong and sustainable education system, strengthening education policy and practice at all levels, by training teachers and through educational research.

Even before the pandemic, access to quality higher education was a significant issue fostering inequalities.

We are therefore working with our members, and call on the wider higher education sector, to:

- Act to provide equitable access to quality HEd for all, raising levels of attainment as well as access;
- Adopt policies and practices which maximise their contribution to the SDGs across teaching, research, community engagement, as well as through their own operations;
- Incorporate education about and for sustainable development into undergraduate curricula, in support of SDG Target 4.7.

We ask National governments to:

- Take concerted action on and deliver well-planned long-term financial investment in SDG4 as a whole, in line with commitments made at the Extraordinary Session of the UNESCO Global Education Meeting in October 2020;
- Adopt a whole sector approach to the development of strong, equitable, quality education systems, recognising the contribution of higher education to SDG 4;
- Engage universities as partners for national development across all 17 SDGs.

The UN and its agencies to:

- Respond to the need for strong HEd systems globally to achieve SDG4, supporting initiatives to address the funding gap;
- Recognise the contribution of HEd to all 17 SDGs;
- Provide platforms to engage the HEd sector as partners for development, building on the Higher Education Sustainability Initiative and UN Academic Impact Initiative and translating it at global level through the ACU, AUF and IAU work on HESD.

7. Association pour l'Intégration et le Développement Durable au Burundi, Union des peuples autochtones pour le réveil au développement

The statement of indigenous forum called "Association pour Intégration et le Développement Durable au Burundi" and organizations called " Union des Peuples autochtones pour le Réveil au Développement", is focused on three points such as indigenous peoples' social, economic and environmental issues, which are increased because of the COVID 's impacts, commitment of international community and governments to take into account the indigenous peoples' recommendations and statements, the lack of incorporation of this community in the decision processes of COVID-19' s response, finally, setting up of the mechanism based on improvement of the social, economic and environmental conditions for indigenous peoples.

Indigenous peoples from a long time were experiencing the various problems related to the discrimination committed at their amid in the decision-making bodies. Then, the ramifications are amplified and justified by the lack of income for health care, scolarisation, etc. Also, the access to the land, territories and resources are the causes of their extreme poverty that constitutes the barriers to the sanitarial infrastructure. The COVID-19' s pandemic, which is devastating the human being in the world, reinforce negatively and meangfully the indigenous peoples' social, economic and environmental conditions, that affect their lifestyle. We point out also, the limitation of their works in the hunting, fishing, potting has happened in the indigenous community, which causes an extreme poverty and the unavailability of means to afford the materials contributing to reverse the COVID-19' s pandemic as others.

Regard to the international community and governments, indigenous peoples' have the huge opportunities to attend the several United Nations sessions in accordance with the Declaration of United Nations of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, but the outcomes are not implemented in the United Nations agencies and governments to be engaged with indigenous peoples and their organizations to tackle together the challenges related to the COVID-19' s pandemic.

Therefore, as recommendations, it is very crucial to create the specific funds to resolve indigenous peoples' issues and to strengthen the partnership with indigenous peoples throughout their organizations. To plan the specific program aligned to the strategic planning of indigenous peoples' organizations is the corner stone for overcoming from the ramifications of COVID 19' s pandemic. The governments are interpellated to commit the efforts for effective development to recovery the indigenous peoples' solution in the social, economic and environment dimension.

8. Cesvi Fondazione, Cooperazione Internazionale, INTERSOS Humanitarian Aid Organization

Funding the international cooperation for sustainable development suffers from further sustainability issues and it is worsening because of the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic. The technical assistance to investments, so indispensable for sustainable development, including the Official Development Assistance grants for blended finance, can be re-launched in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, during the current G20 Italian Presidency as the expansion of the Debt Service Suspension Initiative decided by the G20 and in line with the Common Framework for debt treatments beyond the Debt Service Suspension Initiative.

The aim is to help towards Sustainable Development Goals achievements the most vulnerable countries facing economic crisis caused by the pandemic that amplifies the existing structural limitations of poverty and to accelerate medium and long-term sustainable investment in resilient infrastructure and services for sustainable development, through public investment and incentives for the private sector. Promoting investments, especially in developing countries with high demographic potential such as on the African continent, could boost economic growth, promote global trade, provide basic services and generate employment. Hence, debt relief and restructuring will be needed to avoid widespread defaults and to facilitate investments in recovery aimed at the Sustainable Development Goals.

RELEASE G20 initiative calls for the partial or total debt reduction with the creation by the debtor country of a counterpart Sustainable Development Goals Fund in local currency, nominally equal to the value of the reduction net of capital (future interest would be automatically declared as a rebate). The aims of the Fund should in principle be bound to make investments in local currency aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals and present quantitative impacts in terms of targets. These investments can be co-financed by the Fund or it can serve as a guarantee fund for leverage on other funds and investors mainly for private investments and with the overall goal to create employment.

The Sustainable Development Goals Fund managed at governmental level, country by country, should be equipped with a defined monitoring and control mechanism such as the transparency and accountability are ensured. Alongside the financial monitoring to be embedded in the fund structure and involving the original creditors, International Monetary Fund and World Bank, there must be Sustainable Development Goals monitoring and reporting (aligned with that of the country) with the aim to appraise ex-ante the investments and give them an informed Sustainable Development Goals compliance opinion.

Debt conversion may be gradual in order to increase the leverage the impact in phase with the country's policy shaping and should be paralleled by the adaptation of Official Development Assistance through blending to ensure economic growth, create decent jobs and achieve higher level of sustainability.

9. Christian Blind Mission, Disabled Peoples' International, International Disability Alliance, World Blind Union

Many member states here have signed and ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. States parties commit to non-discrimination of persons with disabilities; to persons with disabilities' right to active participation in all matters relating to them; to the right to health; the right to work; and the right to access to justice, among others.

The Covid-19 pandemic has laid bare how far we are from realizing these rights. And put us so much farther behind in implementation of these goals in the framework of 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind.

We are sharing here our assessment of the situation regarding the principle of “ensuring that no one is left behind” against the background of the Covid-19 pandemic in achieving the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

First, data on persons with disabilities in the context of the pandemic is sparse. The availability of disaggregated and reliable data on how many persons with disabilities have been affected by Covid-19 at all levels will support inclusive policies and programs responding to Covid-19. This data is crucial to building resilience and an inclusive society during the pandemic. Its absence hinders successful policy-making.

We share here what we know from a few of the studies that have been conducted so far. Much more wide-scale efforts to include persons with disabilities across society are necessary.

Persons with disabilities are disproportionately and negatively affected by the Covid-19 pandemic as well as the healthcare systems and policies that have been implemented by governments, sending the world further off-course for Goal 3. A study in England and Wales from 2 March to 14 July 2020 compared the risk of Covid-19 related death according to a person's disability status on a 2011 census. This study showed that persons with disabilities as defined by the census made up almost 6 out of 10 deaths involving Covid-19 during that time period; women with disabilities' Covid-19 mortality rate was about 2.4 times that of women without disabilities; and men with disabilities had a Covid-19 related mortality rate 2 times higher than men without a disability.

Data has shown that persons with disabilities were at greater risk of death due to Covid-19 than persons without disabilities. The rates are even higher among the population of persons with intellectual disabilities. Older persons with disabilities, and persons living in institutions and congregated settings have been highly impacted by the pandemic. While before the pandemic, it was already known that these kinds of facilities are harmful and not human rights-compliant, the pandemic has amplified the situation and shed light on the conditions and impact of such facilities.

Moreover, while expert committees were created in many countries to reflect responses, persons with disabilities and their representative organizations were often excluded from participating in these discussions.

Overwhelmingly, there is lack of access to information for persons with disabilities related to Covid-19. This included lack of information in native sign languages, Braille, easy-to-read and other alternative formats. In some places, information did not reach communities in rural and remote settings, which impacted indigenous peoples, refugees, and persons in institutions, impacting older persons and persons with disabilities in these communities.

Some pandemic triage and other protocols have specific decision-making criteria that use “probable clinical outcome- the likelihood that the treatment will save the life of a person who would otherwise not recover.” Both “bioethics and medical ethics have dismal track records for oversimplifying the diversity hidden under the label of disability.” Under the Siracusa Principles, categorical discrimination is always prohibited, even in times of crisis.

Many organizations of persons with disabilities and their allies have fought against discriminatory policies. But it hasn’t come easily. Discrimination magnifies barriers for persons with disabilities to access justice, and is further amplified by restrictions on the exercise of legal capacity, lack of physical access to justice facilities and stigma.

Access to justice is fundamental for the enjoyment and fulfillment of all human rights, and the realization of Goal 16. It has become more challenging for women and girls with disabilities who are survivors of gender-based violence during the pandemic. Studies and research during the pandemic have shown an increase in gender-based violence cases against women and children, including women and girls with disabilities. The UN Secretary-General urged governments to prioritize preventing and ending gender-based violence in their response plans for Covid-19.

In line with Goal 10 to reduce inequalities, as the world turns its efforts to vaccination campaigns, Covid-19 vaccine distribution must ensure that “no person, no country should be left behind.” Persons with disabilities should be prioritized to receive vaccinations because they have faced increased risks in the pandemic and been left behind both before and during the COVID-19 response. This is essential to ensure they will not be left further behind, “experiencing disproportionate loss of lives and livelihoods, inaccessible healthcare services, and undignified lives and aggravated disconnection from...society.”

Public resources should be progressively increased to support the full inclusion of persons with disabilities and their families in Covid-19 response and recovery. Domestic resources are fundamental to this, but international cooperation also has a key role to play. If economic reform policies are proposed, non-discrimination against persons with disabilities must be a key criterion. Providers of official development assistance should also adopt and systematically use the disability marker of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development to measure and monitor financing for disability inclusion.

The Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities’ submission to the HLPF indicated numerous recommendations to leave no one behind, including persons with disabilities, goal-by-goal. In the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development, we highlight just a few areas requiring urgent attention:

- 1) Involve persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in decision-making processes at all levels when discussing policies and programs on Covid-19 response, including involving them in monitoring and evaluation of Covid-19 programs, including social safety nets, and food aid, to align with CRPD articles 4 and 29 and to meet Goal 16 indicator 6.
- 2) Collect and disaggregate Covid-19 data by disability, age, and other factors to learn about barriers and to measure disability-inclusive response and recovery actions and to adequately assess the impact of programs and projects. Data collection and disaggregation on persons with disabilities should be increased and include the Washington Group short set of questions in all household surveys and censuses to ensure that policymakers address gaps. Statisticians must start collecting disability data and inform policymakers, who, in collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities and in line with the CRPD, must enact new evidence- based regulations and laws to ensure the inclusion and equal participation of persons with disabilities in society.
- 3) Persons with disabilities should be prioritized to receive Covid-19 vaccinations.
- 4) Information related to Covid-19 should be provided in native sign languages, Braille, easy-to-read and other alternative formats.
- 5) Progressively increase dedicated public resources to support the full inclusion of persons with disabilities and their families in Covid-19 response and recovery, prohibiting discrimination.

In closing, as organizations of persons with disabilities, and as civil society, we have a responsibility to participate actively in holding our governments accountable for their human rights obligations to us, and to show how far we are from the promise of the 2030 agenda to leave no one behind being fulfilled. This promise cannot be realized without the inclusion of persons with disabilities: through their participation, through being counted, and through access to information, and Covid-19 vaccinations.

10. COBASE - Cooperativa Tecnico Scientifica di Base, Gherush92 - Committee for Human Rights

COBASE Basic Technical Scientific Association is a research and planning organization which was constituted by a team of researchers and professionals. The aim of organization is to produce research and projects as far as the renewable use of energy, sustainable development and the fight against poverty are concerned.

The activity of Gherush92 - Committee for Human Rights has concentrated in the elaboration and realization of research, studies, publications and projects in the fields of human rights, anti-Semitism, racism, rights of indigenous people and minorities, women, children, poverty, valorisation of local and traditional resources.

As a part of the solution and alleviation of pandemic consequences we propose “Electrical Cities and Agroecological Parks” which is a bio-economic, sustainable development and technical assistance project for the reduction of vulnerability to energy, poverty, sanitation, natural disasters, while combating climate change.

The “Agroecological Parks” project is a sustainable production proposal for the processing of basic commodities into foodstuff, curative and energy products. The aforementioned project is to be performed having in mind the problems of urban poverty and efficiency as a priority. Since more than 70% of the world population will be living in cities by the year 2025, the phenomenon of urbanization poses a major problem. Cities are places where a multitude of exchanges take place and whose overall increase in entropy must be offset by the release of resources.

For these reasons appropriate and efficient urban solutions will play a key role in the coming years. It is necessary to design human settlements that mimic natural ecosystems, with the use of high efficiency electricity, interventions on energy, water and sanitation, the use of a bio-circular economy and the creation of agro-ecological and eco-productive parks.

This is a strategy to restore the balance of critical urban systems and to achieve both the Sustainable Development Goals and Climate Change Targets over the next years. The project concept: “Electrical Cities and Agro-ecological Parks” will focus on how to design natural cities for the future and how to recover and adapt existing cities and will discuss policy recommendations and implementation strategies for effective urban solutions and issues related to environment, energy, agro-ecology, mobility, infrastructure and other matters.

Project principles

- Designing human settlements mimicking natural ecosystems.
- Designing the city as a whole, as a complex system.
- Progressive elimination of combustion in the city.
- Interdependence between economy and ecology.
- Increasing biological and cultural diversity.
- Reducing city-system entropy.
- Achieving social and environmental equity.

The project will provide solutions to technical, environmental, financial and social feasibility for the future development and well-being of urban settlements. The project, with the supplying of indicators, principles, guidelines and a program of actions and activities, will also provide inputs that could be interesting for multiple stakeholders, including mayors, policymakers, experts, artists, academics, students and representatives from the private sector and civil society.

11. FIA Foundation for the Automobile and Society, Global Alliance of NGOs for Road Safety, Stichting Youth for Road Safety (Yours)

Our vision for the 2030 agenda cannot be achieved in isolation. Ensuring no-one is left behind FIA Foundation, YOURS - Youth for Road Safety and the Global Alliance of NGOs for Road Safety are united to bring action for safe, healthy, green, livable streets. Together we represent civil society, community leaders, youth leaders, and road victims from more than 100 countries. This statement builds on the Global Youth Statement for Road Safety, the NGO Chania Declaration and the 6th UN Global Road Safety Week.

Road traffic injury is a major public health crisis, killing 1.35 million a year. Addressing the causes of road injury unlocks action to meet SDG target 3.6 and wider health goals; accelerates the shift to zero carbon, active transport necessary to achieve SDG 13; helps break cycles of poverty outlined in SDG1; and delivers action on SDG 10 by creating inclusive, accessible streets for all.

On our streets, worldwide, where we walk, play and live, we call for 30 km/h speed limits. Low speed, liveable streets are essential and urgent. Urgent because low speeds save lives.

Urgent for public health, by making walking and cycling safer and more accessible, enabling and encouraging healthy lifestyles. Liveable streets are more crucial than ever as we respond to COVID-19.

Urgent for social and racial equity, as it is lower income and minority communities who are most exposed to high-speed traffic, and the road danger, environmental hazard and social exclusion it causes. Urgent for the rights of people with disabilities; for the elderly; for all who are vulnerable.

Urgent for our children and youth, and vital for their wellbeing. They are most at risk on the streets where they live, play and travel to school. Every day 3000 children and young people are killed or seriously injured on the world's roads. A child hit by a car at 30 km/h can survive. Hit at 80 km/h, most will die. Speed kills.

The 2020 Stockholm Declaration, adopted by governments worldwide, calls for liveable streets and, in line with available evidence, a maximum road travel speed of 30 km/h where people and traffic mix. Commitment to this approach must be at the forefront of the new Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021-2030 to achieve the Global Goals.

Now is the time to urgently deliver on this call to action by reducing, designing and enforcing traffic speeds that are safe for everyone, everywhere, prioritising low speed streets in all residential areas and near schools.

The COVID-19 pandemic is demonstrating the urgency of sharing roads more equitably, encouraging walking and cycling, and keeping young people safe on their journeys to school and college.

Together, we call Member States to meaningfully engage with civil society and youth leaders on the implementation of 30 km/h speed limits where people and traffic mix, delivering commitments at the COP26 climate conference and the 2022 High Level Meeting on Road Safety.

12. Kuentai Non-Profit Organization, Kuentai USA

Kuentai-NPO, based in Japan, and KUENTAI-USA, based in the United States of America, are two sister organizations to search and repatriate the remains of the Japanese and American war dead who perished their lives in the Second World War (WWII) in the Pacific Theaters. By working closely together, we are collaboratively searching the remains of war dead from both countries that are still left behind in the same battlefields.

One of the largest wars in the human history which caused numerous number of death all over the world is probably the WWII. Although there has been over 70 years since the end of war, it is sad to say that many countries have not completed to “clean up their mess” - the remains of their own warriors and unarmed civilians - and given them a proper final burial. We think that leaving the war dead behind will not create ultimate peace in the world, and believe that the war dead should have a right to be repatriated with the highest respect. We think this issue is very relevant to the agenda of the 2021 the Economic and Social Council High Level Segment and must be solved in order for human being to achieve the real sustainable development.

It is true that the COVID-19 pandemic has had huge impacts on many parts of the world. But if you think carefully, the impact does not necessarily have the negative side only. One of the examples of the good aspect is China's cleaned air due to the temporary shutdown of factories that emit large amounts of CO2 and other pollution. So I think the biggest lesson to learn from this pandemic is to observe objectively and maintain balance. When we pursue something, we must always think; "What is the negative side of this action? And have we forgotten or misplaced something?" The remains of the war victims are left behind because today's people are overwhelmed by economic development, so as the 2030 Agenda Principles say "ensuring that no one is left behind", this attention should also be paid to the missing war victims. And here is a way to forward. We ask those left behind in the highly developed Internet industry and lost their jobs due to the pandemic to join us, go with us to the former battlefields and search for their missing bodies. Artificial Intelligence is not developed enough in this field to locate and recover them, so the project still requires human labour. If this movement spreads from the Pacific to other parts of the world, and people feel the atrocity of the war from the field work with us, we believe that the war will no longer be a way of solving issues between countries in the politics.

13. Ligue pour la solidarité congolaise, Pleaders of Children and Elderly People at Risk "PEPAINGO"

PEPA/NGO-Pleaders of Children and Elderly People at risk et La LSC/asbl- ligue pour la solidarité congolaise félicitent les efforts de l'ECOSOC de réunir les points de vue de ses parties prenantes, y compris les parties consultatives dans le cadre des messages à adresser au conseil de sécurité des nations unies à l'occasion de ce forum de Haut Niveau (HLS) sur l'impact de la pandémie à COVID-19 et les questions pertinentes de son mandat par rapport aux objectifs des Nations Unies sur le développement durable.

Pour la RDC, les conflits armés d'autant plus que la pandémie n'est guère ressortie du haut de la scène, avec aujourd'hui des nouvelles vagues et des mutations des variantes de la Covid-19, d'une part, et des mesures prises par les chefs de gouvernements qui ont été graduelles depuis mars 2020.

PEPA/NGO- et la LSC saisissent de cette opportunité pour rappeler que la relance économique et les plans de redressement durant la pandémie ont été insuffisants dans certains pays et inexistant dans d'autres, comme c'est le cas en RDC.

Les secteurs économiques et sociaux affectés par la pandémie ont trouvé leur résilience notamment grâce aux subventions internes et volontaires, aux initiatives entrepreneuriales locales, avec les exigences appropriées où l'investissement est non prioritaire face mécanismes de survies des détenteurs des capitaux.

PEPA/NGO- et la LSC restent préoccupées par la situation sécuritaire et rappel à votre auguste conseils de sécurité ce qui suit ;

- La prolifération des groupes armés étrangères et locaux sur le sol congolais
- L'inefficacité observée de la MONUSCO : alors qu'il est à son 20^{ème} mandat ce qui nous fait croire qu'ils poursuivent d'autres fins que de rétablir la paix et la protection des civils malgré la plus grande Mission des Nations Unies au Monde
- L'inefficacité de la classe politique assoir des institutions efficaces

L'analyse des objectifs de développement durable surtout de l'objectif numéro 16ODD – concernant les questions d'Etat de droit, de la qualité des institutions et de paix. Il y a encore à faire au niveau de la RDC.

C'est pourquoi nous demandons que les propositions ci-dessous soient prises en compte :

- Aux Nations Unies de redéfinir et mettre en place un mandat offensif aux troupes de la MONUSCO en appui aux FARDC pour une durée bien déterminée avec résultat palpable car la Population Congolaise est fatiguée de voir les casques Bleus des Nations Unies vue comme mission touristique, business depuis 20ans en RDC qu'une mission de Paix.
- Au gouvernement Congolais reprendre en urgence la réforme du secteur de sécurité (transfert des compétences aux FARDC, PNC, JUSTICE,
- Transfert de compétences aux organisations de la société civile
- Au gouvernement Congolais de prendre ses responsabilités comment un Etat Indépendant et Souverain capable de Défendre et de Protéger son territoire même après le départ de la

MONUSCO de la RDC sans interférence étrangère qui est à la base du génocide à l'Est de la RDC pour les intérêts étrangers que l'intérêt des congolais.

14. Plan International, Inc., Save the Children International, SOS Kinderdorf International, World Vision International

We face a crisis of unprecedented size and complexity. The urgent needs of children and families around the world are intense and expanding. The global crisis of COVID-19 is intensifying the inequalities and other crises that already exist, with huge impacts on the rights of all children, particularly the most vulnerable and excluded groups.

COVID-19 and other crises now faced by the world are major disruptors to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), but they also open windows of opportunity to tackle unjust norms, policies and systems. The international community must seize opportunities to promote new national and international thinking, policy reframing and action. As crises and the pandemic are controlled, we must build back not only better, but differently for children.

Countries must respond rapidly to the immediate needs of children, while building more sustainable, protective, inclusive and resilient communities, systems and social norms for the future. In line with the 2030 Agenda, which calls on the global community to “endeavour to reach the furthest behind first”, we call for governments to prioritize the needs of children, who are the most vulnerable, in all aspects of the pandemic.

We need to come together to help every child to build a future, support every family to stay strong, and strengthen the well-being of societies.

Impact of COVID-19 on children in SDGs under review:

SDG 1 - End Poverty in All its Forms Everywhere:

Many households worldwide have reported significant income loss due to parents losing jobs during the pandemic, with the world possibly descending into an economic recession deeper than that of the 2008 financial crisis. When vulnerable families do not have the resources to meet basic material and developmental needs, due to loss of income, the risk of child-family separation increases endangering the achievement of fundamental child rights. In many cases, government support is either not sufficient or has not arrived yet. Children now face a higher risk of experiencing child labour due to loss of household incomes, and increased poverty will have a detrimental impact on the lives of girls and women.

SDG 2 - End Hunger, Achieve Food Security & Sustainable Farming:

Millions of children who rely on school meals for nutrition have lost that food security during the pandemic. Wasting is set to increase due to the disruption in vitamin and nutrition services worldwide. Price hikes, loss of income, closed markets and school closures all play a role in rising malnutrition. Girls face risks of sexual exploitation, abuse, violence and harassment during food distributions, while separated and unaccompanied children may struggle to access assistance.

SDG 3 - Good Health & Well-Being for All and of All Ages:

Children’s mental health has been affected by COVID-19. Loss of education, social networks, fear about the future and family separation will cause prolonged social and economic consequences even once the physical threat is overcome. Access to non-COVID-19 related healthcare (Maternal

care, sexual and reproductive care, fragile contexts) has been greatly disrupted. Lockdowns have led to an increase in Violence Against Children (VAC) and Gender Based Violence (GBV), placing women and girls at greater risk.

SDG 8 - Promote Inclusive & Sustainable Economic Growth for All:

The pandemic has created a global economic crisis, leaving millions unemployed, without government assistance, or with inadequate assistance. Children are being forced into labour worldwide to help support families. Young people living in alternative care or in vulnerable family situations are more likely to lack protections and safety nets, especially if they lose their job. Employment is not only a source of income but a way out of poverty, Young people graduating from universities and secondary schools face great difficulty finding employment post-graduation.

SDG 10 - Reduce Inequality within & Among Countries:

COVID-19 has hit the poorest and already furthest behind in the world hardest. Children make up part of the most vulnerable groups (children in fragile, refugee and migrant contexts, children with disabilities, indigenous, those without or at risk of losing parental care and others) being affected by rising inequality from the pandemic's socio-economic effects. Poor countries lack basic products such as soap to keep workers and citizens protected from COVID-19. Unequal access to digital learning tools has increased the "digital divide" for children and young people around the world.

SDG 13 - Take Urgent Action to Combat Climate Change & its Impacts:

Climate change is the greatest global intergenerational, gender and social injustice of our time. As children and young people are acknowledged in the 2030 Agenda as agents of change, and noting that this is a common concern for all, when taking action to create solutions, their ideas should be respected, considered and implemented. And states should strengthen mechanisms to ensure the meaningful participation of children, especially girls, in climate action.

SDG 16 - Promote Peaceful and Inclusive Societies:

Prior to the pandemic, more than half of all children globally experienced exposure to daily forms of violence and COVID-19 response measures have increased the risks of sexual, physical and mental abuse due to lockdown measures. Calls to hotlines for domestic violence have increased between 20% and 150% in some countries. Yet, services for prevention, reporting, care and support have been restricted. Child protection and other social services that support families' income and wellbeing need to be included in government COVID-19 responses and adapted under a COVID-19 context. Social workers need to be considered essential and priority must be given to ensure their services continue, as they are the main network of support and means to prevent children and families from falling into further instability, poverty or violence.

SDG 17 - Strengthen Global Partnerships for Sustainable Development:

Partnerships are critical to achieve results for every child. Everyone has a role to play in advancing the SDGs and ensuring a resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The ability to support and empower children and their families depends on partnerships, sharing of resources, collaboration and joint advocacy at the global, regional, country and local levels with civil society organizations, United Nations partners, Member States, private sector, faith leaders along with caregivers, families and children themselves. For instance, partnering with the private sector

allows for the possibility of a faster recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and accelerating the SDGs by driving inclusive economic growth, increasing access to essential services and developing innovative solutions that meet social needs. This partnership has the potential to improve the lives of children and young people. The 2030 Agenda specifically recognizes and ensures children as rights holders and partners in implementation with the right to participate in actions and decision-making processes affecting them, in accordance with their age and maturity. Decision-makers should create platforms for their engagement, provide access to necessary and age-appropriate information, and build their capacity to gain skills, knowledge, leadership capabilities and confidence. Children should be systematically involved in SDG processes, implementation, and monitoring, and in policy and program design.

Actions to accelerate progress for children in context of Decade of Action and Delivery of the SDGs.

What does acceleration of SDGs progress mean for children? The following actions for children can contribute to achievement of the SDGs:

- 1) The central role of a child-rights based approach to social protection in meeting the commitments to the SDGs and the pledge to Leave No One Behind must be firmly recognised. The world cannot risk the 2020s becoming a “lost decade” for children with unprecedented reversals in human development in place of the progress we promised. We call on Member States to urgently scale up coverage of child-sensitive social protection, universal health coverage and access to essential nutrition services.
- 2) Ending poverty by 2030 will not be achieved without a concerted focus on ending child poverty in all its forms. Focusing on child poverty will also accelerate progress on other SDGs and targets, especially in relation to health, nutrition, education, economic growth and ending violence.
- 3) Strengthen essential health worker delivery and provide child protection, mental health and psychosocial support. Relevant in-country stakeholders and governments should work together to properly communicate with the public and to engage with local leaders, faith leaders, stakeholders on COVID-19 preparedness.
- 4) Protect ongoing humanitarian and development assistance; adapt programs to be COVID-19 sensitive.
- 5) Develop economic recovery plans with environmental policies in mind (de-carbonization, restore landscapes, local climate change adaptation) and build back better and greener.
- 6) Girls and women experience the pandemic differently than boys and men. Recovery plans should consider this factor when being prepared and implemented. Great disparities exist in re-enrollment in schools for adolescent girls compared to boys, especially for families living in poverty.

- 7) Children without or at risk of losing parental care should be considered a priority in the COVID-19 response. The socio-economic impact of the pandemic has compounded their already vulnerable situations. Child welfare and protection services, in addition to social workers must be designated as essential and resourced accordingly. Social protection services that support families' income and wellbeing should be scaled up
- 8) Achieving the SDGs for children everywhere will require a dedicated focus on children living in fragile contexts. It will also require collective efforts to build a stronger nexus between humanitarian, development and peace-building interventions.

Leave No Child Behind

The pledge to Leave No One Behind remains a critical principle in ensuring a resilient and sustainable recovery from COVID-19 and achieving the SDGs. This requires governments to identify national SDG targets for vulnerable or marginalized groups, and to enshrine equity as a criteria in policies, programmes, budgeting and monitoring. Efforts regarding children need to use inclusive, age and gender-responsive approaches and must reflect the needs of the most vulnerable children (living in extreme poverty, LGBTQI children and youth, children and families in humanitarian crises or on the move, facing discrimination/racism, etc.).

It also requires tracking not just national or global averages, but the pace at which gaps between socioeconomic groups in society are changing over time. Surveys and other disaggregated data should be used to report on inequality and gaps in progress among the poorest and most marginalized groups regularly and transparently. Reporting on inequality trends using disaggregated data should be an important part of Voluntary National Reviews when considering the progress made towards the pledge to Leave No One Behind.

In order to truly achieve the vision of Leave No One Behind, greater evidence-based understanding, data and knowledge of vulnerable children's situations is crucial for governments to develop targeted and adequate child protection responses. To attain this goal, it is necessary to commit to engage children, respect their concerns, seek their recommendations, and work alongside them to identify and adopt effective solutions.

15. Réseau des femmes africaines pour la gestion communautaire des forêts, Women's Environment and Development Organization

Over one year from the onset of the pandemic, we, women and girls in all our diversities and our organizations continue to be at the frontlines of the response. Through our paid and unpaid labor, we keep ourselves, homes, communities, and economies afloat. We are at the frontlines because government systems have been inadequate in responding to the pandemic, especially since these systems were built on inequality, subjugation, violence and oppression.

The multi-layered inequalities between and within countries and across the gender spectrum have been exposed and exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. This manifests in the climate breakdown, human rights violations, continuation and intensification of armed conflict, privatization of public services – including social, health and education services – and power concentrated in the hands of the wealthy elite and corporations. There is rising violence against women human rights and environmental defenders globally. Our current reality requires we not only “build back better”; but also build back differently, inclusively, justly and sustainably. For systemic change towards a more equal and just future for all, Women’s Major Group recommends the following actions, at a minimum:

- Create, implement, and resource human rights-based, holistic, gender-responsive COVID-19 recovery and transition plans that target the most marginalized groups, people in vulnerable situations and are designed to eradicate inequalities.
- Move beyond GDP and endless ‘economic growth’ and repurpose our economy to prioritize the wellbeing of people and the planet. This also means supporting and redistributing care work more fairly.
- Build a more just and equitable financial order, rooted in human rights, gender equality, care, and social, economic and environmental justice, in order to enable governments to adequately finance public services and robust social protection systems, and safeguard human rights for all. Repurpose our economy to prioritize the wellbeing of people and the planet. Debt cancellation for countries of the Global South, suspension of patents for medicines and vaccines against COVID-19 should be at the forefront of our response.
- Collect, analyze, and disseminate disaggregated data, including those collected by civil society, in order to reduce inequalities, with respect for privacy and confidentiality.
- Prioritize, actively seek out the participation of and support, including financially, feminist, women and youth-led organizations, and human rights advocates at all levels of SDGs and COVID-19 recovery plans. Ensure that digital modalities deliver for effective and meaningful participation.
- Strengthen disaster risk reduction and disaster preparedness strategies to enhance shock absorption, adaptability and resilience of the poor.
- Ensure that health is a human right provided to all, with constitutional obligations to adequately resource and provide universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights that is acceptable, accessible, affordable, and of quality for all.
- Work for peace by significantly reducing military spending, halting the trade in arms, ending all support and participation in armed conflicts, supporting inclusive, gender-responsive peace processes with the full participation of women and girls. Stop border militarization.

- Support a multilateral response to the COVID-19 crisis, and beyond, based on the principles of human rights, gender equality, accountability, solidarity, and international cooperation.

16. 3Strands Global Foundation

Strands Global Foundation respectfully submits this statement covering its resilient recovery from the onset pandemic and its plan of action for sustainable development. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has led organizations and individuals to re-evaluate the “how” in seeking sustainable development. When the pandemic hit, 3Strands Global Foundation, whose focus is to prevent human trafficking and exploitation, shifted operations to face the presented challenges and put in place a new set of protocols and procedures to meet the needs of clients, partners, and staff.

Human Trafficking is a 150 billion dollar industry annually that threatens the lives of people all around the world. The pandemic has not only increased vulnerability and risk factors for youth due to lack of economic stability, but it has also caused an increase in online activity of traffickers. According to NCMEC, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, between 2019 and 2020 there was a 97.5% increase in online enticement of children. The need for human trafficking prevention training and survivor support is greater than ever.

3Strands Global Foundation expanded the functions of its programs during the pandemic to combat these growing vulnerability factors. PROTECT Prevention Education reaches school communities, corporations, and other community members with information on the dangers of exploitation and the tactics of traffickers. 3Strands Global Foundation chose to utilize an online growth platform that uses the research-based philosophy that real learning and growth comes not from consuming content, but connecting with others and sharing experiences. To date, an estimated half a million students have been educated on human trafficking through PROTECT Prevention Education and over 60,000 adults have been trained. The program continues to expand both nationally and internationally. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent school closures, the implementation of online learning technical capabilities became necessary. The PROTECT program met educators where they were at by developing virtual training for school officials, caregivers, and other community members. The existing student curriculum was also updated to allow for distance learning implementation. The team developed COVID-19 resources, made readily available to support the diverse community of advocates and learners.

Through the Employ + Empower program, survivors and those at-risk of being exploited are each connected with a Case Manager or Social Worker who assesses their physical and emotional needs, then helps connect them to sustainable employment or education programs.

The Employ + Empower team shifted the way that services were delivered drastically due to the onset of COVID-19. They quickly became an emergency response team, meeting the basic and physical needs of clients prior to helping connect them to sustainable employment or education programs. Now, the program effectively serves multiple clients through virtual interactions, while still safely serving many that require in-person support.

Through the adjustment of each of 3Strands Global Foundation’s operational strategies within its initiatives, the organization has expanded its capacity to reach more individuals than prior to the pandemic onset, proving that sustainable development is one of its primary objectives.

17. A 11 - Initiative for Economic and Social Rights

The previous year and a half has imposed a great strain on countries in terms of their ability to consolidate their obligation to respect, protect and fulfill their human rights obligations on the one hand and ensure public health and safety on the other, including Serbia. Although the vaccination efforts of this member State have been commendable, there have been many obstacles to ensuring that all individuals on an equal and non-discriminatory basis access their rights, guaranteed by various international documents, but most notably the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).

At the onset of the epidemic in Serbia, the public authorities established two crisis headquarters: one dedicated to mitigating the impact of COVID-19 from a medical standpoint, and another from a financial standpoint. NGOs called for the establishment of a third crisis headquarter, that would focus on the protection of the marginalized in light of this health calamity. However, the Government never expressed an interest, nor replied to calls for establishment.

During the first eight months of the COVID-19 crisis in Serbia, the only Shelter for persons in situation of homelessness in Belgrade closed its door to users, leaving those most in need of protection in the face of a crippling pandemic without any real protection. Only upon external pressure did the competent authorities react and find a modality of work that ensures the safety of those already sheltered, and takes into account the need of those seeking shelter.

No targeted additional financial assistance, material aid or services were provided to the most marginalized populations and socially vulnerable individuals, but rather helicopter money was provided to all citizens of Serbia in the amount of 100 euros.

Moreover, 33,000 Roma in mapped informal Roma settlements lack access or have irregular access to water, making it impossible to exercise even the bare minimum of their rights to life and health, which is troubling in regular times, let alone during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Ombudsperson, in cooperation with the A 11 Initiative created a report with recommendations for local self-governments on measures to be taken in regard to informal Roma settlements and COVID-19, but to date, only five out of the 174 local self-governments of Serbia have implemented any said recommendations. Local authorities were so adamant in their unwillingness to assist the residents of informal settlements, that the European Court of Human Rights had to be contacted in order to ensure that a water tank is provided to the residents of one of the more destitute ones.

Going forward, Serbia has to take more efforts to ensure its adherence to the principle "ensuring that no one is left behind", as well as to continue to adhere to its obligation to progressively realize economic and social rights, or at least take all reasonable efforts to ensure the realization of rights of the most vulnerable. No situation permits the complete abandonment of human rights principles, and the obligation to ensure adherence to the minimum core obligations under the ICESCR.

18. Aalem for Orphan and Vulnerable Children, Inc.

Aalem for Orphan and Vulnerable Children was established in 2012, to serve orphan and vulnerable children in cultural knowledge. The organization has devoted its energy and resources to render cultural and educational help to empower orphan and vulnerable children and to enable them better serve the societies in which they live in order to be positive and effective actors.

Coronavirus is the biggest global health, social and economic crisis of our lifetime and is tearing children's lives apart. In some part of Liberia our teams have rapidly adapted and are working round-the-clock to keep children safe, healthy and in school. We have already supported over 200 across 6 counties through our response.

We bring together the voices and COVID-19 experiences of over 2000 children, parents and caregivers from across the counties. It reveals that the pandemic has widened existing inequalities, with girls and poorer children being hit hardest.

Nearly 90% of households we surveyed, with the help of the Liberian government have struggled to access healthcare and medicine, with two-thirds having issues with accessing the food they need. Our teams are distributing hygiene materials to help children and their families protect themselves from coronavirus. We're also sharing essential information so families are accurately informed about how to stay healthy. Nearly 800 households now have access to safe water and facilities for hand-washing with soap, while 95 community health workers have been trained.

In Liberia over 50,000 children and students have had their education disrupted by coronavirus. 80% of children we surveyed said they've learned little or nothing during the pandemic.

We are advocating making sure that children who feel unsafe at home have a way to seek help and that the child welfare system can continue throughout the crisis. Our team conducted a survey on child protection issues and found a significant increase in children working and parents being violent in the home. To tackle these risks, we are training caseworkers and child protection committees, holding workshops on positive parenting and providing individual support for the most vulnerable children. Teams are also sharing daily tips and simple exercises via radio, WhatsApp and Telegram app. to keep children healthy in both mind and body.

We recommend that government of Liberia should: work to enable a safe online education system for a long-term perspective; create programs to downgrade the side effects of staying home. As for teachers they should: empower students by keeping in touch with them on a daily basis; explain to children why it is important to respect all protective measures against Covid-19, and convince them to act cautiously and be optimistic.

19. Afectividad y Sexualidad, Asociación Civil

Afectividad y Sexualidad A.C. is a non-profit organization based in Mexico City who impacts in 12 countries in Latin America and focuses to combat violence and children's sexual abuse providing tools with systemic strategies and interpersonal healthy relations. Our organization has aligned its work with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to contribute to its achievement and has a National outreach working in favor for children's rights.

As we work for Latin American children in violent conditions we have seen the impact of COVID-19 in many issues like the increase of 76% at the internet children's sexual abuse, pornography, grooming and sexting according to the Mexican Senate statistics, the disparity of gender inequalities in the digitalization, dropping school rates increasement in the last year as well as informal education courses which, within our NGO, have been canceled, affecting over 15,000 children this year, only in Mexico.

Within this context, we urge the Council to pay attention to the following priorities and policy recommendations:

- 1) Invest in Mental Health programs for Peace Culture and resilient skills.
- 2) Set investment in Education as a priority for children and youth not to leave school and to have equal access to digital education.
- 3) Strengthen Care Systems and resilience skills development to build back better.
- 4) Engage Children and Youth in the 2030 Agenda with innovative design thinking tools as they are Change makers of our World.
- 5) For the SDG 16, we urge the institution building commitment to peaceful, just and inclusive societies.
- 6) For the SDG 17, we stress the urgent need to build digital transition with an open, free and secure digital world, which sets Children's Human Rights at the center of the digital policies.

Afectividad y Sexualidad AC reaffirms its commitment to work with NGOs, Governments and Private sectors to build and develop resilient skills, promote emotional education for caregivers and teachers, prevent violence against children and youth, ensure validated studies and research for better decision making and policy recommendations, and to build an inclusive and effective path for the recovery of the impact of COVID-19 as well as the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

20. Afraz Cultural Association

Historically speaking, the culture created by the five-thousand year old human civilization of the Southwest Asia, had inspired the idea of Nowruz celebration. Nowruz, rooted in history and the glorification of growth and vigor in Mother Nature, represents the wisdom of its founders. Twenty-five centuries afterwards, in the same area, Cyrus the Great was the climax of the history of the human civilization in a way his declaration (Cylinder) is recognized as the world's first charter of human rights. He established a kingdom, as the first multi-ethnic and developmental government of the history, which was mainly based on the religious tolerance, peace and unity in diversity. We witness the Nowruz guests as depicted in the Apadana staircase in Persepolis. Representatives of different groups and cultures had gathered in equal positions to dialogue, consult, and participate in forming a better new world. Over the past decade, the International Day of Nowruz, 21st of March (spring equinox), was established in 2010 by the UN General Assembly under the agenda item of “culture of peace”; the festivity that was inherited by the countries having common culture.

The first condition for achieving the global sustainable development goals is amicable communications to improve regional and global partnership. This purpose could not be achieved without strong cultural relations among regional nations. From our point of view, effective utilization of common cultural heritage could be applied as the most powerful equipment for convergence and constructive dialogue between countries in the same geographical area with a common cultural and civilizational background. This approach could pave the way for the realization of sustainable development targets in regional and subregional levels. Unfortunately, in opposite to the human and environmental message of Nowruz, some considerable conflicts have happened in the region during past decades. Its prolonged consequences affected the registration of the cultural heritage in UNESCO in a way that often initiated some disputes between nations. Therefore, aligned with maintenance and enhancement of regional peace and strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the regional's cultural heritage, we request for a regional heritage committee including representatives of member countries of the Nowruz Civilization Zone, to take the responsibility of the evaluation process for the regional registration of intangible and, in some cases tangible heritages, as far as they are related to the common historical sites and monuments and noble people. Obviously, the annual limit on the number of nominations of the said committee will be the sum of the number of committee members. We believe that in the cases like this, which is apparently cultural, focusing on the cultural commonalities instead of the political borders would strengthen regional convergence. Because separation of the cultural and historical elements from the one unique civilization, not only damages the identity and meaning of that but also may impress friendly relations of the nations. We hope that these cultural partnerships make further efforts to improve economic and political relations in order to establish and maintain the peace and cooperative relations between the countries of the region.

21. African Youth Movement

Today in Africa and globally, hazards and vulnerabilities have been the targets of decades of development: their persistence testifies to as many failures. Today, ever-increasing resources are spent for disaster relief: their persistence testifies to as many failures. But only development can reduce vulnerabilities, and the hazards arising from the socio-economic structure.

Generally, social and economic changes have a significant influence on the vulnerable groups; they increase production of social risks, and evidently, create new vulnerable groups, according to investigations and research. Despite social security and diverse safety schemes, these vulnerable groups are expanding especially with the advent of the global COVID 19 pandemic and now consist of elderly people, single families, people who are socially unprotected, IDPs, long-term unemployed people, veterans, ethnic minorities and many others. Vulnerable groups are significantly under the risk of being isolated from the society.

We are compelled to urge the international community to pay close attention to the rising cases of mental disorders and disabilities caused by uncertain unpredicted pandemics in our society and to declare Mental Health Disaster as an emerging Global Health Emergency.

22. Afrikaanse Forum vir Burgerregte

The world we live in continuously becomes more complex. This increased complexity makes it difficult to predict future events accurately and also means that change occurs at a higher frequency. Efficiency is no longer sufficient; adaptability is key to success. Humanity does not know what challenges it will face in the future, but the great extent of experience and knowledge that is imbedded in the many diverse communities who share our planet holds the key to overcoming whatever we may face. It is key to protect and promote this diversity to safekeep this treasure trove of future solutions to problems that do not yet exist.

Community-based non-profit civil organisations (CBOs) that are well-organised and supported are vehicles that offer advantages as sustainable structures to preserve and grow communities. A major advantage of CBOs is that these operate at grass-roots level and thoroughly understand the capacity of communities and the challenges that these communities are facing. CBOs can therefore create fit-for-purpose solutions. Accountability is naturally built into CBOs because these organisations are from and operate in the communities which they serve. CBOs plan for the next generation and are driven by the aim of achieving long-term prosperity.

It is time for communities to enjoy the freedom to create institutions that are based on the proven values and experience specific to each community so that they can create the future that they desire. Government and the state's main function should therefore be to create the space that communities need to create their own institutions. Government must become a facilitator that enables communities to increase their self-reliance and must focus on developing community initiatives as an alternative to an exclusive focus on government projects. CBOs that take responsibility for specific matters reduce the need for government to take on these responsibilities – and thereby reduce the burden on government. Many CBOs that operate on different terrains also reduce the risk that is associated with a single point of failure.

Practical steps that government can take include:

- Creating a legislative environment that removes barriers to establishing and operating CBOs;
- Creating a tax rebate system through which taxpayers who are served by CBOs (as an alternative to receiving services from government) receive rebates;
- Enacting legislation to allow the creation and recognition of cultural councils that have legislative powers that relate to matters of the specific cultural community;
- Creating a legislative environment that provides more freedom for communities to run their own affairs, especially on local level through community institutions;
- Supporting cultural communities that work to preserve their cultural identity and heritage, rather than branding such communities as unpatriotic or tribalist;
- Fostering mutual recognition, respect and understanding between different cultural communities;
- Enabling communities to establish and manage their own independent education facilities through decentralisation.

CBOs have a key role to play in shaping a future in which families can be free, safe and prosperous. Government must therefore create an environment that is conducive to establishing and operating CBOs.

23. Agence de Développement Économique et Culturel Nord-Sud

L'année 2020 et le début de l'année 2021 marquées par la crise du Coronavirus ont mis à rude épreuve l'ensemble de la population mondiale, et les entreprises et autres institutions ont dû s'adapter à des mesures contraignantes pour leurs activités. L'ADEC-NS, dont l'objectif principal est de développer des échanges entre les établissements français et étranger, s'est réinventée et a trouvé de nouveaux moyens de faire vivre ses relations.

Participer au développement économique et culturel des pays avec lesquels l'ADEC-NS travaille, est une mission phare de notre organisation. Grâce à la mise en relation avec nos adhérents français, les pays en question ont l'opportunité de signer des contrats leur permettant d'acquérir de nouvelles technologies et « savoir-faire » dans de nombreux domaines. L'objectif de développement 17 concernant les partenariats pour la réalisation des objectifs se situe donc au cœur de l'activité de l'ADEC-NS.

Si nous voulons parvenir à maintenir ce lien dans la durée malgré les difficultés inhérentes à la situation actuelle, les outils de communication moderne nous paraissent être d'une importance capitale. L'organisation de conférences virtuelles dans lesquelles les représentants des pays intéressés peuvent présenter les opportunités de leurs territoires à des futurs collaborateurs français en est un parfait exemple. Il nous paraît donc opportun d'améliorer l'accès pour tous au numérique et aux nouvelles technologies.

De plus, de par la réalisation de ses différents partenariats économiques et commerciaux, l'ADEC-NS participe activement à la réalisation de l'objectif 8 des ODD, à savoir « travail décent et croissance économique ». En effet, lors de la réunion économique organisée à l'ambassade d'Ouzbékistan, Son Excellence l'Ambassadeur a notamment rappelé que la République d'Ouzbékistan est passée de la 166ème à la 76ème place au classement de la banque mondiale en termes de PIB/habitants.

Les nombreuses coopérations effectuées entre ce pays et la République française depuis maintenant plus de dix ans (dont de nombreuses ont été permises grâce à l'ADEC-NS) peuvent venir expliquer cette croissance forte. Pour que ces collaborations porteuses de croissance économique continuent de voir le jour, il nous paraît nécessaire d'encourager la multiculturalité et l'ouverture sur le monde. Dans le monde de demain toujours plus globalisé et caractérisé par l'importance croissante de la connaissance, encourager et favoriser les dispositifs de mobilités étudiants nous paraît primordiale. L'ADEC-NS tient compte de cela, comme le montre le fait que nous ayons pu envoyer plus de 200 étudiants de BAC+5 à BAC+8 à l'étranger grâce aux accords signés entre universités françaises et étrangères.

Enfin, il est important de savoir que l'ADEC-NS participa en décembre 2019 à l' « International Conference on Sustainable Development » qui s'est tenue à l'Université d'Harvard à Boston, en présentant un rapport académique sur « les défis de l'agriculture sur une Terre en transition ». Cela montre bien l'attachement de notre organisation aux valeurs portées par l'ECOSOC et sa participation aux actions visant à promouvoir le développement durable. Les actions de promotion des objectifs de l'Agenda 2030 sont donc fondamentales pour réussir à mettre en place une reprise économique résiliente et durable.

24. Agewell Foundation

Agewell Foundation, a not-for-profit organisation, has prepared this statement with the objective to create awareness among the concerned stakeholders at different levels about impact of Covid-19 pandemic, challenges related to it and possible as well as practical ways to deal with it effectively.

Covid-19 pandemic has emerged as a major cause of concern for every section of the society. People are struggling to protect themselves from Coronavirus and its consequences on human life all over the world. Though Covid-19 situation and related lockdown rules / restrictions have affected almost every human being, older persons are the most vulnerable so far as the Coronavirus threat and its impact is concerned.

In view of the current waves of Covid-19 older persons are more disturbed as the second and in some parts even third waves are spreading quite rapidly and causing more casualties among the communities across India.

Older persons are not only prone to the severity and fatality of COVID-19 due to age, they are going through a very tough phase in their life and living under the shadow of constant fear of death / loss of family members / loss of jobs to earning family members due to Covid. Today they are facing severe psychosocial challenges such as;

- Anxiety / restlessness / depression
- Isolation / loneliness
- Neglect / Marginalization
- Lack of autonomy / psychological dependence
- Sleeplessness / fatigue, and chronic stress
- Addiction disorders – alcohol/smoking
- Fear of death / prolonged illness / loss of money due to Covid treatment
- Nervousness / frustration / desperation
- Self-neglect / self-denial
- And even risks of abuse / elder abuse

Social distancing / isolation is impacting their mental well-being and increasing the risk of psychiatric disorders. Covid-19 induced circumstances have turned life in old age more challenging and complicated.

A way forward

With a rapidly growing elderly population and longer life span in old age, ensuring the holistic safety of older persons is of utmost importance during such turbulent times through effective disease control, treatment and management techniques.

There is an urgent need to extend a create awareness in the society and sensitize people, particularly younger generations about the disease and its impact on elderly, particularly who are socially isolated and facing psychological issues due to loneliness / isolation. For this social media and other online platforms can be used in order to reach out to older persons, their family members

and caregivers, social workers/volunteers, young school children. Concerned stakeholders at Government level and other institutions like educational / religious / social / political / business organizations should be approached for ensuring their active support and participation.

At the same time, real-time measures like door-step delivery of medicines, healthcare services and other essential commodities during lockdowns/ restrictions, access to healthcare facilities in case of need, counselling, consultancy, advisory and referral services should also be taken in order to protect vulnerable older persons from deadly corona virus and ensure their safety and wellbeing.

25. Agir Contre les Maladies Non Transmissibles au Niger (ACMNT-NIGER)

Le Niger est l'un des pays le plus touché par la pandémie de la COVID 19. Du 12 au 21 Mai 2020 sur les 7.814 patients testés et 11778 sont déclarés positifs au COVID 19 selon le Ministère de la Santé Publique.

La situation économique est précaire, à part les fonctionnaires qui disposent d'un salaire mensuel, la plupart des familles vivent en fonction des revenus qu'ils dénichent quotidiennement. Cet état, couplé avec le confinement, la promiscuité des familles nombreuses, crée d'importants préjudices sociaux. Malgré les mesures prises par les gouvernements, la mobilité des populations est favorisée par le besoin vital de « gagner son pain », ce qui constitue une source de propagation du Covid-19 et des risques élevés pour les personnes d'être contaminées. L'ONG Agir Contre les Maladies Non Transmissible a été créé pour répondre aux besoins des populations. C'est pourquoi l'ONG est sensible à la situation difficile dans laquelle vivent les populations. Dans le cadre de la lutte contre le COVID-19, l'ONG a menée plusieurs actions avec l'aide de ces partenaires en vue de contribuer à l'atteinte des ODD et à la réalisation de l'Agenda 2030 :

Pour l'ODD 2 faim zéro

- Formation sur la transformation et la conservation des produits maraichers ainsi que la sensibilisation sur leurs bienfaits à Bougoum.
- Formation sur la transformation et la conservation de la tomate à Bougoum.

Pour l'ODD 3 bonne santé et le bien-être

- Formation des membres de l'ONG en techniques de communication inter personnel (CIP) COVID 19.
- Sensibilisation sur le COVID 19 au niveau du CSI Goudel
- Au niveau des régions (Tillabéri, Maradi, Zinder et Dosso) des kits composés de savon, de gels désinfectants et de bavettes ont été offertes aux Directions Régionales de la Santé Publique.
- Sensibilisation et Dépistage de masse gratuit de l'hypertension artérielle et du diabète à l'occasion de la journée mondiale de lutte contre le diabète au quartier Koira Kano
- Conférence sur l'hypertension artérielle et le diabète à l'Ecole Nationale Damouré Zika le projet de plaidoyer en faveur de la Santé de la Reproduction (SR), la Planification Familiale (PF) et la scolarisation de la jeune fille dans les régions de Tillabéri, Maradi, Zinder et Dosso.

Pour l'ODD 4 accès à une éducation de qualité

- Le projet de plaidoyer en faveur de la SR/PF et la scolarisation de la jeune fille dans les régions de Tillabéri, Maradi, Zinder et Dosso.

A travers ces différentes interventions l'ONG ACMNT-Niger entend contribuer à ce que personne ne soit laissé pour compte aux niveaux mondial, régional et national dans le contexte de la pandémie COVID-19 dans la réalisation de l'Agenda 2030 et des ODD. L'ONG ACMNT-Niger a nouée des partenariats durables tant au niveau niveaux mondial, régional et national pour promouvoir une reprise durable et résiliente de la pandémie du COVID-19; L'ONG ACMNT-Niger recommande aux Nations Unies une forte implication de toutes les parties prenantes pour la

réalisation de l'Agenda 2030 dans le contexte de la décennie d'action et de mise en œuvre du développement durable.

26. Aid Organization

Aid Organization is a Bangladesh-based NGO, founded in 1997 to provide humanitarian, social, and technical assistance and training, with a special focus on women and on society's most vulnerable members. Aid Organization has held Special Consultative Status to the ECOSOC since 2017.

Our NGO traditionally works with the Government of Bangladesh and UN agencies, notably UN Women and UNICEF. Through the years, Aid Organization has helped over 43,000 poor families in 25 Upazillas of nine districts across the country, providing over 27 forms of assistance, ranging from projects as diverse as prevention of child marriage and education of women and girls (encouraging girls to stay in school) to various income-generating activity programmes, programmes to train women to cope with domestic violence, projects to help local communities dig wells to provide fresh water, also providing education about hygiene and water safety. We've worked with NGO partners to create sustainable solutions to Bangladesh's climate change challenges vis-a-vis a polder project, also through tree planting projects.

During the pandemic, we've teamed-up with Save the Children to provide emergency relief focused on COVID19 prevention and financial and social survival during the lockdown. Our "WASH" and hygiene training experience enhanced our COVID19-response.

It is April 2021: Bangladesh is struggling with a second-wave of COVID19 cases. April has been a hard month for Bangladesh. A number of "firsts" were experienced this month: the highest number of weekly cases (47,392) in 5–11 April, the highest daily rate of cases (7,626) on 7 April 2021, the highest number of deaths in a week (646) were recorded in week in 12–18 April. The highest daily number of deaths was on 18 April 2021.

On 7 February 2021, the national COVID-19 vaccination program was launched, using the SURROKA web portal. By April 2021, 11.5% of the country's eligible population (over age 40) were vaccinated, while in Dhaka, 37.2% of eligible persons have been vaccinated.

We envision working on new projects in 2021 that facilitate return-to-work for citizens.

27. Aie Serve

As a youth-led NGO in Lebanon since 2007, Aie Serve's work represented the ever-changing needs of the Lebanese youth throughout the years. Tackling different SDGs, the organization's main mission is to spread the values of Love, Respect and Acceptance through its 3 main programs: 1) Aie Clubs: aims at gathering groups of youth to implement projects that spread the values of respect, acceptance and love through empowering youth to become positive agents of change in their small communities, working on three pillars: Community Service, Community Development, and Community Awareness, 2) Aie Skills: the training arm of the NGO, providing youth with the needed soft skills with the tools they need to develop themselves at first and their society afterwards, and 3) Aie Exchange: the initiative to further motivate and provide youth with opportunities for training and traveling and enabling them to meet new people and widen their professional network.

The past year carried many challenges on the global level, and in Lebanon we were faced even before, by much more that is manifested on different levels. In 2019, the youth in Lebanon started facing new challenges on the economic and social levels, followed by a global pandemic in 2020. Adding to this, the Beirut Port Explosion that was a harsh disaster, where till the moment, most of the civil society interventions are shifted to humanitarian aid and relief. Although the young aged groups are very enthusiastic about community service and creating a positive change, the harsh economic situation and isolation made it hard for them to take action. It was organizations like ours that are expected to reach out and take action. Aie Serve in its turn faced a number of these challenges. Operating in Lebanon, the unstable situation made it hard to fulfill our mission and required us to adapt a new approach.

In the end of 2020, after consulting its youth network, Aie Serve decided to focus more on good health and wellbeing, SDG 3 and on decent work and economic growth, SDG 8. As most of the organizations, we took our time to adapt and went through a transitional phase to redirect our resources. The change in the topics we address was necessary and using the online platforms to deliver our programs was new to us. Universities, schools and community groups were our initial platforms to do our activities, and part of adapting our approach was to create new platforms in which we work within.

The lack and unequal accessibility in Lebanon, whether for basic needs, health, infrastructure and education, was a main challenge for civil society to ensure that "no one was left behind", especially for NGOs operating on minimal resources and volunteerism. However, we have found it easier lately to build partnerships, SDG 17, where organizations and youth in Lebanon now are more flexible toward collaborations.

28. Al-Ayn Social Care Foundation

Al-Ayn Social Care Foundation is an organisation committed to supporting orphaned children and vulnerable members of society in Iraq. This statement sets out Al-Ayn's experience of COVID-19 and how it has mobilised its resources to ensure that no one is left behind as we collectively seek to recover from the pandemic.

Al-Ayn has witnessed widening inequalities in society as a result of COVID-19. One consequence of the pandemic has been a sharp increase in youth unemployment. Al-Ayn has worked hard in this context to ensure that we continue to implement the SDGs. For example, SDG 1 on no poverty and 2 on zero hunger fall within Al-Ayn's strategy of prioritising long-term development through comprehensive social care. In addition, by stepping in with emergency relief packages and seasonal food parcels, Al-Ayn has responded to the immediate needs of many in light of COVID-19.

Relating to SDG 3 on good health and well-being, Al-Ayn's medical campaign expanded in scope during the pandemic to support not only orphaned children but other vulnerable members of society. The organisation has prioritised the medical crisis as a way to ensure the lack of health infrastructure does not result in further segments of Iraqi society being left behind. We supported 75 hospitals across 13 provinces, providing 3,473,648 Personal Protective Equipment items and 24,465 respirators which were significantly under resourced in Iraq.

Al-Ayn's expansion of 'Luminous Stars' centres, sites for vocational training for local communities and youth, has helped in the continued implementation of SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth, as well as SDG 10 on reduced inequalities. More youth have been trained in contemporary skills such as mobile phone repair, so they are better equipped to join the labour market and become active members of society. The centres also provide psychological rehabilitation services to ensure the holistic recovery of members of society inflicted by past traumas and hardships. By recognising the interconnectedness of mental health and meaningful lives, Al-Ayn actively pursues a long-term and sustainable path to guaranteeing that no member of Iraqi youth is left behind, but is empowered to grow and thrive as we move forward from the pandemic.

A sustainable and resilient recovery from COVID-19 is only possible through partnerships across civil society and at the governmental level. We are ready to work with others in the international community to ensure that everyone is included in the road to recovery and that no one is left behind.

29. All India Women's Education Fund Association

The All India Women's Education Fund Association (AIWEFA), founded in 1929, encompasses 92 years of experience in the empowerment of women and communities, and two decades of information dissemination at the United Nations and international meetings.

Digital technology has catapulted a post pandemic sustainable and resilient recovery through a pooling of global and local expertise, cooperation and transparency while safeguarding the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

The organisation's recent grassroots programmes included localization of the Sustainable Development Goals and capacity building of 5000 youth in cyber security, prevention of substance abuse and promotion of intergenerational bonding; 400 underprivileged women trained to become safe car drivers; 900 women and artisans were guided to develop local handicrafts, spinning and weaving, and preservation of culture; 400 senior citizens participated in healthy ageing programmes.

The organisation combined offline grassroots expertise with online programmes, to help children with disabilities, elders and women build back better.

To ensure access to quality health care for people with disabilities, the organization has, since 2003, supported financially constrained institutions working in disabilities with an annual award of Indian Rupees 8 lakhs. Elucidating on local best practices, to 600 participants, these 18 awardees facilitated door-step delivery of social protection benefits; capacity building of teachers and home-care training to one parent; enabled one caregiver with every COVID positive hospitalized patient; prepared online modules but stressed pairing with physical interaction; and highlighted the need to resume early detection of disabilities that could reduce children's disabilities by 90 per cent. They lobbied for a nodal officer in each district and successfully included the provision of 5 per cent reservation in state-run economic recovery programmes.

To empower and promote the social and economic rights of elders, the 'COVID-19 Community Connects' stakeholder webinars reached 850 national and international participants to focus on the central role of families in tackling ageism; intergenerational bonding to cater to their social, physical and emotional needs; and vocational training, especially digital, for their improved integration in society.

To provide equal opportunities, including the elimination of discriminatory laws, policies, practices and to promote appropriate legislation and action, 'A world we women want: gender-just and violence-free' advocated country perspectives from India, Ireland, Mexico and the role of the United Nations entities for children and women towards ensuring the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family. Recovery measures included pathways and barriers to women's economic empowerment, recognition of unpaid care work, inheritance of property; and capacity building to cope with multiple crises, like health, debt, food and cooperation.

Programmes underlined the need for investments in funds and resources in a people-centred welfare and development, and to meet the pandemic induced increased poverty, inequality, and

gender- based violence. Adherence to international funding commitments and need for member states to classify and communicate short and long term commitments with accountability and quality data were emphasised. To guarantee that no one is left behind, civil society partnerships required broadening along with the dismantling of silos created by the Goals.

30. All Win Network

With the pandemic both encompassing and affecting all aspects of the world, the ever-changing needs in the world have become clear-cut. It is essential we meet our Commons challenges from a perspective of unity. The power of unity is far-reaching for all, irrespective of country. We, as the All Win Network, channel practical unity-based all-win solutions to global problems from people worldwide for use by the UN and Member States.

Divided, we are holding up global recovery from the Covid pandemic and its increasingly virulent mutations, and are seriously lagging in the achievement of the SDGs. Yet, when we are united through sharing, caring, and a sense of community, we unleash our combined wisdom and know-how, further increasing peace.

For instance, if all women, who make up more than 50 percent of the workforce, had access to a bank account, they could participate as entrepreneurs at all levels, locally and globally, instead of suffering economically. Additionally, they could nurture their families and form a powerful force for post-Covid recovery and the achievement of the SDGs. Therefore, we call on the United Nations to empower all women in every avenue including economically by, among others, ensuring equitable access to bank accounts, so that all people can recover from the pandemic financially.

Likewise, if the UN and all Member States were to start a “Recovery for Children's Education” Task Force to gather data and close educational gaps in vulnerable areas including human rights and sustainable development, it could ensure the implementation of all children's human rights within a few years. This Task Force would include children in especially hard-hit locations to ensure effectiveness. Further, the Task Force would bring equitable access to well-being for children and to the world as a whole.

Moreover, the UN and all Member States at the HLPF could ensure through unity of purpose that those wielding power (including transnational organizations) can neither exploit cheap labour nor the environment for short-term gain. Goodwill could be created and people at the grassroots could be empowered to serve their own needs and share their skills.

The All Win Network regularly makes documents available to provide best practices from mainly UN-ECOSOC accredited CSOs for Heads of State and Government and all UN Ambassadors, as well as Civil Society colleagues. These include “Unity as a Transformative Pathway to Implement The SDGs” and a series, “Integrating Nature into the Implementation of the SDGs”.

31. Alliance for Health Promotion (A4HP)

The COVID-19 pandemic revealed deep inequities leaving us to question whether our efforts as a global community truly rise to the call of a core principle of the SDGs, “ensuring that no one is left behind”. The Alliance for Health Promotion sees such inequities, particularly in the unequal distribution of the burden of COVID-19 on some of the most vulnerable people, as wholly avoidable and unjust and proposes ways forward to ensure policies are in place to address inequities and achieve better health and overall well-being for all.

The Alliance for Health Promotion finds realization of the right to health for everyone as critical to leaving no one behind on our path towards building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. This entails enabling people to increase control over and improve their health, and the proposed Framework Convention on Global Health, FCGH, will steer us toward this end. The FCGH is based in the right to health and aimed at national and global health equity. Through the treaty, health ministries and governments would have a tool to realize the right to health for their populations. The mechanisms and standards the treaty proposal embodies would empower populations to claim the right to health, including a comprehensive regime of accountability that would underpin the treaty’s power.

The FCGH would be well-placed to address social, economic, and commercial determinants of health as the current proposal is crafted to address the right to health among all actors and across sectors, including curbing corporate practices harmful to health such as food and beverage marketing or environmental degradation that contribute to cardiovascular or respiratory conditions. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, such treaty provisions aimed tackling root causes of underlying conditions that contribute to hospitalization and death during health emergencies would save countless lives. Most critically, the FCGH would improve participation and equity, building trust among local communities in their interactions with the health system. The FCGH would be an invaluable instrument to accelerate progress towards the SDGs and tackle the unconscionable inequities within and between countries.

The Alliance for Health Promotion calls on this body to meaningfully re-envision what is possible in our quest for the world to achieve the SDGs leaving no one behind. Consideration of a FCGH is one bold step forward.

32. American Bar Association

The American Bar Association is the world's largest voluntary association of attorneys, judges, and legal professionals. We commend the Member States for their continued efforts to advance sustainable development and actions responsive to evolving global concerns, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, extreme poverty, climate change, threats to the rule of law, and inequities.

As countries emerge from the pandemic, the American Bar Association welcomes accelerated progress to strengthen institutions, ensure access to justice, and promote peaceful and inclusive societies based on the rule of law and respect for human rights, as envisioned by Goal 16. Realizing and delivering on Goal 16 is foundational to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals as a whole.

We must deepen our collective commitment to delivering on Goal 16 as the indispensable bedrock of sustainable development. Both the Sustainable Development Agenda and the 2012 United Nations Declaration on the Rule of Law advance peace, human rights, and the rule of law as interlinked and belonging to the universal core values and principles of the United Nations and as essential for sustained and inclusive economic growth.

To make continued progress on the Sustainable Development Agenda, the American Bar Association encourages further progress on Goal 16 targets to promote good governance, provide access to justice, enforce fair laws and legal processes, uphold respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, ensure public access to information, and promote the rule of law. The rule of law functions best when supported by the independent, fair, and impartial administration of justice. As essential under the rule of law, we must eliminate bias and firmly embed diversity, equity, and inclusiveness within the legal and justice sectors.

The American Bar Association and its members are empowering partners worldwide to make progress on Goal 16 and the Sustainable Development Goals generally by building effective and inclusive legal and justice systems. We closely collaborate with local governments, legal and justice institutions, professional associations, and other stakeholders to train and support lawyers, mediators, arbitrators, and judges and to strengthen legal professions and judiciaries. Recent local collaborations integrated legal strategies to address public health, improved environmental governance for climate change resilience, reduced socio-economic costs of natural resource extraction activities, encouraged corporate sustainability programs, and created economic empowerment opportunities for women, disadvantaged groups, and small businesses.

During this Decade of Action, strong international cooperation and collaborative relationships are essential to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The American Bar Association stands in solidarity and shares the commitment to build a more just, inclusive, and sustainable world for all with peace, justice, economic opportunity, and human dignity through the rule of law.

33. Amman Center for Human Rights Studies

COVID-19 drastically impacted lives across the globe, further exacerbating inequalities. In Jordan, women reported feeling less safe than before the pandemic and lost access to education and income. At the same time, refugees and migrant workers lost access to education and legal resources.

Issues

Women and girls

Lockdowns, strict curfews, travel prohibitions, and social sector closures kept women and girls at home, regardless of the safety of their home situations. Across the country, in both refugee and national populations, men who lost work were more likely to resort to violence, and the loss of household income increased women's vulnerability to violence and exploitation. Covid-19 also made reporting gender-based violence far more difficult, as the legal and NGO channels for tangible assistance were forced to close.

Women in Jordan were expected to resort to traditional gender roles and prioritize their family's home needs over their own, and even as sectors began to reopen, many women were forced to stay home as childcare and school remained closed. Older girls were also more likely to be asked to neglect their own education to help their younger siblings.

Refugees & Migrant Workers

Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, refugees living in camps have been facing losses of income. In the Za'atari camp in Jordan, most work opportunities are outside the camp. When the camp is confined, refugees cannot reach their place of work. Additionally, hundreds of domestic workers reported not getting paid for the work they had completed before the lockdown. Other domestic workers have lost their work in 2020. With a loss of income and no governmental support, as most domestic workers are not officially declared, their situation has become extremely dire.

Domestic workers are at high risk of harassment, sexual abuse, and other instances of gender-based violence. With confinement and curfew measures, the domestic workers are more prone to abuse as they cannot leave their employers' house. In addition, more than 80% of refugees in Jordan live in areas that are densely populated, and domestic workers often do not speak Arabic, putting refugees and migrant workers at risk of mass contamination due to overcrowding and a lack of Covid-19 information.

A Way Forward

To ensure the implementation of the SDGs, including SDG 1 on poverty, 2 on zero hunger, 3 on good health and well-being, 8 on decent work and economic growth and 10 on reduced inequalities, the Amman Center for Human Rights Studies calls upon the international community to:

- Ensure that gender-based and a refugee-based approaches are taken when dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic;

- Ensure that social-distancing measures do not prevent humanitarian and gender-based violence organisations from doing their work effectively;
- Ensure that vulnerable groups such as women and refugees are educated in their human rights and the Covid-19 virus. Such education and awareness of, for example, the measures taken by their government, can be done through innovative technologies or social media platforms. In this way they can become aware of the existing socio-economic aid programmes and gender-based violence protection mechanisms.

34. A New Dawn – Bedouin Jewish Centre in the Negev for Equality and Accessibility in Education, Research, Peace and Welfare Services (R.A.)

A New Dawn in the Negev (ANDN) works to advance Israel's Bedouin community by strengthening education, fostering trust and cultural understanding among Negev residents. Last year, we had to freeze our activity and divert all efforts to pandemic relief for the Bedouin community. As COVID-19 spread across the globe, poor and marginalized communities were hit hardest. In parallel to our intensive work on the ground, we learned, reflected on our experience and gained insights relevant to all marginalized groups in heterogeneous societies.

SDG 10 Reduced inequalities

- Equitable delivery of information: As the Israeli authorities issued guidelines to contain viral spread, it became clear that these edicts were meaningless to the Negev Bedouin. When many villages lack running water and pharmacies, health precaution recommendations were futile. Information was severely lacking in Arabic and practical guidelines weren't adapted to lifestyles outside of mainstream Israeli society. ANDN set up a phone hotline to provide culturally appropriate information, in Arabic, accessible and sensitive to the Bedouin population. Access to information to all members of society should be a priority worldwide.

SDG 9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

- Digital access: As schools in Israel transitioned to remote learning during lockdowns, thousands of Bedouin youth lacked access to online classrooms. ANDN struggled to ensure students' education wasn't irreversibly interrupted. Likewise, as mass communications shift overwhelmingly to technological platforms, those without smartphones and TVs were challenged to acquire even the most basic information on coronavirus. Improving access to all services, including healthcare and transportation is crucially important. Technological infrastructure and universal access to digital technologies and services, especially in rural and remote areas must be secured.

SDG 4 Quality education

- Digital Literacy: Digital literacy in the Bedouin community, especially among its youth, is essential to accessing job opportunities and educational resources. ANDN's programming has always integrated digital literacy. During the pandemic this became even more crucial as we transitioned our enrichment activities to virtual platforms and digital networks to nurture community morale.
- Education ANDN focuses on enriching the education of Bedouin youth, as education is crucial in providing social support to children and a bond for communities. As COVID forced us to discontinue our educational programming, it became necessary to find ways to continue nurturing social and educational activity within the local health ordinances. Education serves as a lifeline to the future for our children and youth, and after a year of interrupted schooling, efforts must be doubled to ensure these youths achieve their potential through education.

SDG 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

- Intergroup solidarity ANDN works to bring together Jewish and Bedouin communities to understand each other's culture and needs through collaboration and partnership. It's essential to deepen understanding and solidarity between diverse populations to achieve the best outcomes for all.

SDG 3 Good health and well-being

- Mental Health. The pandemic was a period of emotional distress for many, and ANDN's COVID hotline was on the frontlines helping and supporting the Bedouin community. Bolstering mental health and wellbeing is foundational to strengthening the fabric of community.

35. Ankara Foundation of Children with Leukemia

For a Life Without Cancer; Food Safety from Soil to Table

New technological agriculture and production models to meet the nutritional needs of the growing world population pose great risks in terms of consumers' access to safe food. Unsafe foods and foods present a risk of cancer and malnutrition in babies, children, the elderly, and patients. Pesticides and metabolites, which have a share of more than 95% in agricultural methods, leave toxic residues in foods, soil, water and air; causing allergic and endocrine diseases as well as long-term and fatal diseases such as leukemia, lymphoma, prostate, lung, breast cancer Today, 1 in 10 of the society has a disease due to contaminated food consumption, and approximately 420,000 people die each year. Especially children under the age of 5 carry 40% of the foodborne disease burden.

Due to pesticides contaminating breast milk and pass into infants' organisms, the risk of cancer in babies and children caused by pesticides is 10 times higher than in adults. In addition, high amounts of pesticides were found in fetuses of mothers who had miscarriages.

Pesticides with carcinogenic effects in the food chain cause unsafe foods, and unsafe foods cause global health threats that endanger consumers. In this respect, the use of pesticides is an issue that needs to be reconsidered due to the risk of chemical residue in agricultural products and in nature.

Therefore, during the pandemic caused by COVID-19, there is a need for an emergency action plan that allows the implementation of controlled production and consumption for a sustainable and immune-resistant society.

For the realization of 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, we call upon the United Nations and the World Health Organization (WHO) and all the world governments:

- All governments should take precautions for the use of pesticides with the utmost awareness and control to ensure food safety, and the use of pesticides that pose a serious danger should be controlled and be subjected to red prescription.
- International cooperation on tight control of pesticide sales should be encouraged. Licensing should be restricted to people who are experts in their field and have professional competence only.
- Food safety, as an important component of health safety, must be effectively integrated into national policies, programs and relevant legal regulations in accordance with the International Health Regulations and Codex Alimentarius Standards
- Policy makers should encourage and be given additional authority to establish accredited (laboratory, etc.) infrastructures that conduct independent and scientific research to analyze pesticides and measure food safety throughout the entire food chain process.

36. Apostle Padi Ologo Traditional Birth Centre

In collaboration with Australian Agency for Development, International Needs Australia and Suhum Municipal Health Administration, We have been implementing Sustainable Development Goal 3 since 2009 to reduce infant and maternal mortality in a very poor community called Sra. Sra is where cultural minority group called krobos are located in Suhum Municipality in the Eastern Regional part of Ghana. We have saved thousands of lives. Many more could be saved if more resources were available to ensure Sustainable Development Goals 1,2,3, 4 and 6 reach every mother and child in Sra. These have been our focus before COVID-19 emerged.

Ghana recorded its first case of COVID-19 on 12 March 2020. There were lockdown and social distancing as measures to curb the spread of the virus. This affected economic and social activities negatively. Work of institutions like our organization came to a halt. The pandemic has become a threat to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals as it is entrenching poverty not only of the Krobos in Sra but entire Africa. Because of COVID-19, current estimate suggests that the world's progress in achieving zero poverty in this region by 2030 will be set back by seven extra years (Mahler et al., 2020). The effect of COVID-19 on poverty is felt not only by the people but also Sustainable Development Goals Advocacy and Implementing agencies like our organization.

A key policy implication from these observations is that we have to broaden and accelerate social protection programs to assist both new poor and existing poor.

To reduce poverty, we encourage United Nations to support grassroots organizations like ours to organise communities like Sra into farming to plant economic trees such as mango. The fruit will be sold to generate income. This reduces poverty. The Mango plant will also reduce emission of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere which reduces global warming. The mango fruit is a food or nutrition which reduces hunger. It will also create a job for peasant farmers. Under many international agreements and rights conventions, including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, it is a globally shared responsibility to ensure that mothers, newborns and children are protected, supported and given the best opportunities to have a healthy life.

37. Arab Lawyers Union

The year 2020 was the year of death and despair, but we had to change and move to a year full of hope in the year 2021. Peace and justice are among the most important goals of sustainable development. The recovery from the COVID-19 crisis is a unique opportunity and includes a sustainable development plan for the year 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals 17 global action plan to end poverty and ensure peace and justice for all human beings. The plan is based on a multi-partnership and the sustainable development goals are based on the three economic, social and environmental dimensions by adopting General Assembly Resolution No. 70/1 unanimously, all countries committed to implementing a plan 2030 and the development goals in accordance with their national development priorities to eradicate poverty and hunger everywhere, protect human rights, promote gender equality and empower women and girls.

The Corona pandemic is a challenge and an exceptional circumstance for all countries of the world, which calls for preparation and setting general frameworks that should be focused on in the current stage in preparation for the post-crown stage in order to recover in a sustainable manner, that the world is facing two urgent crises, namely the Corona virus, climate change and about climate change. The convergence of COVID-19 and the climate crisis has provided a window of opportunity not only to recover from the pandemic but also to build a better future.

We seek to achieve the 2030 plan in the context of the work contract and achieve sustainable development, the Arab Lawyers Union has been greatly affected by the Corona pandemic. Lawyers' offices and the lack of relocation has led to a lack of direct business and the closure of the courts, as the Union faces great challenges in achieving the goals of sustainable development. Arab Women and Childhood Committee.

Whereas we are interested in sustainable development goals 1,2,3,4,5 and we are conducting courses and seminars to achieve Goal 8 and the Arab Lawyers Union supports women and works to empower them and reduce inequality Goal (10) and we always work to spread peace and justice Goal (16). The men of law are the basis of justice on the ground, where the law strengthens both the national role and the national role and ensuring equal access for all to justice, and since the process of tracking that starts from the principle of "ensuring that no one is left behind" will also clarify the extent of the benefit of all Categories, especially women, children, so that these groups have access to justice without discrimination.

38. Architects for Peace Inc.

Cities are one of the major contributors to Greenhouse gas emissions (Economic and Social Council Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)# 13 Climate Change). Since 2007 over 50% of the world's population live in urban environments. By 2050, 68% will be urban dwellers. Currently 1 in 3 urban dwellers live in slums (SDG #1 No Poverty). During COVID 19, urban areas have demonstrated a manifold response to the design and use of cities (UN SDG #3 Good Health and Wellbeing & SDG #8 decent work and economic growth). These key goals, their challenges and the progress of possible policy and action responses are seen in the accelerated adoptions of technology; adaption of existing practices under an existential threat; a rethinking of cities, architecture and, the use of technology for work, private life and leisure.

Architects for Peace have been involved in architectural and urban practice, research and education, advocacy and activism. This highlights the positive lessons that can be learnt from COVID-19 for a new a better normal in three specific strategies/responses that have general application for each of the SDGs.

Pedagogy

Architectural design studio teaching is - presential, hand-eye and learning by doing teaching and learning that is experiential, spatial, social, material, physical and conceptual. The adoption of Computer Assisted Design (CAD) as a design tool in the 1990s, altered the physical and material aspect in relation to this presential and social pedagogy. Remote and virtual technologies (2000 onwards) altered the presential and experiential. Each altered the social, which in turn was altered by social media (2005 Facebook) and virtual media (2007 Streetview) that prepared architecture students, teachers and practitioners, by their profession, for COVID quarantine.

Research

The spatial elements of this pedagogy and practice - the interior of the design studio, the building of the university campus or architectural office and the urban environment of the city - were changed and foregrounded by COVID 19. This is the subject of extensive investigation through practice.

Practice

The private and public elements of the design and use of the city where altered by COVID 19. The home became a place of employment, classroom, a social space of diminished privacy dependent and depending on digital, remote and virtual technologies. It is difficult to imagine the response to a global pandemic without the Internet and mobile devices. This raises the challenge of equity of access to technology as a right.

A slum household is defined as a group of individuals living under the same roof lacking one or more of the following conditions: access to improved water, access to improved sanitation, sufficient living area, and durability of housing. Electricity is not a criterion, but mobile phone access and use has jumped this requirement. Numerous studies on the adaptive and appropriative

use of mobile phone technology have been undertaken across cultures, principally by mobile phone companies, technology developers and service providers. Our times afford a rethinking of the relationship of urban habitation and the virtual and communicative space of digital technology.

39. Art of Living Foundation

The world is facing an unprecedented global health crisis with severe economic and social impacts. Psychological distress in individuals and its impact on populations is widespread. The impact of trauma, isolation, and anxiety over the last year has increased depression, sleep disorders, withdrawal and other psychological symptoms.

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted critical mental health services in 93% countries while the demand for mental health is increasing, according to a World Health Organization (WHO) survey. The survey provides the first global data showing the devastating impact of COVID-19 on access to mental health services and underscores the urgent need for increased funding. “There is no health without mental health,” said the UN Secretary-General António Guterres. We have been working in the area of mental health through breathing and meditation techniques for four decades with a network of about 30,000 trainers in 156 countries. Within the framework of the SDGs, we work at three levels:

- At the individual level, supporting people to overcome anxiety and depression and build inner peace;
- At the community level, when these individual problems of stress and aggression are spilling over into the community in the form of gangs, drugs and gun violence. We have worked towards suicide prevention for veterans suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress with at-risk youth in inner city schools, refugees, prisoners, police, former gang members and for survivors of natural and manmade disasters.
- At the global level, working to prevent and address violent extremism and to counter terrorism through rehabilitation and reintegration of ex-militants into mainstream society.

The breath-based tools and techniques are easy to learn and to integrate into life; applicable, affordable and scalable across cultures. Building peaceful and resilient societies starts with establishing inner peace at the individual level. Our evidence-based methodology sees the individual as the unit of change, which is now included in the Radicalization Awareness Network of the European Union.

As we move forward with the 2030 Agenda, it is imperative to mainstream mental health into policies and programmes to mitigate and overcome the impact of the pandemic across societies. We suggest to strengthen Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) programs across all sectors; building supportive institutions that collectively develop effective and sustainable community resilience; develop detailed policies and action plans; minimum operational standards; funding mechanisms; M&E systems; and engage in partnerships that are scalable, affordable, realistic, just like our programs. Collectively, we must use this time to reflect on and reshape the world we live in. We truly believe that a stress-free and violence-free world is possible. In this decade of action, it’s time to prioritize mental health and well-being for all to build a sustainable and resilient global community. World has changed, it is time we did too.

40. Asia Initiatives Inc

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in extraordinarily adverse circumstances with disproportionate impact on underserved communities. Asia Initiatives' aims to address the future and current unprecedented challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic by providing context-based solutions to some of these issues. Through our novel, community currency for social good - SoCCs or Social Capital Credits we aim to continue to incentivize and leverage the latent social good within communities and provide hyper-local, low-cost solutions to address problems of poverty, lack of access to education and employment opportunities and bridge the digital divide to empower them.

With a special focus on women, and their families from underserved communities, our innovative, virtual, community currency for social good enhances their lives and create an ecosystem for wholistic growth. Target audience in our programs discuss the issues within their communities through numerous dialogues and co-create with us a list of changes they want to make or things they would need. The communities would then work towards goals set by themselves, that we would support through funding support, mentoring and training and connecting them to various opportunities. This makes the women and the communities stewards.

Given the need on ground, we hope to rapidly scale up and implement our model in as many geographies and socio-cultural contexts as possible, adopt changes shared as feedback from the communities that we serve and transform this into a sustainable model that fits every context, to provide a local solution to specific problems. We hope to strengthen our commitment by forging more partnerships, and collaborations, and work with local partners and grassroots organizations, strengthen and build their capacities so that they can continue to work, independently in the long-term.

41. Asian Consultancy on Tobacco Control Limited

Tobacco kills more than half of its users. Tobacco kills more than 8 million people each year. More than 7 millions of those deaths are the result of direct tobacco use while around 1.2 million are the result of non-smokers being exposed to second-hand smoke. Over 80% of the world's 1.3 billion tobacco users live in low- and middle-income countries. New tobacco products like E-cigarettes are not safe.

Smokers are at higher risk of COVID. A recent Stanford University study found that adolescent vapers are 5-7 times more likely to catch COVID.

Tobacco causes not only health harm, but harm to the economy and to the environment. The established link of tobacco and poverty is most evidence in low-income countries.

Overview of the issues as it relates to the work of the NGO

Sustainable development, and many of the goal of the SDGs (virtually all clauses, but especially SDG3 on Good health and Wellbeing), will not be achieved until tobacco use is reduced.

The Asian Consultancy on Tobacco Control (ACTC) works with governments and non-governmental organisations to reduce tobacco use. The ACTC actively promotes and utilises the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) as a practical treaty to achieve this.

However, it is clear that this goal will not be achieved unless the commercial determinants of health are addressed. There are many industries that cause harm to health, but the tobacco industry is top of the list. The WHO FCTC Article 5.3 specifically addresses the point of the tobacco industry: “In setting and implementing their public health policies with respect to tobacco control, Parties shall act to protect these policies from commercial and other vested interests of the tobacco industry...”

A way forward

- 1) The SDGs further encourage and promote the implementation of the WHO FCTC.
- 2) The SDGs include a specific focus on commercial determinants of health.
- 3) Specifically WHO FCTC Article 5.3, the SDG apparatus should encourage countries to prevent tobacco industry interference with national policy. This includes the civil service, the elected legislature and the judiciary. Countries should be encourage to include WHO FCTC Article 5.3 in Civil Service codes, and in legislation and procedures covering elected legislators.
- 4) The SDGs should draw upon the experience of civil society, which has a particular role to play in exposing tobacco industry tactics, such as in the series entitled “Global Tobacco Industry Interference Index.”

42. Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW)

The Asian Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW) welcomes the theme of the High-Level Political Forum 2021 on sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic for achieving the 2030 Agenda.

We are presenting this statement at a time where the need for intersectional, human rights-based and gender responsive approach is no longer an option for resilient recovery from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic to realise the Agenda 2030.

Asia and the Pacific region recorded 25% and 20% of the global confirmed cases of COVID-19 and deaths caused by the pandemic respectively (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2021). The region continues to feel the impact of the pandemic which has deepened the inequalities and further exposed the vulnerabilities of the diverse and marginalised communities including the young people especially their access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health information and services. Young women and girls find it even more challenging to access safe abortion and related sexual and reproductive health services. Also, the de-prioritisation of health services including HIV testing and treatment, hormonal treatment and gender affirming treatments for trans individuals has impacted the young LGBTIQ community the most (Outright International, 2020). The pandemic also did not spare young people's basic access to education and employment leading to more long term economic and social costs.

To reverse the impact of COVID-19 pandemic that is continuing to threaten the region's progress towards Agenda 2030, ARROW's work in the Global South reinforces that young people in all their diversity are equal partners in achieving the 2030 goals. They must be at the forefront for accelerated transformation and action to enable accelerated sustainable solutions through young people's leadership, meaningful participation and support, and empowering youth-adult partnerships across the region. Prior to the Asian Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development in March 2021, almost 500 young people from the region crafted a Regional Call to Action at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific recognised Pre- Asian Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development Youth Forum detailing recommendations for sustainable, inclusive and human rights focused solutions for the Decade of Action.

The Regional Youth Call to Action urges the Member States for recovery actions that stimulate equity, resilience, sustainability, and progress towards the SDGs by emphasising the need for research to advance gender equality including to eradicate harmful practices, engagement with marginalised populations, ensuring decent work, preventing a digital divide, tackling intersectoral challenges around healthcare, and informing global governance reforms.

43. Assembly of First Nations - National Indian Brotherhood

The Assembly of First Nations-National Indian Brotherhood is a national advocacy organization representing 634 First Nations in Canada; with mandates to advance First Nations' human rights, including the right to self-determination.

For too long, First Nations in Canada have experienced socio-economic disparities compared to non-Indigenous Canadians including: higher rates of poverty, unemployment, over-representation in child welfare apprehensions and incarceration of youth and adults, and poor housing conditions.

This socioeconomic gap is a direct result of colonization and other serious violations of human rights including persistent racism and violence against First Nations women and girls. The cumulative effect of these conditions has rendered our people extremely vulnerable to global crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic. First Nations leadership have had to take extraordinary measures during the pandemic to protect our people and we have encouraged governments to work closely with our leadership. We had some success in our efforts at the national level despite many formidable challenges. We have built some constructive partnerships with other governments. However, we have lost too many of our men, women, children, youth.

Socioeconomic disparities lead to poorer health outcomes. Increased rates of underlying health conditions render First Nations vulnerable to severe illness from COVID-19. Chronic overcrowding and poor ventilation combined with food insecurity and drinking water advisories in many communities are additional challenges First Nations face in battling the pandemic.

First Nations too often face barriers accessing appropriate and timely healthcare services. These barriers include systemic racism in health services. This issue must be addressed effectively and quickly through law and policy reform.

The pandemic has increased the reliance on digital and telehealth services. However, unreliable Internet access in many First Nations communities is a barrier to public health awareness and service access.

Even though measures have been taken by Canada to provide access to economic supports, a significant gap remains in economic and employment recovery measures for First Nations compared to non-Indigenous Canadians. (Comparative statistics using the Human Development Index are available.)

The COVID-19 pandemic has been traumatic for many First Nations. However, we have demonstrated strength, resiliency, and innovation. Our people and leadership have taken steps to protect themselves as best we can during this pandemic.

Canada's COVID-19 pandemic recovery plans must focus on deeper reforms to address systemic inequities and must include more efforts to include First Nations in Canada's pandemic recovery and response efforts. Canada's implementation of the 2030 Agenda must respect First Nations' rights and ensure First Nations are the ones driving the solutions to address our peoples' needs.

A human rights-based approach will require intense efforts by Canada to work with Indigenous peoples to implement the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and other human rights instruments. A critical first step would be enactment of Bill C-15, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act – currently before the Parliament of Canada. This proposed legislation acknowledges the link between indigenous people’s human rights, sustainable development, and responses to the climate crises.

44. Association Africa 21

High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development: "Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: Building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development."

Resilience in the post covid world will only be achieved through positively disruptive approaches to problem solving, stakeholder engagement and value creation. Already, one of the greatest multilateral feats is driving equitable access of COVID-19 vaccines, and further signalling to the world that collaboration indeed magnifies impact. The future should be built on intentional approaches like this, that inclusively and holistically drive the sustainability agenda.

This disruption is more possible than ever-before thanks to technology. Today, the fourth industrial revolution is picking up speed and there are increasingly more ways to combine and apply technologies than ever before. This is all happening on the cusp of what the World Economic Forum has coined The Great Reset, a pause that offers humanity the opportunity to rethink and refine interaction among humans, and with the environment.

Africa 21 has built its strategic focus areas around 3 pillars which we believe will bolster efforts for measurable and lasting sustainable development outcomes. Association Africa 21 is therefore calling on the international community as well as calling on national and regional stakeholders to invest systematically in:

- Leadership, Good governance, and Inclusion – that enhances decision making capacity and creates the enabling environment for positive disruption,
- Technology and Innovation – that unlocks new social and economic value across the SDG goals,
- Human Wellbeing and the Environment – that improves how humans interact with each other, as well as how humans understand and interact with the environment.

Achieving the 2030 agenda, in any measure, will require a deliberate approach to knowledge sharing and continuous, fundamental learning. This belief is one of the core tenets of Africa 21's work and was a founding principle in the creation of the continent-wide network of Journalists focusing on sustainability and the environment. This network seeks to enhance capacity at various levels including the decision making and public levels.

As humanity continues on its path of discovery, and with the tools and resources at our disposal, decisions we make today will shape the world's future much like the discovery of electricity did. Surpassing the expectations of the 2030 Agenda to shape the future will require solutionist thinking beyond the decade of action.

For Africa, sustainable and resilient recovery can only be achieved if the path to structural economic transformation — that is embedded in the Agenda 2063 and its fast-track programmes and projects — is consistent with the creation and strengthening of national social safety nets and the implementation of bold environmental protection.

45. Association Aicha pour le Développement de Proximité et Environnement

Pour une gestion durable de l'eau dans la Région Guelmim Oued Noun au sud du Maroc

La Région Guelmim Oued Noun au sud du Maroc, de 46 108 km² peuplée de 433 757 habitants. Son climat saharien aride caractérisé par l'insuffisance et l'irrégularité des précipitations, la rareté de l'eau, la désertification.

Conséquence des changements climatiques des sécheresses récurrentes, restent un problème majeur avec des incidences sur plusieurs registres :

- Rareté des ressources hydriques et son accentuation
- Surexploitation et gaspillage de cette ressource,
- Salinité accrue
- Demande croissante en eau potable et d'irrigation.

Aussi une gestion rationnelle de l'eau s'impose pour un développement durable de la région. En rationalisant l'eau et en la préservant, l'agrosystème serait sauvegardée (le cas fragile de la commune Laqsabi-Targoust) tout en améliorant les conditions de vie des populations locales, et en luttant contre l'exode rural.

La Région dispose de ressources variées en eau. Entre autres :

- Les eaux des pluies malgré leur parcimonie
- Les eaux de surface provenant occasionnellement des oueds dont les crues sont une manne pour l'agriculture vivrière de la région.
- Une nappe souterraine (qui était riche avant les changements climatiques) souvent salée, assure en permanence l'alimentation en eau potable les centres urbains et l'irrigation des terres cultivées. Elle est actuellement surexploitée et en dégradation continue risque de tarir complètement
- Le dessalement des eaux de mer bien qu'onéreux est un palliatif
- Le recyclage des eaux usées des agglomérations urbaines, aura l'avantage d'atténuer la pollution des nappes souterraines et de produire l'eau pour l'irrigation.

En vue d'une gestion durable des ressources hydriques, on préconise de déployer un programme d'action basé sur :

- Booster la recherche scientifique dans ce sens dans la région et lutter contre la désertification avec les différents collaborateurs.
- Mobilisation des eaux de surface, par la réalisation d'ouvrages de dérivation ou de retenue dans le but de recharger la nappe phréatique, de pratiquer une agriculture par épandage, et de se protéger contre les inondations imprévisibles des oueds.
- Recycler les eaux usées pour servir l'agriculture. L'usage des techniques innovantes pour le dessalement des eaux de mer en usant des énergies renouvelables.
- Rationaliser l'eau d'irrigation en recourant aux techniques d'irrigation notamment le goutte à goutte souterrain ;
- Promouvoir des cultures sobres Tels que : le caroubier, l'amandier, l'arganier et autres variétés. Le reboisement permet de protéger les sols contre l'érosion crée un écosystème, qui générerait des revenus pour les populations locales surtout les femmes et les jeunes sans-emplois tout en contribuant à une agriculture familiale et à l'écotourisme.

46. Association Aide aux Femmes et Enfants

Après plusieurs années d'efforts intenses axés sur la lutte contre la pauvreté, la faim, le bien-être de la femme et de l'enfant, la pandémie de COVID – 19 est venue réduire tous cela à néant. Toutes ces avancées ont été détruites et on est reparti en dessous de la situation du départ. Ceux qui avaient des moyens financiers et qui nous aidaient à aider les plus démunis n'ont plus rien eux-mêmes. Des emplois sont détruits. Des familles sont brisées. Des perspectives qui se présentent à l'horizon sont faibles distantes pour nos économies et nos ménages qui font face au quotidien à des situations dignes d'un film catastrophe. Cette situation a des impacts sur presque tout en chaine. Ça part des entreprises jusques dans les familles où les violences se multiplient, les difficultés s'accroissent et notre travail s'est compliqué du jour au lendemain.

Nous proposons les actions suivantes :

- Un plan de sortie de crise avec des fonds disponible destinés à soutenir cette sortie ;
- Une assistance aux acteurs de la société civile par des formations destinées à ce fait ;
- Un accompagnement matériel pour la réalisation des objectifs fixés ;
- Voir et prendre le problème de façon globale sans laisser de côté une seule partie prenante pour ne pas avoir à refaire et tourner en rond ;
- Rendre accessible le vaccin à tous et permettre à tous d'avancer en même temps.

Orientations politiques

Nous faisons face à une nouvelle chose que toutes nos générations en vie actuellement dans le monde n'ont pas connu. Alors, nous suggérons pour permettre à tous de s'en sortir des politiques de gestion de la cité compatibles avec les souffrances de la population. Mettre en place des règles souples tendant à soutenir et aider les populations qui souffrent déjà. Donner à tous les mêmes chances pour faciliter un nouveau départ.

Défis

Réduire les inégalités, les discriminations de tous modèles. Ouvrir les portes à tous.

Domaines nécessitant une attention urgente

L'alimentation et la lutte contre la fin, la santé, l'agriculture, les violences faites aux femmes et aux enfants, les droits de la femme et les questions du genre.

Pour atteindre ses objectifs en rapport avec tout ce qui précède, notre organisation a besoin du soutien financier et matériel. Nous avons toujours fonctionné sur nos fonds propres. Aucun soutien financier jusqu'à présent ne nous a été apporté. Nous en avons besoin maintenant. Autrement, nous sommes appelés à fermer nos portes et à abandonner toutes ces personnes que nous prenons en charge.

47. Association APEDDUB

- On 19 April 2021, UN Secretary-General António Guterres warned that ‘time is fast running out to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement’, as a new State of the Global Climate Report by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) showed that 2020 was one of three warmest years on record. ‘The global average temperature in 2020 was about 1.2-degree Celsius above pre-industrial level... “Dangerously- close” to the 1,5 degree Celsius limit to the advocated by scientists to stave off the worst impacts of climate change, said the UN in a statement. Despite a temporary dip observed in 2020 due to COVID-19-related economic slowdown, the WMO report notes that the emission of major greenhouse gases has kept rising. “We need to do more and faster, now”, Mr. Guterres said.
- The global public health crisis created by COVID-19 has placed an additional burden on vulnerable populations already sustaining the adverse impacts of climate change. Restrictions imposed around the world to deal with the pandemic have resulted in broken supply chains, limited market access for millions, set off inflation in many countries and undermined livelihoods for the most marginal in society. As estimated by the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), COVID-19 could potentially cause GDP to drop from 3.2 per cent to 1.8 per cent and put more than 250 million jobs in the urban informal sector across the continent at risk. Ongoing recovery plans can only be deemed successful if they address the climate and health emergency integrally.

Having so observed, the APEDDUB calls on Mr. Guterres, Secretary General of UN to:

- Encourage strong statements from Ministers on:
 - Urgency to increase ambition for the next Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) cycle
 - Opportunities for increasing their ambition
 - Commitment to undertake domestic NDC enhancement processes including consultations with non-state actors
 - A roadmap process for national consultations leading to enhanced NDCs.
- Initiate a dialogue between regional scientists working on climate change, civil society leaders, local government’s representatives, regional focal points, negotiators and policy makers.
- Provide participants with an overview of the climate situation in the regions and give further insights on the NDC’s implementation per country;
- Assess Efforts in relation to action and support, as appropriate, in the pre-2030 period and initiatives to enhance cooperation on climate change;
- Point out Key transformational solutions and efforts needed to achieve a climate-smart future;
- Create an international framework that outlines what governments and wider stakeholders are expected to do strengthening the global response to climate change and limit the temperature increase to 1.5 - 2 degrees C
- Create a facilitator process for the implementation of the agreement and promote compliance.

- Call countries to communicate their efforts with regards to adaptation, climate finance, transfer of technology and capacity building, and how they will be held accountable for their commitments
- Foster a low-carbon, just and equitable pandemic recovery that fully integrates climate change and the need to strengthen the resilience of developing countries and communities, and to minimize the adverse impact of major disruptions

48. Association Avocats Sans Frontière Humanitaires du Cameroun

La pandémie COVID-19 a placé le monde entier dans un désarroi indescriptible ; Elle a freiné les économies du monde entier et a bouleversé toute la donne politique et gouvernementale des États, imposant de ce fait une politique gouvernementale adaptée au nouveau contexte sanitaire pour un meilleur développement durable dans ce contexte ; L'association Avocats Sans Frontières Humanitaires du Cameroun, fait sa déclaration dans le respect des objectifs de développement durable 1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 12, 13, 16, 17 ; En effet, étant une association des avocats humanitaires, veillant au strict respect des droits humains, il est constant que cette pandémie a essentiellement porté atteinte auxdits droits humains ;

La mise en œuvre des Objectifs de Développement Durable, et des droits ont été anéanti par cette pandémie. Raison pour laquelle l'association Avocats Sans Frontières Humanitaires du Cameroun courant Mars 2020, a organisé un webinar sur le thème « pandémie covid-19 et droits humains » ; De cette réunion zoom, beaucoup de droits violés ont été énumérés et plusieurs recommandations ont été suggéré pour palier à cette situation ;

En outre, dans le cadre de l'exercice de nos activités, nous sommes le plus souvent confronté à la machine gouvernementale auteur présumé de la plupart des violations de Droits humains décriés tout au moins de manière passive, car l'impunité des actes perpétrés dans ce sens constituent des complicités avec les auteurs desdits violations ;

Dans le contexte actuel de la COVID par exemple, le gouvernement Camerounais a interdit l'accès de toutes les prisons aux ONG, nous n'avons plus le droit de mener nos activités aux seins des prisons, et même en tant qu'avocats nous n'avons plus le droit de voir nos clients ; ce qui altère le droit de la défense et par ricochet le droit à un procès équitable ;

À travers cette déclaration écrite, ASFH-CAM en tant que défenseurs des Droits humains, prescrit les recommandations ci-après pour réduire les violations des droits humains par ladite pandémie :

- Organiser les plateformes de rencontre virtuelle pour une recherche de solution concertée par toutes les parties prenantes ;
- Les États doivent inclure les organisations de la société civile dans la gestion de cette pandémie, car elles sont plus proche des populations ;
- Décentraliser au maximum les fonds d'aide pour la gestion de cette pandémie ;
- Former des acteurs clés afin de mieux les outillés sur la sensibilisation des populations par rapport à la pandémie qui reste encore une chimère pour certains en Afrique ;
- Construire de nouvelles structures sanitaires et former également le personnel sanitaire dans la gestion des patients atteints ;
- Créer une plateforme virtuelle au niveau de la justice afin de gérer les audiences virtuelles, les diligences par voie informatique ainsi que les parloirs virtuels ;
- Promouvoir le Télé travail ;

Au vu de ces modestes observations, nous pensons humblement que si elles sont mises en œuvre, on assistera à une amélioration de la situation qui prévaut de nos jours due à la crise du COVID-19.

49. Association de l'Unité Spéciale Républicaine

Notre déclaration a pour objectif de contribuer à la construction de l'édifice d'un monde nouveau, plus sûr, plus fiable. Le but étant de garantir à la nouvelle génération, des bons repères et des modèles de gestion humaine et collégiale de nos sociétés; dans le respect mutuel des civilisations spécifique à chacun.

Problèmes

Notre Organisation, comme ses paires évoluant dans le tiers-monde, au-delà du manque de financements à cause des législations autocratiques qui excluent tout financement extérieur des organisations sous le prétexte fallacieux de lutte contre le terrorisme et le contrôle des forces politiques nouvelles; fait face aux difficultés majeures liées à l'inexistence d'un État de droit; base fondamentale de toute expression démocratique et de bonne gouvernance. Aucun objectif ne peut être atteint si la justice libre n'existe pas dans un pays.

Nos États ont des modes de gouvernance basés sur la prévarication et la spoliation des ressources destinées à tous, part une poignée d'individus donc la violation des droits de l'homme est la religion qui permet de maintenir le peuple en captivité. C'est la première source de sous-développement et d'instabilité; et également source de désordre lié à l'immigration irrégulière qui cause le rejet et la défiance. Le monde de demain a besoin de concorde internationale et d'harmonie inter civilisationnelle sans quoi, nous courons vers la perte de tout vivre-ensemble. La Jeunesse Africaine pense légitimement que l'occident Lui doit des dettes historiques qu'il faudra un jour restituer. La stigmatisation des migrants ne fait qu'aggraver ce ressenti et va créer le rejet en retour. La solution se trouve dans la gouvernance et la juste répartition des fruits issus des ressources de tous. Le COVID19 a peut-être remis les compteurs à zéro et il faut donner la chance à la jeunesse africaine de prendre ce nouveau départ. Elle a la chance d'avoir un environnement vierge où tout peut prospérer si on met le juste prix. Faisons pousser la Paix et le Développement durable à travers et avec cette jeunesse dynamique et active. Donnons-lui des outils nécessaire et l'humanité sera gagnante.

Attentes

Que les grandes démocraties permettent aux jeunes nations d'asseoir l'État de droit et la Démocratie tout en respectant la volonté du peuple et non des intérêts hégémoniques d'un capitalisme sauvage et inhumain qui viole tout bon sens et toute morale.

Qu'il soit accordé plus de protection et de considération aux ONG. Le Statut Consultatif doit être assorti d'une protection consulaire car, il est inadmissible qu'on perde sa vie parce qu'on défend les droits de l'homme; sans coercition pour les contrevenants étatiques!

Justice pour les victimes des droits de l'homme !

50. Association des Jeunes pour l'Agriculture du Mali

Un des objectifs implicites de la décennie d'action est de construire un équilibre concret parmi les pays. La pandémie de COVID-19 est venue disjoindre quelques piliers construits pour un développement durable par des peuples du Sud. Cette pernicieuse qui a mis l'économie mondiale en récession, interpelle la communauté internationale sur un certain nombre de domaines : L'impressionnante contradiction, confusion des scientifiques autour d'un sujet de science médicale, le vaccin; le désastre humanitaire qui a effondré le système sanitaire en Amérique et en Occident; le choc économique avec ses conséquences sur le travail à l'échelle mondiale; les techniques des relances économiques qui consistent pour l'occident à monétiser la crise et pour certains membres du tiers monde comme le Mali à s'endetter pour renforcer la résilience des populations rurales les plus vulnérables.

Le COVID-19 a exposé clairement le danger que risquent les pays en développement en n'ayant pas le contrôle de ces mécanismes pour la santé publique. Si la résistance de la chine face à la pandémie et la croissance annuelle (2020) de 2,35% obtenue dans ce pays servent de références, pour les pays du Sud particulièrement ceux de l'Afrique la pandémie est une injection.

Des politiques de développement des industries de santé, le financement des recherches virologiques, vaccinales doivent être implémenté urgemment dans les régions en déficit de ces infrastructures, et doubler le soutien aux États comme le Nigeria qui donne de l'exemple dans la recherche de vaccin.

Le défi environnemental qui de plus en plus menace le secteur agricole dans le grand Sahel s'érige en un lourd fardeau pour les ministères en charge de l'environnement et de l'agriculture. Notre organisation, consciente de ces enjeux a en projet une campagne de récupération et reboisement des terres dans des zones rurales et urbaines cibles.

Ce projet dénommé Mission Harmattan qui participe au 2021 UN Global Climate Action Awards, bien que n'inventant rien de nouveau dans le combat contre le changement climatique ambitionne de comprimer la mobilité du sable vers les endroits habités.

Mission Harmattan s'inspire des avancés de l'industrie forestière Finlandaise et des ONG ayant obtenu des résultats significatifs dans ce domaine. Les activités à accomplir pour ce projet, au-delà de réduire les conséquences du réchauffement climatique contiennent des effets multiplicateurs qui contribueront au rabaissement du taux de pauvreté dans lesdites localités.

Pour avoir un impact considérable Mission Harmattan s'exécutera en partenariat avec diverses parties : universités, secteurs public et privé. Ainsi la coopération s'avère un outil incontournable non seulement pour la résilience contre la pandémie et les défis environnementaux mais surtout pour un bon équilibre économique entre le Nord et le Sud.

Ainsi nous exhortons les Nations Unies, les pays membres à créer des cadres afin de faciliter plus de coopération entre les Organisations du Sud avec celles du Nord, car ces échanges seront d'un apport inestimable dans la matérialisation de la décennie d'action. La chance, l'opportunité doit être offert à toutes les parties pour apporter leurs contributions dans la construction d'un monde juste et équilibré pour tous.

51. Association d'Études et de Recherches pour le Développement

La situation du développement social dans les pays de la région MENA fait ressortir de grandes disparités à l'intérieur de chaque pays et entre les pays. Ces disparités sont aggravées par une pression démographique différenciée. En effet, sur une population évaluée en 2020 à 464 millions d'habitants, soit 5,4% de la population mondiale, l'Égypte et l'Iran (République islamique d') englobent à eux seuls 40,2% de la population totale de la région, et les pays d'Afrique du Nord (Maroc, Algérie, Tunisie, Lybie et Mauritanie) représentent 21,5%.

Ces réalités démographiques exercent une pression croissante sur les besoins des populations dans les domaines les plus stratégiques pour le quotidien des citoyens de la région, notamment l'éducation, la santé, l'emploi, la pauvreté, le logement, le transport, l'accès à l'énergie, à l'eau, à l'assainissement, en sus des droits de nouvelle génération comme le droit au digital et la justice climatique. Les impacts de la pandémie covid19, dans des contextes nationaux difficiles et un environnement international marqué par l'émergence de nouvelles insécurités alimentaires, sanitaires, climatiques, énergétiques et numériques aggravent la situation du développement social dans la région.

Qu'il s'agisse du niveau d'instruction de la population, de ses conditions de santé, de son insertion dans la vie active, de la pauvreté ou des autres droits sociaux se sont les femmes, les jeunes, les ruraux, les travailleurs des secteurs informels et les migrants qui constituent les catégories les plus touchées.

Aussi le défi futur majeur de l'ensemble des pays de la région résidera dans leurs capacités endogènes à bâtir de nouveaux modèles de développement social mettant le capital humain au cœur des priorités futures des politiques nationales en matière d'action sociale et de solidarité. L'Association d'Études et de Recherches pour le Développement en tant que think tank international dévoué à la recherche scientifique orientée développement, tout en diagnostiquant les réalités et en menant des réflexions de prospective en vue d'éclairer les décideurs, s'est engagé depuis 2015 à réaliser des activités (organisation des séminaires, publication des ouvrages, octroi de prix aux chercheurs notamment aux jeunes et femmes, organisation des formations,...) qui s'inscrivent dans le cadre de l'agenda 2030 des Nations Unies sur les objectifs de développement durable.

A cet égard, le sujet du développement social dans les pays de la région MENA constitue l'un des axes prioritaires de l'association en vue de relever ces futurs défis afin d'atteindre l'agenda 2030 à travers des réflexions sur les nouveaux modèles de développement social.

52. Association Féminine la Lumière

L'heure n'est plus au mensonge c'est pourquoi par cette déclaration nous venons déverser ce qu'il y a sur notre cœur. Il faut dire les choses telles qu'elles sont. Nous dirons que le gouvernement mondial nous trompe, c'est à dire qu'il est entrain de dorloter la femme en mentant sur son compte. Ceci nous pousse à proposer comme :

Objectif Général

Appréhender la condition de la femme afin de prouver sa complémentarité selon la bible.

Objectif Spécifique

Agir sur la création de la vie pour expliquer cette complémentarité de la femme qui devient la véritable responsable de la famille. Ce leurre à créer même des guerres entre les clans et les communautés.

L'homme sème une partie de sa vie dans la femme qui l'entretien, le nourrit, le construit durant 9 mois pour qu'il devienne un homme. Dès la naissance, l'enfant revient à la société et doit subir d'autres formes de développement d'une manière générale. À un certain âge, il choisit ce qu'il deviendra à la société. La femme devient la principale éducatrice de l'enfant pour le guider avec la complémentarité de toute la société humaine. Il va choisir en tenant compte de ce qu'il reçoit de la société. Dans le monde entier, en s'appuyant sur le vécu quotidien et suivant le bilan, pourquoi la femme ne peut pas appartenir à cette classe de responsable supérieure ? Pourquoi la femme étant la principale éducatrice de l'enfant, ne peut pas oser devenir responsable supérieure? La politique mondiale de ce 21ème siècle n'est plus au mensonge.

A la naissance, la fille n'est même pas déclarée à l'état civil pour garantir son avenir par l'acte fondamental. Les enfants qui sont nés filles, ne sont pas considérés. Surtout dans le pays patriarcal, le garçon a plus de valeur. La femme qui ne donne que des filles est violentée, renvoyée et laissée pour compte ; or personne ne connaît l'avenir qui nous dira long. Fille ou garçon, Pourquoi choisir?

Pour finir, le gouvernement mondial doit mettre la femme à sa place pour un développement durable en évitant de la diaboliser. Ainsi les mots égalité, équité, jouissance équitable des droits sans pratique effective ne soient pas trompeurs.

53. Association for Protection of Refugee and Internal Displaced Women and Children

COVID-19 has notoriously involved all ages and social groups – regardless of their ethnicity and documentation status. However, the most vulnerable communities, as always, have been pressed especially hard since they mainly rely on wage-earning contingent work including day labor that more often than not include hazardous tasks. In this regard all the vulnerable groups such as refugees and migrants all over the world should have access to vaccine and free treatments like other citizens of the country where they live.

In the meantime, refugee women, who are normally more restricted, should be given priority in receiving health care related to COVID-19, including vaccination. COVID-19 has reminded everyone of the fragility of social and political borders and its response – at the global level – has highlighted the need to revisit previous values and mechanisms.

HAMI believes that to achieve SDG goals like, reducing inequality, Guarantee Peace and Justice, we should not ignore refugees and immigrants all over the world.

In Corona days, the economic and health situation of refugees in Iran (Islamic Republic of), is at risk level because of the limited domestic resources and the effect of unilateral coercive sanctions. The continued deterioration of the security situation has reduced the voluntary return and sustainable reintegration of refugees to zero and have made the situation of millions of Afghan refugees in Iran (Islamic Republic of), much worse.

Achieving justice and equality is one of the goals of sustainable development. And giving migrants and refugees around the world access to free treatment and vaccination of COVID-19 is essential to achieve SDG goals.

Information dissemination and advocacy are some of the solutions. Drafting and circulating Situation Analyses including updated information on the health and hygiene status of the refugee and immigrant communities all over the world can gather and bring various regional and international humanitarian together.

Compiling information outlining refugee's situation throughout the pandemic based on reliable official resources and first hand feedback from Psychosocial Support Centers and local community focal points would enable these communities to be more equitable in accessing medical resources and to find a way to get vaccinated.

Otherwise without coherent international cooperation, there is a risk of asymmetric global recovery in which some countries recover faster than others, that make greater inequality and discrimination and inconsistent with the SDGs.

The protection of the refugee must therefore be seen in the broader context of the protection of human rights and international community have to fulfill its responsibilities, regardless of any political Differences to reduce human suffering all around the world. And should maintain its commitment to the protection of refugees and immigrants.

54. Association for Rural Area Social Modification, Improvement and Nestling

The COVID-19 pandemic situation tortured millions and millions of people relentlessly all over the Globe. The economic break down, massive loss of employment and return of the migrant workers would further stress the limited welfare and livelihood resources in the rural areas having direct impact on welfare access of the poor and taking the poverty back to decades-old level. All the Countries have witnessed the harshest imposition of the lockdown, shut down and quarantine to protect the virus enforced for too long with a very chaotic widespread humanitarian crisis. The return of the migrants from the industrial cities back to rural area was the cause of the total loss of livelihood and social security in very unsafe, inhuman, and pathetic condition caused the spread of the virus in rural people. The impacts of the COVID-19 are more prominent on the life situation of the poor Tribal community due to their unconscious life situation.

The collapse of economy under the severe and prolonged lockdown imposition has now forced the Governments to further liberalize the welfare laws to attract the ‘investors’ for ‘reviving’ the economy. This would inflict the greater vulnerability among the poor community. Hence, to challenge this unprecedented situation, Nature-based Solution is the most appropriate technology as mentioned below:

Subsistence Agriculture and Green Economy

The Subsistence Agriculture (Eco-Agriculture) is the only Lively-hood alternative support to promote the socio-economic standard of the people and to maintain a subsistence life. It is also another unique strategy to improve the Natural Resources, because Ecology works to promote sustainable agriculture and community enterprise. It is prevailing in rural India since the inception and before the development of Agricultural Science and Technology. So, providing these alternative support opportunities will improve the individuals and strengthen the livelihoods of the Community well-beings. So, we are encouraging the members of our Tribal community to continue this Subsistence Agricultural Farming that strengthens the livelihoods of the poor people and keeps the Planet healthy. It is a sustainable pattern of cropping with much more benefits like:

- Provides Food Security, Health Security, Financial Security, Employment, strengthens the environment, promotes the Green Economy, checks the Migration, Displacement and creates sustainable Food Chain.
- It is Eco-friendly and Climate friendly that promotes the quality of Air, checks the Desertification, Soil erosion, short-lived climate pollutants and climate change, improves the fertility of Soil and protects our ecosystem.
- It will also control the Global warming, rise the level of ground water and save the people from different diseases and Natural Calamities like Droughts.
- There is no need of more water, Fertilizers and Pesticides and no possibility of infection for this cropping.
- Even at the greatest drought situation, the Farmers will never lose the seeds of the crops and will be able for cropping in the next cropping season.

So, this is the high time to adopt this indigenous farming system with some cross-cutting programs to rebuild our collapsed economy and to keep the environment healthy.

55. Association for Supporting the SDGs for the UN (ASD)

As COVID-19 has continued to impact many lives in the recent times, social, economic, and political systems are stagnating and rapidly changing in all areas. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) predicted that the global Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2020 and 2021 brought about by the pandemic will reach about \$9 trillion in losses. It also has resulted in the blockade of borders in each country, which is stopping all exchanges including trade, transportation, travel, and business trips.

Yet, in order to cope with such difficult global exchange and mobility, digital technology is playing an essential role in reducing various losses and helping to adapt to the new environment. In addition, it is possible to reduce excessive costs and energy generation for transport amid the global economic crisis. COVID-19 is expected to be the time to leap into the future where humanity and society coexist with innovative technologies in each area.

The Association for Supporting the SDGs for the UN (ASD), which is in special consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), is contributing to overcome the pandemic via Information and Communications Technology (ICT). The Association for Supporting the SDGs for the UN (ASD) is constantly working with Artificial Intelligence (AI), big data, and cloud computing companies in South Korea. Its contributions aim to achieve the targets of SDG 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation.

KT, a major IT company worth \$21.5 billion, is an AI/DX-based digital platform company that is contributing to technology expansion that minimizes economic loss through contactless services. KT is a global leading company that resolves social problems through digital innovation technology. In particular, a year before the COVID-19 outbreak, KT provided a big data solution 'Big Sight' based on the communication data to promote national tourism and commercial district analysis data. It is also establishing a social safety net system using Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR) technologies. KT is also expanding its technology ecosystem beyond South Korea to various countries such as, Vietnam, Indonesia, and the United States to expand decent jobs and employment in the Asia-Pacific region.

KT and KT Trade Unions' efforts to respond to COVID-19 became the background for being selected as "The Most Excellent Sustainable Global Enterprise with Outstanding COVID-19 Response" in the '2020 Global Sustainable 100 List', a list that is annually announced by the Association for Supporting the SDGs for the UN (ASD). KT and the KT Trade Union not only solves social problems through digital innovation technology, but also strives to achieve SDGs-ESG for technology and the environment: such as eco-friendly management, Net Zero 2050, and forming a joint labor-management ESG committee. The Association for Supporting the SDGs for the UN (ASD) and the KT Trade Union are spreading sustainable digital technology by responding to universal social issues including the environment, women rights, COVID-19 response, and poverty eradication.

56. Association Humanity First Cameroon

Le Cameroun fait partie des 69 pays dans le monde qui condamne les rapports entre personnes de même sexe à travers l'article 347-1 de son code pénal. Cet état de choses renforce les actes de violences et de violations dont font face les personnes lesbiennes, gays, bisexuelles, transgenres et intersexes (LGBTI). En 2020, les organisations de la société civile travaillant auprès des LGBTI regroupées au sein de la plateforme Unity ont recensé 2031 cas de violence faites sur la base de l'orientation et l'identité de genre. Ces violations interviennent dans un contexte particulièrement marqué par la crise sanitaire au COVID19. A travers cette déclaration, nous souhaitons dénoncer ce nombre sans cesse croissant des violations faites aux LGBTI et de souligner l'impact qu'elles ont sur l'accès aux soins. Nous souhaitons également demander à notre Gouvernement de respecter les engagements pris afin de ne laisser personne de côté dans l'atteinte des Objectifs de Développement Durables à l'horizon 2030.

L'Association Humanity First Cameroon travaille sur les questions de santé et de protection des droits des minorités sexuelles et de genre dont font partie les LGBTI. A cet effet, elle mène des missions d'observation et de documentation des cas de violence et de violation des droits des personnes fondées sur l'orientation sexuelle et l'identité de genre. En 2020, on a constaté que la pandémie COVID19 a significativement contribué à augmenter les cas de violence et de violation faites à cette communauté. Les mesures de confinement partielles ont été à l'origine de nombreux rejets et d'abandons familiaux, d'expulsion des domiciles et d'arrestations arbitraires des LGBTI. Sur le plan sanitaire, on note aussi une recrudescence des nouvelles infections liées au VIH au sein des populations clés dans un contexte déjà marqué par un faible accès aux services de santé. Les violations accentuent la vulnérabilité face au VIH et à la COVID19. Le système de santé fragilisé par la stigmatisation et la discrimination ne garantit donc plus un accès équitable aux soins de prévention et de prise en charge des maladies.

Au regard de toutes les violations faites aux LGBTI et en rappel aux Conventions et Traités signés et ratifiés par l'État du Cameroun, nous demandons :

- La libération immédiate de toutes les personnes détenues actuellement dans les prisons pour des raisons liées à leur orientation sexuelle réelle ou supposée, leur non-conformité de genre ou de prétendues pratiques sexuelles entre adultes consentants de même sexe;
- La cessation des arrestations arbitraires des LGBTI et la prohibition de l'examen anal ou du test de dépistage VIH forcé ;
- L'initiation par le Parlement de l'abrogation de l'article 347 bis du code pénal camerounais, qui punit les relations sexuelles consenties entre personnes de même sexe d'une peine pouvant aller jusqu'à cinq ans de prison ;
- La veille à l'accès équitable aux soins de toutes les populations afin d'atteindre l'objectif numéro 3 des Objectifs de Développement Durables.

57. Association Mauritanienne pour la promotion du droit

Le segment de haut niveau de l'ECOSOC de son année se tiendra du 13 au 16 juillet 2021 et sera guidé par le thème du Forum politique de haut niveau (HLPF) 2021 sur le « Relèvement durable et résilient de la pandémie COVID-19, qui favorise les dimensions économiques, sociales et environnementales du développement durable: Construire une voie inclusive et efficace pour la réalisation du Programme 2030 dans le contexte de la décennie d'action et de réalisation pour le développement durable ».

Une économie prospère et robuste

Une économie diversifiée et de plus en plus compétitive aura eu pour résultat une forte croissance économique inclusive et durable avec un taux moyen sur la période à deux chiffres (plus de 10%). Cette croissance profitera à tous les mauritaniens, en particulier les plus démunis, ce qui est de nature à réduire considérablement les différentes inégalités, le chômage des jeunes et le sous-emploi en général. Cette croissance sera principalement tirée par un secteur privé dynamique jouant pleinement son rôle dans une économie dont l'orientation libérale est affirmée.

Un capital humain valorisé

A l'horizon 2030, la Mauritanie disposera d'un capital humain de qualité, ce qui constitue un atout majeur dans le processus de développement du pays. Le développement humain durable et le bien-être des mauritaniens sont de fait au cœur de la présente vision. L'accélération de l'atteinte des cibles des ODD ainsi que de meilleures conditions pour un développement durable.

Une gouvernance renforcée dans toutes ses dimensions

L'actuelle vision accorde une place importante à l'enracinement de la démocratie et l'approfondissement de l'État de droit. Pour cela, l'ancrage d'une culture démocratique au sein du corps social et de l'élite est un objectif majeur à atteindre avant 2030.

La lutte contre la corruption, le respect de la chose publique, l'instauration de la gestion axée sur les résultats, y compris la pratique du suivi-évaluation des politiques publiques, les bonnes pratiques ainsi que la recherche de l'efficacité d'une administration modernisée, seront au cœur de la gestion économique et financière du pays pour les quinze (15) prochaines années.

Une Mauritanie au rendez-vous de la réalisation de ses engagements internationaux

Forte des profondes transformations de son économie, de son capital et humain et de sa gouvernance, la Mauritanie sera au rendez-vous dans la réalisation des engagements pris de concert avec la communauté internationale, en particulier l'atteinte des Objectifs de Développement Durables, la capture du Dividende Démographique et la contribution déterminée au niveau national au titre de l'Accord de Paris sur le Climat.

58. Association Of Professional Social Workers And Development Practitioners

Background

During the times of COVID-19 lockdown, it was observed that due to absence of convergence amongst the government, hindrance to bring forth appropriate linkages through civil society organizations (CSOs) and institutional support to deal with the pandemic situation, the vulnerability of marginalized increased manifold.

While the lockdown was imposed more stringently, the plight of poverty-stricken, impoverished communities including migrant labour remained unheard. Few of them were forced by the prevailing circumstance to migrate to their native towns stationed at a larger distance including men, women, children, and elderly of different age groups.

Overview

Keeping in view the present state of affairs, APSWDP initiated COVID-19 Solidarity Response Relief Campaign aiming to provide the basic and essential necessities to the poor and marginalized section of society who are more or less a part of the informal economy. The campaign was widely supported by Corporates under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) with supply of essential food items and immunity boosters. Initially, the campaign was carried out in and around the city of Chandigarh and areas situated at the fringes of the city were widely covered. APSWDP attempted to focus and localise SDG 1, 2, 3, 10, 13, 16 by adopting the approach of community driven development. It was accomplished by adopting SDG 17 Partnerships, which made a remarkable difference in implementing the vision of the UN at local level.

Way Forward

To envisage the futuristic perspective, a uniform approach of preparedness and readiness remains imperative. APSWDP in this regard strongly advocates to adopt a sustainable approach by mainstreaming the network of various civil society organizations associated with ECOSOC and DGC at regional and national level. CSO with UN consultative status must emerge and engage in social dialogues for providing the solutions for the global community under mentorship and network support from UN agencies regional offices and country offices and sub-offices. Moreover, the capacity building of CSO through UN agencies is highly expected for enabling their active role must be considered principally with discrete planning and implementation mechanism. APSWDP has been working for more than 06 years on three of the five priority action areas of Global Action Programme (GAP) on ESD viz. build the capacities of educators and trainers, empower and mobilize youth and accelerate sustainable solutions at a local level. Therefore, it is submitted that strong integration of CSOs into the framework of SDGs is required by the local UNDP SDG Coordination Centre in the countries to ensure wider participation of CSO for making deeper outreach in the communities so that no one is left behind; and which can be achieved through convergence, decentralized planning, community driven development and developing advocacy with the potential partners.

59. Association on sustainable development and investment climate improvement, uniting investors and creditors "World Organization for Development"

Regular Online and Personal Consultations, for the Exchange of Best and Effective Practices between Governors and Heads of Territorial Entities of the Countries of the World, and the Creation of a Global Governor's Dialogue Platform, with the Support of UN Bodies, for Sustainable and Resilient Recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic, that Promotes the Economic, Social and Environmental Dimensions of Sustainable Development

Territorial entities of the countries of the world are the foundation of sustainable development of states and the development of countries, stability and well-being of citizens depend on the effectiveness of the work of governors and governor's teams. It is the Territorial entities, led by the governor's teams, already at this stage of world development, that are the main customers and consumers of products of the new technological order, carry out the most efficient transit and implementation of innovative products of the new technological order.

Association on sustainable development and investment climate improvement, uniting investors and creditors "World Organization for Development" represents the Global Initiative for Territorial Entities, which has the goal of creating a Global Governor's Dialogue Platform for identifying, scaling and sharing the best world experience and practices in various areas of territorial development and management, initiating new positive impulses in the development of territories and states of the world.

The Global Initiative for Territorial Entities and its implementation is a necessary requirement of our time for the sustainable development of the world and the achievement of the SDGs. The COVID-19 pandemic has once again shown how important the professional work of the governor's teams is.

In 1945, the UN was established as a first level interstate Track. In 1978, the UN established UN-Habitat - Track of the third level. We propose to initiate the creation of the World Track of Territorial Entities - as a Track of the second level and an important innovation to achieve the SDGs, focusing on innovative sustainable development of regions of different countries of the world and, with the help of this Initiative, stimulate the achievement of the SDGs.

The Global Initiative proposes the establishment of the United Nations Program on Territorial Entities to stimulate the development of Territorial entities of the countries, and the creation of a Global Governor's Dialogue Platform at the supranational level. It is proposed to start with consultations between the governors of various countries on the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and solving the problems of overcoming the economic, social and environmental crises, including those caused by the results of the COVID-19 pandemic.

60. Association of United Families International

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals Among Indigenous People

Projects among the indigenous people in the Cahabon District of Guatemala, by the Association of United Families International, Welcome Hand and the Sustainable Families Group.

Overcoming Poverty

Approximately 95% of the Cahabon District population is made up of the Q'eqchi' indigenous people, with 50% of them in extreme poverty. About 80% of these people are farmers, or work for a farmer. In order for farmers to improve their economic status they must (1) increase crop yields, (2) improve the quality, and (3) increase the volume offered for sale. Premium marketing agencies are willing to pay higher prices for good quality and high quantity. We are encouraging farmers that grow cacao, chile, cardamon, and other specialty crops, to join together to develop farming associations that can bargain collectively.

Also, the Family to Family Corn Project was organized to provide appropriate fertilizers to 1,000 needy families in the Cahabon District, with donations from families in the United States.

Malnourished Children

In this project we:

- 1) Measure the weight and height of children, with a priority for indigenous children, to determine which children are malnourished or stunted. We have four new units of anthropometric equipment operated by professional nurses and auxiliary nurses.
- 2) Educate the mothers with nutrition and hygiene advice. Culinary demonstrations teach how to add nutritious food to their diet.
- 3) Provide nutritional supplements for severely malnourished children.
- 4) Provide water purification filters to each family with malnourished children.
- 5) Follow-up visits in the homes.

Doubling Yields

The corn yields in Guatemala have been well below most other countries, which provides us with an opportunity to correct low-yielding practices. These farmers are confronted with two main challenges: (1) correct the deep-seated cultural practices in place for hundreds of years, and (2) adopt immediate remedial processes that will stabilize their current economic condition. We are setting up an experimental plot to identify correctional possibilities that could be associated with current farming practices. This will test six seed varieties, two fertilizer applications and two seed spacings. In addition, this land will be a demonstration plot for the farming community. The results from this plot will be utilized in training meetings throughout the various villages.

Land Degradation

Over the past hundreds of years, the soils have been degraded by burning crop residues after harvest, and not replenishing the nutrients that have been burned. To solve this problem, we are coordinating a non-burning program with an aggressive organic and inorganic fertilizer program to bring the soils back to productive levels.

61. Association pour la Diffusion des Droits Humains aux Peuples Autochtones (Humanitarian Law Agency)

De 1914 à 1945 l'humanité a connue tellement de perte de vie humaine soit du a la guerre, soit aux pandémies qui ont entraîné des pertes humaines considérables. Et à chaque moment les nations ont réagi d'une manière ou d'une autre pour réduire les dégâts. Ce deuxième conflit de 1937 à 1945 a dévaster tellement l'humanité que nous vivons encore les séquelles jusque a nos sur le plan humain et sur le plan environnemental. À l'exemple de Hiroshima et Nagasaki au Japon, et en Europe les statistiques montre qu'il y a plus de femmes que d'homme, car pendant la guerre la majorité des combattants étaient des hommes. Et la majorité des mourants étaient des hommes laissant derrière les veuves et les orphelins, et dans d'autres régions sur le plan environnemental Nagasaki et Hiroshima ne pas cultivable jusqu'à nos jours.

Ainsi cette guerre a couté la vie a des millions de personnes, au-delà de ces guerres, l'humanité connue d'autre forme de guerre qui ferons l'objet de notre analyse.

Il s'agit de la guerre bactériologique ou les grandes pandémies qui ont tant décime l'humanité et continue jusque 'à nos jours. Tel que la grippe espagnole, Ébola, le choléra, le SIDA, et le coronavirus. Nous focaliserons notre attention sur ce dernier qui sème la terreur partout dans le monde et d'une rapidité extraordinaire dénomme COVID -19.

Cette épidémie qui a commencé en chine a montré la déchéance managériale du système de riposte sanitaire international pendant les grandes pandémies. Elle se caractérise par des courants économiques tels que le capitalisme triomphant qui met en amont l'amour de l'argent au-dessus de toutes les valeurs favorisant l'individualisme croissant jusqu'aux états. Le manque de cohésion a entraîné beaucoup de perte de vie humaine. Avant de nous appesantir sur cette maladie permettez-nous de remercier l'ensemble de la communauté des soignants, l'OMS, et les états qui soutiennent cette organisation en ce moment, l'ONU, les forces armées qui ont déposé les armes pour porter assistance aux malades de COVID-19.

- Notre souhait est que l'ONU crée un office de gestion d'urgence humanitaire en collaboration avec ECOSOC et OCHA et un Fond d'urgence pour les situations de grande pandémie.
- Un programme de recrutement d'urgence conduit par ECOSOC pour interpellier les organisations accrédité a envoyé les volontaires en tant de crises sanitaires.
- Renforcement de l'uni des grands ensembles, UA, UE en laissant leurs conflits économiques.
- Pour une menace globale, il faudra une riposte globale, car si nous sommes présidents cette cause d'un peuple qui nous a portés au sommet de l'était.

La vie humaine doit être au centre de nos préoccupations sans discrimination aucune, car les pleurs d'Africain ne sont pas différents des pleurs d'un Européen, ni d'un Américain ou d'un Chinois.

62. Association pour une jeunesse africaine progressiste

The purpose of this statement is to discuss on the impact of the COVID-19 in the realization of the UN 2030 Agenda. With regard to the theme of the 2021 ECOSOC High Level Segment(HLS) on “Sustainable et Resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: Building an inclusive and effective path for the achievements of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”, our focus will be on the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the economic growth area. We will also build recommendations.

In fact, it is remarkably seen that the whole World is being challenged by the COVID-19 pandemic. The economy has reduced with other bad consequences affecting health like hunger and relations degradation. For NGOs, the pandemic has inhibited them to mainly deal with their objectives in the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals. Even Governments are mostly preoccupied by such a pandemic. The reduction of the movement of persons and goods has also contributed to poverty. The fact of being in isolation to prevent for the quick propagation of the pandemic is another element encouraging poverty to attack the World. Here the example of Airports closing should be one of the obvious challenges affecting the economy of any country.

“Many hands make light works”. This saying is no longer updated in these days of the COVID-19. Crowds are not allowed, and meetings have been reduced privileging then the online meetings. The later has the impact during the implementation of the closings of those meetings. However, we appreciate the importance manifested by States in the prevention of COVID-19 by taking measures to be followed up by Citizens. Let’s talk on the case of Burundi and some of the East African member States. Rwanda privileged generalized quarantine to avoid widespread of the Pandemic. Burundi introduced measures of bearing masks first and put in a quarantine any person tested positive to COVID-19.

To make the story short, COVID-19 is the enemy of all Nations. As far as we are concerned, we call upon the whole World to consolidate unity by sharing experiences related to the pandemic. Citizens should respect all measures taken by their Governments. The countries that tempted medicines to COVID-19 should be supported for further researches on the treatment rather than preventing them move forward by imposing sanctions on them. People sensitisation by NGOs in the context of accompanying Governments policies in the implementation of policies related the COVID-19 have to be multiplied. In this case, no doubt, COVID-19 will disappear, and the economic growth will occur.

63. Association-Santé-Education-Démocratie (ASED)

La pandémie causée par le coronavirus s'est propagée au Niger le 19 mars 2020, date de la notification du premier cas. Cette pandémie a atteint un pic dans le mois d'avril avec 69 cas enregistrés en une journée pour ensuite connaître une courbe descendante. Les liens sont un peu distendus dans le fonctionnement des institutions et mêmes entre les populations elles-mêmes dû à la crise de covid-19 et ses conséquences, Il est donc clair que la pandémie a un impact qui affecte l'économie, la vie des états, les associations et la vie des populations dans son ensemble.

Face à cette situation l'ONG ASED consciente du danger qui guette la population Nigérienne décide de prendre des initiatives de sensibilisations de la population et faire des actions au profit des groupes les plus vulnérables pour éviter la propagation de la maladie et atténuer les souffrances morales et physiques des populations pauvres qui sont affectées par l'arrêt des activités génératrices de revenus pour leur quotidien occasionné par le COVID-19. En frappant toutes les parties de la population, tous les secteurs de l'économie et toutes les régions du Niger, « la pandémie a brutalement interrompu la mise en œuvre de nombreux ODD. L'ONG ASED avec l'appui de ses partenaires s'est engagée dans les actions de Développement. Ces interventions contribuent à la mise en œuvre des Engagements internationaux auxquels le Niger a souscrit, notamment de l'Agenda 2030.

L'ONG a exécuté les activités suivantes :

Pour l'ODD 2 - Faim « zéro » - puisque la COVID-19 devrait avoir pour effet de maintenir l'insécurité alimentaire à la hausse. Parallèlement, aux chocs climatiques, aux invasions acridiennes et aux conflits la pandémie représente une menace supplémentaire pour les systèmes alimentaires dans la mesure où elle réduit le pouvoir d'achat des populations les plus vulnérables et leur capacité de produire et distribuer des denrées alimentaires. L'ONG ASED a fait des dons des vivres pour la population de Niamey dans la commune 5 et au quartier Talladjé.

Pour l'ODD 4 la fermeture des écoles a empêché aux élèves d'aller en classe. Les cours à distance n'ont pas été possible car l'internet ne pas accessible dans plusieurs localités et les élèves ne disposent pas des matériaux informatiques suffisants et de qualité.

Pour l'ODD 5, qui vise à parvenir à l'égalité des sexes et l'autonomisation de toutes les femmes et les filles. L'ONG ASED a réintégré une centaine des femmes et filles opérées de la fistule génitale féminine dans la région de Zinder et Maradi en les formant dans les activités génératrices des revenus.

ODD 6 : Des sensibilisations sur l'hygiène, l'assainissement (la salubrité) à travers des activités de lavage des mains à l'eau et au savon et sur comment utiliser les latrines (notamment les régions de Niamey, Agadez, Zinder et Tahoua).

ODD N° 13, L'ONG ASED a effectué des missions de plantation d'arbres, a participé à plusieurs forums sur le changement climatique et aussi a réalisé des projets de récupérations des terres.

ODD 17 : Partenariat pour l'atteinte des ODD Plusieurs partenariats existent dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre des ODD : aux niveaux national et international et qui font intervenir l'ONG ASED Pour la décennie d'action pour la réalisation des ODD afin de contribuer aux travaux de Nations Unies, l'ONG ASED a une ambition forte, un leadership et une action collective renouvelée non seulement pour surmonter la COVID-19 et créer de sociétés plus inclusives et équitables partout dans le monde pour ne laisser personne de côté et créer un monde plus vivable.

64. Associação Brasileira dos Organizadores de Festivais de Folclore e Artes Populares

Our organization has been working over the years with projects aimed at local development and sustainability in the cultural area.

One of our projects is the realization of International Folklore Festivals in Brazil, with the participation of foreign and national folkloric groups. Due to the pandemic, we detected that many festivals were not only cancelling their events but also definitely ending their realization. Some of them also ended with their cultural association's activities and, consequently, their folk groups.

Transformations have been happening over the years and were aggravated by the pandemic, damaging the popular traditions. Traditions that are part of local communities and collective groups, transmitted from generation to generation and that provide the sustainability of its continuity through folk groups and their folklore festivals, which also benefit the economy of specific regions.

Connections with different partners such as Universities, Institutions and Non-Governmental Organizations have been of crucial importance for diagnosing the situation of this segment, which contributes significantly to sustainable development.

The Federal University of Pelotas, through the Research Group Memory, Education, Gesture and Art Observatory and the Folklore Center of its Center of Arts, in partnership with Associação Brasileira de Organizadores de Festivais de Folclore e Artes Populares (São Paulo) and collaboration with different institutions such as Universidade Regional de Blumenau (Santa Catarina) and Universitat Politècnica de València (Spain) and with support from Abambá Companhia de Danças Brasileiras (Pelotas) and Asociación Civil América Unida (Ciudad del Plata/Uruguay) created an action to research the scenario affected by the Pandemic of COVID-19 by analyzing folklore contexts in different countries and continents.

The study aims to map, analyze and reflect on the impacts of the pandemic in folkloric contexts, mainly festivals and similar events, especially regarding their realization and/or adaptation, their continuity or not, and reflect about the possible impacts suffered and its future consequences. The research is scheduled to end on July 31st, 2022.

Nowadays, in the research, a team of 10 researchers is analyzing the data obtained from the first field collection that we have already carried out, which ended last March. Based on the analysis of this data, we will plan the future actions of the project, which may include new researchers. The discontinuity of these festivals will have an enormous impact on local communities for their economic, social, and environmental development, making partnerships, cooperation, and commitments at the regional, national, and global levels indispensable.

Our entity intends to seek new alternatives involving specific public policies that minimize the negative impacts.

65. Associação Jadir de Taekwondo

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused the world to face an unexpected and unprecedented new reality, marked by a stark increase in social inequalities, poverty and unemployment, which disproportionately affected the poorest and low-income communities. The uncontrolled and fast spread of the pandemic led to a deep economic decline and a period marked by uncertainty, putting millions of people in poverty. With the expansion of inequalities, there is no possibility of economic growth and development: people need to be at the center of action. Reducing inequalities and its impacts is essential and a major challenge that must be faced by everyone.

In these times, it's more important than ever to invest in our youth, strengthen and empower them, turn them into resilient human beings that are able to face huge crises and have an entrepreneurial spirit to build back society after a global recession. We need to invest in our youth now, as they are the key to a better future, making sure they act globally, address problems in partnership and develop their own solutions.

Promoting youth activism through the power of sport is one of the main intervention areas of the Jadir Taekwondo Association, which has developed and implemented a series of programs and activities in underprivileged communities in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil since 2000. We believe that through their ideas - and especially their actions - youth can transform not only their lives, but also the lives of their families, friends and communities surrounding them. As the leaders of tomorrow, it is essential that they are involved in the global vision for the future. Over the next ten years, young people will not only directly experience the outcome of the Sustainable Development Goals, but will also be the main actors for their successful implementation. For this reason, it is vital to raise awareness of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development among youth and create the conditions for their active engagement.

66. Asociación Civil Hecho por Nosotros

Hecho por Nosotros welcomes the main theme of the Economic and Social Council High-level Segment and calls for support for the sustainable development of the textile industry at this difficult time to overcoming poverty and hunger, promoting gender equality, decent work and economic growth, responsible consumption and production, ensuring climate protection actions and developing partnerships for sustainable development.

Textile Industry and COVID-19

In addition to the threat to public health, economic and social disruptions, the COVID-19 pandemic has and continues to have a severe impact on the livelihoods of millions of workers and their families, specifically in developing countries. Moreover, the crisis has prompted us to rethink sustainability in the industry moving forward, by exacerbating and bringing social injustices to the forefront. Globally, all stakeholders should be intertwined in an ecosystem based on sustainability, traceability and transparency to reduce poverty, hunger, lack of decent work, gender inequality, and give answers to short-term challenges faced by disenfranchised retailers related to operational struggles, lack of resources, and a growing gap in access to markets.

Measures for recovery after COVID-19 pandemic

The introduction of circular and regenerative models is imperative for the recovery of the industry, contributing to its development and increasing its plasticity in the face of future crises. Some of the concrete actions to restore the industry are:

- 1) Continue to support the micro, small and medium enterprises, producers, and artisans in the supply chain, by providing them with tools and capacity building programs for a better insertion to the global market;
- 2) Facilitate technological and digital instruments to build an ecosystem mapping multi stakeholder dialogue and policy making to foster inclusion, traceability, and reduction of inequalities;
- 3) Provide government and international support for the restoration of supply chains;
- 4) Ignite regenerative practices for better carbon sequestering & protection of biodiversity by providing solutions from the first stages of the production chain;
- 5) Provide measures to facilitate companies the adoption of circular approaches and provide workers with access to technological tools, such as blockchain, together with instructive support, such as Ed-tech, to better adoption of circular models;
- 6) Contribute to multi-stakeholder collaboration within the industry.

Conclusion

We call on the participants of this forum at the political and practical levels to provide measures to support the textile industry, both as part of its recovery and restructuring into a more sustainable circular format, towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals, in particular SDG 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 10, 12, 13, and 17.

67. Asociación Cubana de las Naciones Unidas (Cuban United Nations Association)

The world has changed. The COVID-19 pandemic has deepened existing structural inequalities and increased new gaps, within and between countries. Today, more than ever before the joint, conscious and coordinated action of all the actors is necessary to achieve a transformative recovery with equality and sustainability where, building a future with full rights to universal social protection, will be decisive to position ourselves again in the path of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This contribution approaches our major concerns and views on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under review by this forum.

The impact of the pandemic on people's lives has been undeniable. The International Labor Organization places current unemployment rates at unprecedented figures throughout the world, and in particular in Latin America and the Caribbean. Millions of people have lost their main source of income, while being deprived of access to basic resources for their livelihood. Disrespect for multilateral agreements, racism, discrimination on religious and ethnic grounds, corruption, inequity, privatization and the inefficient use of natural resources are proliferating. High levels of external debt have been reached and the application of unilateral coercive measures has intensified. All this to the clear detriment of the progress made to date in relation to the 2030 Agenda.

In contrast, in Cuba, we have witnessed the guarantee of the protection of all rights as citizens during the pandemic. Also, we have received quality and free medical services, while Cuban health personnel have given their valuable support in many countries, proving that this pandemic can be defeated with solidarity. All of this despite the negative impact of the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the government of the United States of America to Cuba, which is the main obstacle to our development and to achieve SDGs.

Among the greatest difficulties in achieving the SDGs under review are:

- The existence of the Neoliberal model and its dehumanizing policies, built on the extractivism logic; of capital accumulation, of dominion over people and nature, and of a profound abuse of power.
- Unsustainable external debt, particularly the inability of developing countries to bear the financial burdens derived from their indebtedness.
- The effects caused to the full enjoyment of human rights of the populations that are subject to sanctions, particularly through the imposition of unilateral coercive measures that bypass the sovereignty of the countries and diminish their capacities to face the consequences of the crisis generated by COVID -19 and to comply with the Agenda.

We believe that to face the current situation requires a large-scale multilateral response, capable of overcoming the biased solutions applied to date. This could help ensure that developing countries have the necessary resources to face the pandemic and do not abandon the SDGs.

With less than a decade to 2030, the world is, unfortunately, very far from fulfilling all that it set out to achieve in 2015. Despite this, it is imperative that we return to the path of sustainable development and move towards a transformative reconstruction, based on the foundation of equality and sustainability, leaving no one behind.

68. Asociación Cultural Nueva Acrópolis de El Salvador

In moments of adversity and human pain, a marked increase in the risk of mental disorders such as anxiety, depression and stress are observed. The COVID-19 pandemic is no exception. These are aggravated by several factors, including: the mistrust that the risk of contagion by asymptomatic people inspires, the long-term social distancing measures implemented in almost all the countries of the world, the economic crises resulting from the pandemic, changes in the way of working, studying, living as a family and relating to others.

There are unpredictable potential and real consequences on mental health and therefore it is necessary to investigate the subject from new perspectives and in an interdisciplinary way.

Issues related to our work

We understand resilience as the ability to overcome the psychological and health effects that come after critical, unusual and unexpected experiences. This capacity is what allows people to rebuild on a better basis, incorporating experience as a positive factor that fosters human development for a better future. It is what allows us to face crises and traumatic situations and emerge stronger from them.

Philosophy put into daily practice can transform individuals and societies, by awakening the exercise of thought and a reasoned confrontation of opinions. Based in the classics, philosophy helps to develop resilient, tolerant and respectful individuals and societies creating the necessary conditions for individual and social change.

It is not about returning to normality but about creating a new and better normality and this can only be achieved from the resilience of people. We propose a formula for resilience through a training program in 3 developmental axes: Philosophy, Culture and Volunteering. Engaging integrally in these 3 programs promotes resilience and a sustainable approach to the challenges introduced by the pandemic of COVID 19, as well as a proactive approach to contributing to the SDGs.

For over 30 years in El Salvador, thousands of people have completed our training program in Practical Philosophy inspired by the classics of the East and the West. We have over 400 permanent volunteers throughout the country participating in our school of philosophy that as a result of the pandemic has become virtual. With both our volunteers and students we have created awareness about the 2030 agenda and promoted volunteering work within universities using the manual “170 SDGs Daily Actions to Transform Our World.”

A way forward

Our policy recommendations on building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda are:

- 1) Promote mental health programs from central and local governments with the support of civil society.

- 2) Build multi-stakeholder alliances to promote resilience through Practical Philosophy tools and multidisciplinary exercises.
- 3) Promote reflective reading and practices about the classics in private and public schools focusing on their contribution to mental health and resilience.
- 4) Promote Practical Philosophy in leadership training oriented to the resilience of community leaders.

69. AVSI Foundation

International cooperation: nothing will be like before, but let's go on building the 'after' together.

Even if the pandemic does not discriminate – potentially affecting the health of all individuals alike – we know inequalities persist. The pandemic has sharpened the gap between the needs of the most vulnerable populations and the resources available to address them. Unfortunately, it may have also weakened a commitment to recognize these issues, with the risk of unwittingly plunging us into new catastrophes. It should come as no surprise: COVID-19 has cast a long shadow over bilateral and multilateral cooperation, risking further erosion of international development efforts. At a moment even if humanity is grappling with an unforgiving pandemic, the temptation for short sighted policy is all too real. Even before the pandemic, global relationships were strained by growing polarisation and declining support for development cooperation and multilateralism. We are all on the same boat

As communities cope with the shock and mayhem brought about by the pandemic, let us be clear: in a world as interconnected as ours, there will be no steady recovery for those in the global North who seek to insulate themselves, ignoring the plight of the South. Indeed, given the circumstances, the wisest expression of self-interest could well be solidarity. The COVID-19 pandemic, along with the threat of climate change, has made global cooperation today more necessary than ever. The priorities to save lives from COVID-19 and to protect economies are both global challenges that can only be solved through collective commitments and joint strategic alliances. And we know that around the world many – irrespective of their nationality, culture, age, political and sexual orientation – share the fundamental recognition of the power of working together to face the daunting challenges of now and tomorrow, which are borderless by nature. In our times and more than before, it is urgent to shift from short-sighted approaches to long-term and inclusive visions with all stakeholders involved.

The essential role of Civil Society Organizations

Specifically, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) are called to increase and be recognized for their irreplaceable role in figuring out and implementing unconventional and innovative solutions, taking stock of the limitations that the pandemic showed, in terms also of methodology and quality of the so needed partnership approach.

Many organisations have managed to adjust themselves according to the evolving and changing needs of beneficiaries served, the prevailing conditions and the necessary rules for safety. In any case the pandemic has highlighted how much CSOs operating in the field are essential for development to come true, not only for their role as watchdogs, but mostly as pioneers and protagonists of innovative, flexible and timely solutions which make their advocacy more credible and concrete.

Lessons learnt at AVSI

During 2020, AVSI's engagement in all its countries of operation searched for new solutions and made adjustments to keep activities going, balancing between inputs and results that are continuous and sustainable, even in emergencies.

"We have never stopped – says Giampaolo Silvestri, AVSI Secretary General - we decided to be anti-cyclical: in our activities we started searching for and implementing innovative approaches on the spot, relying on the intuitions and suggestions from within the local people's wisdom and the common sense of all the stakeholders; we promoted proactive communication, together with fundraising campaigns reaching out to new constituencies; we increased our attention to the quality of our projects, thanks to the working structures already in place at headquarters and regional offices. And we have to continue on this trajectory, in both a multi-stakeholder approach and with new partnerships. 2021 promises to be no less challenging than last year."

From our fields of operation, we learned key lessons. Here we would like to briefly share some samples, for the benefit of all.

Working for many years now and on the trust built with a sizable part of Syrian refugees and refugee camps in Lebanon, which hosts about 1.5 million of them, AVSI managed to adjust, due to the lockdowns, the planned activities and introduced new responses to emerging needs.

We launched awareness and educational campaigns to reduce transmission of the virus among all the people served, and beyond, using tools accessible to everybody like announcements by megaphone or WhatsApp groups to reach as many people as possible. Soap distribution proved to be crucial. The admirable social workers could continue their vital role during this crisis by home-visits where possible, distributing family kits for educational and recreational activities and by providing remote psycho-social support.

The widespread closure of schools has also necessitated the reframing of educational and vocational training activities. AVSI transformed its training programmes into formats delivered remotely through video tutorials and educational games. Similarly, this digital transformation resulted also in an increased use of mobile applications for the management and transfer of money – a useful method also to avoid dangerous physical contacts.

Another interesting example of partnership effectiveness is the 8-month project: "Building Hope", that responded to the COVID emergency in Italy – financed by USAID—and carried out by AVSI in partnership with the Municipality of Milan, the Italian Red Cross– Milan Committee, the Civil Hospital of Brescia, the Sacco Hospital of Milan, and the Portofranco Association, a voluntary organization dedicated to offer support for homework to the most disadvantaged high-school students. The actions included: food distribution for poor families and groups, supplying hospitals with health care equipment, particularly to help for the follow-up rehabilitative care of patients recovering from COVID, and devices for distance learning.

In addition to answering to new and urgent needs brought about by the pandemic, the project showed the added value, in terms of quality, timeliness, time and cost saving, made possible through a clear, transparent and sought for partnership by entities of good will, of different size and institutional nature.

A multi-stakeholder and cooperation approach is poised to be indispensable: partnerships across the public sector, the private for profit and no profit sector. Collaborations involving CSOs, NGOs service providers, businesses, foundations, universities cannot remain a wishful thinking or symbolic philanthropic gestures in the best case. Rather, they appear to be the condition for lasting and sustainable results: in our field experience in more than 30 countries in the world, COVID-19 has been a boost for SDG 17 implementation, especially for target 17.17.

The future we are already in

Ahead of us the social, economic and financial impact of the pandemic, the expected difficulties to the free movement of goods and people, the interruption of the educational path for many students who during this time had also to resort to work, the need for more external financial resources are beginning to paint a cloudy and uncertain future.

A balanced and equitable social and economic recovery so desperately needed now requires strong multi-level partnerships among countries and inside the country. The multilateral political, financial and development institutions play a key role in forging a consensus and the needed trust among countries to foster collective efforts. These should comprise all stakeholders in an articulated framework. Along with the public and private sectors, we stress the importance of participation by civil society institutions, particularly the ones which provide basic services to the most vulnerable part of the population.

We agree, giving the urgency that the COVID showed, on the proposal of the establishment of a (new) social contract refining the rights and obligation of the citizenship.

Increasingly complex challenges can only be faced by forging new principles of collaboration in areas such as trade, investment, new energy and green resources, equitable health care system and services, as well as research, technology and development exchanges which leave no one behind. At the same time these represent compelling opportunities to reshape international relations if we are to emerge from the current crisis and envision a future of common progress.

Will be it still possible to provide development cooperation with adequate financial, human and institutional resources and meet the ambitious goals of the Agenda 2030?

The pandemic calls attention to the challenges of the future which will be more intertwined than those in the past. They will require more, not less, multilateralism. And yet, as we struggle to grapple with an ever-growing array of threats to our society's core stability, the pandemic has both exposed the fragility and failures of the current international system and highlighted the merits of greater synergies.

With political and economic systems facing deep uncertainties and global supply chains increasingly fragmented, we are presented with a unique opportunity to reimagine development cooperation and regional and global partnership models.

We think that the very concept of development cooperation needs to be fundamentally reimaged. The donor/recipient paradigm should turn into a much more dynamic relationship and on equal basis. If wisely managed, development cooperation resources could become a formidable vehicle to harness this redefined relationship, breathing new vitality even into domestic economies and their productivity.

Need of relationships: partnerships don't come about overnight

At AVSI, for almost 50 years now we have practiced a method, an approach that places the value of the person at the centre of our work. An individual should never be defined by the circumstances in which he/she lives. Rather, he/she cannot be truly considered if detached by the web of relationships (family, community, other groups) which the person belongs to, participate in and which shape their life. So it is important to adopt a more holistic approach and look at development work as real cooperation, collective work based on the quality of relationships and sharing among all the actors involved, characterized by closeness and mutual accompaniment.

From our experience we see that a NGO has a vital and appreciated role to play as a convener and facilitator of the involvement and contributions of the private sector's ingenuity, of the academic tradition for ingenious research, of the civil society's eminent record in specific social services and the potential of local governments.

The national government too has a specific role in assuring a general framework that facilitates coordination and contribution of each actor according to its own specificity toward the common goal.

Now that everything asks for restart, we look for an adjusted framework which articulates concrete priorities for an economic recovery where power, resources and opportunities are better shared at the global level. Now is the time for leaders to decide: will we succumb to divisions and inequality or will we join forces together, overcome the failures of the past and usher a new era of progress and prosperity for all?

In these uncertain times, we do not know what lies ahead of us. But we do know which side of history we must be on.

Relationships of trust and reliance that somewhat sparkled during the COVID crisis need to be put forward, grow and kept alive in our collective memory to inspire the steps ahead of renewing the sense and foster the practice of belonging to only one human family. As Pope Francis reminded: "No one saves oneself. The community is essential."

70. BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights

The COVID-19 Impact on Palestinian Refugees: Support UNRWA to Ensure No One is Left Behind

The COVID-19 pandemic has severely affected the 8.7 million Palestinian refugees worldwide, especially the 6.2 million residing in the 58 UNRWA-administered camps in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Lebanon, Syrian Arab Republic and Jordan. As of December 2020, there were at least 517,879 Palestinian confirmed cases amongst the Palestinian refugee community, but lack of tracking capacities renders difficult to fully estimate the spread of the virus, and actual figures are expected to be much higher.

Palestinian refugees have long been subjected to direct and indirect discriminatory laws and policies that have exacerbated socio-economic inequalities. COVID-19 has aggravated their vulnerabilities in terms of access to adequate services, resources and opportunities in UNRWA fields of operation. Over crowdedness and lack of adequate public infrastructure rendered safety measures, including social distancing and home isolation, impossible to implement.

Israel, the occupying power in the West Bank, took advantage of enhanced vulnerabilities during the state of emergency to intensify military oppression through systematic incursions, use of force, administrative demolitions against Palestinian refugees, and impunity for settlers' violence. In the Gaza Strip, 15 years of Israeli blockade has affected the operation of the public health system, strangled by personnel and supplies' shortages. High unemployment rates, averaging 49 percent, has intensified poverty by 10 percent in the Gaza Strip and food insecurity. Palestinian refugees residing in Syrian Arab Republic, 91 percent of which have already been left in absolute poverty due to the protracted Syrian Arab Republic conflict, have seen their situation worsened, with 80 percent of them obliged to reduce their daily food intake. Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, already drastically marginalized in terms of access to public facilities and employment, have faced rising obstacles to livelihoods.

The target of an Israeli-US led smear campaign, UNRWA is facing unprecedented financial hurdles that distressingly compromise its ability to fulfill its protection mandate, especially with regards to the COVID-19 pandemic. UNRWA operates in a very limited capacity that cannot meet Palestinian refugees' humanitarian needs to face the adverse impacts of the pandemic. Since the beginning of the pandemic, UNRWA has multiplied the emergency appeal to alleviate the impact of the pandemic on Palestinian refugee communities; the last appeals to date seeking US\$ 231 million for the West Bank and Gaza Strip, in addition to US\$ 318 million for Syrian Arab Republic, Lebanon and Jordan over the 2021 period.

Although global efforts are deployed to contain the COVID-19 pandemic, Palestinian refugees are facing increasing socio-economic vulnerabilities, product of systemic and institutionalized discrimination in their host countries, amplified by the lack of an adequate response to the COVID-19.

BADIL calls upon UN member States to ensure that Palestinian refugees are no longer left behind, in particular:

- Support UNRWA's efforts to provide humanitarian assistance to Palestinian refugees, through increases in their financial contribution to enable fulfilling its responsibilities;
- Address root causes of systemic discrimination, inequalities and vulnerabilities by promoting just and durable solutions to the predicament of Palestinian refugees, including their right of return.

71. Baha'i International Community

An Inclusive and Effective Path

COVID-19 has shaken populations around the globe. But in its disruption can be discerned what may well be one of the pandemic's more enduring legacies: an unparalleled demonstration of the need for international cooperation and solidarity, on scales as yet unseen. As never before, humanity has been impelled to question how long and to what degree short-term and national interest can remain the primary driver of global policy and action. Among the questions facing those committed to the aims of the 2030 Agenda and other global plans, one demands increasing and sustained attention: will a proposal under consideration advance the well-being of humankind in its entirety? Promoting the common good is often approached as a secondary objective—commendable, but to be pursued only after narrower national interests have been secured. This must change, for the welfare of any segment of humanity is inextricably bound up with the welfare of the whole. The Baha'i International Community offers the following reflections on how policies at all levels can increasingly embody the integration and coordination needed to meet contemporary global challenges.

Development efforts have benefitted many around the world. Yet the priorities underlying such efforts often fall short of advancing the well-being of the entire human family. This limits the impact of well-intentioned endeavors and can ultimately prove counterproductive. Measuring success in terms of the accumulation of material wealth, for example, risks normalizing the veneration of greed and the various forms of exploitation it can seek to justify. By unintentionally reinforcing unsustainable or inequitable patterns of behavior, conceptions of progress current in the field of development can become obstacles rather than tools, distorting and obscuring the nobler aspects of human nature.

Meeting the increasingly interconnected challenges that face humanity will require a new set of underlying principles and questions. How, for example, does a proposed action reflect humanity's interdependence today, while providing for the needs of its members in the future? What impact will the action have on all segments of society, taking into account the ways that lived realities differ by, for example, culture, affluence, and experience? Will the action preserve human dignity, advance gender equality, and promote societal unity? Such considerations, as they evolve over time and in light of accumulating experience, will prove crucial in shaping effective policy and action at all levels.

The pandemic has been notable in the universality of its impact on daily lives, albeit differentiated by context and circumstance. Just as the profound disruption of the Second World War gave rise to remarkable transformations in the international order, bold steps are similarly required today in response to present shortcomings. If awareness of the oneness of humanity is woven into processes of decision-making, nations will increasingly recognize that the surest path forward rests on genuine collaboration in stewardship of the planet, and shared commitment to the prosperity of its peoples.

72. Bangladesh Mahila Parishad

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad is a voluntary-based mass women organization working since 1970 with the objectives of promoting and protecting women's human rights, achieving women empowerment and gender equality. The organization obtained consultative status of Economic and Social Council of United Nations in 1997. Bangladesh Mahila Parishad intends to take the opportunity of written statement containing the concerns of women's life in Bangladesh in the situation of COVID-19 pandemic, role of the organization to get rid of this situation and recommended measures in promoting sustainable and resilient recovery from the pandemic towards achievements of the 2030 agenda in the context of the decade of action for sustainable development.

Overview of the situation and its challenges

COVID-19 virus has been causing unprecedented devastation for mankind. In Bangladesh, most of the women working in informal sectors have lost their income, a large number of women working in readymade garments sectors have been laid off. A hand full number of women migrant workers have returned home. Women have been paying the price of poverty in multiple way in terms of food, nutrition, health, personal choice, safety, dignity, burden of domestic and care work. As education system has been totally disrupted due to COVID-19, girls are forced to early marriage by parents to get rid of so-called burden of the family and thrown to vicious circle of violence.

Alarming existing scenario of violence against women and girls has been deepened in this period. Women leaders and elected women representatives were not included at all level of planning and implementing COVID-19 response policies.

Role of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad

The organization has made concentrated efforts to provide humanitarian supports to the individuals in need especially to the women and girls from marginalized community, raise health awareness through campaign, introduced hotlines for the survivors of the gender-based violence to avail the legal aid and a separate line for the health support, initiated several advocacy programs with multiple stake holders including state agencies at the wake of the pandemic.

Recommendations

- More focused and united effort, from national to global, is needed for a better equal future for all.
- Ensure effective and full participation of women in decision making in Covid-19 response strategy planning and implementation process.
- Include more women in the leadership position in the public life through legislation.
- Resist violence against women and girls including early marriage through a comprehensive planning and making accountable all relevant bodies.
- Strengthen institutional mechanism to ensure social safety, equality and access to justice for the women.

- Initiate gender sensitive programs like ensuring enabling environment, infrastructure and institutions for the working women.
- Provide livelihood support and re-employ woman workers who have lost jobs due to COVID-19.
- Take appropriate measures to protect reproductive health of women that is in risk due to COVID-19.
- Allocate fund in the national budget to increase global, regional, and national cooperation through exchange of experience, knowledge and technologies for the promotion of women empowerment.

73. Banjara Seva Samithi

Banjara Seva Samithi has been actively functioning since its inception in the year 1996, working among the poor disadvantaged rural tribal population.

Banjara Seva Samithi is presently implementing 4 projects namely:

- Child Focussed Community Development (CFCD)
- Home for Children at Risk (HCR)
- Free-residential school for tribal children
- Children Movement for Climate Justice (CMCJ)

Our project area is situated in Garla (M), Mahabubabad (D), Telangana state, India and the project area covers around 40-50 Tribal hamlets/villages.

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have been constantly and vigilantly working among the project area to ensure that basic human survival needs and basic human rights are not compromised. The most affected aspects of the rural living have been those of livelihood, food shortage in households & education.

Issues

The field team of Banjara Seva Samithi, in different groups, visits all the villages/ hamlets in their project area creating awareness and conveying information with regard to COVID-19 and its safeguards, and conducting health check-ups among the tribal people, as per the norms issued by the WHO and the Government of India and the local govt. Along with creating awareness Banjara Seva Samithi rescued 800 migrant labourers from neighbouring states from Odisha and Chhattisgarh of our project area and we even provided them with food, required masks, sanitization along with District administration, during the lock down imposed by the Government of India, from march to April 2020.

Challenges

Initially the beneficiaries were very scared about the pandemic as it was spreading very fast in and around the area, during that critical time Banjara Seva Samithi deployed our trained and very experienced staff in our area of operation and built confidence among the people to overcome the dangers of such deadly pandemic. The main challenge has been providing food, clothes, medicines, masks, sanitizer; that apart people in this area only depend upon daily wages, in this particular time they lost their earning and many families had initially undergone starvation and became shelter less. Banjara Seva Samithi raised local funds and met urgent needs of the local people and provided them with supplies for 2 months and protected the local people through our strategic approach and by forming various committees with local people on different subjects and used to meet very often to review the situation and dealt accordingly as per the situation analysis and appraised the local District administration from time to time with coordinative efforts between Banjara Seva Samithi (NGO) and the Government by maintaining social distance and norms prescribed there on as per the SOP of WHO.

Apart from this, the risk of running the Home for Children at risk (HCR) home (for orphan children) and all the 100 children are maintaining good health and without any ill-effects of

COVID-19 and the district administration visited our home every 2 months and suggested guidelines/ precautions that we have been following. In the hamlets and villages, the beneficiaries were scared to meet the field staff, many of the parents of children were unable to attend online classes due to poverty, not knowing about technology and illiteracy. There were lot of financial difficulties for implementing various projects.

74. Barzani Charity Foundation / BCF

Intends to identify challenges to the recovery of Iraq in post COVID-19 and provide reasons for the republic of Iraq including the federal region of Kurdistan not be able to achieve the SDG goals without assistance from international community. From BCF point of view SDG goals no. 3,8,10 and 16 require long-term assistance in order to no one left behind.

As evidence overwhelmingly suggests that COVID-19 has severely affected the world of labour force and global health and wellbeing of people from disadvantage background entered into a dangers zone, which gap of inequality has further widened. The health-related, economic, and social impacts of COVID-19 are putting a significant number of people at risk, but the impact of post covid-19 for the developing countries such as republic of Iraq is worse than is anticipated.

The war in Iraq has worsened the health and downgraded quality of life, current pandemic coupled with ongoing security situation in Iraq put the health of people into a greater risk, Kurdistan region still home to thousands of refugees and internal displaced people, this have diverted large proportion of annual budget to fund the recovery from the era of conflict, the forecast for economic growth for near future are not promising, as such Iraq lost its capacity to improve the health and wellbeing of its citizens.

To insure no one left behind, BCF promote following policy recommendations to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) High-level Segment (HLS) 2021.

Leaving no one behind by Law

SDG 16 should extend it is objective and must obliged all countries by law to safeguard it is population health and safety. Under international human rights law, countries have obligations to respect, protect and fulfil the right to health, therefore the recommended extension should stop institutional discrimination in access to health services, also this mean that international community and its institution need to consider the needs of countries in crisis.

Pollution for Health

The deterioration of climate has enormous consequences for the health of all people. Climate change must be considered in all actions to sustain good health, especially for those countries who are not pollution producer but impacted by, under the SDG goal 3 pollution produced nations must work with civil society group to compensate the least produce pollution nations by providing health services and improving overall health condition of vulnerable group.

Collective responsibility to disadvantaged and vulnerable group

as apparent that due to budget cuts and slow economic recovery good quality health services not achievable. This means that disadvantaged group may refrain from seeking the health care they need, creating greater national health inequalities. Vulnerable group such as migrants and labour will be in more difficulties accessing health services. The SDG should encourage national authorities and private sector to provide full health insurance to effected group and in case of

migrant and refugee's international community should provide financial assistance for health services and making sure that discrimination in access on any grounds is addressed.

75. Bäuerliche Erzeugergemeinschaft Schwäbisch Hall w.V.

The idea is to show the feasibility of a digital global conference in a multifold rural atmosphere and encompassing a wide scope of participants ranging from farmers to representatives of indigenous communities, to NGO experts and intellectual pioneers from leading think tanks who particularly focused on localizing the SDG paradigm and set the breeding ground for a future network of „SDG Regions“ to be elaborated through practical bottom-up work. The 4th World Organic Forum under the title „Localizing SDGs. Creating a network of Sustainable Development Goal Regions was conducted in a hybrid format from 16th to 18th of March 2021, again Schloss Kirchberg/ Germany (the “Farmers‘ Castle”) functioned as the atmospherical hub.

Whereas Rudolf Bühler permanently referred to the need of approaching the 17 Sustainable Development Goals as holistically and inclusively as possible while enrooting them specifically on the ground, the clear profile of BESH in rural regional development and organic farming was directly graspable throughout the whole congress. Accordingly, this year’s forum first and foremost shed light on the SDGs 1 (No Poverty), 2 (Zero Hunger), 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), 13 (Climate Action), 15 (Life on Land) and 17 (Partnerships for Goals).

In a nutshell, this engagement of the NGO shows in how far its experience, know-how and networks of successful work in rural regional development, ecological small scale farming, regional food culture and peasants‘ rights is able to interconnect stakeholders from all over the world in a transregional setting. Bearing in mind the defectiveness of the dominant industrial food system concerning its destructive impact on biodiversity, production and the fragile supply chains for food as stressed by the Covid-19 pandemic, the NGO offers new tools to push agrarian change towards a more sustainable food system and for synchronically making the SDGs achievable in heterogeneous local contexts.

The NGO aspires and expects to stay in close contact with the participants on a relevant work level and on a rolling processual basis. The NGO aims at fostering the cooperation with the professional policy modellers who conducted a workshop on validating indicators for future SDG Regions and parallelly will carry out community building within SDG paradigm on a rather atmospherical dimension. Optimally, the participants and policy modellers will gather again on the 5th World Organic Forum in 2022 and found the first SDG Region as a space of resilience to pandemics thanks to sustainable farming and food. No one will be left behind!

76. Biedrība "Donum Animus"

Biedrība "Donum Animus" takes active part promoting active participation and social inclusion of people with fewer opportunities paying special attention to social inclusion and empowerment of people with mental and physical disabilities.

COVID-19 global pandemic has affected everyone and especially the most marginalized groups deepening pre-existing inequalities. Persons with disabilities are one of the most excluded in any society experiencing intersectional and multiple discrimination and carry a heavier burden of the immediate and long term economic and social consequences of the pandemic.

Persons with disabilities and their family members or support services have different levels of vulnerability to COVID-19. Some persons with disabilities, including older persons with disabilities, may need to isolate for longer than other groups. Social protection and working arrangements need to be adaptive to support their ability to do this.

A human rights-based approach to disability is required to ensure persons with disabilities are not left behind. Non-discrimination is a core human rights principle. COVID-19 response and recovery must prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability. Persons with disabilities share the same primary needs as everyone else: health protection and treatment, basic services, shelter and income.

Many persons with disabilities rely on support services for daily living and to participate in their communities. These include personal assistance, sign language and tactile interpretation, in-home services and peer support, amongst others. The economic impact of COVID-19 may also lead to even greater cuts within existing services in the post-pandemic period.

The growth in demand for support services in the community without a corresponding supply of services can increase pressure on families to provide unpaid, informal care, with negative consequences on both persons with disabilities and family members, particularly women.

Building capacity of services and communities to prevent disability-related violence is key, as is promoting awareness-raising about violence against persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls.

Inclusion of persons with disabilities in the COVID-19 response and recovery is a critical test of the global commitments of the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Agenda for Humanity and the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy, and vital part of achieving the pledge to leave no one behind.

Accountability is essential for ensuring that the COVID-19 response and recovery is inclusive and respectful of the rights of persons with disabilities.

77. Brain Sluice Africa Child's

Brain Sluice Africa Child's as an accredited organisation in consultation status with the Economic and Social Council, recognised under the resolution 1996/31 of the 25 July 1996 of the United Nations, since on 06 June 2019, is submitting the current proposition to a member of the Council in full respect of a paragraph (31) (a) (b) (c) (e), also in consideration of its resolution of 2008/24 and it wants to make a point on the lack of accessibility of the financial resources for the African civil societies. The High level political forum (HLPF) needs really to assess its 2030 Agenda base on accessibility on the financial resources, effective representative of the African civil societies in the organ of the decisions, the coordination should present a geographical the goals where it has successes and of the rest of its goals then requests away forward if it needs to improve its system capacity in terms of its management. It should demonstrate how a 2030 Agenda is in benefit of every nation, its feedback should assured that a Social, Economic, Security and Political situation in Africa is scaling-up from to the one is in the world, as an organisation we are in possession of the 2021 Overview ECOSOC subsidiaries, unfortunately there is no a theme, session either a Working schedule mentioned Africa problems. During a full crises of the COVID-19 demand of proposal have been more received from the different entities such as the Universities, Banks, Media and NGOs around the world include even the United Nations itself to get a clear view on the perception of people on ground a pandemic. Then a world has been served voluntarily with the accurate information which gave them a right directive of social aspect on the COVID-19, the consultative relationship has started with the world leaders, local people and medical bodies before they could speak a common language, you can see that with a scarce resource the organisation managed to resolve a post COVID-19 social conflict but until now it still shown that the ECOSOC treats other issues with a low attention. Volunteer it is not only a matter of passion, compassion either a commitment; it is a professional career and it needs to be acknowledged, it is also about our responsibility to elaborate a perpetual either periodic financial plan which it will be presented to the partners, as the coordination does not has enough financial resources to empower others with the different tools at moment. We pleased the board members of the council to take our concerns with great attention as it strives how to restore a dignity of people around the world.

78. Cámara de Instituciones de Diagnóstico Médico (CA.DI.ME)

The pandemic caused by COVID-19 made visible the need to improve health systems. In parallel, the efforts of the world community resumed the path towards universal health within the framework of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The third, "Ensuring a healthy life and promoting well-being for all at all ages", is essential to achieve the rest of the SDGs. To achieve this, a series of structural reforms centered on Primary Health Care (PHC) will be necessary.

Outpatient diagnostic and treatment services at the first level of health care play an important role in preventive medicine or clinical care. In addition, they include occupational medicine and its productivity, environmental health and improvement in the quality of life of man and the community.

In Argentina, it is estimated that PHC services contain 80% of the population's health-disease needs. Diagnostic services influence 70% of clinical decisions and only represent 1.0% of total average healthcare spending.

PAHO suggested to governments that the first level of care (PNA) can ensure the continuity of priority programs and care for vulnerable populations in a way that differs from normal conditions in the face of a pandemic. The PNA in Argentina is also made up of small and medium outpatient medical care providers. As PAHO affirms, they are leading actors to contribute to the control and containment of the Pandemic. The First Level has a fundamental role because it continues to attend to chronic patients; diabetic, hypertensive or with mental health problems. Therefore, if it is not strengthened, "no health system will have the hospital capacity for containment."

CADIME, as a reference organization in the health sector, supports the intersectoral formation of networks of public-private health care services as a strategy to improve access to health, optimize resources and make health systems more optimal and resilient.

Increasing health care centers in peripheral areas allows the population to have good access to health systems. Thus, a prevention medicine is prioritized, equalizing the quality of clinical services, optimizing the service with efficiency in the allocation of resources, constituting, in short, a true public-private clinical care articulation. As a correlate of this logic, a primary objective that was stressed in the current Pandemic is achieved: to avoid saturation of hospital systems.

CADIME, in line with the mandated by the WHO, has been convening political decision-making bodies, representative professional associations, patient associations and private health providers to rethink, think and implement a State policy focused on the integration and strengthening of PHC and the value chain to build resilient health systems.

The PHC strategy must be built with all the actors that influence and intervene in the health sector, leaving aside partisanship and sectoral interests.

79. Campanha Latino-Americana pelo Direito à Educação - CLADE Brasil

CLADE and its membership affirm the centrality of the right to education and lifelong learning as a synergistic and enabling right for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and as an obligation of States.

The global health crisis has had serious consequences, impacting various populations differently, exacerbating historical structural inequalities, and highlighting even more the weakness of public policies and systems for health care, education, employment, among others.

It is urgent that States make every effort to comply with the commitments assumed in the 2030 Agenda and in their role as guarantors of human rights, from a perspective of gender equality and intersectionality, considering the indivisibility of these rights. It is also essential to guarantee the broad, inclusive, substantive and permanent participation of civil society in decision-making in public affairs.

The realisation of the human right to education has been further undermined during the pandemic, threatening the guarantee of free, quality, secular, lifelong, public education. Around 800 million students around the world are still not resuming their education, with serious detriment in terms of learning, especially for girls and women; the structural conditions for teachers and the teaching-learning process have deteriorated. Furthermore, the digital gap has deepened, especially in rural areas, further exacerbating inequalities in access, dropout and continuity of studies.

The situation is made more complex by projections of declining public budgets, which are already insufficient. Budgetary support and commitment are essential for the strengthening of public systems and services. It is therefore necessary to resist the austerity and indebtedness policies of countries, and to seek fiscal justice as a necessary condition to guarantee the full exercise of human rights. A fair tax system is at the basis of a socially inclusive and democratic society and makes it possible to strengthen the public system and its services.

The profound interrelationship between the right to education, health, water and care for life is most evident in the context of the health emergency, but also in its special interrelationship with several of the SDGs under review in the HLPF 2021: poverty, hunger, decent work, inequalities, peace, justice and strong institutions.

The integral protection of the rights involved here and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda must be an inalienable commitment of state actors that necessarily involves dialogue and the decisive participation of communities, organisations and civil society in general.

80. Canadian Network for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health / Réseau Canadien sur la Santé des Mères, des Nouveau-Nés et des Enfants

Health is our most basic human right and an important indicator of sustainable development. The pandemic has shown that health is interconnected with every aspect of our lives. COVID-19 has exacerbated weaknesses in health systems and outcomes, reversing progress to meet the targets outlined in Goal 3: good health and wellbeing, and Goal 13: climate action. Those who face marginalization and exclusion are those that are most likely to be affected by poor health and the impacts of climate change. Environmental degradation and impacts of climate change are inextricably tied to our health and wellbeing, and our lives depend on a healthy planet.

In addressing the 2021 High Level Political Forum theme, we call upon member states and observers to:

Protect the planet to ensure health for all by prioritizing the voices of women.

To address the dual crisis of both COVID-19 and climate change, a gender transformative approach that can tackle health and equity impacts must be adopted in order to yield better outcomes for livelihoods, food security, clean water, energy, medicines, vaccine readiness and other health related outcomes. For better outcomes, we must rebuild systems that center the participation of those who face exclusion from power and decision-making.

Invest in health systems strengthening and resilience locally and globally.

Underscored by the pandemic, strong health systems are the backbone of resilient communities. Investing in broader health systems could save close to 100 million lives. To ensure greater equity and access to health rights, we must invest more in health systems and allocate funds to support frontline health worker capacity, policies and service delivery. In addition, as we invest in health systems, we need to build the resiliency of these systems to address climate change by prioritizing green investments in health systems including energy efficiency, improved waste management and supply chains.

Global solidarity is required to meet health needs and address climate change.

As nation states strive to build back better, it is critical that we see health and climate change as universal and interconnected. Similar to how we will not overcome the pandemic without working together, the same is true for the collective approach required to address climate change. Climate change, like COVID-19, knows no borders. Evidence shows that enhanced understanding of the health and gender dimensions of climate change supports preparedness, resilience, adaptation and prioritization of mitigation interventions that protect and promote human and planetary wellbeing.

We must work in collaboration to achieve a prosperous, safe and secure world for all, with a healthy planet and healthy people at its core.

81. Caritas Internationalis (International Confederation of Catholic Charities)

The COVID-19 pandemic is the defining crisis of this generation, from which we can either emerge for the better or the worse. It has laid bare the inequities and injustices that threaten people's well-being and livelihoods, and exacerbated a sequence of interconnected crises – economic, ecological, political, social – that disproportionately impact the poor and most vulnerable. We echo the words of Cardinal Turkson, Prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development: "one crisis is being followed by others, in a cycle in which we will be forced to learn slowly and painfully take care of our common home, as Pope Francis so prophetically teaches in the Encyclical *Laudato Si'*".

Inhabiting the earth as "our common home" requires solidarity to ensure everyone's access to the fruits of creation and to the findings of research and technology, so that our home is healthier and more livable for all. As we move through recovery, we must ensure the first responses to the immediate crises are steppingstones to more just, inclusive and integrated systems, and that a global, regenerative healing takes place to transform societies and our planet.

Catholic organizations such as Caritas, rooted in the Church and in the Gospel, offer themselves as allies and supportive carers to the world in need, struggling to recover from the multiple consequences of this pandemic.

As the world resumes its engagement towards the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, a big political and societal change will be necessary to build a roadmap of recovery that heals both people and the planet. Catalyzing collective responsibility and action will be indispensable to take decisions for common good.

Caritas Internationalis calls on world leaders at the HLPF 2021 to demonstrate concreteness and creativity, scientific approach and solidarity, global thinking and ability to understand local needs. Our overarching call on world leaders is to:

- Loosen the international sanctions that make it difficult for countries to provide adequate support to their peoples.
- Reduce and even forgive the debt burden on the poorest nations.
- Renew the commitment to save "our common home" by following an integral ecology approach centered on the human person, especially those left behind, and embracing inclusive forms of economy based on solidarity and environmental protection.

The Caritas Perspective on the Crisis

By its own vocation, Caritas sees the crisis provoked by Covid-19 from the perspective of its impacts on the world's poorest, most marginalized and vulnerable people. Caritas "feels compelled to speak out on behalf of those who lack life's basic necessities. (...) to remind everyone of the great value of the common good is a vital commitment, expressed in the effort to ensure that no one whose human dignity is violated in its basic needs will be forgotten (...) until we revive our sense of responsibility for our neighbor and for every person, grave economic, financial and political crises will continue". (Pope Francis' message on the 4th Day of the Poor, 15 November 2020).

The world poverty situation has been significantly aggravated with the spread of Covid-19 and the impacts of the environmental crisis. This has triggered new forms of poverty and vulnerability, besides affecting middle-income countries and expanding to the middle-class. The “new poor” is urban, living more in congested settings rather than rural areas, more employed in informal services and manufacturing and less in agriculture, the sectors most affected by lockdowns and mobility restrictions. Under such conditions, SDG1 Ending poverty in all its forms everywhere, already at risk before the crisis, is now beyond reach without swift, and substantial policy action aimed at building robust social protection systems for safeguarding the poor and vulnerable.

It is nowadays recognized that poverty is a multidimensional problem, which impacts on every area of life – from individual dignity and well-being, to macro-level policies on economics, politics, social systems, freedom and security. It is also recognized that all human needs are embedded in their living environment, varying from one geographical context to another. Hence, poverty cannot be considered nor addressed separately from environmental degradation. “Though humanity has achieved incredible progress, we have taken the Earth for granted, destabilizing the very systems upon which we rely for survival. Covid-19, which (...) certainly sprang to humans from animals, offers a glimpse of our future, in which the strain on our planet mirrors the strain facing societies. It took Covid-19 very little time to expose (...) inequalities, as well as weaknesses in social, economic, and political systems, and threaten reversals in human development” (Human Development report 2020, UNDP). Thus, the 2020 Multidimensional Poverty Index reports also on environmental deprivation as a form of poverty (Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2020 – Charting Pathways out of Multidimensional Poverty: Achieving the SDGs).

Laudato Si’, for which the ecological crisis we face is a human and social one, is of precious guidance to everyone, encouraging to embark on a journey of ecological conversion conducing to Integral Ecology, a paradigm to which all economic, political, social and human relations have to aspire, whereby everything is interconnected and the quest for the common good is intrinsically linked to the care for our common home. The Church has since long recognized that environmental degradation is linked directly to poverty and social exclusion, proving that poverty and “ecological misery” are inseparable. Ecological harmony cannot exist in a world characterized by unjust social structures; conversely, the current extreme social inequalities cannot lead to environmental sustainability (Conference of the Canadian Bishops, “Tu épargnes tout, parce que tout est à toi, Maitre de la vie”, 2003).

It is thus necessary to take an environmental planetary approach to tackling poverty. It becomes more obvious that “planetary imbalances (the dangerous planetary change for people and all forms of life) and social imbalances exacerbate one another (...) While the devastating effects of Covid-19 have taken the world’s attention, other layered crises, from climate change to rising inequalities, continue to take their toll. The challenges of planetary and societal imbalance are intertwined: they interact in a vicious circle, each making the other worse.” In other words, planetary imbalances are driving inequalities in human development. It becomes evident in the case of the pandemic, which “has hit more harshly, more quickly and more deeply those already vulnerable, marginalized or with few resources and capabilities (...). That, in turn, has fed social imbalances”. The Human Development Index was thus re-defined last year, as a Planetary-adjusted HDI, to address poverties and inequalities as a way forward from COVID19.

Ways Forward

There are many examples of vulnerable communities in our world today, such as the billions who do not have access to safe drinking water, sanitation or healthcare services. In the course of this ravaging pandemic, many of them have been further exposed to danger by the resumption of illegal logging and mining after wildfires occurred in the Amazon and Australia, what illustrates the urgent need to protect ecosystems and local populations whose livelihoods depend on them.

Caritas organizations worldwide work hand in hand with local communities, following their typical integral human development approach, which takes into account the complexity of human situations. This approach is grounded on the principles of subsidiarity and of participation. Subsidiarity requires not to substitute for people or communities, but to accompany them in developing their full potential. Participation requires to engage people to participate in all stages of actions deployed for them. Localized development interventions, placing local communities at the heart of development based on subsidiarity and participation, should be privileged as the main way leading to empowered communities.

This would also lead to the active and stronger involvement of local NGOs closer to affected populations and rooted in the community itself; investment is needed in capacity-strengthening of local NGOs to ensure efficiency, since NGOs closer to local communities will implement projects more professionally.

People – the “right-holders” - are subjects of development and they must be at the heart of all endeavors to leave no one behind. People at the grassroots level, especially the poor, indigenous peoples, women and girls, the marginalized and other vulnerable groups must be enabled to actively participate in the Decade for Action; strengthening local institutions – including by enhancing good governance and fighting corruption - would be key to empower the usually excluded ones to claim their rights and ensure more participatory decision-making. The participation of the marginalized, directly or through civil society, should be particularly sought and prioritized to avoid perpetuating exclusion.

A human rights-based approach guarantees participation as both a means and a goal, thus it ensures that decision-making processes are measured and assessed as much as development outcomes. Local NGOs can contribute in various ways to the effective participation of civil society and people living in (extreme) poverty, even those who are the hardest to reach.

Conclusions

Year 2021 should inaugurate the Decade of Action by kick-starting a process of profound transformation, as the world is painfully going through Covid-19 and laying the basis for a much-sought recovery. *Laudato Si'*, with its vision based on Integral Ecology, can inspire upcoming action for the world we want to leave to future generations.

The global recovery points at the urgency of investing in the human person again. This requires moving forward to a renewed society, restructured around the quest for the common good. A global consensus is needed around healthier and empowered local communities, sustainable and

diversified local agriculture, a shift towards renewable energy, better management of forests and ecosystems, access to drinking water and sanitation to all, in short a new paradigm in the relation between humankind and nature, paired with strengthened efforts of solidarity with the most vulnerable ones.

82. Celtic League

The Celtic League is an NGO that embraces three national jurisdictions, the United Kingdom and Isle of Man*, France and Republic of Ireland. It has therefore been able to observe the reaction/response of three nation states to the current Covid crisis.

We note that in all jurisdictions there has been a growth in food and fuel poverty and the UN needs to set specific guidance not just in general terms but also regional terms to address this issue.

In respect of health care the reaction of States has also been mixed and it is important that States are reminded of their obligations to meet standards fixed by the WHO and avoid 'national parameters' - an example of the latter is vaccine nationalism and a disregard of the needs of States other than those in the 'G20 bracket' to access critical supplies to address the pandemic.

The experience of the Celtic League shows that in all three States within our purview, there has been an undermining of Civil Liberties via the use of emergency powers including restriction on movement and imprisonment. There has also been a failure in some instances to react swiftly to the advice given at the onset of the pandemic by International and regional Rights bodies.

Finally in relation to climate change there may be fiscal pressures on nation states to meet targets set pre-pandemic.

The UN needs to revise and reinforce existing resolutions that address the issues outlined above so that global society avoids the drift towards the response to pandemic being based on State interest and not the wider interest of global society. If anything the Covid epidemic has illustrated now 'national priority' can undermine the benchmarks set for global development elimination of poverty, health development and climate change.

83. Center for Convention on Democratic Integrity Ltd / Gte

Global crises caused by the pandemic, has compromised the world's commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and made worst in Sub Sahara Africa before the pandemic. The unusual situation created by COVID-19 pandemic, is influencing this commitment and undermining the general approach towards suitability by slowing down the process towards achieving the SDGs and changing the trajectory of development. The overarching aim "leave no one behind" is threatened by the current growing inequalities and corruption.

The world is arguably already behind in achieving the targets of the SDGs before the COVID-19 pandemic started. In essence, the pandemic is bringing tension at a global level by giving on the one hand reasons for closing borders, restricting the movement of people and goods, and authoritarian actions, while on the other hand requiring global collaborations for tackling the pandemic, which is inherently global.

The pandemic has triggered an economic crisis of large proportions with augmented impacts particularly on developing countries, putting a large number of people in poverty. For the first time in three decades, poverty is increasing. The economic consequences are significant and widespread, affecting all areas of the economy, including capital flows, business operations, employment and jobs.

The impact of the pandemic on society is unclear, long lasting, and difficult to measure presently. Problems created by the pandemic emphasize the indivisible character of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Multidisciplinary systems-thinking is needed for exploring interconnections between environment, wildlife, and humans all in one health approach. The combination of public and business policies with technological innovation can mitigate the negative impact of economic activities on the SDGs.

However, to avoid risking the progress achieved so far, this crisis can be used as an opportunity to strengthen global commitment to the 2030 Agenda, by placing sustainable development at the core of recovery plans, a better response to future crises is enabled, implying stronger health systems, fewer people living in extreme poverty, less gender inequality, a healthier natural environment, and more resilient societies. No meaningful development programme can be achieved without a sustainable peaceful political, social and economic environment. The current ethic, social, political and economic security challenges in Nigeria pose a threat to achieving the SDG targets.

We recommend adoption of dialogue and inclusive mechanism as a way of addressing security tensions in Sub Sahara Africa countries with the full support of the United Nations. This will address the challenges of poverty, corruption, unemployment and inequitable distribution of wealth amongst ethnic nationalities as these are major causes of insecurity in the country, which threaten the achievements of the SDGs.

84. Centre Africain de Recherche Industrielle (C.A.R.I.)

La présente communication écrite est une contribution du CARI au travail du Conseil économique et social dans le cadre de la collaboration entre les institutions. Elle vise à faire avancer le travail social du Conseil en rapport avec l'atteinte des objectifs de développement durable (ODD).

Le CARI en tant que société savante de la composante société civile reste acteur non négligeable dans la mise en œuvre des ODD non seulement en République Démocratique du Congo, mais partout ailleurs où l'on peut constater un dérapage ou une difficulté dans la poursuite des ODD. Le CARI a le devoir de proposer des stratégies nécessaires pour atteindre les dix-sept objectifs convenus. Les résultats de ses recherches s'adressent à tous les autres acteurs sans exception.

Il n'y a aucun doute que la pandémie de COVID-19 qui a éclaté au début de l'année 2020 a causé des effets dévastateurs sur les trois dimensions du Développement Durable. Si la dimension environnement n'a pas encore connu de choc significatif en ce moment, les deux autres dimensions, sociale et économique, ont été la proie de la pandémie. Elles sont frappées de plein fouet car directement liées au quotidien de l'homme. Les nations étaient de plein pied dans la réalisation des ODD de l'Agenda 2030, cinq ans après son lancement en 2015. Plusieurs actions entreprises dans le cadre de l'agenda 2030 – ODD 1, réduction de la pauvreté ; ODD 2 combattre la faim ; ODD 3 réalisation d'une bonne santé et du bien-être ; ODD 10 : réduction des inégalités ; et surtout l'ODD 8 : travail décent et croissance économique, - étaient en pleine réalisation et avaient parfois atteint un niveau appréciable dans plusieurs pays.

L'objectif 8 qui est central à notre avis et dont les effets de répercussion sur la réalisation d'autres objectifs sont visibles, est très menacé par les confinements décidés par les États qui ont eu comme conséquence l'arrêt de l'activité économique et du travail décent.

Une fois la pandémie vaincue, le monde vivra un temps de travail dur et pénible pour rétablir les équilibres rompus par l'arrêt de la production suite aux confinements. Ce dur travail impulsera la croissance économique, mais impactera par contre la dimension environnementale du fait de la surexploitation des ressources naturelles nécessaires à cette relance économique.

Pour vaincre dans un délai bref la pandémie, au CARI nous pensons à un partenariat scientifique à l'échelle planétaire pour garantir les recherches des vaccins ou des médicaments appropriés. Ainsi on évitera toute contestation et les risques afférents à l'utilisation des vaccins. Des politiques économiques prudentes s'imposent, après le COVID-19 pour préserver notre environnement et réaliser "the world we want".

Plusieurs pesanteurs viennent dérailler la mise en œuvre des ODD, notamment, les guerres à l'Est, l'instabilité politique, la corruption etc. associés à la COVID-19. A l'allure où nous allons, il y a beaucoup des risques que nous puissions atteindre 2030 sans que la République Démocratique du Congo ne soit capable de réaliser un seul des ODD comme ce fut le cas avec les OMD.

Plus particulièrement en République Démocratique du Congo, des opportunités existent pour trouver le médicament contre le COVID-19 à l'instar de celui contre le Paludisme. Le « MANACOVID » fabriqué par le même laboratoire est une avancée qu'on doit mettre à profit pour

parvenir à lutter contre cette pandémie. Il suffit, dans le cadre du partenariat scientifique mondial, de le soumettre à des recherches plus avancées.

85. Centre d'Education et de Développement pour les Enfants Mauriciens

The Centre d'Education et de Développement pour les Enfants Mauriciens is a non-governmental organisation, founded in 1984 and based in Mauritius, which is in special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council since 2017. We operate several residential and socio-educational projects with vulnerable groups of children, mainly those who have been victims of different forms of abuse (physical, sexual and emotional abuse, as well as neglect), and those who have physical and/or mental disabilities. The COVID-19 pandemic affects these vulnerable groups quite significantly and, in the current statement, our focus is on how we observed the mental health of children living in residential care institutions on a local scale being impacted. This also links with one of the targets of the third Sustainable Development Goal which aims at promoting mental health and well-being, and article 24 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child which urges States Parties to "recognize the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health".

Children living in residential care institutions are extremely vulnerable given their histories of abuse and/or neglect, separation from their parents and emotional instability, and they may present with significantly challenging behaviours and mental health problems such as anxiety, depression or even personality issues. Mauritius has been through two lockdown situations since March 2020 of a duration of at least a couple of months each. During both confinements, children, including those living in care settings, were required to remain within home premises for sanitary reasons. Most care settings are run by non-governmental organisations and, in terms of physical infrastructure, only some of them have sufficient outdoor space or garden areas to allow their child residents to channel their energy and fulfill their right to outdoor leisure and recreational activities. Some children voiced their difficult feelings, for instance, by equating the lockdown to a "prison-like" situation. Few caregivers in care settings are suitably trained to manage the mental health needs of the child residents. Access to psychological support from hospitals, health care centres or the private sector is limited during confinement. On-site visits by psychologists, counsellors or therapists during the pandemic are not generally available to residential care institutions. Psychological support online is not readily accessible to the children due to a lack of technological means within some care settings.

We think that a clear local mental health management protocol, designed for children across all care settings and coordinated by relevant national actors at all levels, can promote the psychological well-being of children during pandemic situations.

86. Centre Europe – Tiers monde

Food: a Central Issue for Sustainable Development

1. The policies imposed at the economic and social level over the past decades, in the context of neoliberal globalization, are the cause of the increase in poverty and the aggravation of inequalities.
2. The international health crisis resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic has worsened this situation. This crisis has turned out to be a lens through which one can assess a single-minded development model that spawns poverty, inequality, discrimination, wide-scale human rights violations and crises that are both systemic and multifaceted (democratic, political, economic, social, financial, environmental, alimentary, health, cultural). This can be explained by the nature of the prerogatives of the dominant economic system based on competition, the pursuit of profit at all costs and of maximum profit for the economic elites. The decisions thus made have weakened public prerogatives, which remain essential, to the exclusive benefit of private capital, and shrunk budgetary allocations for the public sector (in particular in health, peasant agriculture, education, culture etc.). Thus, states are dispossessed of the primary political ways and means that would ordinarily underpin a capacity of resilience and response in the face of shocks such as the current pandemic.
3. In this context, the conditions for a development model that is truly sustainable from an economic, social and environmental point of view are undermined. This is the case for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of Agenda 2030, and especially the goals regarding economic, social and cultural rights (in particular goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10), which are from the outset inexorably at a disadvantage.
4. In the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is particularly disturbing to notice the worsening of the food crisis throughout the world. According to FAO projections, most of the indicators of hunger and malnutrition show a deterioration of the situation as a result of the international health crisis. To the 750 million persons suffering from severe food insecurity at the end of 2019 can now be added more than 100 million in 2020. Regarding “moderate/severe” hunger and malnutrition, the figures show more than 2 billion persons. Paradoxically, the majority of persons suffering from hunger are food producer and work in rural areas. This situation is the result of the architecture and the functioning of current food systems, subjected to the whims and interests of major transnational agribusiness corporations, to the detriment of the family peasantry and rural communities.
5. The theme of the ECOSOC’s 2021 High Level Political Forum indicate a willingness to contribute to orienting our societies to the construction of an inclusive way forward to the realization of Agenda 2030 and sustainable development models, especially in the face of the international health crisis. For us, the construction of this road means, imperatively, the promotion of resilient, sustainable and egalitarian agricultural systems based on food sovereignty and the promotion and respect of peasants’ rights. To attain these goals, it is essential that states invest in agriculture and protect rural areas and family peasantry, while encouraging multilateral international cooperation.

6. In this regard, we are deeply disturbed that transnational agribusiness corporations' lobbies are orienting the preparation of the United Nations Food Systems Summit, planned for autumn 2021. This multilateral event could and should, on the contrary, constitute an opportunity to reinforce our food systems, to direct our societies toward a sustainable recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic and to realize the goals of Agenda 2030. Thus, we wish to include this subject and the challenges that it involves in the ECOSOC High Level Political Forum.

7. The United Nations Summit on Food Systems was organized within the framework of the Decade of Action to attain the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 and to progress in the realization of the 17 goals that, as one can read on the Summit's site, « relies to some degree on healthier, more sustainable and equitable food systems ». This United Nations gathering thus has as its objectives concrete measures oriented to the realization of Agenda 2030: sensitizing the public to the importance of our food systems; planning courses of action that can orient governments' policy-making and create a follow-up system to implement the Summit's results.

8. However, from the outset, the Summit's planning process has been characterized by opaqueness and marked by the influence of transnational agribusiness corporations. A handful of transnationals, "experts" known for being defenders of industrial agriculture, and certain powerful states are fashioning the Summit's content, whereas rural organizations and movements have so far been sidelined, effectively relegated to the role of on-lookers. It would seem that there is no willingness to integrate into the process organizations advocating the overhaul of our food systems in line with sustainability and equality. The international peasant movement La Vía Campesina has drafted an analysis titled, "A Summit Under Siege. Position paper on UN food systems summit 2021", in which it denounces these manoeuvres.

9. Following the current trajectory, the Summit's construction process would allow the agribusiness sector to exercise an undue influence over multilateral public space, to orient that space in accordance with its strategic commercial interests, and to legitimate itself as the leader and architect of food systems. For this sector, it is a matter of keeping this position of strength in order to protect and increase profits and shareholders dividends.

10. It is worth recalling that the Summit is the result of a joint initiative between the United Nations Secretary-General and the World Economic Forum (WEF). It is no secret that the latter is a space conceived by and for transnational corporations and international financial institutions, with the unwavering support of several powerful states and several major "philanthropic" entities. It is the hub of initiatives seeking the privatization of public services and the commodification/financialization of all productive sectors and natural resources, including, of course, food systems.

11. Thus, the appointment of Dr Agnes Kalibata as the Secretary-General's special envoy to oversee the Summit is not surprising. On the contrary, it confirms our analysis. In fact, Ms Kalibata is the current president of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), an organization at the center of controversies and criticism by African social movements owing to her support of the promotion of highly intensive industrial agricultural models. The choice of this "expert" demonstrates how the particular interests of the agribusiness sector intertwine with the desire to control, indeed "capture", the Summit to their own advantage.

12. We observe with deep disquiet that the Summit seems concentrated exclusively on an approach to food systems based on market economy solutions – which, moreover, have turned out to be incapable of resolving the problems of hunger, inequality and the climate crisis – while ignoring the sustainable solutions of peasant food systems such as agro-ecology, now enshrined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas. Agro-ecology seeks an ecological balance within rural areas, as well as acting as a vehicle for social justice and empowerment of local communities autonomy.

13. The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Feed, Michael Fakhri, is also concerned about the Summit reparations because they are oriented to «one type of policy, namely sustainable intensive agriculture, also known as the new green revolution ». For the UN expert, « both sustainable intensification and industrial intensification rely on capital-intensive processes and technologies, thus reflecting the status quo of the current political economy of the food system » (voir A/HRC/46/33).

14. Further, it is undeniable that during the first year of preparation for the Summit, precisely owing to the preference accorded to the market-solution approach, human rights were excluded from the discussions, whereas these are an integral part of United Nations goals. In response to pressure from social movements, civil society organizations and certain academics, human rights have now been integrated into the program, but they remain on the margins of the discussion. Yet, their inclusion is fundamental, for it makes possible placing human needs ahead of the economic and financial needs of the business sector – one way of recalling the simple slogan, “People before profit!” Moreover, this integration could incite states to act to change and democratize food systems in such a way as to respond to the needs of humanity.

15. Preceding food crises, and in particular that of 2008, have shown that agribusiness, and the business sector in general, do not represent a way forward to solve hunger and malnutrition, nor to achieving the SDGs. On the contrary, they are often at the origin of the problem: they promote agricultural systems oriented to exports that undermine the prerogatives of subsistence farming, thus increasing malnutrition among small-scale food producers; they advocate monoculture systems, which harm biodiversity, soil quality, food and nutritive inputs of local populations; they encourage stock market speculation on agricultural products and natural resources and cause financial bubbles and dramatic food crises for entire populations, while filling shareholders’ pockets. It is unacceptable that a major gathering such as the United Nations Food Systems Summit be left to the good will of these sectors, whose priorities are aggravating both the international food crisis and the COVID-19 health crisis.

16. The impact of the pandemic on food systems has been considerable: world food supply chains have been badly disrupted, inequality within rural communities as well as between them and urban centers has increased along with food insecurity, which was already progressing relentlessly before the health crisis, including in urban areas. This crisis has made manifest the inequality within the world’s food systems as well as their dwindling resilience. It is high time to remedy this by refashioning food systems through deep structural changes.

17. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas should be the legitimate point of departure for this Summit, in particular for the realization of the Summit's stated objectives. The Declaration must also be placed at the center of states' agricultural and food policies, as a road map for sustainable rural development, inclusive and non-discriminatory, based on the needs of peasants and other rural communities and, ultimately, all humanity.

18. In view of the preceding, we urge the Economic and Social Council member states and all United Nations member states to rise to the challenge of holding the United Nations Food Systems Summit and to take it into account in their future activities, especially in the context of the United Nations Economic and Social Council High Level Political Forum 2021. We further urge all states to act so as to assure that the Summit really contributes to the transformation of food systems with a view to reinforcing their resilience in the face of the challenges imposed by the world food and health crises. As well, we call upon states to guarantee that rights holders, in particular peasants, Indigenous peoples and other rural communities, be placed at the heart of the summit. These are indispensable conditions for this gathering to contribute to a sustainable recovery and for the tangible realization of the objectives of Agenda 2030. In this regard, the ECOSOC, by virtue of its vocation, could and should actively contribute to the work of the Summit.

19. In conclusion, the United Nations member states have an obligation to put an end to the strangle-hold of transnational corporations and financial institutions on UN multilateral instances. This is a matter of the integrity of the United Nations as a multilateral organization of public interest, as well as matter of its credibility, independence and impartiality.

(Version en Français)

L'alimentation : enjeu central pour un développement durable

1. Les politiques imposées au niveau économique et social depuis plusieurs décennies, dans le cadre de la mondialisation néolibérale, sont à l'origine de l'augmentation de la pauvreté et de l'exacerbation des inégalités.

2. La crise sanitaire internationale liée à la pandémie de COVID-19 a aggravé cette situation. Cette crise s'est révélée être le prisme d'un modèle unique de développement qui engendre pauvreté, inégalités, discriminations, violations massives des droits humains et crises systémiques multiples (démocratique, politique, économique, sociale, financière, environnementale, alimentaire, sanitaire, culturelle). Cela s'explique par les caractéristiques du système économique dominant, à savoir la concurrence, la recherche à tout prix de la croissance économique et du profit maximum en faveur des élites économiques. Les décisions prises dans ce sens ont ainsi affaibli les prérogatives publiques, pourtant essentielles, au bénéfice unilatéral du secteur privé et réduit les ressources budgétaires allouées au secteur public (notamment dans les domaines de la santé, l'agriculture paysanne, l'éducation, la culture, etc.). De ce fait, les États sont dépossédés des principaux moyens et leviers politiques qui leur permettraient de se doter d'une capacité de résilience et de riposte face à des chocs comme la crise pandémique actuelle.

3. Dans ce contexte, les conditions d'un modèle de développement véritablement durable du point de vue économique, social et environnemental sont davantage mises à mal. Il en est de même pour les Objectifs de développement durable (ODD) stipulés par l'Agenda 2030, et en particulier les objectifs concernant les droits économiques, sociaux et culturels (en particulier les objectifs No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10) qui s'en trouvent dès le départ inexorablement affectés.

4. Dans le cadre de la pandémie de COVID-19, il est particulièrement préoccupant de constater l'aggravation de la crise alimentaire au niveau mondial. Selon les projections de la FAO, la plupart des indicateurs de l'état de la faim et de la malnutrition montrent une détérioration de la situation comme conséquence de la crise sanitaire internationale. Aux 750 millions de personnes souffrant d'une insécurité alimentaire grave à la fin de 2019 pourraient s'ajouter plus de 100 millions de personnes en 2020. Pour ce qui concerne la faim et la malnutrition « modérée-grave », les chiffres montent à plus de 2 milliards de personnes. Paradoxalement, la majorité des personnes souffrant de la faim sont les personnes travaillant dans les zones rurales et productrices d'aliments. Ces résultats sont la conséquence directe de l'architecture et du fonctionnement des systèmes alimentaires actuels, construits au gré des intérêts des grandes entreprises transnationales agroalimentaires et au détriment de la paysannerie familiale et des communautés rurales.

5. Le thème du Forum politique de haut niveau de l'ECOSOC (2021) indique la volonté de contribuer à orienter nos sociétés vers la construction d'une voie inclusive et efficace pour la réalisation de l'Agenda 2030 et vers des modèles de développement durables, en particulier face à la crise sanitaire internationale. Pour nous, la construction de cette voie passe impérativement par la promotion de systèmes agricoles résilients, durables et équitables, fondés sur la souveraineté alimentaire, la promotion et le respect des droits des paysans. Pour atteindre ces objectifs, il est essentiel que les États s'investissent dans le domaine agricole et protègent les zones rurales et la paysannerie familiale, tout en encourageant la coopération internationale multilatérale.

6. À cet égard, nous sommes très préoccupés par le fait que les lobbies des entreprises transnationales agroalimentaires orientent les préparatifs du Sommet des Nations Unies sur les systèmes alimentaires, prévu en automne 2021. Cet événement multilatéral pourrait et devrait constituer une opportunité pour renforcer nos systèmes alimentaires, pour diriger nos sociétés vers une reprise durable après la pandémie de COVID-19 et réaliser les objectifs de l'Agenda 2030. C'est pourquoi nous souhaitons mettre cette question et les défis qui l'entourent à l'ordre du jour du Forum politique de haut niveau de l'ECOSOC.

7. Le Sommet de l'ONU sur les systèmes alimentaires a été conçu dans le cadre de la Décennie d'action pour réaliser les objectifs de développement durable d'ici à 2030 et pour progresser dans la réalisation de chacun des 17 objectifs qui, comme on peut le lire sur le site du Sommet, « dépendent tous à des degrés divers de la mise en place de systèmes alimentaires plus sains, plus durables et équitables ». Cet événement onusien se donne ainsi comme objectif de préconiser des mesures concrètes axées sur la réalisation de l'Agenda 2030, de sensibiliser le public à l'importance de nos systèmes alimentaires, d'élaborer des pistes d'action pour orienter les gouvernements et de créer un système de suivi pour mettre en œuvre les résultats obtenus par le Sommet.

8. Cependant, dès le début, le processus de préparation du Sommet a été caractérisé par l'opacité et par la mainmise des entreprises transnationales agroalimentaires. Une poignée de transnationales, de quelques « experts », connus en réalité pour être des défenseurs de l'agriculture industrielle, et de certains États puissants dictent le contenu du Sommet, alors que les mouvements et les organisations rurales restent jusqu'à présent écartés du processus, relégués au rôle de figurants. Il semblerait qu'il n'y ait pas de volonté d'intégrer les organisations qui plaident pour la refondation des systèmes alimentaires dans un sens véritablement durable et égalitaire. Le mouvement international paysan La Vía Campesina a élaboré une analyse intitulée « État de siège sur un Sommet. À propos du Sommet des Nations Unies sur les systèmes alimentaires 2021 », dans lequel elle dénonce ces manœuvres.

9. Suivant la trajectoire actuelle, le processus de construction du Sommet permettrait au secteur de l'agroalimentaire d'exercer une influence indue sur un espace public multilatéral afin de l'orienter à sa guise, selon ses intérêts stratégiques commerciaux, et de se légitimer en tant que leader et architecte des systèmes alimentaires. Il s'agit pour ce secteur de garder cette position de force pour protéger et augmenter ses profits et les dividendes de ses actionnaires.

10. Il convient de rappeler que le Sommet est issu d'une initiative conjointe entre le Secrétaire général des Nations unies et le Forum économique mondial (FEM). Ce n'est un secret pour personne que ce dernier est un espace conçu par et pour les sociétés transnationales et les institutions financières internationales, avec le soutien clé de quelques États puissants et de quelques grandes entités « philanthropiques ». Il est la plaque tournante des initiatives visant la privatisation des services publics et la marchandisation/financiarisation de tous les secteurs productifs et des ressources naturelles, incluant bien entendu les systèmes alimentaires.

11. C'est ainsi que la nomination de la Dr. Agnes Kalibata, comme envoyée spéciale du Secrétaire général des Nations unies chargée de superviser le Sommet, n'est pas surprenante. Au contraire, elle confirme notre analyse. En effet, Mme Kalibata est l'actuelle présidente de l'Alliance pour une révolution verte en Afrique (AGRA), organisation au centre de controverses et de critiques par les mouvements sociaux africains en raison de son soutien à la promotion de modèles agricoles industriels et hautement intensifs. Le choix de cette « experte » montre comment les intérêts particuliers du secteur de l'agroalimentaire s'articulent avec la volonté de contrôler et de « capturer » le Sommet en leur faveur.

12. Nous observons avec inquiétude que le Sommet semble se concentrer uniquement sur une approche des systèmes alimentaires basée sur les solutions de l'économie de marché - qui se sont pourtant avérées incapables de résoudre les problèmes de la faim, des inégalités et de la crise climatique - en ignorant les solutions durables des systèmes alimentaires paysans, comme l'agro-écologie, désormais inscrites dans la Déclaration des Nations Unies sur les droits des paysans et des autres personnes travaillant dans les zones rurales. L'agro-écologie est une approche fondée sur la recherche de l'équilibre écologique des milieux agricoles, mais se veut également un moteur de justice sociale et d'autonomisation des communautés rurales locales.

13. Le Rapporteur spécial de l'ONU sur le droit à l'alimentation, M. Michael Fakhri, est également préoccupé par les préparatifs du Sommet, car portant actuellement sur « un seul type de politique, l'agriculture intensive durable, également connue sous le nom de nouvelle révolution verte ».

Selon l'expert onusien, « tout comme l'agriculture intensive industrielle, l'agriculture intensive durable repose sur des processus et des technologies à forte intensité de capital, ce qui revient à maintenir le statu quo s'agissant de l'économie politique actuelle du système alimentaire » (voir A/HRC/46/33).

14. De plus, force est de constater qu'au cours de la première année des préparatifs du Sommet, en raison justement de la priorité accordée à l'approche basée sur les solutions de marché, les droits humains ont été exclus des débats, alors qu'ils font parties des buts des Nations unies. Certes, suite à la pression venant des mouvements sociaux, d'organisations de la société civile et de certains académiciens, les droits humains sont désormais intégrés, mais ils demeurent toujours à la marge des débats. Or, leur intégration est fondamentale car elle permet de placer les besoins humains avant les besoins économiques et commerciaux des milieux d'affaires. Une manière de rappeler un principe aussi simple que « la vie avant le profit ». De surcroît, cette intégration obligerait les États à agir pour changer et démocratiser les systèmes alimentaires, afin que ces derniers soient conçus en fonction des besoins de l'humanité.

15. Les crises alimentaires précédentes, et en particulier celle de 2008, ont démontré que les milieux des affaires et le secteur de l'agroalimentaire ne représentent pas la solution contre la faim et la malnutrition, ni pour la réalisation des ODD. Au contraire, ils sont souvent à l'origine du problème : ils préconisent des systèmes agricoles voués à l'exportation, détruisant les prérogatives de l'agriculture vivrière, augmentant ainsi la malnutrition des petits producteurs d'aliments ; ils plaident pour des systèmes basés sur la monoculture, ce qui a des conséquences néfastes pour la biodiversité, la qualité des sols, de la nourriture et les apports nutritifs des populations locales ; ils investissent dans la spéculation boursière sur les produits agricoles et les ressources naturelles, causant des bulles financières, des crises alimentaires dramatiques pour les peuples, tout en gonflant les poches des actionnaires. Il n'est pas acceptable qu'un événement d'envergure comme le Sommet des Nations unies sur les systèmes alimentaires soit laissé aux mains de ces milieux, dont les priorités aggravent la crise alimentaire mondiale et celle sanitaire du COVID-19.

16. L'impact de la pandémie sur les systèmes alimentaires a été considérable : les chaînes agricoles mondiales ont été fortement perturbées, les inégalités au sein du monde rural et entre ce dernier et les centres urbains se sont creusées davantage, et l'insécurité alimentaire, qui ne cessait déjà de progresser avant la crise sanitaire, a augmenté, y compris dans les villes. Cette crise a mis en évidence les inégalités au sein des systèmes alimentaires mondiaux ainsi que la fragilité de ces derniers. Il est temps de changer cela par une refondation des systèmes alimentaires, engageant des changements profonds et structurels.

17. La Déclaration de l'ONU sur les droits des paysans et autres personnes travaillant dans les zones rurales doit être un instrument de référence pour ce Sommet, et en particulier pour atteindre les objectifs fixés. Elle doit également être placée au cœur des politiques agro-alimentaires des États, en tant que feuille de route pour un développement rural durable, inclusif et non-discriminatoire, axé sur les besoins des paysans et des autres communautés rurales, comme de l'humanité toute entière.

18. Au vu de ce qui précède, nous exhortons les États membres du Conseil économique et social et tous les États membres de l'ONU à s'emparer de la problématique liée à la tenue du Sommet

des Nations Unies sur les systèmes alimentaires et à en tenir compte dans leurs activités futures, et notamment dans le cadre du Forum politique de haut niveau de l'ECOSOC (2021). Nous exhortons également les États à s'assurer que le Sommet puisse contribuer réellement à la transformation des systèmes alimentaires dans la perspective d'en renforcer la résilience face aux défis imposés par la crise alimentaire et sanitaire mondiale. De plus, nous appelons les États à garantir que les détenteurs de droits, tels que les paysans, les peuples indigènes, et les autres communautés rurales, soient placés au cœur du Sommet. Ce sont des conditions indispensables pour que cet événement puisse apporter sa pierre à l'édifice d'une reprise durable, et en faveur de la réalisation tangible des objectifs de l'Agenda 2030. En ce sens, l'ECOSOC, par sa vocation, pourrait et devrait contribuer activement aux travaux du Sommet.

19. En conclusion, les États membres de l'ONU ont le devoir de mettre un terme à la mainmise des sociétés transnationales et des institutions financières sur tous les espaces onusiens multilatéraux ; il en va de l'intégrité de l'ONU en tant qu'organisation multilatérale d'intérêt public, ainsi que de sa crédibilité, son indépendance et impartialité.

87. Centre Européen de Recherche et de Prospective Politique - CEREPPOL

Recent COVID-19 pandemic has been a pledge for workers who many of them have lost their jobs and a still on the dole. Many of the employees working in small or medium-sized companies* (*SMEs) which were important generator of wealth for local consumption, and production, have met the “dark side” of the rule of the Marketplace without being able to foresee a better future. The European Research Center on Policy perspective (CEREPPOL) would like to draw the Assembly’s attention to the social exclusion caused by unequal distribution of funding to compensate job loss for millions of workers and inappropriate strategies by governments to avoid effects of forced confinement. The written statement will end by an open-ended question to the Assembly.

If we consider SDG 1 referring to “no poverty” objective, our Organization regrets that many developed countries have not been in measure to contain poverty escalation since February 2020 and have not yet dispatched in totality the EU funds at this time. As matter of facts, poor planning strategies and lack of direct, effective and easy access to financial support for all categories of people, is cause of a higher score of new aged jobseekers in many EU countries. In many regions, for instance, local initiatives to help people not to starve thanks to local non-profit organization initiatives reveal how urgent is the situation regarding new “pandemic job-less workers”.

In relation with SDG 3 that promotes an equilibrate apprehension of mental and physical health for everyone, statistics have enlightened a critical approach of the awareness on desegregation of self-esteem caused by long-term working loss on the same period (the last past 13 months).

Looking at the situation, the CEREPPOL urges States from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Region to review their strategies by affording people new hope. A New hope is not only a virtual dimension. Reality shows what people expect from their family’s plight. It is also a way to get into the movement i.e., the economic and consumptive cycle, without fearing personal threats : many people questioned about what could help them to get them to the top have indicated “a monthly financial help over 1.200 € to cover all the primary needs of households”. The contemporary history is showing that solidarity has recombined many of the ancient concepts based on social classes. In 2021, recombination is deeply impacting collective relationship to welfare. In such a prospective, the CEREPPOL is proposing the Assembly to be proactive and show the way forward, and opens the debate with a question : Why States do not consider minimum social salary for all that may help families to cope with every day-life problems, and could reduce the pandemic negative impact on mental health ?

88. Centre for Health Science and Law (CHSL)

Public health requires that people be able to live and earn income from the safety of their homes or in other places where physical distancing is possible, fresh air ventilation is abundant, and personal protective equipment and sanitation are readily available. People have the inalienable right to refuse unsafe work and governments are duty-bound to ensure that people have adequate income to pay for essentials like food, shelter, basic hygiene, and personal protective equipment, including face masks, and healthcare. Healthy individuals reduce their neighbours' risks of death and disability due to all causes, making public health an individual and collective responsibility.

However, Official Development Assistance (ODA, known to most as "foreign aid") rose only modestly by 3.5%, from 2019 to 2020 while the world faced a common public health foe and by many accounts one of its worst crises ever: COVID-19. ODA remains far short of the pre-pandemic, decades-long call by the World Bank and United Nations General Assembly for governments to contribute 0.7% of their respective Gross National Incomes to development assistance. (The United Kingdom, which had achieved the target, dramatically reduced its aid in April, leaving only Denmark, Luxembourg, Norway, Sweden, and Turkey as being dutifully so generous among OECD countries and only Qatar doing so from outside the OECD.)

However, the uptick in funding from High-Income to Low- and Middle-Income Countries paled in comparison to the dramatic rise in government assistance within high-income countries to their own citizens, despite the widely espoused principle of global solidarity. For example, the Canadian federal government wisely spent approximately CAD\$8,566 (approx. US\$6,853) per resident on COVID-19 assistance to protect Canadians. By contrast, combined foreign aid from all countries combined rose only US\$6 billion to support up to 6.5 billion people living in Low- and Middle-Income Countries, less than US\$1 (92¢) per global citizen. The wages and cost of living in many Low-Income Countries are lower--which also benefits consumers in high-income countries from inexpensive imported goods--but not that much lower.

Traditional wars against terrorism, illegal drugs, ideology and lost of territory or economic gain traditionally spend more. The world needs a candid, quantified conversation about the diameter of the circle of caring.

89. Centre for Human Rights and Climate Change Research

We, members, volunteers, partners and associates of the Centre for Human Rights and Climate Change Research working with the common goal of promoting climate action and sustainable development and empowering citizens globally and locally issue this statement.

We welcome the 2021 High-level Segment and recognize that the fulfilment of the human rights of every man, woman, youth, child, persons with disability, the aged and migrants in order for them to live a life of dignity with no one left behind lies at the heart of the Agenda 2030.

Overview of Issues

We agree with findings of the Food and Agriculture Organisation that climate change is already putting pressure on food systems and rural livelihood around the globe and that agricultural production and livelihoods are increasingly jeopardized.

We agree with findings of the Committee on World Food Security that addressing the 4 dimension of food and nutrition security requires significant increase in responsible investment in agriculture and food systems that respects, protects and promotes human rights including progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the contest of national food security.

We are Concerned at the slow pace of progress being made in implementation of the SDGs particularly Goal 2 and 13 in several countries evidenced by the persistence of poverty, hunger, poor standards of living, abnormal and low agricultural yields.

We are alarmed that Billions people in the world today, majority of which are women, youths and children live below the poverty line and in unacceptable conditions of poverty with more than 800 million chronically hungry.

We are concerned that the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted food security worldwide and has increased poverty and food insecurity.

Way Forward

We call for accelerated action to:

- Recognize the interlinkages among the SDGS particularly Goal 2, Goal 13 and the need to promote integration and coherence among them in planning, implementation, financing, monitoring and reporting.
- Understand the interdependency among global solutions, a move beyond the silo to integrated approach crafted to respond to the interconnectivity, build synergy and promote effective protection of the environment and other pillars of the sustainable development.
- Increase responsible investment in agriculture which respects, protects and promotes human rights including progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the contest of national food security.

- Increase Investment in reduction of the vulnerability of the agricultural and food sector to climate change.
- Invest in providing physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet the dietary needs and food preferences of women, men, boys and girls for an active and healthy life.
- Align national agriculture and food policies and Invest in reduction of the vulnerability of the agricultural and food sector to climate change.
- Promote long and short term innovative Effective Partnerships for Agenda 2030 built cooperation among relevant actors including civil society, the media, the private sector, the academia and research institutions.

90. Centre for Women Studies and Intervention

The Centre for Women Studies and Intervention (CWSI) is a non-governmental, not-for-profit and non-political organization based in Abuja, Nigeria. The organization is dedicated to ensuring that women and men can live respecting each other's rights with freedom and dignity. By promoting and upholding the rights of women and girls as well as empowering them, CWSI contributes to the construction of a just and fairer world.

The COVID-19 outbreak was officially declared a pandemic in March of 2020. Since then, countries around the globe have quickly reacted and adapted in order to keep their citizens as safe as possible. In particular, officials worldwide have responded by implementing lockdown and quarantine orders, travel restrictions, and workplace controls. As a result, economic and social development has been disrupted over the course of the past year. Many household providers were left unemployed, while many students either transitioned online or stopped attending school entirely. The pandemic and quarantine orders have, as a result, had a detrimental impact on the progress of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). As countries were forced to quickly respond to the ongoing pandemic, progress towards achieving the SDGs diminished. The COVID-19 pandemic has heightened pre-existing inequalities and has had a negative effect on the progress of accomplishing the SDGs. SDG 1 (Poverty), SDG 3 (Health), SDG 4 (Education), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 6 (Sanitation), SDG 8 (Economic Growth), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), and SDG 13 (Climate) have all suffered severe consequences and setbacks as a result of COVID-19. The impact of COVID-19 has made the aim of the SDGs of "leaving no one behind" more difficult to achieve than ever.

Below we outline a call to action which places emphasis on supporting vulnerable communities who have suffered as a result of COVID-19:

- 1) The UN should as much as possible partner with local stakeholders including CBOs and NGOs who are more in contact with these groups in order to adequately respond better to the vulnerabilities of women and girls in Nigeria
- 2) Call by NGOs to the UN to provide support for comprehensive GBV response services in Emergencies especially in rural communities in Nigeria.

CWSI also aims to support vulnerable communities, in particular women, in order to continue working towards the progress of the SDGs:

- 1) Improve healthcare personnel capacity at the community level i.e Community Health Extension Workers (CHEW) to provide better healthcare services.
- 2) Carry out Health campaigns and awareness on unsanitary practices and the effects on the environment at the community level.
- 3) Promote development strategies that support women entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation which would help boost their financial status.
- 4) Awareness creation and improving access to ownership and control of land and financial services for women.
- 5) Sustained awareness on gender based violence and improved support services for survivors of gender based violence.

Ultimately, we must continue to support those who have suffered as a result of the pandemic. Additionally, we must continue to pursue the accomplishments of the SDGs in order to be on track to meet these goals.

91. Centro Integrado de Estudos e Programas de Desenvolvimento Sustentável

In view of the coronavirus pandemic scenario, the food security of the population in high vulnerability is at risk. At the same time, small entrepreneurs from peripheral territories went through moments of concern. The Healthy People and Business project, an initiative of the Integrated Centre for Studies and Sustainable Development Programs with the financial partnership of private organizations, arrived to establish food security centers mediated by local social organizations. We team up with small community restaurants and community-based social organizations to serve daily meals for people in vulnerable situations. We promoted income generation for these entrepreneurs, strengthened the role of social organizations and served more than 142 thousand meals for the people in need at territories with high levels of social vulnerability. Thus, we promoted food security and income generation in Brazil, seeking to ensure that no one is left behind.

We also promoted income for 41 entrepreneurs at a time of social isolation, with US\$ 215.466,96 transferred to the production of meals. We strengthened a network with the partnership of 12 community organizations and 92 volunteers that made it possible for economic and social development in a sustainable way. 46% of the people served by these initiatives are women.

We are aware of the impacts of the pandemic on the fulfillment of the 2030 Agenda and its project was built as an inclusive and effective way to achieve this mission. We highlight the attendance to the Sustainable Development Goals 02, 08, 10 and 17.

"We received donations of food, but we identified that there are people who can't even cook for many different reasons. That's why the production of lunchboxes is so important," says Verônica Gomes, a volunteer.

There are entrepreneurs who from one day to the other find themselves without income and support, such as the chef, Fábio da Silva. "My business was going well, I was very optimistic. When the pandemic came, it was a blow. I did not have the resources to stay three months without earning. When I got the proposal to receive lunchboxes as a beneficiary, I felt it as a positive sign. I did not expect that I would soon be asked to produce the lunchboxes. It's a blessing!"

In a terrifying period, when we had to deal with the deaths caused by the pandemic, we faced hunger. Our project has positively impacted the lives of 4,079 people and will continue to do it all over Brazil, promoting more health, more income and more confidence in the future.

92. Centro Internazionale Sindacale per la Cooperazione allo Sviluppo (CISCOS-UGL)

The SARS-CoV-2(COVID-19) pandemic that has hit the planet requires an acceleration with respect to the pursuit of environmental, economic and social sustainability objectives by international organizations. As in any period of crisis, it is the choices that guide the present and the future in a decisive way. The experience gained starting from the first weeks of January 2020 confirms the need to deeply review some paradigms that are too often taken for granted. In light of what has happened and what will happen in the coming months, the game of sustainability is played on the slogan of regeneration. The European Union, called to play a central role, as long as it knows how to overcome some contradictions that also emerged in the past, has decided to adopt a program, Next Generation Eu, precisely to indicate a medium-term objective. The next generation, however, will have to rely on a regeneration process that must involve all areas. It is therefore essential to aim at the regeneration of urban spaces, so as to support the new remote working methods, as well as the soft and smart mobility, awareness in the resources' exploitation and the circular economy. All aspects on which digitization is expected to positively affect. Regeneration processes must involve pure work-force: the obsolescence of skills, together with the effects of the pandemic, has produced a sliding of large sections of the population towards inactivity, with the expansion of the number of young people (called NEET, Neither in Employment or in Education or Training. A serious consequence that can only be avoided by starting a widespread, timely and deep professional retraining program.

93. Centro UNESCO de Donostia-San Sebastián

La société civile a un rôle spécifique pour promouvoir un relèvement éducatif durable et résilient après la pandémie COVID-19. Dans le contexte d'une pandémie causée par le COVID-19, la communauté éducative a été confrontée à un défi intense de numérisation et de virtualisation des activités scolaires, en raison de la manière imprévue dont le verrouillage mondial a été mis en œuvre en mars 2020.

La crise, les questions référées aux principes et aux valeurs du peuple; des compétences liées aux médias et à l'information ont joué un rôle de premier plan dans la vie des gens. Les discussions ont émergé sur les fractures numériques dues à l'accès aux médias, ainsi qu'aux connaissances nécessaires pour utiliser, comprendre et produire des connaissances et des informations. De même, la désinformation émerge avec un élément à affronter par les citoyens et à assumer par les systèmes scolaires.

La Déclaration de Séoul 2020 de l'UNESCO sur l'éducation aux médias et à l'information pour tous et par tous, en 2020, rassemble des questions historiques sur l'éducation aux médias et le phénomène actuel de la désinformation. Cette déclaration suggère que, dans les médias, les gens façonnent leurs perceptions, leurs croyances et leurs attitudes à l'égard de la société et du monde qui les entoure.

La société civile post COVID-19 doit se réveiller et fixer pour objectifs :

- étudier comment les médias bouleverse les pratiques sociales ;
- observer les processus d'appropriation collective ainsi que les logiques de coopération qu'elle suscite (création d'espaces de discussion, de formation, de médiation etc.) ;
- développer une approche critique des médias;
- suivre les évolutions des processus d'innovation liées à l'éducation post-covid ;
- révéler les principaux défis soulevés par l'éducation en valeurs ;
- appréhender les freins et les incitants à l'usage de la désinformation dans les pays du monde.

Les propositions attendues devraient pouvoir répondre, entre autres, à ces questions :

Dans quelle mesure l'éducation en valeurs permet-elle de rompre avec les pratiques des médias pour répondre aux besoins des populations ?

Quelles sont les formes de co-apprentissage, co-construction, co-production observés dans les réseaux d'acteurs de l'éducation ?

Comment les pouvoirs publics, par leur action de soutien ou d'encadrement à l'innovation sociale et à l'éducation en valeurs, participent-ils à leur diffusion, voire leur institutionnalisation?

Comment l'éducation en valeurs contre la désinformation peut-elle être porteuse d'innovation dans les quartiers, vecteur de nouveaux projets et de nouveaux services ? Quelles questions de recherche nouvelles peuvent émerger de l'étude des médias et les valeurs ?

94. C-Fam, Inc.

In order to be sustainable, inclusive, and effective, recovery efforts from the COVID-19 pandemic must be founded on authentic human rights, including protection of the right to life of children before and after birth, and by fully realizing the right of the family to protection and assistance by society and the state. Only such a basis can ensure a successful decade of action to achieve the 2030 Agenda and shore up confidence in the multilateral system.

All human beings, as members of the human family, are entitled to recognition of their inherent dignity and to protection of their unalienable human rights. This is recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and other international instruments. The Convention on the Rights of the Child recognizes that children are entitled to human rights protections both before and after birth. Moreover, there exists no right to abortion under international law, either by way of treaty obligation or under customary international law. No United Nations treaty can accurately be cited as establishing or recognizing a right to abortion.

The family is defined in international law and policy as the natural and fundamental group unit of society. As such, it is entitled to protection by society and the State and is a proper subject of human rights. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and binding international instruments reserve singular protections for the family in recognition of the family's irreplaceable role as the "natural environment for the growth and well-being of all its members and particularly children."

International efforts to rebuild after COVID-19 must be carried out in full respect of the right of the family to protection and assistance by society, including the right of everyone to work and to provide a dignified life for themselves and their family. The COVID-19 pandemic should not be opportunistically exploited by the powerful as a tool to re-engineer societies through new onerous regulations that disadvantage family businesses or new and experimental social policies that undermine the family. Building back better cannot come at the expense of protection of the family.

These foundational human rights obligations must be at the center of international COVID-19 recovery efforts, in order to ensure that they are legitimate and that no one is left behind. The international system should steer clear of promoting controversial social policies, especially in times of crisis like the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sadly, the COVID-19 pandemic has often been exploited to advance controversial social policies, including the promotion of abortion as an essential health service as well as new policies related to sexual orientation and gender identity. Such policies do not enjoy international consensus and are not supported politically in a majority of countries.

Promoting policies that do not enjoy international legitimacy and undermine the right to life and protection of the family in a time when millions of people across the world have lost loved ones and livelihoods can only result in the further erosion of trust in international institutions.

95. CGFNS International, Inc.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed profound deficiencies and shortcomings concerning global health, human rights, and sustainable development. The pandemic has not only proven the dire need for universal health coverage, quality education, gender equality, and decent work, but it has simultaneously slowed, if not completely halted, global progress towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this vein and in recognizing the theme and objectives of the 2021 Economic and Social Council High-level Segment, CGFNS International, Inc. (CGFNS) calls for protecting and expanding educational portability, advocating for our nurses, particularly nurse migrants, and fortifying global standards for health worker mobility.

As the leading global standards-setting organization and the world's largest credentials evaluation organization for nursing and allied health professions, CGFNS sits at the intersection of healthcare and migration and has been at the forefront of the global fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. As we look beyond the pandemic and into the Decade of Action towards 2030, we need immediate, global, and whole-of-society action towards all facets of the 2030 platform. Given our unique position within the health and migratory spheres, CGFNS proposes the following expectations and policy recommendations to be considered by the Economic and Social Council for the advancement of SDG 3 on good health and well-being and SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth:

(1) Right to education beyond borders

Educational portability, whether for economic migrants, displaced persons, or refugees, is now a requirement for our increasingly globalized and post-COVID world. Education and training that can be qualified and quantified is the currency for the mobility of healthcare professionals and the standards upon which healthcare institutions employ and sustain their workforces. In this vein, CGFNS affirms the right to education beyond borders.

(2) Protect and advocate for our nurses, particularly nurse migrants

Nurses worldwide are combating the pandemic and saving lives, all while risking their own. Equally, we must recognize the many contributions that nurse migrants have made in filling workforce shortages and improving nations' health. Nurse migrants have served on the frontlines of the pandemic, making them increasingly vulnerable despite their critical role in global health systems. CGFNS recognizes the immeasurable contributions of nurses and nurse migrants and calls for their protection worldwide.

(3) Fortify global standards for health worker mobility

Protecting our nurses and those who have migrated goes beyond defending them from disease and death and requires advocating for their fair and ethical treatment and recruitment. While the World Health Organization projects a global shortage of 9 million nurses and healthcare professionals by 2030, the international migration of health workers will likely increase. Therefore, adherence to and development of global standards concerning regulating and credentialing health workers and ensuring ethical international recruitment practices is needed to provide competent workforces,

patient safety, and protected nurse migrants. Ethical blueprints such as the CGFNS Alliance and WHO Codes for ethical, international recruitment should be elevated and replicated across sectors to ensure safe, orderly, and regular migration for all.

96. Children Education and Social Welfare Society

The CEWS with world community has committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by United Nations (UN) Member States in September 2015. The unusual situation created by COVID-19, in early 2020, is influencing this commitment and undermining the general approach toward suitability by slowing down the process toward achieving the 17 SDGs and changing the trajectory of development. The overarching aim “leave no one behind” is threatened by the current growing inequalities. While the multiplied global challenges, economic social, environmental and financial shocks associated with COVID-19 make financing for sustainability even more difficult.

The CEWS have to present following concerns aligned with its objectives, in the economic, social and environmental areas on the realization of the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

Socio-economic impacts

The impacts of such COVID-19 epidemic events on diverse state sectors, particularly those directly contributing towards the economic stability, are usually unseen instantly, but they lead to long-term adverse consequences. Such repercussions dominate the entire industrial arena with deep-rooted consequences on local supply chains and national markets as the risk of health loss creates a sense of insecurity among masses.

State of environment and pollution

The lockdown around the world has stifled the routine activities and has restricted many services including transportation, industrial and agricultural production which was attributed as major contributors to environmental pollution. While the disease outbreak has taken more than 1600 lives in Pakistan with accompanied negative ramifications impacting communities in the form of employment loss and financial breakdown, some positive impacts have been observed on the air quality. Over the past of lockdown period, the air quality data obtained from different major cities of Pakistan has reported considerable decrease in the concentration of primary air pollutants, e.g. NO_x, SO_x, CO₂ and PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀, while a gradual increase has been observed post lockdown.

A way forward (Expectations, Specific Policy Recommendations)

The developing countries like Pakistan need to focus more objectively on the prevention is better than cure philosophy, and this is the right time to think proactively and keep them ready for any similar shocks in future. As their economies are already facing critical challenges due to their weaker political structure, limited fiscal space and capital markets, so they cannot afford to roll out the effective and timely stimulus packages like many developed countries.

Intervention / Recommendation to Global Community

The need of the hour is that the global community should join hands to develop vaccines and medicines and to lift trade and tariff barriers especially on the medical equipment and supplies. Countries should also coordinate their fiscal and monetary policies along with concerted efforts to help indebted nations for the creation of fiscal space to help them mitigate the pandemic and to ensure their economic recovery, such that no one is left behind.

97. "Children of the World" - Regional Public Charitable Fund of Assistance to Cultural and Sports Development of Children and Young

Ecology and Health

The current generation of people is obliged to preserve our planet for future generations. And here, the decisive task is a person's observance of a healthy lifestyle. Human health largely depends on the environment. Such a direct dependence of human health and ecology obliges, forces a person to protect the environment around him.

The global challenge in the face of a pandemic has demanded bold, ambitious solutions, where young people with a broad knowledge of digital technologies play a prominent role. Young people are at the forefront of social change due to the rapid development of digitalization in the modern world. With the help of digital technologies, young people are creating a more progressive society. The interactive program of the health-improving movement "Relay of Peace", in which more than 11 million people participate, provides for the implementation of uniform test physical exercises, including at home. Then, friends and acquaintances are invited to participate in the Relay and preserve the environment. It was the youth who became an active participant in the "Peace Relay", involving adults and children with their example. From one participant to another, there is a wave of interactive movement with unlimited coverage of the population. The Peace Relay health-improving program brought positive emotions for all family members, adults, children, as well as for the disabled during this troubled time for many.

Mass implementation of the "Peace Relay" health-improving program is the way of building the world that is humanistic, healthy, and ecological for a person.

It is necessary:

- 1) The "Children of the World" Foundation to strengthen cooperation with states and the media to promote the environment and a healthy lifestyle
- 2) Include the global wellness program for all "Relay of Peace" in the SDGs 2030 program.

98. China Charity Alliance

China Charity Alliance is a joint and hub Non-Government organization of charity NGOs which is registered in 2013, with 558 members including NGOs, business, media and philanthropists. For the past few years, in order to achieve the goal of No Poverty , we invited our member NGOs to raise more than 60 million Yuan to help addressing drinking water security, lack of village clinics, children's lives in poverty and other problems in some rural areas of China .Against the epidemic and to achieve the goal of Good health and Well-being , We coordinated more than 500 million Yuan for key epidemic areas of China, and our members actively donated nearly 5 billion Yuan. At the same time, we encouraged our members to support overseas anti-epidemic, issued Overseas Donation Guide, which helped China charities to participate in the global fight against the epidemic.

For the achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, we wish to inform the international community via the High-level Segment that:

Firstly, continue to encourage technological innovation. China's experience shows that the fight against the epidemic and economic recovery has benefited from the strong leadership and the unity of the people, while using the Internet, Artificial Intelligence,5th generation mobile networks and other scientific and technological means to efficiently guarantee information and logistics channels, so that Wuhan and the whole society can function normally again and charity organizations received and allocated much charity donations from Internet. So we advocate for innovation especially under the guide of charity values

Secondly, continue to promote global partnerships. The fight against the epidemic requires close cooperation among individuals, families, communities, volunteers, businesses, NGOs and governments, and we therefore call for global solidarity against discrimination and prejudice, especially among global NGOs, to highlight the value and strength of humanitarian and philanthropy.

Thirdly, continue to help vulnerable groups. Efforts should be made to revitalize rural areas, improve the level of rural modernization in an all-round way, pay attention to the disadvantaged groups such as girls, the disabled and the refugees, to promote the right to survival and development for all.

99. Chinese American Parent-Student Council of New York City Inc.

The COVID-19 pandemic has unquestionably impacted the progress made in achieving the Global Goals, creating adverse impacts on its five core tenets - People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnerships.

The Chinese American Parent-Student Council of New York City (CAPSC) implores the global community and all stakeholders to continue its unwavering response and cooperation to mitigate the effects of this pandemic and recover better. We need to strengthen the collaboration between the NGO community, public and private sectors, and implement innovative policies and actions to advance recovery and development sustainably.

SDGs 1 and 2

- To mobilize young professionals to research and collect Food Distribution information by relevant authorities to provide the local community with the need and avoid misinformation.
- To collaborate between the NGO community, public and private sectors to establish resources for food pantry distributions.

SDG 3

- Lack of a unified consensus and commitment of basic social and medical practices, such as mask-wearing, hand washing, and social distancing contributed to the surge of COVID cases, thus overwhelming the healthcare system.
- COVID-19 has renewed the importance of wellness as we recover from this pandemic mentally, emotionally, and physically. We must use media platforms to vigorously publicize the development of the pandemic and prevention measures by the government and relevant agencies to protect the health of local communities.

SDGs 8 and 10

- During COVID-19, the wealth and income gap between the rich and poor widened despite governments' efforts to provide relief as safety nets acted as a temporary bandage on a permanent wound.
- In line with the government's efforts to rescue and revitalize the economy, we must actively invite experts/scholars from all workforce to provide training virtually to increase employment rates and help businesses find new business models in economic activities.

SDG 13

- The global community needs to emulate the same prevention of the pandemic to respond to climate change immediately, working with Youth as the main force and use various media channels to launch a powerful campaign in understanding how urgent the effects of climate change and promoting environmental protection education of the energy and carbon saving and become a genuine " climate citizens", united in response to extreme weather conditions.

SDG 16

- The increase of hate-related crimes as a result of the pandemic gets underreported or are not prosecuted as such, leaving many to question equal access to the justice system and inclusivity.
- Through various inter-religious and cultural dialogue and programs, by continuous listening and communication, we can break down barriers and resolve misunderstandings, tolerance, and fraternity among all individuals regardless of beliefs and ideology to achieve a peaceful and equitable society.

Although the pandemic has impacted our society and economy, we need to step up and partner with similar grassroots parents and youth organizations to provide mutual experience to establish a partnership platform for pandemic prevention and economic recovery to achieve measurable progress for a future that we want and can be proud of during the decade of action.

100. Christian Children's Fund

ChildFund Alliance, known formally as Christian Children's Fund, is a network of 12 child-focused development organizations working in 70 countries to create opportunities for children, their families, and communities. Through our collective response to COVID-19, ChildFund focused on four areas to minimize negative effects and ensure children and families remain healthy, educated, and safe. These include stopping the spread of the virus; getting children the food they need; keeping children safe from violence; and helping children continue their learning. ChildFund provided PPE, WASH, meals and educational services where we operate and actively engaged children and youth to overcome challenges in their communities.

One of our core values is “ensuring no one is left behind.” During this pandemic, when communications have been challenging, we helped ensure children could express their desires, mobilize peers, and participate in surveys and virtual forums.

In Indonesia, our youth facilitators disseminated information on hygiene and sanitation, and distributed masks and handwashing supplies. In Paraguay, youth ambassadors delivered more than 1,000 food and hygiene kits, and in Timor-Leste, youth posted short videos on social media. In Myanmar, youth ambassadors visited communities, used loudspeakers to share instructions, and distributed cotton masks they made themselves. ChildFund Rugby, a program of ChildFund Australia, developed an online rugby and life-skills curriculum to help youth achieve personal development goals that contribute to positive change where they live.

We engaged young people via an online survey conducted by ChildFund member Educo to explore child and adolescent well-being. Conducted in May 2020 in 10 countries in Africa, Europe and the Americas, 4,476 children ages 6-11 responded. Outcomes are shared in the report, *Schools are shut but learning is on. For the report, Our Europe. Our Rights. Our Future—Children's and young people's contribution to the new EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child and the Child Guarantee*, ChildFund sought the views of more than 100 children outside the EU. More than 10,000 children ages 11-17 participated throughout the process.

In 2020, ChildFund served as the lead agency developing the *Joining Forces* policy brief, *Children's Right to be Heard: We're Talking; Are You Listening?* Child delegates provided content and final edits, shared videos, authored blogs, and participated in an online public event and private plenary for Universal Children's Day. The six *Joining Forces* partners—a network of child-development organizations—released the brief in January 2021.

During this unprecedented time, we must come together to protect the world's most vulnerable. In doing so, we commit to engage children, respect their concerns, seek their recommendations, and work alongside them to identify and adopt effective solutions.

101. Christian Conference of Asia

The Christian Conference of Asia submits this statement at a time when the unprecedented and compounded effects of the COVID-19 pandemic are threatening to derail the already-sluggish progress being made towards the achievement of the sustainable development goals (SDGs) as per the 2030 Agenda, in the Asia-Pacific region.

The COVID-19 pandemic has manifested the fragility and vulnerability of our world. The current pandemic has spurred a humanitarian crisis and runs the risk of long-term setbacks to socioeconomic improvements in the developing world. Without resolute and concerted efforts by developed countries, the United Nations, and other international bodies, most gains from the work towards SDGs in recent years are likely to be quickly undone.

SDG 3—good health and wellbeing—is foremost in our minds given the immense suffering of people across the globe. Distressing projections show the end of the pandemic being pushed further away. Issues surrounding vaccine nationalism and vaccine distribution are a snapshot of global inequality, representing the forces that sabotage equality, fairness, redress, and justice. Alarming disparities in access mar the roll-out of COVID-19 vaccines. These differences are heightened in Asia, greatly impacted by limited availability of vaccines for import, scepticism towards vaccines, and weak infrastructure posing logistical challenges for vaccine distribution. With the crippling of health systems, the pandemic’s impacts will reverberate for years to come.

These times necessitate the prioritising of access to equitable and affordable high-quality health services with strong commitments from all stakeholders, especially governments. It is important to ensure stronger cooperation, collaboration, and solidarity among the United Nations’ member states to equitably share knowledge, information, and resources. A continuing lack of solidarity and equity in the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines will undermine efforts towards disease control and further hamper a pandemic-free world.

As a faith-based organisation representing 45 million Christians in Asia, the Christian Conference of Asia submits the following recommendations to the 2021 ECOSOC High-Level Segment for the United Nations’ member states:

- Uphold and prioritise prior commitments made to fully realise SDG 3 by ensuring that health as a human right is protected for all, especially the most marginalised and vulnerable;
- Act collectively and collaboratively to boost vaccine access throughout the world by resisting from hoarding and engaging in sharing; and,
- Engage with affected people and communities, civil society and faith-based organisations to leverage potentials and resources for pandemic recovery.

In keeping with the spirit of stronger partnerships across borders, the Christian Conference of Asia will continue to encourage its 100 member churches and councils to amplify trust and information, promote health-seeking behaviour, and restore health, healing, and wholeness for all.

102. CIBJO - The World Jewellery Confederation

CIBJO, the World Jewellery Confederation, remains committed to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), not just to those we have made a priority commitment. We promote this objective through leadership, educational activities and services that it provides globally throughout the greater jewellery industry. It specifically supports the theme of the 2021 High-level Political Forum (HLPF): "Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: Building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development.

Through its involvement with the greater jewellery industry, CIBJO addresses directly areas of 12 SDGs: (SDG 3), (SDG 4), (SDG 6), (SDG 7), (SDG 8), (SDG 11), (SDG 12), (SDG 13), (SDG14), (SDG 15), (SDG 16), (SDG 17). By doing so, we are answering the call of the Secretary General, setting the course for an equitable sustainable and resilient response and recovery from COVID-19.

The impact of COVID-19 presented a range of challenges, with the potential fallout, both from the health crisis and its cascading economic effects, extending beyond the luxury markets. Hundreds of millions of individuals, mainly in sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America, are dependent upon the revenues generated by the extraction of precious metals, diamonds and coloured gemstones. Many are involved in artisanal and small-scale mining, and lack the protections afforded to employees of the industrialized mining operations.

The jewellery industry is ready to support its stakeholders, but to do so requires accurate information of the situation in the field. This is challenging for an industry with a very long chain of supply. CIBJO thus decided to create an industry-wide forum that would address challenges being posed, both health-wise and economically.

In April 2020, CIBJO launched a series of webinars entitled "Jewellery Industry Voices." The first season ran through July 2020 and concentrated on the economic and social impacts of COVID. Many webinars dealt with the pandemic's impacts at the grassroots level in the mining areas, where companies and organizations associated to CIBJO are conducting individual COVID-related programs, including the production and distribution of emergency equipment. Through this voice, we found a just transition from recovery to development.

Despite the pandemic, CIBJO continued with its programme to educate the industry and provide tools that encourage responsible sourcing and sustainability. In April 2021 it launched a mini-website with a Responsible Sourcing Toolkit, to enable companies do the diligence outlined in its Responsible Sourcing Blue Book – the first universal set of standards for the responsible sourcing of materials in the jewellery industry. We are launching an online academy, called the International Council for Sustainable Business, to train and certify SDG and sustainability officers in the jewellery and other sectors. Our expertise facilitates Solidarity and Cooperation for the achievements of the 2030 UN Agenda.

103. CLAN (Caring & Living as Neighbours) Incorporated

CLAN (Caring & Living as Neighbours) is an Australian nongovernment organisation. We acknowledge the Wallumedegal peoples of the Eora Nation, Traditional Owners of the land on which we are headquartered and the traditional lands of the Lenape people, where the UN is headquartered in New York City. CLAN pays our respects to Elders past, present and emerging. CLAN acknowledges the ECOSOC High-level Segment's focus on sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. CLAN's rights-based strategic framework for action promotes a community development approach to redressing inequities experienced by children living with chronic health conditions in resource-poor countries, thereby contributing to Sustainable Development Goal 3 with special attention on target 3.4. CLAN acknowledges the cumulative and devastating impact of COVID-19 on communities in resource poor settings, and the imperative of prioritising action for peoples living in the most vulnerable circumstances. CLAN provides Secretariat support to IndigenousNCDs, an Indigenous-led movement promoting the voices and solutions of Indigenous Peoples within the global non-communicable disease discourse. Indigenous Communities are inequitably burdened by non-communicable diseases, yet their wisdom and knowledge provide innovative insights and solutions. One notable example is the success of the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service sector of Australia in protecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples from the COVID-19 Pandemic. Working in equal partnership with the Australian government, the sector mobilised rapidly and implemented a broad range of actions to keep Community safe. As at May 2021, no Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander persons have died of COVID-19 in Australia. Indigenous Communities everywhere rose to the challenge of COVID-19. At the 2021 Commission on the Status of Women, CLAN facilitated the parallel event "Putting Indigenous Women First in Tackling non-communicable diseases". Katie Hunsberger, member of the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation (People of the Sun) and Deputy Chair of IndigenousNCDs shared practical solutions led by Indigenous women across Turtle Island during the pandemic, noting Native peoples' stories capture not just the past, but also the present and future. The session concluded with Blessing in a Time of Crisis, an expression in song and dance of the resilience of Indigenous peoples, and the importance of culture in healing, protecting and strengthening communities. CLAN calls for Indigenous voices and solutions to inform global action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. None of us will be safe from COVID-19 until ALL of us are safe. We request the UN and other non-government organisations prioritise those experiencing the greatest inequities so together we might #BeatNCDs, #BeatCOVID19 and #LeaveNoChildBehind.

104. CLIPSAS

In order to build an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in a post-Covid 19 pandemic, ECOSOC should add the question of future climatic refugees in the 2030 Agenda: not doing so would overlook crucial issues that will inevitably appear in the future and for which action should be taken.

When presenting the report on the main principles of Human Rights, the Secretary General of the United Nations emphasised: ‘Climate change is the biggest threat to our survival as a species and is already threatening human rights around the world. Addressing it must remain among our top priorities.’

The fight against Climate change is one of the sustainable development goals. Our philosophical international association, composed of members from all continents, wishes to draw the Office of Intergovernmental support and coordination for sustainable development’s attention to the situation of ‘climatic refugees’.

Contrarily to ‘refugees’, the particular category of ‘climatic refugees’ does not benefit from any legal status under International Law, whereas their situation is worsening, and their number is increasing exponentially.

According to the International Organisation for Migration: “The meteorological impact of climate change can be divided into two distinct drivers of migration; climate processes such as sea-level rise, salinization of agricultural land, desertification and growing water scarcity, and climate events such as flooding, storms and glacial lake outburst floods.”

This prompts migration within countries or to neighbouring countries. Asia is the continent that is the most affected today. In Bangladesh, hundreds of thousands of people are repeatedly uprooted by coastal floods. The African continent is affected as well. How can one overlook the case of people living on the shores of Lake Chad who have to leave because of desertification? Not to mention these European cities like The Hague (Netherlands) located below sea level.

The two latter examples are revealing: people’s displacement will be organised in wealthy countries but will not be in poor countries. This is blatant injustice. These climatic refugees are the most vulnerable, as they are innocent victims of what mankind is unable to control: Nature. Several NGOs support the attribution of a legal status to climatic refugees that would systematise the international assistance that they currently benefit from on an uncertain basis.

The current world health crisis that we are facing teaches us the necessity to anticipate instead of suffering the consequences of slow natural disasters. Planning and dealing with climatic migration, in the coming years, is a humanitarian and human necessity.

CLIPSAS would like to see the question of climatic refugees be put on the agenda of the next High-Level Segment meeting.

105. Comisión para la Investigación de Malos Tratos a las Mujeres

A sustainable recovery from the pandemic ravages is not possible without gender perspective. Hereafter, we explain why the abolition of prostitution is necessary to leave no one behind in this new international reality.

Some of the proposed Sustainable Development Goals (1, 3, 8, 10, 12, 16) are our starting point. Sustainable Development Goal 5 is our guiding thread.

Ensuring access to decent jobs for all is key to build a more resilient and fairer world and to move us closer to a reality without poverty.

Women must also have access to decent jobs. We do not want to be objects of consumption; selling our bodies can no longer be a way of life for many women and girls.

Regulationist arguments often rest on the fallacy of free choice. However, true freedom of choice can only exist within an equal opportunity context, and for that, global economic and gender inequalities should not exist.

Given that this is utopia, let's advocate today for the abolition of prostitution, for the search of fair alternatives from governments and international institutions, to those women who suffer this execrable form of violence.

We cannot fight for equal pay while thousands of women around the world, especially in the most impoverished regions, are sexually exploited in exchange for a meagre stipend to survive. While situations of extreme vulnerability (conflict, transit to uncertain destinations in search of asylum, and increasingly, growing socio-economic hardship caused by the pandemic among others), continue to drive more and more women into prostitution as the only way out.

We cannot ask for equality in decision-making while, for many, the only alternative is to sell their bodies.

We do not want to leave anyone behind, but we are doing it, we are allowing it. To accept regulation as a possibility is to accept that we are not equal, and we will not be equal.

Prostitution is not work. It is violence, slavery, inequality, physical and mental illness and in some cases, death. We do not want to move forward without them, to rebuild the post-pandemic world by forgetting those who cannot choose.

Quoting the United Nations Secretary-General at the opening of the Sixty-fifth Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, "COVID-19 is a crisis with a woman's face". And we add, with all women's face. Also, of those who find themselves in prostitution because they are poor and because they are women and need institutions and civil society to step forward, to take a stand, and to co-create, together with them, alternatives for all.

106. Commission on Voluntary Service and Action Inc.

Commission on Voluntary Service and Action (CVSA) launched a Nationwide Community Education Campaign for the Implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the United States, where we are based, on International Volunteer Day December 5, 2016. CVSA continues building this campaign through direct contact with hundreds of volunteer service organizations in communities across the country, providing education and localized organizing tools for the SDG campaign.

This Campaign acts in solidarity with people of all nations, aware that as long as the government of the most powerful and wealthy country in the world does not engage in the process agreed to in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and does not pursue the policy changes and priorities necessary for the full implementation of the SDGs, the working and disenfranchised people of the United States will continue to suffer, global progress is held back and we will fail to achieve the 2030 global commitment that humanity cannot live without.

Founded in 1945 to promote, coordinate and extend the field of independent voluntary service and action programs serving people and communities in need of systemic solutions to economic, social and environmental problems worldwide, CVSA has a membership and constituency of over 400 volunteer-involving and other organizations in the United States and around the world. CVSA members address the needs of those suffering poverty, lack of access to health care, legal justice, affordable housing, clean affordable energy and water, decent employment, and who are living in communities most affected by industrial pollution, toxic contamination and global warming. Economic losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic have caused unprecedented hunger in the United States. Existing and newly inspired volunteer organizations formed relief efforts we have advised toward aid and sustainability. These organizations, collectively representing millions of people, cannot solve these problems without systemic transformations at the national level committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda.

CVSA members report injustices of extreme economic inequality and racial and social discrimination of many kinds. With official policy perpetuating greenhouse emissions, despite scientific evidence of impending disaster, and an absence of officially empowered federal bodies involving all stakeholders to plan and implement the SDGs in the United States, Commission on Voluntary Service and Action reaffirms its commitment to:

- 1) Build the necessary groundswell of support for and participation in the implementation of the SDGs at local levels across the country until the nation's political leadership materially prioritizes the SDGs as policy, in cooperation with all other nations;
- 2) Mobilize increased volunteer involvement with organizations internationally and in the United States to tackle the needs of people, strive for solutions to these problems and to assist them in building partnerships with academic institutions, faith-based groups, and businesses promoting the SDGs.

Commission on Voluntary Service and Action is available to assist other volunteer service programs and NGOs in how to accelerate grassroots participation in their country or community for achieving the SDGs, dedicated to leaving no one behind in recovery and development.

107. Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative

The Decade of Action promised accelerated global collaboration to deliver peace and prosperity for all. However, the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated challenges to sustainable development across the globe.

Many States tackled this public health exigency punitively, revealing latent discrimination and untenable infrastructures in governance and support systems. Restrictions imposed by States failed to meet the necessary standards of proportionality, often lacking appropriate sunset provisions, resulting in widespread potential for human rights violations. Some States resorted to nationalism, impeding concerted global action.

The disproportionate adverse impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable communities presents a threat to the 2030 Agenda's core principle: ensuring no one is left behind.

We must seize this opportunity to rebuild sustainable, resilient institutions, to deliver a common future in which human rights are respected and peace and prosperity are enjoyed by all.

We urge States to take decisive action in these areas:

Access to Information and Media Freedom

Measures implemented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic have spilled-over to justify a marked rise in restrictions on access to information, freedom of expression, and civic space globally.

Freedom of expression and right to information must be upheld to achieve SDG 16. This includes: guaranteeing the safety of journalists and upholding the role of independent media in promoting public interest and democratic and accountable governance; adopting robust legal frameworks on access to information and freedom of expression; guaranteeing participatory decision making processes; and ensuring transparent, accountable institutions.

Access to Justice

In many countries, policing is unaccountable, coercive, biased, and corrupt, with many disturbing accounts of police using disproportionate, arbitrary force to enforce COVID-19 lockdowns.

Similarly, realisation of prisoners' rights remains unfulfilled in many countries. Overcrowded prisons remain at risk of COVID-19 outbreaks, with the infeasibility of physical distancing and lack of quality health and hygiene provisions, while others implement inhumane solitary confinement measures with dire consequences for prisoners' mental health.

Effective implementation of SDG 16 necessitates effective, accountable, transparent justice institutions which can enhance public safety and security while upholding human rights and the rule of law.

Eradicating Contemporary Forms of Slavery

An estimated 40.3 million people are enslaved globally, and progress to tackle contemporary forms of slavery threatens to fall short of SDG Targets 8.7 and 16.2.

Measures to tackle COVID-19 have caused negative consequences, including driving exploitation further underground, impeding victim identification, and increasing online child sexual exploitation. COVID-19's far-reaching socio-economic impact threatens to leave behind marginalised populations, heightening their risk of future exploitation.

Unless concerted action is taken to support survivors, reform criminal justice systems, enhance international cooperation, address risk factors, and eradicate exploitation from supply-chains, slavery will continue to thrive.

108. Community Systems Foundation

More than 1.5 billion students and youth have been affected by school closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Global Education Coalition launched by UNESCO, is a platform for collaboration and exchange to protect the right to education during this unprecedented disruption and beyond. It brings together more than 140 members from the UN family, civil society, academia and the private sector to ensure that #LearningNeverStops. Coalition members rally around three flagships, namely connectivity, teachers and gender.

Community Systems Foundation (CSF) is a nonprofit organization established in 1963 that engages with communities to build information technology solutions that lead to good development outcomes sustained by reliable development processes. We increase people's choices through innovations that harness the power of data to benefit communities economically, socially, and environmentally, in support of the 2030 Agenda.

As a member of the Global Education Coalition, CSF pledges to deploy free open-source information technology for sustainable equitable responses to the pandemic. CSF brings its knowledge and insights into strengthening education management information systems in the context of the pandemic and to build resilient education systems for the future. Better data. Better education.

OpenEMIS Health and Vaccination Module

CSF has launched the OpenEMIS Health and Vaccination Module which is a free open-source software application to assist Ministries of Education in planning, implementing, and monitoring COVID-19 vaccinations across the education system, with a focus on teachers first.

Where? The OpenEMIS Health and Vaccination module is available all education authorities. It can be deployed in individual schools or across education systems.

Who? The module supports collection of health and vaccination data for education staff and students, collecting vital information on each individual.

When? The module can be used to support COVID-19 testing and vaccination campaigns, prioritising individuals based on national policies, risk factors, logistical arrangements, and the number of staff per institution.

As each vaccination is given, the staff member's record is updated in the system, including the date and type of vaccination administered.

Monitoring. The progress of the implementation of the vaccination campaign is updated in real-time to a dashboard to ensure smooth operations and corrective action where needed.

The module can be integrated into existing information systems to collect vital information on health and vaccinations.

OpenEMIS Health and Vaccination Module can be adapted to fit various policy environments and to meet the needs of health and education planners.

Recommendations

CSF recommends the application of information technology solutions for sustainable development that leave no one behind. We are committed to working with the Coalition to find solutions to ensure no one is left behind during or after the pandemic. At the same time, we elevate the importance of equity and gender equality in educational responses to the COVID-19 crisis through responsive data systems that ensure critical information is available to decision-makers.

109. Compass Housing Services Co Ltd

The global impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has further illustrated the corrosive effect of poverty and inequality between nations, within nations and particularly within cities and urban settlements. Layering over existing health and social inequalities, poor locations have experienced higher infection rates and higher mortality rates. Pre-pandemic areas and populations with high disease burdens lack the personal and communal resilience to resist this and future pandemics. The development of vaccinations offers an eventual resolution to the current pandemic but the recovery strategy in all nations must also achieve a ‘social immunisation’ against future pandemics. A social immunisation will reduce the health gap, by improving access to high quality health services. It will equip citizens for economic participation through education and training. Fundamentally, our recovery plans must include affordable and adequate housing for all, that avoids overcrowding and supports social distancing, with effective sanitation and shelter from heat and cold when necessary.

These are foundational requirements for a recovery that protects the vulnerable from future pandemic episodes and ensures that ‘no one is left behind’. The SDGs provide a ready framework for achieving a recovery from COVID-19 and for reducing the impact of all future pandemics. The Decade of Action must focus globally on: SDG 1 (No Poverty) - requires global attention to poverty eradication, renewed commitment to international aid and refocused welfare regimes in the developed world. SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) - Famine risk has risen post-COVID impact and international food programs must be reinvigorated. Hunger is again experienced in the developed world and renewed attention in social policy is required. SDG 3 (Good Health and Wellbeing) - The pandemic has revealed chasms in health inequalities between and within nations, requiring a drive for health equality as a platform for social immunisation. SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth): the economic recovery must be focused on sustainable economic activity that benefits all. Renewed emphasis on the ‘foundation’ economy of health, education, housing and core infrastructure best achieves shared economic wellbeing, promoting greater equality. SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities): The urban environment is the primary location of the social and climate challenge that the world faces. World Urban Campaign, the City We Need objectives must set our collective goals. SDG 13 (Climate Action) - Any recovery must be planned for carbon reduction and achievement of the Paris Agreement targets. COP26 is an opportunity to accelerate this process. SDG 17 (Partnership) - Effective partnerships are the key to achieving the SDGs and a social immunisation against future pandemics. From the global to the local, collaboration and cooperation will be required to deliver the SDGs and avert the risk of social and climate catastrophe if we collectively fail to meet this global challenge. The world’s nations have agreed the SDGs and we are in the Decade of Action. This is a last opportunity to actively pursue both climate and social justice. The pandemic has created a pause in our past trajectory and an opportunity to plan a recovery that will meet the needs of the planet and all its people.

110. Compassion Soul Winners Outreach International

The Compassion Soul Winners Outreach International is a Youth-led Non-Profit Organization acting for social cohesion and local development in Ghana and South Africa.

The vision is to realize enriched societies based on social equity for all. Compassion Soul Winners Outreach International promotes interrelated programs focused on children, youths and women, seeking to contribute to the creation of resilient and self-reliant communities by placing people at the forefront of change. The Organization and its Staff, through collective efforts situated in the three thematic areas: Advocacy, Livelihoods and Education, works to empower marginalized people through mobilization and training to provide practical skills for sustainable livelihoods. Currently the projects focus on the following areas:

- Global Social Cooperate Responsibilities Campaign Network
- Supply Chain Network
- Education Support Network
- Health care support Network
- Individuals Farmers Agricultural Skills empowerment.
- Trauma Counseling for the Vulnerable group through Biblical Based.
- Food Parcels Distribution.

The Compassion Soul Winners Outreach International works with the rural community members, private sector, National and International NGOs, civil societies promoting collective efforts to shape societies and communities for a better future. PAs you may know, and with the current situation even more, young Non-profit Organization are experiencing hard times. And, of course, this situation is affecting badly our current projects and the implementation of new ones.

Compassion Soul Winners Outreach International will promote the following concern:

- Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the implementation of the SDGs under review in the 2021 HLPF (SDG 1 on no poverty, SDG 2 on zero hunger, SDG 3 on good health and well-being, SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth, SDG 10 on reduced inequalities, SDG 12 on responsible consumption and production, SDG 13 on climate action, SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions, and SDG 17 on partnerships) from the vantage point of our NGO, bearing in mind the interlinkages with other SDGs.
- Actions, policy guidance, progress, challenges, and areas requiring urgent attention in relation to the SDGs and to the theme within the area under the purview of our NGO.
- An assessment of the situation regarding the principle of “ensuring that no one is left behind” at the global, regional and national levels against the background of the COVID-19 pandemic in achieving the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, within the respective area addressed by our NGO;
- Cooperation, measures, commitments, and partnerships at all levels in promoting sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and the specific role of civil society in that respect

111. Confédération des organisations familiales de l'Union européenne

Unlocking New Economic Thinking for a Sustainable Future

COFACE Families Europe contributes a family perspective to EU reflections on economic and social policy. This means building a caring economy which works for families and children, especially important in light of the COVID-19 pandemic during which families acted (and are still acting) as the main social safety net. For this we urgently need a reality check of the new needs of families of today in the aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis, where possible framed in building socially and environmentally sustainable solutions, to shape an economic system which can help sustainably reduce social inequalities, building an economy that works for society.

To unlock new thinking for a more social, environmental and economic future, the holistic economic and societal approach of the Doughnut economics model can be a useful starting point, looking at three key dimensions of the economy: Households, the Market, and the State.

Households

Households, consumers, families, play an essential role in the economy. It is often overlooked due to the pressures that the “demand” side faces. In a world filled with fear of losing your job and income, where the unpaid care of families is invisible, where everything is made to keep consumers busy with little time to think, consumers have been viewed as automats, consuming mindlessly what they are being told to buy through advertising, social norms and other forms of pressure. But times are changing, and more and more families are waking up to the harsh reality that in order for their children to have a world to live in, things need to change. Families can and want to be empowered to contribute to creating a more sustainable economic environment.

Market

Making the economic environment more sustainable - private actors in the market play a major role in contributing to create a more sustainable economic environment, but how to make sure they deliver? In an economic and financial system which puts profits before people, we need actions to be put in place to rein in the race for short term gains, crushing the competition and cutting costs, replacing it with long term social and environmental sustainability goals.

State and local administrations

Policy leadership of public administration in reducing inequalities is much needed. Inequalities have risen steadily for the last few decades, with a clear acceleration since the 2008 financial crisis, and again following the COVID-19 pandemic. But poverty and inequalities are not just a matter of social justice. They are the bedrock of rising extremism, and a threat to economic and financial stability. In a debt based monetary system, since all money in circulation is debt, anyone accumulating or hoarding too much wealth without spending it into the economy increases the risk of economic actors defaulting on their loans. We need policy and funding tools to sustainably address these inequalities.

112. Confederation of Indian Healthcare Foundation (CIHF)

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) is an ambitious and challenging goal which requires support and contribution from the government of all countries as well as from the industries and business sector. The 2030 Agenda has, anyways, been an ambitious and challenging target but COVID-19 pandemic has pushed the goal further by a few more years. Since March 2020, global economic activities have been hit very hard. Because of the economic slowdown due to global lockdown, almost all countries have gone on the back foot with nothing other than healthcare being the agenda.

CIHF has been actively contributing in healthcare sector since 2005. One of the key strengths of CIHF is to take other NGOs with it. It works for other NGOs across the globe to see that their classroom level work and mission are accomplished. It has become a voice of other NGOs in the vicinity who have an idea to work upon but don't know how to approach. CIHF aims at supporting the likeminded NGOs to see that they achieve their desired goals and accomplish their objectives. CIHF suggests to set priorities of each goal according to the shortfalls globally.

All 17 sustainable development goals will be considered accomplished only when they are fully achieved in each country and region of the world. Each goal must be having varied shortfalls in different countries which would, thereby, require a different strategy to approach. For example, poverty might be a major issue in some countries than in others. While as discrimination might be predominant in some other countries than rest of the world. Therefore, treating all sustainable development goals with equal priority in each country would not serve the purpose. There must be one Director level official in UN responsible for the achievement of one SDG who in return must assess the situation in each country of the shortfall of that goal. A strategy ought to be devised for each country based on the situation there and using the local government with support from NGOs, an action plan must be prepared, and using available resources it should be put to task, targeting 2030 as the completion year. Unless efforts of government bodies and other private agencies are put together and used in a synchronized fashion, results are not likely to be achieved. CIHF is doing its bid like thousand other agencies on its own but that will be fruitful when its efforts are combined with others and focussed at a particular point where its expertise lies. Similarly other agencies may be put to task using their expertise and approach to achieve the targets.

113. Confederazione Generale Italiana del Lavoro - General Italian Confederation of Labour

The COVID-19 pandemic represents more than a global challenge for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda as it lays bare existing social inequalities and creates new ones. It fully regards the world of work in all its forms, in the formal and informal economy. Important studies show that a number of people who tested positive had been exposed to the virus in occupational settings and especially in the front-line occupations. Concentration of the transmission was registered among some more vulnerable groups.

The Italian General Confederation of Labour CGIL, which is the most representative workers' trade union in Italy, raises the need to prioritize the labour rights protection and the International Labour Organisation Decent Work Agenda for sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. The rights of a safe and healthy workplace should be recognized as a universal one and so on the right to get access to a free and universal vaccine.

During the pandemic, most occupations jobs that were deemed 'essential' to sustain society have fallen in the lowest income brackets of society and 'key workers' have faced some of the most precarious employment conditions, mostly of them were and are women. New forms of work have grown and are expected to grow, particularly because of the need to reduce the physical contact.

It is crucial for the international community to focus on the new form of work such as those of the platform economy, which demand full labour protection, including the rights of occupational health and safety, and develop occupational health and safety protection in remote working and teleworking/homeworking.

Workers' health and safety has not been treated with sufficient priority by the global community, while protecting workers also protects the overall community and the public in general. The focus on health and safety must remain an absolute priority in the coming months and beyond and multilateral bodies should be encouraging Governments to provide universal social protection.

The rapid development of vaccines should go with the removal of patents and the free universal access. It will be some time before vaccines' efficacy and ability to not only to protect from symptoms but also stop people becoming contagious. Adding rapid antigen tests, in the community and also in workplace settings through negotiations with unions, to the range of preventive and

Mitigation measures will help address the need for elimination. This must of course be supported by social protection, recognition and compensation of the virus as occupational disease or injury, sick pay for those ill or isolated, and other economic and social measures that are essential for this to succeed.

114. Conglomeration of Bengal's Hotel Owners

The COVID-19 pandemic seriously affected the civil society in all respect like economy, health, and food security. Under this circumstance, it is necessary to think of a new game plan to reach the 2030 Agenda. Nature has sufficient food and water for nature's creation. Misuse and bad-use of food and water is the only cause of poverty and crisis of water and climatic condition. If it is possible to stop misuse and bad-use of food and water may help to overcome the crisis. Natural process of agriculture with traditional method will help to reach the no poverty goal. Climate base agriculture is the best process to reach the no poverty and zero hunger goals. Suppose wheat is easily produced in cold areas. So food habits of the cold area depend on wheat is cheapest and healthy. If we all are trying eating wheat or wheat product, must be crisis comes of wheat. Apple is the product of cold areas. If we are trying to habituate the world for consumption of apple or apple product, certainly crisis comes. As apple easily produced in cold climate, so consumption of apple is good for health in cold areas only and not good for health in hot or summer areas whatever the protein contains in apple. Cold area fish and tree will not grow and live in summer area.

Nature has own recycling process to re-fertilize the nature. A huge quantity of natural waste is lying unutilized. Use it properly to help eradicate poverty of the world. We campaigned to use natural waste for organic agricultural in India. Named 'wealth from waste'. Many States of India are willing to work with us. We signed memorandum of understanding with the Governors of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Odisha and Himachal Pradesh for setting up Methane Gas Plant from human waste collecting from community latrines from villages, slums and vermin compost center. We think, traditional natural habits of livelihood is the best process to reach most of the SDGs by 2030 like no poverty, zero hunger, good health and well-being, climate action, responsible consumption and production and off course, bearing in mind the interlinkages with other SDGs. We are facing COVID-19 pandemic. World's has experienced with at least four Flu like in 1918-Spanish Flu, 1957-Asian Flu, 1968-69-Hong-Kong Flu and 2009-Swine Flu. No common medicine was found to fight against Flu. Local traditional medicine worked well and was possible to overcome the situation. Now world Organizations are running to find out common medicine for prevention, not for treatment to fight against COVID-19. We think that traditional local medicine is more effective than common medicine. So we think to give more stress will be given by the World Organizations to find out local medicines to fight against pandemic of COVID-19 as treatment medicine. We believe that nature is the best healer. Natural and traditional process of livelihood has been proved good system and following this system certainly will help to reach the Sustainable Development Goals.

115. Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd

Resilient recovery demands a paradigm shift, a seismic shift, a new way of living and acting in the world. It demands an economy of care for people and planet. The foundations of such an economy are inherent in the dignity and rights of both people and planet. Enabling this paradigm shift demands equality across gender, race, ethnicity, class and ability together with sustainable practices. To quote Pope Francis, “The notion of recovery cannot be content to a return to an unequal and unsustainable model of economic and social life, where a tiny minority of the world’s population owns half of its wealth.” Resilience is not violent or exploitative of either people or planet but rather is a coming together of all people to devise ways in which everyone has dignity and enough, sharing in transformative processes where care and sustainability are at the center and profit is more equitably shared.

Pope Francis further reminds us, “In this past year, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, our world has been forced to confront a series of grave and interrelated socio-economic, ecological, and political crises.” We are acutely aware that this pandemic does not affect everyone equally, and puts additional burdens on the ‘caretakers,’ mostly women. Eurodad’s COVID-19 research highlights that, “Women have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic, facing a higher rate of job losses, higher exposure as frontline workers, an increasing burden of unpaid care work and a dramatic rise in gender-based violence.”

The dialogical atmosphere, commitment, enthusiasm and hope that gave rise to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is now encountering the dominance of neo liberal capitalism. This model of economy is profit driven – through behaviors that are counter to sustainable development and exacerbate “the “ecological debt” that exists especially between the global north and south.” (Pope Francis, 2021). The decade of recovery is slipping through our fingers. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is fraught with difficulties due to the failure of multilateral systems and institutions, coupled with the rise of power-driven, warmongering autocratic governments which are antithetical to human rights and destructive of sustainable development.

Government for the people must become that – government for the people by the people to counter the dominance of land and resource grabbing, predatory behavior, possessiveness, materialism, and irresponsible consumerism. Focusing recovery solely on conglomerates, private insurance and multinationals is flawed when we see land and people continually exploited, hunger increasing, public health systems crumbling, and unwillingness to provide vaccines. End conflicts or agree to bold transformative measures to care for the planet.

116. Congressional Black Caucus Political Education & Leadership Institute

If there ever was a time when the world needed to see itself as an intertwined global ball of yarn, it is now. COVID-19 has brought every country to its knees, every population to a reawakening and every hope to a startling and abrupt pause.

In the United States of America, African Americans, Latin Americans, Asian Americans, and Native Americans have been the hardest hit sub-populations of COVID-19. By shining the light on those populations, the nation and the world have been forced to acknowledge the existence of previously ignored underlying systemic conditions. Conditions that serve as strong tributaries causing the increase in numbers of positive cases and deaths in the global stream. Yet, these populations are serving as essential workers on the frontline of the global war.

Because of COVID-19:

- inadequate healthcare systems in urban and rural areas across the country have been exposed and forced, in many instances, to realign their public, private partnerships in pursuit of health and not just for profit;
- the importance of strong and innovative leadership at all levels of government to meet the needs of citizens has been revived as a priority;
- the Centers for Disease Control declared systemic racism as a public health issue that has caused generations of racial health disparities;
- the world watched the modern-day lynching of George Floyd on their television and iPhone screens sparking instant global outrage against racial injustice and in solidarity with Black Lives Matter while forcing the importance of accountability in the criminal justice system for the first time;
- the best minds in science from around the world collaborated to develop vaccines against COVID in record time;
- the imbalance in educational systems was revealed as children without access to computers were glaringly disadvantaged;
- the importance of childcare and eldercare as fundamental requirements for the workplace is shifting the definition of national infrastructural needs;
- the lack of social protection in the workplace and universal health care has been highlighted by the extraordinary number of female heads of households that have had to continue working to feed their families in the face of almost certain death from the COVID-19.

COVID-19 has impacted the world by revealing the interdependence of all the Sustainable Development Goals. At the same time, it has required individuals and institutions to redefine the meaning of resiliency at all levels. While in many ways COVID-19 has severely undermined our progress toward the achievement of the sustainable development goals according to the 2030 Agenda, it has simultaneously provided us with new opportunities for growth by requiring the world to approach the SDGs with a different mindset towards a variety of economic, social and environmental dimensions.

117. Convention of Independent Financial Advisors

Our statement will focus on the 2021 ECOSOC Financing for Development Forum and on the COVID-19 impact on economic social finance.

ECOSOC's High-Level Political Forum, (HLPF), is reinforcing the UN efforts on SDG delivery. The HLPF theme for 2021 will support the creation of a coherent SDG system, including, "Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, while advancing all dimensions of sustainable development".

The spread of COVID-19, and the need for sustainable economies reminded us of the new imperative for international dialogue, cooperation and partnerships. In this day and age and with past histories of pandemics, we should have been able to respond better. In fact, we are faced with a combination of crisis linked to poverty, vulnerability, environmental degradation, climate change, combined with loss of trust and confidence towards public authorities. Moreover, the explosive reaction to governmental racism and discrimination in some countries and related social conflicts still pose serious obstacles to peaceful development in many countries. Escalating violence and political instability are putting a brake on sustainable development and trust in government.

To succeed in dealing with these global challenges, we need stable, competent and predictable governance that includes widespread civic participation and partnerships at different levels of society. This implies a vision of governance that integrates, rather than further fragments, public policies, actions and institutions. Imposing authoritarian top to bottom policies cannot succeed, without the population's education, adherence and willingness.

With the dramatic economic disruptions in countries throughout the world, pandemic traditional cause turmoil in society and increases anxiety everywhere as people feel they are losing their voice and the control of their lives, their cultures, their communities and even their place in the world! Sadly, the COVID-19 is reversing much of the progress made with the SDGs, on poverty, healthcare and education amongst others. Like in similar natural disasters, it is the poorest and most vulnerable including women, children, old persons, persons with disabilities, migrants and refugees who have suffered most.

Recovery from the pandemic has to be seen as an opportunity to address inequality, exclusion, gaps in social protection systems and most of all, the climate crisis. Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance brought solidarity and cooperation. Instead of going back to unsustainable approaches, we must transition to renewable energy, sustainable food systems, greater gender equality, stronger social safety nets, universal health coverage and an international system that can deliver.

According to the World Bank, COVID-19 has triggered the deepest global recession since World War II. Financing, of course, is the key to recovery. We will need something like a global Marshall Plan because recovery will require trillions of dollars.

The Secretary-General has taken two initiatives that should be mentioned. One is the UN road map for digital cooperation. It was launched at the UN in September 2020 to promote the idea of an inclusive, sustainable future by connecting the remaining four billion people to the internet by 2030. The UN has also launched “GIGA,” an ambitious project to get every school in the world online!

The other is a new Social Contract. A Global Deal to create equal opportunity for all especially women and youth, to protect the sick, the vulnerable and minorities and to respect the rights and freedoms of all.

There are a number of other proposals and some solutions already tabled at ECOSOC and elsewhere. Let’s flag a few.

In financing for recovery, the UNSG, Canada and Jamaica launched a process with proposals for innovative financial recovery actions. This process looks at “six urgent areas of action to mobilize the financing needed for response and recovery.”

In April, the World Bank’s Development Committee and the G20 Finance Ministers endorsed the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) in response to a call by the World Bank and the IMF to grant debt-service suspension to the poorest countries to help them manage the severe impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Global Investors for Sustainable Development Alliance (GISD,” in a joint call to action, leaders of prominent business and financial institutions encourage companies and government to issue innovative social bonds to address the COVID-19 pandemic. Funds raised through these bonds would be used for the immediate response to COVID-19 and to support a sustainable recovery.”

The High-Level Panel on International Financial Accountability, Transparency and Integrity for Achieving the 2030 Agenda (FACTI) is contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by reviewing current challenges and trends related to financial accountability, transparency and integrity.

It is worth noting the role of civil society both in the sustainable development goals and in the recovery from the pandemic. Civil Society consultations produced the UN75 People’s Declaration. It was just handed over for review to the President of the GA. Civil society actors have played a pivotal role in establishing a framework within their national cultures for creating strong transformative agendas for sustainability and development. Even today, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Civil Society is playing a global role through their stakeholder constituents to build trust and unity and to “build back better” in achieving the SDGs.

The persistent problems of unemployment, environmental degradation, the marginalization of youth and older persons and the increasing inadequacy of governments to meet the needs of their citizens have created the space for the emergence of civil society groups. We recognize them now as powerful movement. Civil Society consultations produced the UN75 People Declaration.

We heard about the central role of “CSR and Sustainability in the Post Covid Era”, providing new opportunities when the recovery will take place and innovative strategies to incorporate into our work on a global scale.

We are convinced by now that CIFA can play a major role in the UN’s sustainable development Agenda of the United Nations. In this connexion, CIFA has participated actively to all the meetings on Finance for Development in 2020, informed its membership of its outcome and raised various economic and financial issues obstructing investments in times of pandemia.

CIFA also held a Side Event in the margins of the 2021 ECOSOC’s Financing for Development Forum. At this side event, our experts exchanged views on the theme: “After COVID-19, new thinking on creating value and financing the SDGs”. The experts views lean to the conclusion that the world has entered uncharted waters to overcome the COVID-19 pandemia’s negative impact on the world financial and investment planning. World organizations and leaders face an historical challenge to contain damages suffered by Humanity and to innovate in a relevant and efficient multilateralism which has been so sorely missing in recent years. This must be achieved in the respect of all humanitarian values and human rights endorsed by the United Nations, and by eliminating several structural roadblocks and a lack of confidence in the public sector to protect investor rights globally. This represents a key obstacle for ready, willing and able investors who are fearful that financial inclusion will not be achieved unless the private, public and social sectors commit to more coordinated efforts.

The final objective of this statement is to connect with several and different stakeholders in a positive spirit, to bring creative solutions through inspiration and unite all together to “build back better” to achieve the SDGs. To conclude we have to recognize that” financing the SDGs requires significant public and private investment to bring these goals to life “, and leave no one behind. Cooperation, Partnership and solidarity are required.

The General Assembly in marking the UN’s seventy-fifth anniversary, adopted a “Declaration on the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations,” promising a safer, more resilient world for future generations. In this regard, the pandemic became a reminder of why multilateralism is so essential to Humanity, and why its absence has become so damaging, and why it must now be urgently restored to achieve the United Nations’ missions and goals.

118. Coptic Orphans Support Association

Growth of diasporic communities across the globe have proven to be important strategic political and economic resources for developing countries. Diasporic communities have contributed to an increase in economic flows and financial transfers to developing countries, and played a critical role in poverty reduction, enterprise development, and the securitization of debt.

In 2019, remittance flows to low and middle-income countries reached \$554 billion, an amount that overtook foreign direct investment flows. Remittances have exceeded official Overseas Development Aid by a factor of three since the mid-1990s. Financial remittances supplied by diasporic communities have and will continue be core to international development (80% of remittances are used for immediate consumption), while a share of these remittances is increasingly used for long-term investments such as land, housing and education. There is great potential for developing countries to form mechanisms that could attract diaspora savings and bonds for in-country investment. It is important to facilitate transfer of remittances and reduce transaction costs as recommended by Sustainable Development Goal 10 (Target 10.c): “reduce to less than 3% the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5% by 2030”.

Diasporic communities bridge the gap between local and global markets, incentivizing pathways for entrepreneurship and transforming the investment climate in home countries. As a diaspora-led international development organization, Coptic Orphans has served over 65,000 Egyptian children, established a grassroots network of hundreds of community-based volunteers, and mobilized thousands of donors around the world. The expansion of the organization makes it possible to secure the future of a few thousand more children every year, in a country that has a record of unstable economic conditions, rapid population growth, and rising living costs. Coptic Orphans’ work for three decades on diaspora engagement has culminated in a 21% increase in donations in 2020 compared to pre-pandemic 2019. Support garnered by Coptic Orphans from diaspora communities have prevented over 10,000 children in 6000+ families from falling into poverty and suffering hunger, while securing for them hygiene kits, masks, and other supplies at the peak of the pandemic. Despite the organization’s track record of success in diasporic philanthropy, it has faced bureaucratic hurdles in terms of registration and international cash transfers. Until 2013, Coptic Orphans had struggled to become officially registered with the Egyptian Ministry of Social Solidarity and was on the brink of being completely shut down. Coptic Orphans' working relationship with the Egyptian government has subsequently flourished, with its programs expanding to benefit an ever-greater pool of Egyptians. Once trust is established with governments, partnerships for international development involving diasporas can be more successfully mobilized. Countries of origin need institutional frameworks to communicate with their diasporas, coordinate policies, and provide support for engagement. Governments can make the best use of partnership with diaspora organizations as one of the most effective channels for mobilization of financial resources. In light of this, Coptic Orphans is calling for policies rewarding and incentivizing governments that reduce obstacles to registration and international cash transfers between diaspora NGOs and home countries.

119. Corporacion Cultural Nueva Acropolis Chile

Given the permanent and sustained need to face the disasters that afflict humanity, and in consideration of the particular crisis that is affecting our time with the COVID-19 Pandemic, considering also that state management implies reaching all levels of civil society in their action policies, and that this process means investment of considerable resources of human capital, economic resources and long hours of management, which delay their effective action against the urgency of destructive events; It is urgent to accelerate the promotion of educational prevention programs. These include ethical training for the strengthening of organized volunteers as well as social leaders involved in Humanitarian Aid. These programs promote awareness and active participation of citizens in the risk management of disasters and recovery plans.

Issues related to our work

Regarding our work, we can point out that the Nueva Acropolis Chile Cultural Corporation has 56 years of social impact, with lines of action in Philosophy, Culture and Volunteering. Over the last decade we have developed a program of "Organized Volunteering for the Promotion of Humanitarian Aid" that has achieved the following:

- 1) Development of a 22-hour training program: induction to volunteer in humanitarian aid to promote a civil society.
- 2) Training of 30 instructors to disseminate and develop our "volunteering in humanitarian aid" program in civil society.
- 3) Training and preparation of 200 volunteers from our organization in humanitarian aid management in the context of disasters.
- 4) Activation of strategic alliances related to disaster risk reduction management with the Chilean humanitarian aid network, the NGO association in Chile, the global network for disaster risk reduction and participation in the national table of the National Emergency Office of the Ministry of the Interior of Chile, where it is possible to strengthen inter-sectoral work and, at the same time, our program managers have strengthened and increased their capacities.

The main objective of this work has been to promote public awareness of the risks of disasters and the importance of their participation in prevention and recovery processes, thus strengthening resilience to disasters, as well as socializing policies and international plans on the matter, such as: The Sendai Framework, the Sphere project and the 2030 SDGs. Our awareness program is present in 18 cities throughout the country.

A way forward

Considering this experience, we offer the following recommendations:

- 1) Promote strategic alliances between civil society, academia and the government at the national and local levels for the process of recovery from the current and future crises.

- 2) Encourage the detection and training of potential social leaders who, through organized volunteering, can work at the local level on national and international policies on disaster risk reduction, recovery and reconstruction plans.
- 3) Encourage ethical training and the social responsibility of citizens in terms of disaster risk reduction.

120. Corporacion Kimirina

We are facing with enormous challenges the social, economic, emotional, and health adversities that the pandemic brought to us. Our region is the single most affected place in the world by COVID-19. We are the most unequal region in the world. Despite enormous efforts, our region seems to fall back in the achieved progress, compromising the substantial gains of past years; especially when talking about ending the AIDS epidemic and reducing health inequities. We are facing the terrible effects on HIV/AIDS, sexual health and rights, hepatitis, sexual transmitted infections, and the countless mental health disorders influenced heavily by stigma, discrimination, and gender-based violence. We represent the people that live with HIV, the LGBTQ+ community, sexual workers, people deprived for their liberty, men that have sex with men, and people in human mobility. We are here representing all women, girls and other vulnerable populations who lack a voice. We are representing the 107 estimated million women in the region who would be in poverty as a consequence of the pandemic. We are standing for the 15-24 year old women who are at 44% more risk of contracting HIV, worldwide. We are here to say that all these is not only unfair, but it is avoidable.

Kimirina believes that development should include sustainable and dynamic public policies and multistakeholder's strategies that address the economic, political, socio-cultural and environmental systems; prioritizing health in all policies as the mechanism to reduce inequalities and improve human well-being. Addressing the social determinants of health and working towards the elimination of structural barriers and inequalities, are actions. Our implementation strategies should promote social and territorial equity, encourage consensus-building, and need to be participatory and transparent. All these within the framework of interculturality, respect for gender and diversity, and harmonious coexistence with nature. To accomplish the SDG 3 we need to implement actions towards Universal Health Coverage; strengthening health systems and fostering social inclusion and social equity, with a gender and generational approach that includes the bioethics, sufficiency, human rights, and interculturality principles.

It is the time to avoid and reduce the fatal effects of the pandemic and not replicate the same mistakes as with the HIV epidemic. We need to introduce economical models, centered on the respect of the environment and the close conjunction with human beings: circular economies based on new patterns of consumption and definitions of needs. We need to foster regional and multilateral cooperation mechanisms that can strengthen integration and eliminate competition among us. We need to Reduce, Re-use, Repair, Recycle, Refurbish, and Recover; and moreover, we need to Respect one another and our environment. Only then, we will not replicate the same mistakes and will reduce the risks of having future pathogen outbreaks with pandemic potential.

And we, as the civil society, can be the link between the local and global sectors.

We left so many behind, but we are still on time to stop, re-think, re-plan, re-invest and re-commit ourselves to truly, from now on, do not leave anyone behind.

121. Corporación para la Investigación, el Desarrollo Sostenible y la Promoción Social CORPROGRESO

The COVID-19 pandemic, from the perspective of our NGO, CORPROGRESO, has had an impact in Colombia especially on the SDG 1 (no poverty) and SDG 10 (decent work and economic growth).

SDG 1 No Poverty

We have seen that with the pandemic extreme poverty has increased to 14.3% of the Colombian population, compared to 10.9% registered in 2019 (CELAC). Colombia began its confinement in March 2020. These measures had a negative impact on the majority of the population from a social and economic point of view, since 47.7% of Colombians belong to informal work. In addition, the digitization processes accelerated and unfortunately Colombia was not prepared for this change towards digital spaces since 50% of Colombian households do not have Internet access.

SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth

In Colombia, 90% of the country's companies are small and mid-size enterprises (SMEs), which employ more than 65% of the national workforce. These SMEs were affected by the pandemic, as falling sales led them to reduce the number of employees or even close their businesses. Consequently, the unemployment rate stood at 21.4%, 11.8 percentage points above that reported in April 2019. However, many of the SMEs were able to reinvent themselves in this situation, using their creativity and resilience, where CORPROGRESO has developed a role of accompaniment, technical, productive, administrative and innovation assistance and potentiating as a measure against the lack of connectivity the recovery of ancient traditions, cooperation and local communication.

Consequently, two new programs emerged from the Colombian government, Ingreso Solidario and Retorno del IVA, however many of the social development projects were suspended, including some executed by CORPROGRESO. However, the proposal for innovation and methodological, communicative and logistical adaptation proposed by CORPROGRESO was well received by the government, and these projects were reactivated.

Now, respect to our vision as an NGO, the recommendations to mitigate the effects of the pandemic must come from the State that promulgates equal opportunities; international cooperation must mediate and implement innovative development proposals. All this must be intertwined and take civil society as the center, with spaces for active participation, strengthening their capacities and access to technology and productive development, in favour of SMEs.

In summary, CORPROGRESO suggests the implementation of policies that allow access to connectivity, recognize regional and differential approaches as potential, make the countryside more technical, support small urban and rural companies, promote commercialization and connect the private sector with the social sector, with a solidary approach.

122. Creators Union of Arab

Within the framework of the United Nations plan to achieve sustainable development, focused on a topic of the ECOSOC High-level Segment, and an attempt to achieve the goal of our organization in community service, awareness and appeal to achieve sustainable development in its realistic sense. This comes through launching development initiatives and propaganda campaigns and holding conferences and workshops at the level of the Arab world with international participation by a specialized elite of officials, stakeholders.

After the entire world was moving in the direction of achieving the sustainable development goals according to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, according to specific plans, strategies and vision overnight, all priorities of all countries changed, and the implementation mechanism of the 2030 Agenda changed with the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic, which imposed on us new mechanisms and different visions in achieving sustainable development goals at all political, economic and social levels.

There is no doubt that the problems of poverty, hunger, health care and economic growth, which have declined significantly in light of the pandemic, and which have become evidently tangible, in addition to the behavioral problems related to equality, spreading justice, achieving peace, and environmental problems related to climate change, all of this has clearly multiplied and became necessary. It remedied it in a new way and intensified efforts and worked together to overcome it. By highlighting the scope of the Arab region in general and its plan to confront the pandemic, we see effective solidarity and partnerships between Arab governments to address the pandemic, but peoples' cooperation with governments remains for the success of the confrontation.

After digital transformation has become an integral part of daily life and has become a necessity in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, it has become imperative for us to rebuild minds, divert the path and include it in various transactions in parallel with the definition of its risk in case of wrong use. We must not lose the sight of the most important problems that may hinder the process of sustainable development in light of digital transformation, which is the failure of many countries to catch up with technology and their inability to transfer and benefit from it. We, as a non-governmental civil society organization, try to be of help by reaching the largest group of society that lacks information and knowledge of what the world has reached by visiting the poorest areas and launching community initiatives and educational workshops that help take an effective step to enter the labor market and change the principle of temporary assistance. There will be job opportunities created by the person in need.

123. Curia Generalizia Agostiniana

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it (1 Corinthians 12: 12-26).

The global community is, to use the expression of St. Augustine, the *Totus Christus*, the body of Christ. We have strayed from our sense of community and the social contract becoming consumers not citizens. From climate change to COVID-19, we have failed to uphold our commitment to the social contract. Our negligence has led to the crucifixion of our planet. We can begin to undo the damage and help new life to emerge, but first we must commit to a new social construct where we prioritize not only our individual well-being but the health of our global community.

A recommitment to an inclusive social contract will require an even stronger commitment to responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making. Youth advocates have a long-term interest in the solutions of today as we will experience the ramifications these solutions will bear tomorrow. To bring our perspective to the table, youth must be involved in the decision-making process. Too often, youth play a symbolic role rather than a substantive role.

As Youth Representatives representing Augustinians International, we have agency that few young people have, yet even for youth representatives' opportunities are scant. For the UN to honor its commitment to inclusive decision making, youth advocates must be in the room where it happens, but the reality is we cannot even get our foot in the door. We have never had a secretary general younger than 45. We have no Commission on the Status of Youth. While the ECOSOC Youth forum is a step in the right direction, youth voices must be heard more than twice a year.

As we reaffirm our commitment to the social contract, we can emerge stronger from COVID-19. The UN was founded under the notion that if all the nations came together and their voices were heard, we could build a more prosperous and peaceful world. To further this goal, we must end the marginalization of youth advocates. Youth Representatives should be involved in committees, have more chances to speak at the general assembly, and have opportunities to be the change we want to see at the UN.

124. Darfur Women Action Group

In this report, the Darfur Women Action Group will highlight how a lack of progress, exacerbated by COVID-19, on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3, 5, and 16, have the ability to undermine national progress made towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being

COVID-19 has created many hardships for Darfuris. Mandatory health measures have put a strain on communities and the Janjaweed militia has taken advantage of a reduction in law enforcement by terrorizing civilians. The pandemic has also made visible the scarce healthcare resources in Sudan. Nearly 81% of Sudan's population does not have access to a functioning healthcare facility within two hours of their residence. By June 12, 2020, Darfur only had about 600 health facilities for 9 million people, forcing residents to travel long distances to receive medical services.

SDG 5: Gender Equality

As lockdown measures were adopted, women became increasingly vulnerable to gender-based violence. Women and girls have felt a disparate harm, often forced into isolating or dangerous circumstances. Social stigmas prevent women from sharing their abuse, so an unknown number of victims suffer in silence. Displaced women and girls are doubly challenged in the crisis as those in IDP camps, lack access to feminine hygiene products and health services.

SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

The ongoing genocide in Darfur that began in 2003 has led to the slaughter of over 300,000 civilians and the displacement of millions. Beyond the targeted slaughter, countless women and girls were raped by government soldiers as a tool of genocide. While a peace treaty was signed in 2020, Darfuri people continue to face ongoing violence.

Despite promising steps, Sudan's legal framework is not yet in compliance with its commitments under the Interim Constitution and human rights treaties. The Transitional Legislative Council has yet to be formed despite its importance to the move towards democracy, as it requires that women represent at least 40% of its seats. The inclusion of civil society actors, particularly women, is of foremost importance in this transition period.

Recommendations

The Sudanese government should:

- Allow for an increase in humanitarian access to better report COVID-19 cases and increase access to healthcare;
- Increase the number and role of women in governance and peace processes and ensure their inclusion nationally, regionally, and locally;

- Strengthen the capacity of the judiciary to deliver better access to justice and protect against gender-based violence;
- Establish a Ministry of Gender Development and Women's Affairs to consolidate moves towards gender equality;
- Hand over the individuals that the International Criminal Court has issued arrest warrants for to signal a commitment to justice, and accountability.

The international community should:

- Hold Sudan to its word to be an effective participant in the international system that adheres to international laws and norms;
- Raise the alarm on the atrocities being committed in Darfur;
- Support the expansion of the UN Integrated Transitional Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS) to include more robust civilian protection measures;
- Expand humanitarian operations to address the emerging needs of the Sudanese people, particularly conflicted-affected peoples, during and after the pandemic.

125. Dementia Alliance International

Dementia Alliance International is the global voice of people with dementia. We also represent Alzheimer's Disease International, the global voice for dementia. The World Health Organisation, in its Global Action Plan for a Public Health Response to Dementia adopted in 2017 has highlighted dementia as a condition causing disabilities and placed the human rights of people with dementia at the core, including implementation of rights through the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) with empowerment, inclusion and accountability as three of its seven cross-cutting principles. These reflect the core elements of CRPD and all other Human Rights Treaties deriving from the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. This approach to human rights and the CRPD reflects the standard being advocated for at a global level by Dementia Alliance International and Alzheimer's Disease International. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted past injustices for the more than 50 million people living with dementia, through increasing the spotlight on the existing isolation, stigma, discrimination, and lack of equal access to Universal Health Coverage and post diagnostic care or support. Dementia is a major cause of disability and dependence globally, yet people with dementia are advised to go home and prepare to die, rather than provided with disability assessment or support. The pandemic has created a human and social crisis of unparalleled scale, and the outbreak and its multidimensional influences have disproportionately affected persons with disabilities, including people with dementia, and especially those with pre-existing health conditions, people from low socio-economic backgrounds, those in low- and middle-income countries and those living in institutional settings such as nursing homes. Enforced segregation and institutionalization continues, and many other breaches of human rights have been under the spotlight as never before. Non-disabled people don't talk about their 'right to live independently and to be included in the community', because their rights are not being denied, and the CRPD is meant to be an instrument to ensure the rights of people with disabilities. Living independently and being included in the community are essential to quality of life and well-being of all, including of persons with disabilities. In spite of the CRPD, many persons with disabilities experience discrimination and many other barriers and challenges on a daily basis without being able to enjoy these rights and freedoms. These have not only been highlighted by, but they have been worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic. It is our right to be treated with dignity and respect, and to equal inclusion, including full and equal access to the CRPD, like all others living with disabilities. People with dementia are being left behind in the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and the pandemic has significantly increased isolation and the violation of rights of persons with dementia. care and services for people with Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD's) globally.

126. Development and Relief Foundation

The world was rocked in 2019 by an unseen enemy. This enemy did not discriminate who it inflicted by creed, color of skin, sexual orientation, gender, age, or other things that set the people of our world apart. This enemy took many lives, people we loved, and people that were filled with so much hope and potential. COVID-19 allowed individuals to take a step back and evaluate their true priorities during a time of great uncertainty. Inhabitants of developed countries like the United States and Canada and parts of Europe experienced frightening food shortages, getting to know what everyday life is like in countries rocked by war, internal conflict, and mass poverty. Disorientation and lack of planning led to shortages in PPE in hospitals, with physicians in some hospitals in the global north resorting to using trash bags as protective gear. ICU beds filled up quickly, and hospitals and clinics in rural areas could not keep up with the demand for breathing machines and lifesaving equipment, leading doctors and nurses to struggle with making the difficult decisions of which patient would be given a second chance at life. The Development and Relief Foundation was hit hard during this turbulent time, with much of our essential revenues cut short due to the financial crisis that ensued post-COVID. Still, we were able to offer a lifeline to those deeply stricken by COVID in Iraq, the innocent orphans, distraught widows, and the fathers that couldn't provide for their families after losing their jobs. Since the start of the pandemic, DRF distributed hundreds of tons of food packages that provided nourishing meals to those who needed it most. While the Iraqi Health Ministry was reeling to contain the destruction of COVID-19, DRF donated essential equipment that was used by frontline health workers to bring relief to the stricken communities.

COVID-19 has left a lasting impact on the entire globe. One thing is certain for us to take away from this turbulent time, we are stronger together, and as a collective we can overcome the most difficult challenges. The UN was formed after one of the most devastating times in history, as a body that would set the precedent the rest of the world. A beacon in human rights and civil liberties and enjoining equal development for all peoples of our globe. As we are again rising from the ashes of a turbulent period, it is essential we call on all peoples of our world to join hand-in-hand as a collective in combatting hunger, child labor, racism and discrimination, and sexism and sexual orientationism. Understanding we have more that binds us together than what sets us apart is a pivotal step in reaching the 2030 vision on a unified global scale.

127. Dianova International

The unexpected irruption of Covid-19 across the world has been an eye-opener on how crucial it is to have strong and well-prepared health systems. Health is a common responsibility which is too important for any of us to turn a blind eye.

However, the pandemic has revealed numerous dysfunctions in our health and care systems. Sadly, these dysfunctions have primarily affected those most vulnerable. Among them, COVID-19-related consequences seem to take a particularly heavy toll on people in the throes of substance use disorder and addiction, as well as on those in recovery. As emphasized in a report by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, people who use drugs face additional risks of infection by COVID-19 as compared to the general population, because of lifestyle factors and pre-existing health problems. Moreover, the challenges engendered by stay-at-home orders have had negative effects on people with substance use disorders or in recovery, including increased drug or alcohol consumption, risks of overdose, and relapse. Consequently, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to health has stressed the need to recognize vulnerable groups of people who use drugs as a high-risk population in order to mitigate the spread of the pandemic.

In addition, while about one third of all people who use drugs are estimated to be women, the latter are consistently reported to be at higher risk of HIV and other infections and more at risk of experiencing intimate partner violence than women in the broader population. This phenomenon is also likely to be exacerbated in these times of crisis.

Thus, substance use disorders are life-threatening conditions and addiction prevention, treatment, reintegration, and harm reduction services, are needed more than ever. Yet, in many countries, authorities have been able to give addiction services only extremely little support. In some cases, health systems initially thought of as solid have been unable to provide these professionals with basic personal protection equipment or financial support to buy them.

Leaving No one Behind, as per the Agenda 2030, is today an even more relevant imperative towards building a world in which all people have an equal opportunity to attain the highest possible standard of health and well-being. Not only people living with substance use disorders have the right to be fully taken care of, even and most of all, in times of emergency, but so do all the professionals investing their lives in serving the most vulnerable.

The High-Level Political Forum in 2021 will discuss Sustainable Development Goals 3 on good health and well-being and 10 on reduced inequalities, among others. This forum provides a perfect occasion for Dianova International to demand that addiction services be on par with other healthcare services and that they be given similar levels of attention and support. Substance use disorders and other addictive disorders are a matter of public health and addiction services should therefore be considered as essential.

128. Direct Aid Organization

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected all continents, instigating strict interventions in some forms of lockdown to slow down the spread of the disease, which led to mounting economic cost, especially in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC) with the most impoverished populations. We are still witnessing how COVID-19 continues to ravage economies around the world, driving up unemployment and poverty rates. Many hundreds of thousands are becoming infected every day, straining healthcare systems and inflicting grief on families and communities. The pandemic is driving Sub-Saharan Africa into its first recession in 25 years, putting decades of economic progress at risk. The main challenge in the current situation regarding the principle of “ensuring that no one is left behind” is fair and transparent availability and accessibility to vaccines. With stunning achievements in provision of safe and effective vaccines in less than one year after the emergence of COVID-19, Africa is in danger of being left behind as countries in other regions strike bilateral deals, driving up prices and production priorities were given to those who manufacture it and able to afford it.

Ensuring every African can get a safe and effective Covid-19 vaccine, swiftly and free of charge, is the most effective way to save lives and livelihoods, keep our children in school, reduce unemployment rates and re-open our economies. Without it, gains made by African countries on issues of food security, democratic governance, gender justice and women’s rights will be reversed completely.

Of the 304 million doses administered worldwide so far, fewer than 0.2% have been in Sub-Saharan Africa, home to 14% of the world's population. African countries are not only being pushed further behind the vaccines queue through pharmaceutical companies’ monopolies but are also being over-charged for every dose they procure, and only a handful number of countries on the continent, are just starting very modest national vaccination campaign targeting thousands, not millions of the most vulnerable.

Direct Aid, as one of the leading NGOs focusing its efforts over the past four decades on 30 African countries, put many strategies in place to ensure that the principle of “ensuring that no one is left behind” practically implemented immediately after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. We used our 50 training centers to produce face masks and distributed thousands of masks in areas with most impoverished populations in Africa. We also transformed our hospitals like SUMAIT hospital in Mogadishu in Somalia to work as a national hub providing testing, treatment, and vaccination facilities to COVID-19 in collaboration Islamic Development Bank, WHO, and the Somali Government. Also, in achieving other SDGs targets, we prepared our +300 schools with all necessary health prevention measures and to combat the spread of the disease and to provide a safe environment for our young students. Similarly, our four Direct Aid-sponsored universities, we implemented facilities to allow on-line education for our students to continue safe education in their study programs.

129. Doha International Family Institute (DIFI)

Towards Family-Friendly Policies in the Time of a Global Pandemic

The prevalence of the COVID-19 pandemic has left devastating effects on the health and wellbeing of families across the globe. To prevent the spread, this pandemic crisis led governments across the world to take strict measures such as enforcing lockdowns, closing down of schools and delving into distance-learning instead; flexible working arrangements for some parents; and partial or full lockdown, restricting movement of families. Implications of these measures have taken a toll on families and their cohesion with a surge in domestic violence; parents struggling to balance between work and child-care; the most vulnerable diving into higher rates of poverty; children facing a rapid increase of online abuse while health and social centers are being diverted to address the pandemic. Yet, digital technologies have opened many doors allowing distance learning, social connections and telecommuting. Specifically, work environments had to adapt to these new conditions, thus implementing flexible working arrangements such as working from home measures and telecommuting.

As couples and parents work from home, many challenges arose especially in the case of finding the balance between work and family responsibilities. Moreover, in many cases responsibilities within the household fell on the shoulders of women as they struggled to balance between work and family. Furthermore, families responsible for the caregiving for elderly family members were impacted by the isolation and responsibility associated with staying at home with dependent elderly. As to attaining work-family balance, there are many challenges associated with this goal that were only exacerbated with the prevalence of the COVID-19 pandemic. With work and family life blurred into each other and merging together, poor work-family balance poses a serious threat to family's health and wellbeing.

However, in a report conducted by the Doha International Family Institute (DIFI) on Arab Family Strengths, DIFI found that families living in the most difficult circumstances draw upon a rich set of characteristics, or "family strengths" that enable them to nurture their members and continue to prosper in the face of even the most extreme adversity. Thus, while this crisis led families to adapt to new conditions and find coping strategies to overcome these challenges it has also set the pace for the application of flexible work arrangements that can be applied to all work-places in our daily routines, without disrupting the work environment and more importantly allowing families to spend more time together towards cohesive families. In addition, to further understand the impact of COVID-19 on family cohesion, DIFI conducted a study on Adolescent Wellbeing in Qatar, findings show that adolescents were spending more than 30 hours/week increased from 29% to 45% pre and amid COVID-19 respectively. With that said, it is vital to adopt family-friendly policies that support parents in conducting their caregiving roles and responsibilities, supports couples in maintaining healthy and cohesive relationships and provides families with the time and consideration needed during this pandemic.

130. Earth Law Center

Recognizing that SARS-CoV-2 virus responsible for recent outbreaks originated in wild animals, and that the exploitation of wild animals and the destruction of their habitats is placing humanity at risk of future pandemics, Earth Law Center urges ECOSOC to prioritize the Rights of Nature and other ecocentric initiatives to advance Sustainable Development Goal 13.

As it stands, the sustainable development approach to addressing climate change is primarily anthropocentric. Even though the SDG framework has gained widespread support from governments, businesses, and civil society, large-scale ecological degradation has accelerated as Nature continues to be valued for the services it supplies to humans rather than for its own inherent worth. UN initiatives currently underway for promoting Earth law and the Rights of Nature are taking place within the “Harmony with Nature” initiative, which promotes an ecocentric approach to implementing the SDGs through UN General Assembly resolutions and hosting dialogues on the relationship between humans and Nature. The “Interactive Dialogues of the United Nations General Assembly on Harmony with Nature to commemorate International Mother Earth Day” have laid the foundations for achieving the SDGs through an Earth-centred vision that includes considering new legal paradigms that recognize the Rights of Nature as well as human environmental rights.

Towards this vision, the 8th Interactive Dialogue of the United Nations General Assembly on Harmony with Nature (2018) provides the following call to action (excerpted):

“To help heal and repair Earth, over the last several years there have been important advances in Earth Jurisprudence, notably in Earth-centred Law and Ecological Economics that further the overall implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”

Earth-centred Law and Ecological Economics further advance that Earth is not an object to be exploited but a subject deserving protection and respect and invite us to shift our consciousness of living at the expense of Nature for a consciousness of living in Harmony with Nature.

In doing so, they further ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness regarding sustainable development and lifestyles in Harmony with Nature, as stated in Sustainable Development Goal 12, sustainable production and consumption patterns, target 12.8.

Today, there is no explicit right to a healthy environment for either humans or Nature established within the ECOSOC framework. The global degradation of Nature violates the inherent rights of all living entities while impeding fulfilment of the SDGs, including the human right to health, to food and water, to housing, to privacy and family life, and in extreme cases, the right to life. If COVID-19 has taught us anything, it is that acting preemptively is essential. To adequately address climate change and other environment threats through the SDG framework, ECOSOC must proactively usher in a new, ecocentric paradigm of protection and respect for all life on the planet.

131. Ecoforum of NGOs of Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan has joined the international Sustainable Development Agenda and has taken on the obligation to implement the Sustainable Development Goals at the national level through 2030.

Uzbekistan presented the Voluntary National Review at the High-level Political Forum on sustainable development in 2020. A national platform for reporting on SDGs has been established. The SDGs are integrated into national development strategies and programs including comprehensive sectoral and regional ones.

Establishment of the Parliamentary Commission for the National SDGs Implementation Monitoring has been a significant step; the Commission hears regular reports from responsible government agencies both at the national and regional levels, in the context of provinces and areas. A broad public, civil society institutions, mass media are involved in the activities of the Parliamentary Commission in order to ensure maximum transparency and openness.

However, the coronavirus pandemic and caused economic woes have impacted the SDGs indicators badly. In order to mitigate the crisis consequences, the government of Uzbekistan has announced a range of crisis response measures including financial, economic, and regulatory measures to support business entities, the most vulnerable population groups and social institutions employees. A bailout fund of 1 billion USD has been established.

Among the key, promising in the current conditions, directions from the SDGs implementation progress perspective is the nature restoration. Some of the strategic goals and objectives that face Uzbekistan are: achieving more rational use of water (SDG 6), energy (SDG 7), land (SDG 2 and 15) and other natural resources (SDG 11, 12, 13) for more sustainable social and economic development and adaptation to climate change which devastating effect is in evidence vividly in the Aral Sea region - an area of the environmental disaster caused by the Aral Sea drying.

In order to improve the current situation, much work is in progress on renewing landscapes, forests and soil mantle on the 2 million hectare area. Considering the ecosystem specifics, the experience has shown that innovative approaches and technologies are required for normalize the environmental conditions in the region.

In this regard the Ecoforum of non-governmental non-commercial organizations of Uzbekistan supports the initiative of the President of Uzbekistan to accept a special resolution of the UN General Assembly on declaring the Aral Sea region as an area of environmental innovations and technologies and declaring the resolution adoption day as the International Day of Ecosystems Protection and Restoration.

Moreover, we deem it expedient to include in the resolution a set of measures for support of researches aimed at improving the environmental situation in the Aral Sea region and other world regions with similar environmental problems.

132. Educational Foundation for African Women

COVID-19 pandemic has thoroughly upset the world order and set back the SDGs a long way back. Perhaps, most affected in this respect are the third world countries. Though the rate of infections and deaths from COVID-19 pandemic are relatively low compared with what has obtained in the developed world, there is a great retrogression in social, economic, and environmental welfare in the African countries. For us, at my NGO where girl child education; lifelong education for girls and women and the general wellbeing of women and girls have been the focus, we have witnessed heart wrenching poverty levels, heightened inflation; unprecedented violence against women and massive retrogression in girl child education, as schools were closed down and generally no provision for virtual education. The digital divide has been made more prominent and painful by the debut of COVID-19 pandemic. Consequently, we see that the SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 among others have been gravely affected in Africa.

The way forward is to engender and promote greater cooperation between the North and South in the issues of digital technology, poverty alleviation and gender equality. If some aggressive effort is made in closing up the digital divide, then quality education would be enhanced significantly. Hunger and starvation are issues for Heads of states, especially in Africa, should pay particular attention to, as herdsman attack and displace farmers from their farms. In this regard, other global leaders could help out through advocacy and diplomatic interventions. Climate change, in terms of more than usual desertification has also led to a shortfall in food production and increased migration -two very serious social problems. All hands must be on deck to pave an effective path for the achievement of the 2030 agenda.

133. Egyptian Organization for Human Rights

The Egyptian Organization for Human Rights (EOHR) is an indispensable stakeholder in all efforts aiming at attaining the sustainable development goals. However, in light of the Covid-19 pandemic serious challenges stand in the way of reaching the SDGs and the ramifications of the pandemic have had an adverse effect on human rights globally as well. In Egypt the economic downturn caused by the pandemic has had its catastrophic effects on Egyptian civil society and the ability of donors to provide grants for human rights NGOs in such a difficult economic situation. Many civil society organizations were also left unable to participate in UN human rights council sessions in an expanded manner due to the freezing of most of civil society's activities in these sessions. In light of the above EOHR was no exception and is currently suffering from a financial crisis due to the pandemic. The activities of EOHR have been severely hampered as well due to the preventive measures imposed by the Egyptian government to counter the spread of the virus and this left EOHR largely unable to hold any public event or activity.

In line with our historical responsibilities and duties EOHR has launched an alternative work plan that entailed organizing remote workshops and conferences. EOHR also seeks through its work to support the SDGs while confronting Covid-19 by constantly campaigning for taking social justice and social solidarity and the right of each citizen to political participation while fighting the pandemic and seeking economic growth and sustainable development. EOHR has also worked hard to disseminate awareness regarding precautionary measures against the pandemic to the public through its social media platforms and its media presence. This stems from EOHR's moral obligation towards upholding the right to health and its indispensability while pursuing the SDGs.

134. Emmaus International Association

Créé en 1971 par l'abbé Pierre, Emmaüs international est un mouvement international de lutte contre la pauvreté et l'exclusion qui réunit 410 associations dans 41 pays répartis sur 4 continents. Toutes mettent en œuvre localement des activités économiques avec les plus exclu.e.s pour l'accès aux droits fondamentaux de chacun.e, et démontrent par des actions collectives qu'il existe des alternatives crédibles aux situations de pauvreté et d'injustice.

Alors qu'il ne reste que 10 ans avant l'échéance de 2030, la pandémie jette une ombre sur les espoirs de développement durable et fait ressortir de façon, criante les urgences sociales et environnementales auxquelles il est plus que temps de répondre.

Cette crise sanitaire a particulièrement révélé et exacerbé la vulnérabilité de certaines personnes et a renforcé les multiples logiques d'exclusion déjà existantes. Pour la première fois depuis près d'un quart de siècle, l'extrême pauvreté va augmenter dans le monde. L'une des conditions majeures pour lutter contre la pauvreté est d'impliquer les personnes vulnérables pour qu'elles aient une place à part entière dans les réponses à apporter à la lutte contre la pauvreté. Au sein du Mouvement Emmaüs mais aussi dans d'autres espaces, les personnes en situation de pauvreté osent se rassembler et appeler à l'action contre l'exclusion. Elles parviennent à s'organiser pour assurer leurs droits fondamentaux. Là où les politiques publiques sont absentes et où règne l'inégalité des systèmes privés lucratifs, Emmaüs construit des systèmes de protection sociale communautaires gérés par les premiers concernés.

Du côté des gouvernements, l'addition de réponses d'urgence et locales aux multiples aspects de la crise ne peut prétendre constituer une solution à la crise systémique à laquelle nous faisons face. Le succès de l'Agenda 2030 est aussi l'affaire et la responsabilité des gouvernements, donc d'une volonté politique dont l'impulsion est primordiale pour construire collectivement une voie inclusive et efficace pour la réalisation de l'Agenda 2030. Alors même que la lutte contre la pauvreté est un engagement pris par presque 200 États dans le monde, les espaces disponibles pour que les personnes exclues soient impliquées dans la construction des réponses à mettre à œuvre s'amenuisent. Emmaüs international recommande (re)construire des espaces politiques internationaux pour penser les réponses à la crise à la lumière d'un intérêt général global qui est à définir.

Une autre exigence essentielle pour promouvoir une reprise durable et résiliente après la pandémie de Covid-19 est de placer l'intérêt général au cœur des politiques publiques. La crise de la covid-19 n'a fait que confirmer la nécessité que certains services publics essentiels comme la santé ou l'éducation soient érigés en biens communs, dont il faut assurer une gestion commune.

135. Enable India

EnAble India is a non-profit organization founded in 1999 by Shanti Raghavan and Dipesh Sutariya to provide livelihoods with dignity to persons with disability (PwDs) (estimated 150 million) in urban and rural India. Disability sector in itself is a disadvantaged group facing diversity discrimination and that is what we are addressing through economic dignity.

Our work benefits the economy and aims to reduce the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) gap which arises due to exclusion of persons with disability from full economic participation. EnAble India's work is in alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals for inclusion of persons with disabilities.

- Goal 1 – eradicate extreme poverty for all by enabling persons with disabilities to enter the labour market towards livelihood opportunities. (22,000+ opportunities)
- Goal 4 - substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs, and entrepreneurship. (25000+ trained)
- Goal 8 - achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all including for persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value. (Same pay as non-disabled)
- Goal 10 - empower and promote the social, economic, and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status (equal participation leads to narrowing GDP gap)
- Goal 11 - access to safe, affordable, accessible, and sustainable transport systems for all, and providing universal access to safe, inclusive, and accessible, green and public spaces, particularly for persons with disabilities. (Over 32 lac square feet of commercial space audited for accessibility)
- Goal 17 - to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development, the collection of data and monitoring and accountability of the SDGs are crucial.

The cost of exclusion of 1.3+ billion persons with disability from the world's economy leads to 5-7% GDP Gap (International Labour Organization). This is in "normal" times before the COVID-19 pandemic caused havoc across world economies. While the pandemic threatens all members of society, persons with disabilities are disproportionately impacted due to attitudinal, environmental, and institutional barriers that are reproduced in the COVID-19 response.

As per the United Nations Report, persons with disabilities are less likely than others to be employed and more likely to be employed in the informal sector. Working from home may not be a possibility due to lack of equipment and support available in the workplace and increases the risk of job loss. Quarantine and other COVID-19 precautions also lead to loss of work for family members. This loss of income has a devastating effect on persons with disability and their families

spiralling them deeper into poverty. This is makes it imperative to have robust ecosystems in place to ensure Skilling (including re-skilling / up-skilling), Market Access and Sustainable livelihood opportunities for PwDs. This is possible through "Strategic Social Partnerships" between Private, Government and Non-Government Sectors enabling organizations to draw upon specialized capabilities and skills of each partner and access resources that were previously unavailable when working alone.

136. End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes, Inc.

The 2020-21 pandemic has contributed to ever greater challenges in meeting Sustainable Development Goal 16.2: End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children. There is mounting evidence that the worldwide spread of the disease has made a disastrous impact on society's ability to protect children from abuse and exploitation everywhere. ECPAT-USA began collecting data at the beginning of the pandemic. As early as last summer, UNICEF was reporting on the negative impact the pandemic was having on the ability of child services in more than 100 countries to carry out their work. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) notes that COVID-19 has put children at a heightened risk of exploitation, noting "school closures have not only precluded many from access to education but also from a main source of shelter and nourishment." The U.S.-based National Center on Missing and Exploited Children earlier this year reported that 2020 saw the highest ever number of reports of abuse and exploitation to their Cybertipline.

SDG 16.2 builds on a many-years-long effort by governments' commitments to protect children from all forms of exploitation. These agreements include:

- 1991: The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child entered into force. It is almost universally ratified.
- 2002: The Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography entered into force. It has been ratified by 176 countries.
- 2020: The International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 182 on the Elimination of Worst Forms of Child Labor, which calls for eliminating "practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children," was ratified by all ILO members.

This year the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) took the important step of giving direction to governments in the realm of their responsibility to protect children's rights in the digital environment. In General Comment 25 to the CRC the Committee provided explicit advice on relevant legislative, policy and other measures to ensure full compliance with their obligations under the Convention. Last year ECPAT-USA produced guides for students, parents and teachers to assist them in using social media devices safely.

Yet, with all these commitments, building political will and designing and funding specific concrete actions that keep children safe have sadly lagged behind. Child poverty, social inequality, demand by men who seek to exploit vulnerable children and the enormous profits made by criminal enterprises have all had a chance to flourish during the pandemic. As we emerge from the worldwide shut-down, civil society, governments and the United Nations are going to have to build new, expanded, coordinated multi-dimensional programs to keep children safe, both online and off.

ECPAT-USA our partners are committed to building a better post-pandemic world. We will redouble our efforts, working every day through awareness raising, advocacy, policy and legislation to create a world where no child is bought, sold or used for sex.

137. Energy Vision

A resilient green recovery depends on ambitious global goals, nation-states acting to implement those goals, and incentives mobilizing the creative skills of the private sector. With the United States fully re-committed to the Paris Agreement, with bold new targets for emissions reductions to advance the 2030 Agenda, it is especially important to use the solutions available right now that will allow us to meet our targets on schedule.

Energy Vision's mission, since its founding in 2007 as a not-for-profit organization, has been to explore, publicize and promote the most rapid paths to a sustainable global energy and transportation future. Our current primary focus is on one particularly exciting strategy: producing biomethane by extracting and refining the methane biogases produced as organic wastes decompose in urban and rural areas around the world.

To limit global warming to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels, a key goal must be reducing emissions of methane, one of the most potent greenhouse gases. The 1.3 billion tons of food waste generated around the world a year, the huge streams of manure from global livestock populations, and the vast amounts of sewage generated by humans -- all emit significant amounts of methane as they decompose, which represents a major climate liability. That methane can be captured as biogas, using anaerobic digesters.

Nations around the world are seeking clean, renewable fuel for various applications. Biomethane, the refined form of biogas, can help meet their needs and serve as a climate solution. Lifecycle emissions from biomethane can be not just carbon neutral, but net-carbon-negative—when more greenhouse gases are captured in producing the fuel than are emitted by burning it. Additionally, the organic material left over from the anaerobic digestion process is a valuable nutrient-rich soil amendment that can displace chemical fertilizers.

Commercial technologies are available today to process organics and to put their clean energy and compost products to use. And every vehicle or appliance converted from fossil fuels to biomethane will immediately meet the Paris Climate Goals.

Since trapping methane biogases from decomposing organics in anaerobic digestion offers a key strategy for achieving Paris Accord targets, we recommend that:

- Governments should implement food recovery and redistribution programs to ensure that edible food is consumed by people. We fully endorse the 2030 UN target to reduce food waste by 50%.
- Policies should be designed and mandated to collect the other 50% of food from businesses and households that can't be eaten, plus all other sources of organic waste and direct them to compost facilities or better to anaerobic digesters.
- Governments should, wherever economically feasible, incentivize instalment of on-site anaerobic digesters at wastewater treatment plants, so the methane biogases captured can be used to generate energy for the treatment plants or surrounding communities.

- Implement taxes or bans to keep organic wastes out of landfills.
- Mandate low-carbon fuel standards to encourage the use of sustainable fuels like biomethane.
- Mandate that a percentage of utilities' electricity be produced by biogas or that a portion of the gas they distribute be biomethane.

138. Engender

Engender is Scotland's feminist policy and advocacy organisation, working to increase women's social, political and economic equality, enable women's rights, and make visible the impact of sexism on women and wider society. Since the outbreak of COVID-19, Engender has sought to draw attention to the highly gendered impacts of the virus and steps to mitigate it.

In Scotland and the United Kingdom as a whole, there has been inadequate policy attention paid to women's needs and a distinct lack of gender mainstreaming. The necessary public health responses to the pandemic have resulted in further displacement of childcare, schooling and other forms of care from public services to women. Engender have estimated that the impact of mothers' lost earnings or productivity during the first lockdown in Scotland equated to £15,082,320 per day as women were working part-time or leaving paid work altogether to care for their children. Women without care responsibilities have also had their labour market participation adversely affected by COVID-19 job disruption, as women, particularly Black and minoritized women, are more likely to have been furloughed, to work in a shutdown sector, and to have been made redundant.

Increases in unpaid work and care, loss of income and increasing levels of gender-based violence have been observed in tandem with worsening levels of stress and anxiety among women. Mental health problems such as anxiety, stress and depression are likely to be exacerbated by uncertainty, fear and long periods of isolation, and carers and mothers are likely to have less time and less disposable income to care for their own wellbeing. Pregnant women and new mothers have seen their maternity care compromised and have been cut off from their support networks, and women experiencing domestic abuse and other forms of gender-based violence have faced heightened barriers to safety, justice, and services.

Of the cumulative social security cuts driven by austerity between 2010 and 2022, 59% will have come from women's purses (Women's Budget Group, 2019). Economic recovery from COVID-19 must not involve further fiscal austerity and should be gender-sensitive, which means investing in a care economy, and recognising, reducing and redistributing unpaid domestic and care work from the household to the state by an increase of accessible, good quality child care and social care (Engender and Close the Gap, 2020). Urgent actions are also required to address the worsening gendered mental health inequalities and the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on minority ethnic communities. Taking an intersectional, gendered approach to economic and social recovery moving forward would enable sustainable economic growth and mitigate the negative health, economic and social consequences of this pandemic.

139. Entrepreneurship Development and Support Initiative

Nigeria's economy is set up by 42 million micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). Much of the time, these are solo business visionaries, with little convention, no enlistment, no representatives, and no critical value pad (resources of under N10 million). These organizations support around 60 million positions, that are straightforwardly compromised by the COVID-19 wellbeing emergency and the coming financial downturn.

The large-scale viewpoint isn't extraordinary. McKinsey gauges that "at all most dire outcome imaginable", that is, even with a contained episode, Nigeria's GDP will decrease by 3.4% in year 2020, from 2.5% development recently anticipated. Private ventures, their originators and workers are regularly the most powerless in conditions such as these. Many will confront cost pressures, liquidity issues, production network difficulties, insolvencies, terminations, and occupation misfortunes. In the extraordinary failure contact, post COVID-19 world, client commitment and computerized procedures will be basic for the private companies that will get by in Nigeria and the world by extension.

The question here was, what's going on for your clients during this lockdown? Small Business Owners (SBOs) and their stake holders are embracing digital communication process. Entrepreneurs and clients are extending the stages they connect with each other, customizing them and discovering better approaches to communicate (e.g Zoom's every day dynamic clients has extended from 10m to 200m in one quarter, and use cases for some individuals presently incorporate ordinary family get-togethers and even weddings).

There should be an adoption of policies to attract and facilitate the formalization of "invisible" entrepreneurs, guaranteeing them access to support and credit programs, implementation of programs aimed at the digital transformation of the world productive sector, with a focus on: technology, management and people; flexibility in the requirements of financial institutions to grant benefits; more accessible and grants tax incentives as we are creating atmosphere for technological innovations. Independent venture business visionaries don't have the opportunity to finish the cycles needed to get to the advantages that have been allowed. It is in this way basically that actions had to be taken to rearrange and accelerate admittance to these advantages. Earnest activity is needed to formalize their organizations and incorporate them as recipients of help measures. These activities are fundamental for the safeguarding and congruity of world business environment.

140. Environmental Development Action in the Third World

Environmental Development Action in the Third World a, depuis 2015, intégré totalement dans sa stratégie et ses actions l'Agenda 2030 et les Objectifs pour le Développement Durable (ODD) en symbiose la vision de l'organisation « Passer d'un système sociétal qui détruit l'environnement et fabrique les inégalités à une société «coproduite», fondée sur l'égalité, la participation citoyenne et la convivialité avec l'environnement, une société où les droits économiques, culturels, sociaux et politiques des plus vulnérables sont garantis ». Nos interventions comme réponses d'adaptation à la pandémie COVID 19 s'inscrivent directement dans les actions de notre stratégie d'intervention pour un Agenda 2030 transformateur.

Pour l'année 2021, nous avons retenu trois aspects de nos activités étroitement liés au cadre défini pour le Forum Politique de Haut Niveau pour le Développement 2021: la transition agroécologique, la transition vers une gouvernance décentralisée par le biais des Collectivités territoriales et des communautés et l'Intégration du « Choc Covid 19 » dans ces processus de transition.

D'où les trois volets (A), (B) et (C) de notre contribution 2021.

(A) « Renforcer la transition agro-écologique à partir de « l'école du changement » : apprentissage /retour vers des systèmes de production plus durables, changement comportemental de tous les acteurs et changement d'échelle.

- 1) L'apprentissage / retour vers de nouveaux systèmes de production à partir des "champs écoles", le partage et la valorisation d'initiatives agro-écologiques, la mise en place de nouvelles filières de formation et d'appuis. Il s'agit de :
 - Produire plus avec moins de moyens / ressources en tenant compte des contraintes environnementales à travers la préservation, l'atténuation et l'adaptation (ODD 2 et 12).
 - Intégrer marché et consommateurs ; l'approche chaîne de valeur met le marché au cœur du système productif avec l'exigence d'une production saine (ODD 1 et 3).
 - Positionner le monde paysan au centre des actions et décisions afin de prendre en compte leurs besoins, réalités et savoir en terme de techniques, connaissances nouvelles, de gouvernance des ressources. (ODD 8).
 - Ainsi l'Agroécologie, des connaissances locales à la gouvernance des ressources, etc. est une opportunité qui replace les communautés au centre. Les femmes et les jeunes qui y ont largement leur place avec les perspectives d'emplois verts et de changements annoncés (ODD 8).
- 2) le changement comportemental de tous les acteurs et de nouvelles approches plus transversales

- L’Agro-Ecologie implique ou nécessite plusieurs transitions pour sa réussite en particulier celles énergétiques, alimentaires et de gouvernance (ODD 12).
 - Le “learning by doing” permet aux producteurs et productrices du secteur Agricole de redécouvrir et/ou d’adopter des pratiques durables de production, de consommation, de gouvernance et d’information (ODD 12, ODD 13)
 - Un plaidoyer à tous niveaux permet d’intégrer l’Agroécologie dans les politiques, plans et financements. Il faut, en particulier, décloisonner les approches sectorielles des ministères pour plus aller vers plus de transversalité, accompagner, défendre et protéger les acteurs et actrices ; impulser les dynamiques et changements, adopter des comportements et attitudes plus équitables, durables (ODD 16).
- 3) Le changement d’échelle comme gage de transformations vers un développement plus durable.
- Le changement dans la gouvernance : on passe du producteur et de son Organisation Professionnelle vers les instances nationales et sous régionales. C’est généralement à ce niveau que se concrétise la formalisation de la Transition agroécologique, la collaboration avec l’Etat et autres institutions. C’est un tremplin pour la poursuite du processus entamé, une plus grande mobilisation et la mise en évidence des défis futurs (ODD 16).
 - Le changement dans les partenariats dans lesquels les producteurs-trices agricoles collaborent dans des cadres multi-acteurs avec d’autres acteurs depuis le secteur privé jusqu’aux institutions internationales. L’ouverture permanente à d’autres partenaires reste essentielle pour ne laisser personne en rade (ODD 17)
 - Le changement dans la territorialité pour une mise à l’échelle des initiatives agro-écologiques qui passe des exploitations à des espaces géographiques plus larges. Les terroirs, communes et départements ont pour avantage de rendre les transformations plus visibles et globaux avec des résultats documentés.
 - Le changement pour un plus vaste système qui dépasse la production pour englober les systèmes agroalimentaires qui impliquent les aspects post-récolte, la consommation de masse, la lutte contre les gaspillages, etc.(ODD 12)

(B) Renforcer la transition vers une gouvernance décentralisée (ODD 16) par le biais des Collectivités territoriales et des communautés plus proches des préoccupations des populations, un cadre adéquat pour la prise compte du COVID 19.

En visant l’innovation et l’émergence de politiques locales durables et inclusives, notre Organisation a développé des Espaces de Coproduction des Offres Populaires pour intervenir avec les communautés de base et construire un discours cohérent et pertinent. Ce plaidoyer influe positivement sur les décisions touchant les citoyens et les échelles d’intervention (ODD 16), suivant quatre (4) axes balisant la transition décentralisée de la gouvernance :

- Renforcement de la démocratie locale, de la participation et l’engagement citoyen par des actions pour que plus de collectivités territoriales développent des approches de démocratie participative (par exemple le « budget participatif) impactant le bien-être des citoyens.
- Renforcement de la résilience et l’attractivité des collectivités territoriales pour les États, les partenaires au développement et les communautés de base (ODD 17).
- Soutien à l’employabilité et à l’insertion socio-professionnelle des jeunes des femmes et autres groupes vulnérables : développer une approche territoriale comme contribution à la lutte contre le chômage des jeunes, accompagner les initiatives de définition de « territoires » d’intervention pertinents et cohérents pour mettre en œuvre des politiques locales concertées de formation professionnelle et enfin organiser et valoriser la formation par apprentissage dans le secteur de l’économie informelle afin de répondre à une forte demande d’inclusion sociale (ODD 8).

Appui à la territorialisation des politiques publiques et des Agendas internationaux : internaliser au niveau des territoires les orientations stratégiques nationales de développement et les engagements internationaux, notamment les Plans d’émergence économique, l’Agenda 2030, le Nouvel Agenda Urbain, l’Accord de Paris, etc.

Ces interventions au local s’accompagnent d’une évaluation participative de nos approches et des contenus pour la capitalisation des expériences. La finalité est de mettre à disposition des institutions publiques (ministères, institutions locales) et/ou privées (instituts de recherches, partenaires au développement) des outils et méthodes appropriés (sous forme de guides et/ou manuels), et contribuer ainsi à l’amélioration de la gouvernance locale pour l’émergence de villes durables. Cette méthode de travail insiste particulièrement sur l’ancrage local dans la conduite des initiatives pour une institutionnalisation et une pérennisation des dynamiques de développement. Ces activités ont été renforcées par un Partenariat-Cadre avec l’Union Européenne sur le « Renforcement du rôle et de la place des sociétés civiles du Sud dans la mise en œuvre d’un agenda 2030 transformateur » qui vise également à maximiser l’efficacité des actions de nos entités dans l’élaboration des politiques sur les domaines liés au développement durable et en ne laissant personne de côté.

Pour y arriver, notre Organisation a procédé, à travers une démarche cohérente, inclusive et méthodique, à une intégration systématique des fondamentaux du développement durable dans ses différents projets, programmes et initiatives. Une approche modulée par une recherche/action continue autour de questions fondamentales sur la démocratie locale, la participation citoyenne, l’engagement des citoyens dans la gestion publique, le renforcement des institutions de gouvernance locale, etc. (ODD 16). Pour ce faire, un certain nombre d’outils ont été réalisées « Guide de mesure des performances des collectivités territoriales en matière de développement durable », « Comment mettre les citoyens au cœur du processus ? », « Comment arriver à une gouvernance territoriale plus participative et inclusive », etc.

(C) Intégration du « Choc Covid 19 » dans ces processus de transition.

Au-delà des mesures étatiques, notre Organisation a organisé, dès les premiers jours de la pandémie, une première riposte solidaire face au nouveau coronavirus au Sénégal et doper la résilience communautaire (ODD 3).

Dans un premier temps, les opérations sont portées directement à partir des réseaux locaux impliquées dans nos activités. Avec la montée des cas de contamination communautaire, les territoires se sont avérés comme étant les échelons les plus pertinents pour assurer sensibilisation, mobilisation et engagement communautaire, conduite d'actions de riposte et de résilience. D'où la constitution d'une Coalition du nom de Siggi (relever la tête en langue wolof), lancée par notre Organisation, en collaboration avec plusieurs partenaires nationaux et internationaux, pour accompagner les collectivités territoriales à construire une riposte organisée au Covid-19. L'offensive citoyenne de riposte au Coronavirus s'est orientée vers la couverture de 1515 quartiers et territoires à travers le pays aux fins de renforcer les capacités de riposte et de résilience des communautés et territoires face au Covid 19. Le processus est participatif avec Conseil de quartier, organisations communautaires de base (dont les Associations sportives et culturelles), les Groupements de promotion féminine, les organisations de jeunes filles, les comités d'handicapés, les associations de parents d'élèves, les Cellules école milieu, les Comités de santé, les Groupements d'intérêt économique à vocation communautaire, les associations de développement de quartier. Des formations pour la mobilisation de sentinelles (alerte, veille mesures de prévention, d'hygiène et techniques sensibilisation) sont mises en place. Ces intervenants de qualité sont un gage d'efficacité du processus (ODD3).

Les collectivités territoriales ont également bénéficié d'un accompagnement à l'élaboration de leurs plans communaux qui leur a permis d'adapter leur intervention à la situation pandémique. Dans ce sillage, des « plans de transition » ont été élaborés/soutenus, avec une mobilisation de ressources financières. Ils ont permis de reprendre progressivement les activités suspendues jusque-là. Ceci en prenant surtout en compte l'allègement progressif des mesures publiques (sanitaires, sociales, sécuritaires, etc.) et la reprise des activités dans les collectivités telles que l'ouverture des marchés, des écoles, etc. (ODD 8).

C'est donc, en partant de l'existant (nos réseaux engagés dans les transitions) que rapidement la prise en charge du "Choc Covid" a pu être réalisée et ainsi renforcer ces transitions transformationnelles sur un certain nombre d'aspects.

Pour conclure, vers des transitions « plus justes »

- L'information reste insuffisante pour rendre compte de l'action de la société civile dans les processus de transition qui sont transversaux par rapport aux ODD. Les « Revues nationales Volontaires » doivent beaucoup plus mettre en exergue ces transitions, en particulier la transition agro-écologique, les transitions de mode de production et consommation durables, les transitions de décentralisation.
- La mobilisation des territoires et la structuration de leurs actions autour de l'environnement, en particulier climat, se poursuit. Les initiatives internationales de villes et régions (Convention mondiale des Maires, Under2Coalition, RegionsAdapt etc.) témoignent d'un dynamisme particulier dans les pays d'intervention du réseau

Environmental Development Action in the Third World. Par ailleurs, des acteurs et des élus travaillent à faire de l'agro-écologie une réalité dans leur territoire ; cependant l'intervention de l'Etat est nécessaire afin que soient mises en place des politiques inclusives qui améliorent l'accès et la sécurisation des moyens de productions des exploitations familiales, soutiennent l'agro-biodiversité et une gestion durable des ressources, favorisent la valorisation des produits et la création d'emplois décents.

- Même en période de Covid-19, les territoires restent des lieux d'innovation et d'expérimentation pour les politiques de mise en œuvre de l'Agenda 2030 transformateur, comme le souligne un Maire fortement investi « faisons en sorte que succèdent aux « gestes barrières au Covid » qui ont réussi, des gestes de « développement durable ».
- La densification et la répartition des services pour des territoires plus autonomes doit se penser désormais en mécanismes de gouvernance intégrant plusieurs instances (intercommunalité).
- Une révision des modes de financement pour une plus grande décentralisation revient encore au-devant de la scène quand on constate le rôle majeur des entités décentralisées dans la prise en charge des effets de la pandémie Covid 19. C'est un défi majeur de la décennie d'actions pour l'Agenda 2030.

141. Ethiopia Africa Black International Congress Church of Salvation

The COVID-19 pandemic is both an opportunity and challenge to fulfil articles one to thirty of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The United Nations should use this pandemic to inform the nations of the world that slavery and the slave trade perpetuated by Britain, Europe in general, United States of America and Arabia for over five hundred years, was illegal and inhumane. Africans scattered in the diaspora because of slavery and the slave trade should be repatriated home to Africa and paid reparation. The real significance of this declaration is for the nations responsible to admit that this stalemate must be corrected. Hence, black people can continue to build their institutions and procedures for sustainable development and pacific settlement of challenges. This pandemic gives the United Nations enough tools to use and correct the disputes among nations. The United Nations is a resilient Institution and it will continue to experience challenges. The real issues are whether they will be resolved using methods and procedures that are administered by impartial institutions. A resilient Recovery from this pandemic requires the inclusion and effectiveness of all nations' peoples.

The vaccine should be administered equitably and effectively; so that various dimensions of the sustainable development agenda can be achieved; launching a campaign to stem injustices and provide remedies to eradicate discrimination against the poor and needy in the western diaspora. People are economically deprived: they lack food, shelter, clothing and work because of the color of their skin - denial of basic human rights. Therefore, sustainable and resilient recovery from COVID-19 might be delayed.

The UN must exert legitimate pressure on the nations of the world to vaccinate the entire population while the opportunity exists or else the charter of Human Rights will remain a collection of words, without content and substance. As we are about to succeed in overcoming this great pandemic; we must live like a closely linked family of nations, as a result of advances made by modern science and technology. Peoples are more united; nation's peoples are more linked to achieve and attain the goals for building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 sustainable developmental goals. The charter of the United Nations embodies the hopes and aspirations of the poor and needy, hence a resilient recovery from COVID-19 will help in strengthening the spirit of international co-operation, establish an atmosphere of mutual respect, understanding, and comprehension. Thereby, this would create world economic, social and environmental dimensions for sustainable development.

Poor people must not be mauled or molested by the strong. Resilient Recovery cannot reign in an environment reeking with poverty, hunger and racial discrimination. The UN must find a way to protect the have nots. The mark of a worthy civilization is the willingness of those who have the most of everything to show love for others and share their portion of wealth with those that are in need; thereby helping the recovery that we all expect.

142. Euro Atlantic Diplomacy Society Association

As the world enters a new decade, the outbreak of Covid-19 suddenly occurred and spread rapidly from certain regions to the entire world. Many nations were not prepared to deal with the pandemic, however a resilient recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic is based on a strong cooperation among various stakeholders. Building international mechanisms for crisis management, as well as creating strategic frameworks for partnership and cooperation with civil society, this will lead to population's behaviour change and increased societal resilience.

Euro Atlantic Diplomacy Society Association is concerned about the most relevant dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social, environmental, and other cross-cutting issues). Bearing in mind the difficult times that the whole world currently faces, with strongest effects in the poorest regions, civil society can empower local communities. Thus, civil society can act as a catalyser on the ground in order to bring new opportunities and to develop new technological solutions.

In our view, it is important to commit and to enhance the involvement of civil society organisations. On one side, civil society has the power to lead public awareness campaigns, humanitarian convoys, digital apps ecosystems, with the main aim to focus on supporting disadvantaged/marginalised areas and the vulnerable and/or isolated population. On the other side, civil society can be also seen as an engine for social change, able to optimise procedures and to help societies to recover.

The way forward and the pandemic recovery actions – with the civil society at the forefront – should focus on the following recommendations:

- strengthening the connection with the civil society sector and engaging more with civil society organisations both at the State level as well as at the international organisations' level;
- developing hubs of psychologists and social workers that can take care of the mental health within their communities;
- supporting those persons in need following the increase of unemployment, hardship and inequality, after the pandemic;
- delivering essential services at the community level such as food, shelter and health care, in order to ensure food security in poor regions with high level of poverty;
- raising innovation and financial services to rural regions by technology and virtual apps that can help payment transactions for entrepreneurship coming from vulnerable territories (minorities, indigenous communities, immigration);
- providing adequate training and learning community leaders how to develop contingency planning for further risks and/or emergent risks;
- increasing the societal level of resilience by having adequate energy systems, communication tools and transportation infrastructure.

Euro Atlantic Diplomacy Society Association will remain committed in fighting the Covid-19 pandemic effects at national and international level by building bridges among stakeholders and responding to emergencies or disasters with relief efforts.

143. Europe Business Assembly Limited

Europe Business Assembly Limited (EBA) reaffirms its commitment to the 2030 Agenda and continues making efforts in supporting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) set by the United Nations. The purpose of this statement is to demonstrate the practical implementation of the SDGs from the point of activities carried out by our organisation.

Since the beginning of 2020 the whole world has faced a crisis caused by COVID – 19 pandemics. It has had a dramatic impact on economic growth of many countries, affected the health and well-being of millions of people and produced damage to partnership development around the world.

As an interactive platform for international cooperation and dissemination of knowledge in education, economics and health our organisation had to respond to the new challenge with an innovative and technological approach that would allow for the wider public to continue benefiting from our work through partnership and solidarity.

In this respect, we developed a brand-new online platform for conferences and exhibitions that allows people to share their experience in adapting to the new environment during the pandemic and address the presidents of various countries to take direct and immediate action.

First and foremost, we addressed the issue of combating poverty with focus on Corporate Social Responsibility. EBA organised 6 online conferences that brought leading businesses from over 30 countries to discuss methods of sustainable and inclusive economic growth and decent workplaces. The conferences addressed issues of social inequalities, particularly in developing countries, promoting social inclusion in various economic fields. Our members are committed to development-oriented policies that support productive activities.

Furthermore, we brought together doctors and scientists to exchange ideas on healthy lives, mental health and well-being with full commitment to inform and where possible provide financial assistance to the people in need. We are committed to helping the wider public to be more aware of the dangers of most dangerous diseases including COVID-19 and the means to cope particularly mentally with current circumstances. No one should be left behind without treatment and medical assistance.

During the conferences, members of EBA emphasised the importance of working in partnership and mobilize all resources available to bounce back from COVID and reduce its short and long-term implications. As such, financial institutions showed readiness to provide loans and financial services to micro-, small and medium sized enterprises and individuals.

Based on the aforementioned activities, EBA recommends that a High-level Political forum encourages more independent, multi-stakeholder online and face-to-face forums to serve as additional communicative and informative platforms that would encourage practical implementation of the SDGs. With the advent of the pandemic many entrepreneurs that are the backbone of every economy had to adapt and can share their valuable experience with the world, including technological transformation. Lastly, the doctors and scientists should be supported and encouraged to help inform the wider public about dangers of COVID, and means of overcoming

mental disorders caused by the pandemics, along with explaining what can be done, including vaccination, to prevent further spread.

144. European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO)

The European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) is a global network of more than 25,000 cancer professionals from over 160 countries.

We welcome the High-level Segment and the monitoring of progress towards achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. During this decade of action and delivery we commend the United Nations and its agencies, especially the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Agency on Research for Cancer for keeping Noncommunicable Diseases, which include cancer, high on global public health and political agendas.

The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated that to achieve sustainable development countries must uphold health as a basic human right and deliver on their commitments to provide universal health coverage that is affordable and leaves no one behind.

We are concerned about reports from the United Nations and WHO that many Member States are not on track to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, despite their adoption of numerous Resolutions and Political Declarations providing actionable blueprints on what can and needs to be done.

As cancer doctors, we work hard every day to save lives and support Sustainable Development target 3.4 to reduce premature deaths from Noncommunicable Diseases by one third by 2030. The 2020 WHO Report on Cancer stated that only 12 countries are on track to achieve this goal by 2030. To support governments to reduce premature cancer deaths, we would like to raise awareness of several of our many resources available on www.esmo.org:

- Over 80 evidence-based Clinical Practice Guidelines that set the standard of cancer care.
- A COVID-19 and Cancer Portal that includes recommendations for cancer treatment during the pandemic, patient and palliative care guides, and a call to action to prioritise COVID-19 vaccination for cancer patients.
- Recommendations on preventing and managing shortages of inexpensive essential cancer medicines used in the treatment of many cancers.
- The ESMO-Magnitude of Clinical Benefit Scale for the prioritisation of expensive innovative cancer medicines to frame appropriate use of limited public and personal resources.

We commend countries presenting their Voluntary National Reviews and achievements and request they present their plan to address cancer within Sustainable Development Goals 3.4 and 3.8 (Universal Health Coverage) by 2030.

We urge all governments to prioritise high-impact investments in cancer prevention and control by accelerating implementation of the 2017 Cancer Resolution (WHA70.12) and fully integrating comprehensive essential cancer services into universal health coverage benefit packages. The investment case reported in the 2020 WHO Report on Cancer stated that US\$ 1 invested in cancer care yields “a full social return based on both direct productivity and societal gains of US\$ 9.50”.

We request stronger implementation of cancer prevention measures recommended by the International Agency for Research on Cancer because 30-50% of cancer deaths are preventable.

We also encourage efforts to promote health literacy and empower individuals to make informed health decisions.

COVID-19 has shown that we can and must work together as an international community to solve the greatest health challenges of our time and to build back better to secure the future we want.

145. European Union Association in the United States

The European Union Association believes that the current pandemic represents an opportunity to enhance the UN based international system of cooperation and mutual support. Vaccine nationalisms should be avoided and private enterprises in cooperation with institutional representatives should strive to allow all citizen among the UN family of nations to have access to cures and COVID-19 vaccines.

Any progress in the fight and cure of the current COVID-19 pandemic should be shared with other countries and citizens around the world regardless of the level of national development and wealth. No greater opportunity will present itself to both UN member states and global health corporation to offer an example of solidarity for the common good, we should show willingness to invest more and not less resources toward common good as we often do towards less noble and uncontroversial causes.

146. EURORDIS European Organisation for Rare Diseases

The COVID-19 pandemic has magnified inequities and affected particularly vulnerable populations. Persons living with a rare disease have been disproportionately impacted. Their challenges have been multiplied, with access to care, opportunities for employment and inclusion, and mental and physical well-being severely affected. These challenges will not disappear post-COVID-19 unless specific person-centred and holistic policies that ensure inclusion in society and protection of human rights for all are put in place.

EURORDIS European Organisation for Rare Diseases, in partnership with Rare Diseases International and the NGO Committee for Rare Diseases, have launched a call for the adoption of a United Nations General Assembly Resolution on “addressing the challenges of persons living with a rare disease and their families”, which could act as a catalyst towards ensuring a sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, while delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals and the principle ‘to leave no one behind’.

More than 300 million people worldwide live with one of over 6000 identified rare diseases. These are often chronic, complex, heavily disabling and life threatening. Knowledge and information is scarce and expertise is not accessible. The lack of awareness and recognition leads to discrimination and specific challenges in education, healthcare, employment and leisure. The impact is felt throughout a lifetime, causing increased impoverishment and isolation. These challenges, worsened by COVID-19, present many synergies with the Sustainable Development Goals, including 1, 3, 8 and 10, which are under review at the High-Level Political Forum 2021:

- Overall impoverishment of families has increased. Family members (3 in 10) have had to stop working or reduce their working hours because of the loss of support from extended family and friends, and lack of access to social services and benefits.
- Persons living with a rare disease have experienced disruption in access to care (9 in 10), with limitations, delays – and even denial – in access to testing, health services, surgeries, rehabilitation therapy, supportive care, and medicines, with at times irreversible consequences.
- Pre-existing challenges in access, retention and return to employment have been exacerbated. Namely, lack of specific accommodations, flexible working arrangements or adapted work environments.

In order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and counter the impact that COVID-19 has had on their implementation, it is imperative that the challenges of persons living with a rare disease be addressed, as a human rights, sustainable development and social equity priority.

The General Assembly Resolution should cover the following 5 key asks:

- Respect for human rights and inclusion in society of persons living with a rare disease & their families.
- Appropriate care to improve health and social outcomes towards Universal Health Coverage.

- Promotion of national strategies and measures by United Nations Member States to leave no one behind.
- Recognition in the United Nations system by integrating and giving visibility to the challenges faced by persons living with a rare disease into agencies and programmes.
- Monitoring progress and implementation on the status of persons living with a rare disease worldwide.

147. Family Planning NSW

Family Planning NSW is one of Australia's leading providers of sexual and reproductive health services. We work domestically and internationally, supporting our partners in the Pacific to deliver sexual and reproductive health education, information and clinical services. Family Planning NSW is committed to annually reporting on progress of the Sustainable Development Goals in Australia and the Pacific.

Global work towards the realisation and achievement of sexual and reproductive health and rights is more important now than ever, particularly in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Countries must ensure progression towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals remains a priority. Without accelerated progression, there are serious and real risks to the health and wellbeing of the global community, especially those who are vulnerable and marginalised.

Given the interconnectedness of sexual and reproductive health and rights on poverty, health, wellbeing, and the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, implementation of global priorities to advance sexual and reproductive health and rights is needed. Family Planning NSW recommends five strategies to advance sexual and reproductive health and rights and promote inclusive and effective sustainable development.

Increase access to long-acting reversible contraception

Despite evidence of effectiveness, use of long-acting reversible contraception in Australia and the Pacific remains low. Increasing long-acting reversible contraception uptake supports women and girls to decide whether or when to have children and enables them to engage in sustainable work and education by reducing the number of unintended pregnancies.

Eliminate cervical cancer

While Australia is on track to eradicating cervical cancer, compliance with screening varies within vulnerable and marginalised populations. Further, cervical cancer remains a leading cause of death for women in many countries in the Pacific and across the globe. Focus needs to remain on improving screening rates in under-screened populations and ensuring sustainable access to essential preventive services.

Invest in comprehensive sexuality education

There remains no consistent approach to comprehensive sexuality education in Australia, and an alarming lack in the Pacific. Implementation of age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education promotes respectful relationships, gender equality and better health outcomes, including lower rates of unintended pregnancy, sexually transmissible infections, stigma and gender-based violence.

Promote gender equality and end sexual and gender-based violence

Discrimination and violence against women and girls are common in Australia and the Pacific. Sexual and reproductive health and rights and achieving bodily autonomy supports gender equality

by addressing harmful gender norms, promoting respectful relationships, empowering women to make decisions about work, education, relationships, and whether or when to have children.

Improve sexual and reproductive health data collection

There are significant gaps in reliable data on key indicators that would improve governments and civil society's ability to identify and address areas of sexual and reproductive health need, supporting the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

By investing in sexual and reproductive health and rights programs, policies and services for all people, we contribute to creating a world where everyone reaches their full potential.

148. Farasooye Taaly Institute

Farasooye Taaly NGO has prepared this statement to encourage non-governmental organizations, governments, industries, and business enterprises at the national, regional, and international levels to focus on the mental health and psychological wellbeing of the society, specifically, underprivileged individuals during pervasive crises such as COVID-19 pandemic.

The majority of social and economic activists along with politicians, aim to provide an opportunity to normalize the situation enforced by the pandemic. Their priorities include ensuring citizens' physical health, controlling virus breakout, and compensating for diverse economic damages that societies encounter. However, planning to treat mental damages, as one of the main consequences of the pandemic, is either delayed or missed.

Globally, COVID-19 pandemic has created distance and isolation among individuals more than before. Some express severe fear of getting infected and they will cause mental harm to themselves and those around them with such discomfort. Many individuals experience depression and hopelessness due to governments' decisions or the required quarantine routines.

Facilitating recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, Farasooye Taaly NGO has directed its focus on mental health supports for Farsi-speaking individuals across the globe. In particular, it has organized numerous online classes that help participants in sustaining their mental health through studying psychology books, exercising self-development skills, and daily meditation. To improve the quality of education, participants have been interacting and sharing their interpretations from book readings and exercises within groups, such that more experienced NGO members would voluntarily help new participants in understanding the concepts. Such experiences have primarily proven to us that in addition to social learning, participants would benefit from human interactions and would experience improved mental mood during these isolation times enforced by the pandemic.

Remarkably, Taaly NGO has organized workshops for young girls from underprivileged families and “working children” as well as their teachers. Note that numerous geographical regions in Iran (Islamic Republic of), have limited/no access to the free internet and technological infrastructures, which in addition to the enforced economic crisis by the pandemic, introduces another challenge to social activists and NGOs in continuing their services.

We, as the volunteers of Taaly NGO, invite all member organizations of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to support the mental health of the world communities, especially the developing countries that face financial challenges. We also ask ECOSOC to provide opportunities for conversations between NGOs with common goals and activities to transfer experiences.

Governments are expected to support all members of the society with supportive and encouraging policies, as well as funding for personal development and mental health, to ensure that no one falls behind in self-awareness training, especially in disadvantaged areas.

In the end, we inquire for the help of all experts and psychologists with diverse experiences, and we hope that all human beings can take care of themselves in the face of any global crisis in order to create a beautiful world for themselves and others.

149. **Federación de Mujeres Progresistas**

We want to manifest our concern about the setbacks that the pandemic has meant for equality and the rights of Spanish women in areas such as education, health, or employment, as well as the increased vulnerability of victims of gender violence. Therefore, we propose:

- The revaluation of feminized professional sectors that are fundamental for the sustainability of society, paying special attention to the creation of a care system with a gender perspective, which values not only dependent people, but also caregivers, dignifying their work with fair working conditions, in which institutional co-responsibility takes on a priority role.
- Evaluate the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the equality of companies and continue to ensure awareness on the matter. In addition to assessing the impact of remote work on workforce, especially women, guaranteeing the right to digital disconnection and work-life balance.
- Continue promoting the potential of inclusive, equitable and quality education as a tool to promote gender equality and empowerment, favour a professional choice free of gender roles and stereotypes, based on individual talents, capacities, and competencies, as well as prevent gender violence and promote learning in peaceful conflict resolution. We will not be able to achieve a democratic society and full citizenship if we do not commit to equal education.
- Promote volunteering as a model of participation, to alleviate the inequalities increased by COVID 19. In this sense, the volunteer actions that were developed and are being developed in this crisis are aimed at improving the situation of vulnerability that has had a hard impact on the women (school support with minors who are victims of gender violence, gender digital divide, awareness, etc.).
- Improve the biopsychosocial health of women at risk of social exclusion from a gender and intercultural perspective, working on the impact that gender mandates have on their health, accompanying and advising to facilitate access to resources. In addition, offer care spaces to professionals in the social health field to contribute to the improvement of their health by facilitating the emotional breakdown derived from the care carried out.
- Study the biopsychosocial effects of gender-based violence on women and their children during confinement, reinforcing the specialized staff of comprehensive recovery resources, expanding protection measures and police monitoring, planning a system of economic aid for rapid processing for those most in need. It is essential to adapt early detection actions to the new reality of the health system.
- Finally, we consider that it is essential to work for the abolition of prostitution, as it is a form of violence against women and, therefore, a barrier to more egalitarian and violence-free societies.

150. Federación Española de Mujeres Directivas Ejecutivas Profesionales y Empresarias FEDEPE

FEDEPE was born in 1987 to visibilize the talent and leadership of women, and today we have more than 26,000 members. We want to draw attention to the socioeconomic impact that the pandemic is having on women, exacerbating gender inequality around the world. In Spain, the face of unemployment and job insecurity is female. Ours is the European country in which unemployment has grown the most during the crisis. During 2020, female activity rate fell by more than 10 points and 74% of part-time work was in the hands of women. In addition, our own data obtained through our FEDEPE Barometer, shows that among those women who do continue to work, 35% have needed external help to reconcile their professional and personal life during the pandemic. This, along with gender violence and precarious feminized sectors have increased their risk of social exclusion and poor health. According to our own data, 87% of women claim that this pandemic has negatively affected their mental health.

Paradoxically, women are both the victims and the solution to this crisis. Despite our efforts, we are still underrepresented in decision-making bodies of governments, institutions and agencies. Although the Spanish government has a wide representation of women, there is still much to do in the business world. There are only three women in charge of the main companies in the country. And 10 of those companies still do not have a woman among their advisers. Spanish women continue to have great difficulties in reaching leadership positions and in some sectors, such as technology, our representation is especially low: only 6% of management positions in digital companies are held by women. The pandemic has not only highlighted job insecurity and the lack of women in the spheres of power, but has also widened the gaps, putting at risk the 2030 Agenda and the fulfillment of the fifth Sustainable Development Goal in particular.

At FEDEPE we try to improve this reality by offering training programs for women, doing advocacy, and holding events and activities that make women's needs visible. However, we also demand commitments at the international level, and the implementation of effective measures with a gender perspective that avoid losing decades of progress on equality. These measures involve investing more in the care economy; improving working conditions in feminized sectors; access to financing and technological training; co-responsibility and conciliation policies; work environments free from harassment and violence and promotion of female leadership. That is the only way we can guarantee a cross-cutting and egalitarian economic reactivation that leaves no one behind.

151. BPW Spain (Federación Internacional De Empresarias BPW Spain)

BPW Spain objectives and actions are always focused on SDG fulfillment from a gender perspective so that equality (SDG5) and the empowerment of women and girls is a reality. The Covid-19 pandemic has raised new barriers to building inclusive and prosperous economies and societies. Pre-existing gender gaps have amplified the crisis asymmetrically between men and women.

We must be clear that pandemic has aggravated the slow progress towards the achievement of the UN SDG by 2030. However, the massive adoption of digital technologies and greater participation of the private sector have the potential to reactivate action. We have to promote inclusive digitization. Working in partnership with governments and local communities is the key, that way we can systematically address these barriers and the current fragile state of women's participation in the economy, especially in the digital economy. Along with exclusionary gaps in digital infrastructure and unequal distribution of skills, digitalization risks perpetuating discrimination against women and marginalized groups.

Climate change (SDG13) disproportionately affects women around the world. Climate-induced humanitarian disasters often exacerbate existing gender inequalities, leaving women and girls prone to higher rates of violence and malnutrition. Without women leaders in the climate movement, solutions and response to the climate emergency will continue to exclude women's needs and undermine their rights. One third of women's employment in the world is dedicated to agriculture (SDG2) as a source of life, therefore it is essential to increase women's access to land and provide support to women farmers. Women ensure food security in their communities and promote climate resilience. But when it comes to owning land, accessing agricultural inputs, financing and technologies for climate resilience, they lag far behind men. Women are often the custodians of traditional knowledge and stewards of natural resources in their communities. Their experience and valuable insights can help us all better understand managing scarce resources and mitigating climate risks.

The world will be better when women are equally represented as men in decision-making positions. That is why it is very important that women get involved locally and in their personal lives to be leaders and support others to achieve it. If we do not take decisive action to empower and enable more women to claim leadership in politics and public decision-making, we will not achieve equality at the highest levels for the next 130 years. As BPW Spain we will fight for equality, in a world that, after having suffered a serious pandemic such as COVID-19, must learn from its mistakes and move towards a new, more equal and inclusive future.

152. Federación Mexicana de Universitarias

As a consultative entity, the Mexican Federation of University Women (FEMU), is submitting an individual statement for the 2021 ECOSOC High-level Segment. Specifically, FEMU identifies the issue of education (SDG 4 quality on education) as one of the key areas profoundly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Education goes hand-in-hand with three specific SDGs under review: SDG 1 on no poverty, SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth, and SDG 10 on reduced inequalities. Additionally, it is important to bear in mind the interlinkages education has with other SDGs, including SDG 5 gender equality.

New challenges emerged due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Challenges and problems that have emerged in Mexico include the sudden closure of universities across the country, difficulties and barriers link to connectivity and access to technology that have challenge and sometimes left behind students, the inadequate conditions academic staff have endure in order to carry on with their work and responsibilities, and the specific burden on women due to care responsibilities.

Specific actions and recommendations are required. First, governments and international organizations need to promote a public discussion aiming to expand the definition of the right to education. Today more than ever, this must include components such as connectivity, access to knowledge, and information. A new definition of the right to education must also include the teachers. Recognising the teaching profession and satisfying the minimum conditions they ought to have to conduct their work is an inherent element for the fulfilment of this right.

Second, the pandemic has forced the system to innovate. Technologies should be made available at no cost to teachers and students. Connectivity and educational resources should also be available. Open access digital tools should be promoted, supported and training should be provided to teachers and students.

Third, even after the reopening of universities and schools, social distancing will probably linger. Efforts have been made for traditional classrooms to transform. However, social spaces should also be considered and protected. The pandemic, due to isolation, has had significant social and emotional consequences. The school as a physical space is essential as it provides other spaces for social interaction, which is an important element of the learning experience.

Fourth, after reopening, universities and colleges will probably need to make an assessment of the impacts that online education has had on their students. This evaluation should consider the differences caused by the students' individual circumstances, such as gender, belonging to indigenous groups, living in rural areas, or socioeconomic class. The objective will be for each university to create actions and policies aimed at reducing the gaps in knowledge and training that could have been developed among students.

Finally, it is imperative for public financing of education to increase. Governments and international organisations need to increase, guarantee and protect education financing. This could be done by increasing and preserving the share of expenditure for education. This may only be achieved if all actors involved see education as a top priority.

153. Fédération Européenne des Femmes Actives en Famille

Fédération Européenne des Femmes Actives en Famille is a non-denominational, non-profit federation working with and for non-governmental organizations seeking recognition for the unpaid care and domestic work.

The Covid-19 pandemic has redefined the way we perceive the world and ourselves and given us new opportunities to realize what is necessary and how to create new ways forward. Care remains at the heart of society and it has become increasingly evident.

In order to achieve the sustainable development goals we share our main concerns and recommendations.

- Strong and healthy families are the basic unit of society, the first protection system and a key to sustainability and resilience. Families with dysfunctional patterns, often transferred between generations, need tools for change.
- Unpaid caregiving and domestic work has increased during the pandemic and women take the main care responsibility. It remains invisible and increases inequality and poverty. In the report *Extreme poverty and human rights, A/68/293* it is stated that, domestic work and caring for people has remained largely invisible in economic calculations, statistics, policy and political discourse, and is commonly undervalued by society and policy makers, despite the fact that its monetary value is estimated at from 10 to over 50 per cent of GDP.
- Early childhood development must be prioritized in order to achieve peace and sustainable societies. The research about child development shows us the importance of the bonding/attachment with the primary caregiver during the first years of life. Caring and loving environments during the first years could reduce violence. A world resilient to future crises must put human beings and care at the centre of all responses, starting with the most vulnerable. We recommend that:
- Support in a broad spectrum of ways should be provided and enough time given to build and raise strong families. Families have formed a solid base in society during the pandemic. Their importance has become obvious and their wellbeing is crucial.
- Unpaid caregiving and domestic work must be equally valued, protected and recognised on a human, social and economic level. Caregivers are at higher risk of marginalization and poverty and deserve equal rights and protections. Economic security must be strengthened throughout the life cycle and unpaid caregivers seen as rights holders and given a voice in decision making.
- The first years of life impacts on the whole of adulthood and must to be prioritized, protected and valued. Childhood and motherhood are entitled to special care and assistance, as stated in Art. 25.2 in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The way forward should be based on long-term strategies, research and experience, independent of changes of government and different ideologies, where children and their families are prioritized

in decision making. A good example is the National Strategy for Children in Finland with long-term visions for a child- and family friendly society.

In order to create a resilient, equal and peaceful society, we must start with the children and the care they receive, value the invisible unpaid caregiving work and strengthen families.

154. First Modern Agro. Tools Common initiative Group (FL.MO.AT.C.I.G)

The COVID-19 crises has not only slowed down the economy and political issues in the world, it has also led to unprecedented crises on international migration.

The ongoing war in the Anglophone regions of Cameroon has intensified amidst COVID-19 crises. “AMBA” fighters still have camps in the bushes and forests with heavily armed guys rendering the Anglophone regions of Cameroon ungovernable. The Ambazonian government which is actually out of the country with most of its main leaders and funders in the United States of America and Europe have continued to raise funds and to purchase arms from the Western world, deploying them to the boys in the bushes and forests through various unknown means.

Releasing the leaders still in prison, who were arrested in Nigeria in 2017 is crucial in solving this problem. A few weeks or months after their enforced disappearances from Nigeria in 2017, We requested for a meeting with the Human Right Council (HRC) and travel to Geneva from Cameroon to address their enforced disappearances. But when the HRC rejected our proposal on the Swiss dialogue, when we made arrangements with some top leaders of the Ambazonian government to meet with government authorities from both the Swiss and Cameroonian governments, I declined from any other process with the HRC.

Mbuh Raphael through this organization have requested for meetings with the HRC twice and travelled to Geneva in search for a solution for the Anglophone crises, but the impression of the HRC is always that the representative should seek for asylum in Geneva. Does the representative as an individual activist solve the problem by seeking for asylum in Geneva? The answer is No. The Cameroonian government on its part has refused to recognised the efforts of this organization in spite of different letters written to the presidency concerning our efforts and travelling to Geneva to get a solution for the Anglophone crises. The General assembly has also taken our efforts very lightly concerning the Anglophone Crises in Cameroon. This crisis has created an abnormal situation in Cameroon that is different from the entire world, instead of weekends that last for two days-Saturday and Sunday, weekends in the Anglophone regions of Cameroon last for three days -Saturday, Sunday and Monday. Monday is characterised by a ghost town in these regions. This abnormal situation has lasted for closed to five years now and is still continuing, this abnormal situation shows the gravity of the problem that is causing some more that 8 millions people to suffer abnormality every monday for close to five years now.

Concerning COVID-19 and its effects on international migration, the world needs to look into that with a holistic approach. The world needs to reduce or ease sanctions on international migrants such as sanctions going up to 10 years and even rendering migrants persona non grata for a non-criminal migrant error that really destroys some families and institutions especially in Africa. Such sanctions create hollistic problems on international migration.

COVID-19 has become more real as we have had encounters with victims who have been treated with hydroxychloroquin. Though many Christian religious leaders almost misled the world, preaching that COVID-19 is one of the deadly plaques in the book of revelation in the Bible, but careful readers would have understood that these biblical plaques would not come earlier than the year 3838CE.

155. Flora Tristan Peruvian Women's Center

Access to sexual and reproductive health-care services for women and girls victims of sexual violence can meaningfully contribute to the accomplishment of SDG targets 3.7, 10.2 and 16.1, as they relate overall to SDG 5 on Gender Equality. Yet, our organization has observed that the COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically affected the thin advances in access to these services, contributing to the marginalization and revictimization of survivors of sexual violence, in particular youth and underrepresented populations. We are also preoccupied by the fact that the upcoming second round of the presidential elections opposes two candidates who have openly expressed their opposition to sexual and reproductive health rights, raising fears of a decline in the protection of women's rights.

Services in health centers for victims of sexual violence have been reduced during the pandemic, which has particularly affected women and girls in rural areas, thus impeding the application of the principle of 'leaving no one behind'. The response to unintended pregnancies has also been affected, for instance in cases of rape of minors. At least 26 girls aged under 10 years old were forced to give birth in 2020, and 1155 girls aged between 11 and 14 gave birth during that same year. The country's ombudsman reports that undesired pregnancies augmented by 12% in 2020, yet services to respond to these diminished. Between March and April of 2020, for instance, there was a 73% drop in the number of adolescents attended by sexual and reproductive health counselling. There was also a significant drop in the number of therapeutic abortions in 2020, in comparison with 2019.

Women community leaders surveyed by our organization reported that planned parenthood services were interrupted in some places and that health operators were not correctly distributing contraceptives. This is particularly problematic regarding emergency oral contraceptives, which could prevent many forced pregnancies, particularly in young girls. From March to December of 2020, while 786 cases of sexual violence were attended, the Ministry of Health only distributed 250 emergency kits for victims of sexual violence.

To reverse these worrisome tendencies, it is urgent that the Peruvian state qualifies care for women victim of sexual violence as an essential service, with an emphasis on the protection of children and marginalized groups. It must also establish clear guidelines for the free and accessible distribution of emergency kits to prevent undesired pregnancies resulting from rape and decriminalize abortion in cases of rape as a matter of public health. Finally, we urge the future government to take a firm and unequivocal commitment towards its international obligations regarding women's sexual and reproductive rights.

156. Fondation d'Entreprise Sanofi Espoir

La Fondation Sanofi Espoir lutte contre les inégalités en santé en se concentrant sur les personnes et leurs besoins. Pour les populations les plus vulnérables ou marginalisées, il ne suffit pas d'intervenir sur la santé physique et mentale. Il faut dépasser les symptômes et s'intéresser aux causes et revenir à la racine de ces parcours de vie heurtés, fragilisés, menacés. Pour inverser la logique fatale des inégalités en santé, la Fondation Sanofi Espoir plaide pour une approche globale de la personne, avec un accompagnement inclusif.

L'approche holistique reflète l'émergence dans le champ de la santé publique, d'une conception globale de la santé qui reconnaît le rôle fondamental des déterminants de santé, et l'importance d'agir en parallèle du système de soins pour améliorer la santé de la population ou éviter sa détérioration. Si la crise COVID-19 est devenu un véritable révélateur des inégalités qu'elle renforce, elle jette également une lumière plus crue sur le caractère multidimensionnel des inégalités, tel que le défend la Fondation depuis 2018. Elle met l'accent sur les risques spécifiques auxquels font face les populations les plus fragiles et qui se traduisent par un fardeau multiple lié aux conditions de logement (promiscuité, insalubrité, nonaccès à l'eau, isolement, zone urbaine-péri-urbaine), de travail (précarité, secteur informel, possibilité ou non de télétravail), à l'éducation (niveau de littératie, réussite éducative), et à la santé elle-même (exposition au virus, accès aux mesures barrières, comorbidité). Si les partenariats au sens de l'objectif du développement durable n°17 se révèlent évidemment nécessaires, une coordination intersectorielle est indispensable pour assurer le suivi et la mesure d'impact de la synergie des actions. La Fondation Sanofi Espoir a travaillé en ce sens sur ses axes stratégiques comme l'accès aux soins des plus vulnérables en France, la Santé Maternelle, l'oncologie pédiatrique ou la santé des migrants ; toutefois, la transition d'une démarche sectorisée, et au mieux cofinancée, à une approche d'impact collectif est indispensable pour résoudre les défis sociaux d'envergure et elle reste un véritable enjeu qui nécessite d'être accompagné et encouragé.

La période post-crise se caractérisera par une priorisation de l'économie, ce qui risque de compromettre les engagements et les avancées dans les secteurs couverts par certains Objectifs du Développement Durable. Pour que les systèmes de santé puissent rester résilients (coûts, accès et qualité des soins...), il est indispensable d'être dans une approche inclusive et d'améliorer le niveau de littératie des populations, cette capacité à accéder, analyser et s'approprier l'information. Il s'agit là aussi d'un enjeu majeur de santé publique pour que la population soit en capacité de maîtriser au mieux sa santé (facteurs de risque, prévention, autonomie dans la gestion des maladies chroniques...).

Une reprise durable et résiliente dépendra de notre capacité à travailler ensemble vers un but commun. Faisant écho aux principes de Nations Unies où s'harmonisent les efforts des nations vers des fins communes, l'impact à grande échelle des mesures prises pour diminuer le fardeau des inégalités en santé dépendra de l'harmonisation intersectorielle à évaluer le progrès de la même façon et de l'inclusion des populations.

157. Fondation Genereuse Developpement

La pandémie de la Covid-19 a eu des effets considérables sur le développement social et économique à travers le monde. Elle a exacerbé les fragilités structurelles préexistantes au sein des États et a entraîné le ralentissement de l'activité économique ainsi que la réaffectation des investissements. Considérant les restrictions de mobilité qu'impose la maladie et le rôle transversal des technologies numériques, le digital représente une voie crédible afin de favoriser le relèvement et la résilience durable des populations et en conséquence l'atteinte du bien-être pour tous.

La Fondation Génereuse Développement met particulièrement l'accent sur le bien-être, l'accès à l'éducation, l'égalité de sexes et le plein emploi. Ces différents domaines font partie des secteurs les plus touchés par la Covid-19. En effet, la pandémie a entraîné des bouleversements considérables dans la vie quotidienne des individus. 1,6 milliards d'enfants en 2020 n'allaient pas en classe, aujourd'hui encore des millions d'entre eux continuent d'étudier à la maison dans un contexte d'incertitude. Les marchés de travail déjà fragiles ont été déstabilisés, ainsi que la production et la consommation. Les femmes sont les plus touchées par cette situation car les disparités de salaire qu'elles subissaient se sont aggravées ; à ce lourd constat on peut également ajouter l'augmentation de la charge de travail domestique non rémunéré et des cas de violence familiale. Les technologies numériques représentent le moyen pour les communautés de continuer à fonctionner presque normalement et de contribuer à la réalisation des objectifs suscités. L'éducation en ligne, la télémédecine, la digitalisation des administrations publiques et des services de protection civile, sans compter les activités de l'économie numérique sont autant de possibilités qu'offre le numérique pour se relever face à la crise.

Le système éducatif doit être réformé pour aligner les programmes aux réalités du monde actuel et y intégrer l'acquisition des compétences digitales. Il est également indispensable de renforcer les investissements pour la couverture infrastructurelle et de réformer les politiques tarifaires afin de rendre le prix des services abordable pour tous. Il est aussi important d'introduire des contenus en langue locale sur internet et de renforcer les politiques d'innovation numérique en lien avec les besoins sociaux et de business du contexte local. Il faut une réforme des politiques de protection sociale et la digitalisation des procédures de l'administration publique. A cela s'ajoute le renforcement des programmes multidimensionnels d'aide visant les femmes, les jeunes et les groupes marginalisés, celui des projets visant l'accès à l'éducation et la lutte contre les stéréotypes culturels. Des campagnes de sensibilisation pour une utilisation saine d'internet, la protection contre ses dangers et la gestion durable des déchets technologiques doivent être initiées. La coopération internationale doit être renforcée afin d'échanger des bonnes pratiques. Les acteurs de la société civile doivent renforcer le plaidoyer auprès des différentes parties prenantes pour l'égalité des chances dans l'accès à un internet et à un emploi décent, ainsi que le renforcement de l'investissement du secteur privé et de banques de développement.

158. Fondation Medicines Patent Pool

Shortly after the COVID-19 pandemic was declared by the WHO in March of 2020, the global health community quickly realized that equitable access to medicines and technologies for COVID-19 will be a key factor in determining how effectively we deal with this pandemic.

At the request of the WHO and other stakeholders, the mandate of the Medicines Patent Pool (MPP) had been expanded to COVID-19 in March 2020 to include COVID-19 treatments and technologies in order to contribute to equitable access to health technologies applying its proven model of voluntary licensing and patent pooling.

Throughout this pandemic, we have seen the same challenges unfolding health technology after health technology (personal protective equipment (PPE), then diagnostics, then vaccines). As soon as a technology proves to be effective, demand increases substantially, supply is unable to meet demand, equity issues arise, with low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) often losing out, and manufacturing countries placing constraints on exports. Part of it seems inevitable. It is hard to predict what will work, what is needed. Once a technology is known to work, we need very large quantities, almost immediately.

There is clearly no magic solution to address the mentioned challenges. Supply cannot be provided overnight for any technology. Repeatedly, the concept of broad licensing has been proposed as a way to expand supply, make use of existing manufacturing capacity across the globe and enable a more geographically diverse supply base.

In this context, the importance of public health licensing that is developed with a clear objective to meet public health goals has also repeatedly been flagged. Public health licensing, together with appropriate technology transfer, as practised by the Medicines Patent Pool over the past 11 years, is about seeking the right – and often difficult – balance between the legitimate commercial interests of innovators, the need for sustainability for the recipients of licences and the critical public health needs of society. The result has been that these licences do indeed address public health needs through the following guiding principles:

- Driven by the public health requirement for affordable, high-quality health technologies;
- Focused on accelerating access by enhancing manufacturing capacity that is specifically geared towards addressing the needs of the most vulnerable, those that often otherwise lose out;
- Non-exclusive, facilitating price reductions through competition and making use of the wide geographical footprint of suppliers around the world to ensure supply security and local production;
- Transparent, as that is critical to achieving trust;
- Flexible to adapt to the specific needs and circumstances;
- Additional and complementary to other access approaches; and
- Voluntary, counting on the commitment of all parties.

Thus, the public health licensing mechanism through the MPP is not just a theoretical construct. This approach is currently in use in global health and has succeeded in delivering over 18 billion

pills in over 140 countries. The MPP licensing model can be part of the solution and will therefore continue to put its expertise and experience in this area at the disposal of the international community.

159. Fondation Ostad Elahi - Éthique et solidarité humaine

Les temps de pandémie virale que nous vivons ont particulièrement mis en évidence un accroissement de la fragilité des personnes âgées, de leur perte d'estime de soi, du sentiment de contrôle sur leur vie, et de leur mal-être général, liés à plusieurs phases de confinement et/ou isolement, notamment au sein des Établissements d'hébergement pour personnes âgées dépendantes. En France, près d'un tiers des décès liés à la pandémie y ont eu lieu.

C'est pourquoi la Fondation Ostad Elahi - éthique et solidarité humaine, reconnue d'utilité publique, souhaite répondre à l'objectif 3 de l'agenda 2030 du développement durable qui vise à "assurer la santé, notamment la santé mentale, et le bien-être de tous". Sachant que la longévité s'accroît chaque année d'environ un trimestre, les propositions qui suivent ont une utilité qui va au-delà de la crise liée à la pandémie.

Dans un rapport pour le gouvernement français, le professeur Olivier de Ladoucette montre que la bonne santé des personnes âgées s'inscrit dans une approche bio-psycho-sociale qui tient à quelques facteurs principaux : l'exercice physique et l'évitement des maladies, une alimentation vertueuse, le maintien autant que possible d'une activité cognitive élevée, de relations sociales fortes et enfin l'engagement "avec soi-même", c'est-à-dire la spiritualité. C'est sur ce dernier aspect, le moins développé et valorisé parmi ces facteurs, que la Fondation Ostad Elahi propose quelques préconisations.

Réussir sa vieillesse, c'est s'adapter en permanence à des changements d'ordre physique, social, psychologique, qu'une démarche spirituelle personnelle appropriée favorise grandement. Celle-ci peut inclure :

- Un travail d'épuration des trois R - remords, rancune, regrets. Très fréquents avec la vieillesse, ce sont des fardeaux empêchant l'advenue d'un mieux-être. Cette épuration passe notamment par le développement de sa capacité à pardonner à la fois les autres et ses propres erreurs.
- L'acceptation de sa propre finitude. Dans les sociétés modernes et mécanistes, il existe "une approche névrotique du vieillissement", qui se traduit entre autres par des taux élevés de suicide des personnes âgées. En encourageant une pratique spirituelle propre à chacun - sous forme de prières, méditation, lecture de textes sacrés, sentiment de connexion avec une transcendance, etc., la spiritualité permet d'affronter la maladie, la douleur et l'idée de la mort avec plus de sérénité.

L'ensemble de ce travail sera favorisé par de l'aide personnalisée et la mise en place dans des structures adaptées, d'ateliers, conférences, débats animés par des psychologues, philosophes ou religieux sur l'importance de la spiritualité pour le bien-être en âge avancé.

Enfin, la perspective que la vie ne s'arrête pas à la mort du corps biologique - l'hypothèse de la survie de la conscience fait l'objet de plus en plus de recherches scientifiques - a des effets positifs notoires sur l'ensemble des facteurs favorisant la santé des personnes âgées. Il s'agit donc d'encourager ces recherches qui, si elles confirmaient l'hypothèse, auraient un retentissement

profond sur le sens que l'homme donne à sa vie et sur les moyens permettant la construction d'une vie meilleure.

160. Fondation pour un Centre pour le Développement Socio-Économique

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the world in every aspect of life. In order to counter its negative impact on health, wellbeing and economic prosperity, all countries must focus on effective Public Goods delivery. This refers, above all, to “Common Goods for Health” (CGH) in the form of disease surveillance (a non-exclusive and non-rival consumption good), medical and solid waste management, community engagement, regulation of water and air quality, accreditation of health facilities and health providers, regulation of safety of medicines and medical devices which are all important factors of health care and well-being commonly funded and employed by public and private entities to secure welfare gains for the community at large.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also highlighted another important public good, food security. According to António Guterres, UN Secretary General, more than 700 million people do not have enough food to eat. With COVID-19 this number is growing, both in underdeveloped countries and in some western democracies. It has been predicted that if the world doesn’t react, “we could be facing multiple famines of biblical proportions” (David Beasley, Executive Director of the World Food Program).

Responding to the pandemic requires targeted policies to support health and economic survival. Many remedial measures are based on the understanding that health and economic survival are based on a sustainability mindset that acknowledges the importance of public goods which are foundational to guarantee individual persons’ health and livelihoods, and individual companies’ economic survival.

For the post-COVID survival of the economy and its enterprises, we need to reassess the negative externalities or external damages enterprises that might occur due to the current ways of operating and instead refocus on efforts to invest in reducing negative impacts on the environment, on their workers, on customers and on society at large. To be successful in a sustainable manner, enterprises must use public goods diligently and should be willing to support them not only financially, but also within their operational sphere of activities. Such support is prompted through practicing responsible business conduct including respect of human rights and contribution through fair taxation.

The corporate world is steadily realizing that the survival of their business requires public goods such as non-discriminatory laws and a transparent and accountable administration to ensure the public goods of universally available water, air, energy, education, means of transportation, and housing. Public goods can also be made available through an efficient management of resources, for example, following the strategy of sustainable development along the principles of responsible production and circular economy.

To survive the current and future pandemics and other manmade catastrophes, governments, businesses, and civil society must come together for the common good! The 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development puts forth specific goals for the next decade. In order to achieve them, the concepts and theories of public goods need to urgently return into the public discourse and policies must be developed to build a more sustainable future for all.

161. **Fondazione di ricerca scientifica ed umanistica Antonio Meneghetti**

“The Education of the leader in the 21 century: the leader is the one who is the best servant of others” was the title of a training course organized by The Antonio Meneghetti Scientific and Humanistic Research Foundation, in January 2021. The course has been streamed online on an international scale. The objective of this course was to contribute to the reflection on the role of leaders (with a special focus on politics, public sphere and education) in facing societal challenges in an effective, socially fair and responsible manner, enhancing human-centred development, increasing awareness of the importance of a servant approach and mutual respect within and between teams and stakeholders who cooperate on practical solutions to issues brought by the post-pandemic reconstruction.

A series of interactive lectures were concentrated on the most impactful ways in which leaders can drive a positive turn in the communities in which they serve, especially in the pandemic situation. It gathered international experts from different fields of leadership training as well as politicians, stakeholders, representatives of civil society and young people, with the aim of identifying together innovative courses of action to equip our leaders for the upcoming era.

In a moment of deep, unprecedented changes, opening new horizons and paving a way to creativity rooted in authentic, humanistic values is more important than ever. This is why our Foundation, whose main aim is to promote and disseminate the principles of Humanism, wishes to actively contribute to preparing our leaders for effectively solving issues while navigating uncharted waters.

A special focus was on politics leaders that nowadays have to find innovative solutions for collectivities in the COVID 19 pandemic. A very urgent issue because today’s political crisis situations are intertwined with the educational emergency. Our Foundation has therefore promoted and award, to be assigned to the best educational project on Pedagogy and Politics, by the end of this year.

- Pedagogy must be contextualized within current historical facts. The formalization of a pedagogy in step with the pandemic situation assigns an indispensable role to the reformulation of the political landscape.
- Politics should be one of the most noble educational tools because it should be the bearer of the needs of the human being, also capable of proposing challenges to new supranational situations, as the pandemic one.
- Pedagogy and Politics have a reciprocity of functional value: the person for the social and the social for the person. The link between education and politics is certainly a guarantee for both, in order to urgently build trust and cooperation between governments and people.

162. **Fondazione Proclade Internazionale – Onlus**

Fondazione Proclade Internazionale–onlus is the registered Non-Profit Organization of the Claretian Missionaries, promotes integral social development and actively collaborate with its network of Non-Governmental Organizations in various countries.

We promote, and actively involved, in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals through the developmental projects and programs in 68 countries, especially in the underdeveloped regions. Our projects at this time of Covid-19 pandemic have been directed to mitigate the impacts of hunger and poverty, and to promote access to health and digital facilities.

We focus on five proposals with the perspectives of sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the construction of an "inclusive and effective path to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda":

1. Payment of Ecological debt and Carbon Pricing (Generating finance for Sustainable Development Goals): We believe that it is necessary to put the Ecological debt and Carbon Pricing at the center as criteria for economic justice while the relaunching the post-pandemic economy. Regions such as the Congo Basin or the Amazon must be rewarded for the environmental contributions they have been making and will make in the future. The countries that have enriched themselves with the use of the natural resources of these regions, should pay the ecological debt. The countries which have caused greenhouse gas emissions have to pay the prize for it. The generated fund is a necessity for the attainment of 2030 Agenda in the developing countries.
2. End poverty (Goal 01): It is necessary to set a just fare price for peasant production and generate better marketing conditions for agricultural products. This can go a long way in alleviating poverty among small-scale food crop farmers, who are mostly poor.
3. Freedom from hunger (Goal 02): The current world economic crisis, aggravated by the pandemic, makes it necessary to discuss the Universal Basic Income. It has been considered as an instrument for alleviating the hunger and for promoting socio-economic justice. Apart from removing hunger, Universal Basic Income can provide material resources which individuals need to achieve the goals and projects of life.
4. Access to health coverage and vaccine (SDG 03): To survive through the pandemic, the poor people require easy access to health care facilities.
5. Bridging the digital divide (Goal 09): The access to communication technology and to the Internet becomes a basic need now. This is essential to realise the fundamental rights such as the expression of thought, the participation in the socio-political process and the education. But in reality, there exists a digital divide among the countries and people. Hence the digital divide has to be merged.

163. Foundation for Research on Technology Migration and Integration

Vaccinating the largest share of the world's population is the unique strategy to exit the COVID-19 pandemic. The spread of COVID-19 and its variants demonstrate that the speed of the virus is a multiplier factor of its effects in terms of casualties and socio-economic damages. There are many areas in the world currently left behind in the vaccine race, and this could make them the birthplace of new variants more and more resilient to existing vaccines. Against this backdrop, there are two challenges the international community must face to both tackle the COVID-19 pandemic and contribute to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals 3 and 10, respectively aiming at ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages and reducing inequalities:

- A. How to produce large quantities of low-cost vaccines without perturbing the international patent systems on which multinational pharmaceutical companies rely.
- B. How to provide vaccines to people living in less developed countries, and especially to people living in scarcely populated and remote areas.

According to our opinion, the best way to address such challenges is collaboration, a joint effort towards the creation of COVID-19 vaccines for oral administration. Further to this, with regard to the challenge referred to in point (A.) above, a joint commitment of the Group of Twenty with a financial contribution of the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Health Organization is needed. This may set the ground for an international initiative involving multinational pharmaceutical companies as well as health research centres operating worldwide working together to create a COVID-19 vaccine for oral administration to win the challenge. In such a case, intellectual property rights and related patents should remain with the United Nations or with any of their agencies licensing the production of the vaccine under the constraint of price accessibility - also for less developed countries. Once vaccines for oral administration were available, addressing the challenge referred to in point (B.) above would be easier, since there would be no need in having health staff competencies to administer them. This would therefore avoid any logistical barrier to a widespread vaccination campaign.

164. Foundation for the Social Promotion of Culture (Fundación Promotion Social de la Cultura)

The aim of this declaration is to highlight the interdependence and interrelatedness of the SDGs as a holistic and multidimensional approach to achieve the goals set by all the United Nations by 2020. Collaborative work, in alliance and based on equitable inclusiveness, is the most appropriate way to leave no one behind. And in this regard, organized civil society, especially NGDOs, are an important vector due to their unquestionable experience in working with duty-bearers and rights-holders, supporting the capacity building of some and the empowerment of others, to achieve the development goals and objectives, which are the goals and objectives of the 2030 Agenda, addressing the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental.

The year 2020 dawned with the great challenge of promoting a decade for action that would bring to fruition the goals to be achieved at the end of the road, in accordance with the 2030 Agenda. And the first quarter of the year ended with another major challenge that is proving a challenging global turning point: combating the COVID-19 pandemic. This pandemic has brought to the forefront values such as resilience, alliances, collaboration and inclusiveness, accentuating some directly related sectors such as the environment, responsible consumption, health and water, which are having such a direct impact on poverty, hunger and the growth of inequalities. Today, more than ever, we are aware of how the different SDGs are interrelated, how they affect each other and how we need to work together to overcome obstacles and overcome common challenges. Organized civil society has an unquestionable responsibility and an important role to play in contributing to these objectives. In this regard, Social Promotion Foundation's mission is to ensure that all people can live in accordance with their human dignity, being the protagonists of their lives and the driving force of their own development. To this end, since 1987, it has sought to promote sustainable human, social and economic development through its programs and projects implemented in all the major geographic regions of the world.

2020 has been an important year in the lives of all people: those we work with in developing countries to help increase their capabilities, social participation and access to rights, but also the people who are part of the work teams of our partners and our own team. In this necessary building of resilience, we have had to adapt to new work formulas, successfully overcome adversities related to work-life balance, the digital divide and the care of all human resources, both at the head office and in our regional offices, to ensure the safety and health of people. Added to this is the challenge of implementing projects already underway in the field when COVID-19 broke out and practically everyone came to a standstill at the same time. By making contingency plans, it has been possible not to suspend almost any of the projects underway, with the objective of responding to the resolution of the problems previously identified, but also to those that have arisen with the pandemic. In the countries where we work, where social, labor and legal security is not comparable to ours, paralyzing processes such as development projects could have much more serious consequences on the populations, at the community and individual levels, than initially expected. In the same way, it has been possible to start new projects, these already adapted in origin, even in budgetary terms, to the COVID-19 situation, because another of the great challenges left by the pandemic is access to resources. The globalization of the pandemic has led to the globalization of its effects, with an economic repercussion that we could call unprecedented due to the degree of impact and its scope. Added to a process of economic recession, a serious political crisis and the

characteristics of a sector that is always precarious, far from reaching the common commitment to allocate 0.7% of the gross domestic product of the countries that are part of the OECD DAC to Official Development Assistance. It delves into a systemic problem that hinders medium- and long-term planning, which is fundamental for building resilience based on inclusive processes.

Based on the above, expectations are not very positive. Resources, capabilities and various circumstances mean that the development of the pandemic and the path towards its end is being very uneven in the different states of the world, with the WHO recently proclaiming that its zenith has not yet been reached. Although already underway, the also uneven vaccination programs confirm that the resolution of the pandemic is far from complete. This leads us to ensure that preventive and support measures for the most vulnerable population will continue to be necessary for a time horizon that could last at least another year. And then, the return to what we knew before March 2020 as "normality" will necessarily occur gradually, which points to the establishment of a period of time in which it will be necessary to live with certain precautions and limitations that will continue to affect the development and economic growth of the people. In this regard, cooperation is a key instrument for advancing equality and leaving no one behind. And civil society is an indispensable actor to contribute to the support of policies and initiatives that emerge from the states. Our proximity to the most vulnerable communities combines an informed knowledge of the context and a support capacity based on trust, which offers guarantees of success in the appropriation of programs and projects that contribute to reducing the impacts of COVID-19. It is precisely this proximity and that of our local partners that allows us to have objective data on the situation that is being experienced at the community level, and which serves as a reference for the above. Thus, as the priority is to save lives, it is essential to continue carrying out actions that immediately contribute to this, through SDGs 3 and 6. But also, maximize efforts to avoid the impacts of the pandemic, visible since the first wave and still lingering, on poverty rates (SDG 1), hunger (SDG 2), lack of access to decent work (SDG 8) and therefore, the increase of inequalities (SDG 10), being these the most urgent areas of attention from the point of view, experience and capabilities of Social Promotion Foundation to contribute to an inclusive transformative recovery. To this end, our recommendations can be summarized as follows:

- To continue joining efforts from international development cooperation to leverage the necessary resources to implement actions aimed at the sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic under the economic, social and environmental dimensions: SDG 17.
- To support health centers that serve the most vulnerable population, not only with the provision of resources and supplies, but also with the creation of personnel capacities that allow changes to be sustainable and sustained over time: SDG 3.
- To promote inclusiveness through projects that analyze the context from a gender perspective and ensure the full incorporation of women in decision-making processes in the private and public spheres that contribute to their socioeconomic empowerment: SDG 5.
- To support entrepreneurship and job training initiatives that contribute to reduce unemployment rates and the creation of economic and social fabric, with priority attention to the youth population: SDG 8.

- To guarantee access to nutritious food by increasing the productive capacity of family farming, and to do so under a multidimensional approach that is respectful of the environment and the management of water resources, while at the same time making it possible to combat hunger and generate surpluses that enable access to other goods. This approach makes it possible to contribute to the achievement of different goals with direct effects on their targets: SDG 2, SDG 6, SDG 12 and SDG 13.
- This approach contributes to the diversification of livelihoods and the promotion of inclusive and sustainable economic growth for the most vulnerable populations: SDG 1.

165. Fracarita International

Fracarita International, under the chaired of Dr. René Stockman, considering the unexpected effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on sustainable development in its different dimensions - economic, social and environmental-, has affected the efforts in different economic activities already developed by many countries, especially the poorest in the world.

1. We extend; our solidarity with all the people and countries affected by the pandemic, as well as our condolences and sympathy to the families of the victims of COVID-19.
2. We acknowledge; with deep gratitude the generosity, solidarity and personal sacrifice of frontline health professionals in the exercise of their duties to contain the spread of the pandemic.
3. We express; our deep concern about the devastating impact of the pandemic on health and especially mental health and well-being, as well as on the achievement of sustainable development, in particular on poverty eradication, education, the environment and the deepening of inequalities within countries; hindering progress towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, leaving no one behind.
4. We urgently call; for the intensification of solidarity, multilateralism and international cooperation at all levels, as well as collaboration between the public, private, civil society and academic sectors to mitigate and overcome the pandemic and its consequences with people at the center and with full respect for fundamental human rights.
5. We urgently call; for universal and equitable access to all diagnostics, treatments, medications and vaccines in the response to COVID-19 as a global priority, as well as their proper distribution, and recognize that the vaccine is a global common good.
6. We reaffirm; our commitment for cooperation and the promotion of multilateralism and solidarity in the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences, especially the well-being of the most vulnerable and those who are suffering from mental health problems or disabilities.
7. We also reaffirm; our commitment to include in our actions for the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, its Goals and targets, which integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development -economic, social and environmental-, to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

166. Franciscans International

Since the start of the pandemic, Franciscans International has raised concerns regarding the intensification of human rights abuses and violations. As we and others have repeated throughout the pandemic, the structural inequalities and injustices that are so clearly present now have not only always existed, but have been evident to all stakeholders. Rather than take action, States have often continued on with policies that directly or indirectly prioritized certain groups of people, while marginalizing or not reaching others. This approach is what inevitably led to the 2020 assessment that the world was not on track to meet the sustainable development goals, and the current stark context highlighted by Covid-19.

This submission will examine the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on the implementation of SDG 2 (zero hunger) and SDG 3 (good health and well-being), and how these are linked to SDG 10 (reduced inequalities). In particular, the submission focuses on peasants and indigenous peoples, and how the discrimination and structural socio-economic inequalities that they have faced historically have been exacerbated, and most clearly exposed in relation to their right to adequate food and health.

Zero hunger

National and local civil society actors with whom Franciscans International works in Guatemala have continued to underscore the issue of food insecurity, including as a result of climate change (and more specifically hurricanes Eta and Iota), and how it is a driver of migration. Franciscans International and partners previously highlighted this in a submission for the Commission on Population and Development.

In addition, while we have previously documented the positive development of self-sustainable food models, notably driven by women who both produce and sell this food to nearby communities, these models were threatened as a result of the pandemic. In order to curtail the spread of the disease, the State officially closed public transportation and markets. In lieu of State action to help these producers, women were forced to carry their produce, often times while also caring for their children, to reach the few nearest open markets during curfew restrictions. In some instances, peasants protested in order to allow for the passage of their food. In the region of Sololá, demonstrations blocked various sections of the inter-American highway. The mobilization of peasants eventually succeeded in ensuring that food produced in the countryside could reach its intended destination, especially in the areas of Sololá and Totonicapán. In contrast, during the lockdown, food and service companies were authorized by the Guatemalan Government to move throughout the country via a transport permit protocol.

Restrictions, coupled with a failure to provide assistance, thus adversely impacted the livelihoods of families, and in particular the ability of indigenous and rural families to have adequate food. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization has recognized similar patterns globally and has called on States to support smallholder farmers. We underscore the importance of such support, given that, as UN figures show, small-scale food producers make up a large number, and often even a vast majority, of all food producers in developing countries.

While community programs and efforts supporting food sovereignty were increased during the pandemic, the Guatemalan Government did not support these community initiatives and associations. Furthermore, the government has been dismantling and weakening institutions that were established to protect and promote human rights and to solve land and agricultural issues. It has also implemented measures that threaten native seeds and biodiversity, such as the use of genetically modified and contaminated products that put risks to the health and to other rights of the communities.

Further, the media has indirectly portrayed community associations as being responsible for spreading the coronavirus, including by stigmatizing them as portions of the population who “do not stay home.” This narrative has sought to target self-employed individuals, street vendors, as well as peasants and other persons working in rural areas, and denounce them as the source of the contagion. In parallel, the reality that agro-industries, mining, and other large-scale commercial activities continued to operate as usual during the pandemic has been concealed.

Franciscans International remains concerned that Guatemala, similar to many other States, has not taken adequate steps to respect, protect, and fulfill the right to adequate food, and toward achieving the goal of “zero hunger.” We underscore that local communities often have the best knowledge in how to ensure sustainability, including through food sovereignty.

Good Health and Well-Being

Images shown the world over highlighted how the pandemic affected certain groups –including minorities and indigenous peoples- disproportionately. Franciscans International's partners underscored that such impacts were often a result of years, and even decades-long policies, which discriminated against certain sectors of a State's population. The effects of such structural discrimination and inequalities became very visible considering the countries that have seen the largest numbers of deaths as a result of the pandemic: The United States and Brazil.

Brazil is of particular concern given the continued increase in cases and deaths; a crisis which has been dubbed as a “humanitarian catastrophe” by Doctors without Borders. Importantly, partners there have underscored numerous examples of either discriminatory policies during the pandemic, or of selective public assistance more broadly. In July 2020, for instance, President Jair Bolsonaro enacted the Bill 1.142/20, which provided measures to curb the advance of the new coronavirus among indigenous, quilombolas and other traditional peoples. However, he vetoed 22 parts of the text, including the Government's obligation to guarantee indigenous peoples' access to drinking water, among other human rights, as key underlying determinants of the right to health. As a result of the vetoed text, the law was practically rendered inefficient.

The Coordination of Indigenous Organizations of the Brazilian Amazon (COIAB), which brings together indigenous organizations from nine Amazonian states, has denounced the Federal Government's neglect towards the indigenous population living in urban and rural areas (about 40% of the national total and located outside of the indigenous/native lands). The country's indigenous health policy, implemented by the Special Secretariat for Indigenous Health (SESAI), serves only those peoples who live on official “indigenous land” (in Portuguese: Terra Indígena - TI), leaving the municipalities in charge of providing care for indigenous people living outside of

such TI. For example, Manaus has an estimated 20,000 indigenous people living in urban and rural areas who are excluded from the indigenous health subsystem of the Unified Health System (SUS).

The inefficient management of public health became more evident with the shortage of oxygen supplies. On 13 January 2021, the city of Manaus buried almost 200 people, while the average before the pandemic was between 30 to 35 burials per day. The main cause of the increase in deaths was soon revealed: the lack of oxygen in hospitals and the fragile hospital infrastructure.

It is only after desperate relatives protested outside the hospitals that the Brazilian Air Force was asked to transport, as an emergency measure, the liquid oxygen cylinders from stocks available in other states of the Federation. However, there was a halt in the emergency transportation of oxygen supply to the state of Amazonas due to technical problems in the aircraft on 14 January 2021 and later due to the logistical incapacity to meet the doubled demand as explained by White Martins, the company responsible for most of the supply flow. The result was the increase in deaths from Covid-19 in Amazonas. We called attention to this dire situation alongside partners at the 46th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council.

According to the researcher Jesem Orellana, from the Instituto Leônidas & Maria Deane (ILMD/Fiocruz Amazônia), "this seems to be part of a project that many insist on not seeing, and, in this case, Manaus is the open-air laboratory where all kinds of negligence and barbarity are possible, without punishment and any threat to the hegemony of those responsible for the (non-)management of the epidemic at the most different levels."

Having in mind the situation in Guatemala and Brazil mentioned in this submission, we underscore that indigenous people, peasants, and other marginalized groups are not only victims of discrimination and disproportionately impacted by State violations of human rights. They are also key actors in the solutions to the multiple crises we are facing, including in the care of our planet. Only a coherent and integrated approach of the recovery driven by the compliance of States with their human rights obligations, especially in relation to economic, social and cultural rights, and vis a vis those who are victims of racism and other forms of discriminations, carries hopes to redress the situation we have put ourselves into. Such an approach grounded in human rights is also the only way the SDGs will be achieved.

167. Friends of ISTAR

Energy democratization - the decentralizing of energy ownership, production, distribution, and management - is a stabilizing force that will contribute to global security. It will help bridge the significant socio-economic gaps that oftentimes lead to social upheaval, civil strife, crime, and terrorism. Locally owned and locally sourced renewable energy such as wind, solar, geothermal, and hydro will lessen the risk of confrontation between states over competition for fossil fuels such as oil and natural gas. A shift to energy democratization will also play a significant role in combatting climate change – a paramount global security concern.

Decentralization of energy empowers lower income citizens, spurs economic growth and innovation, provides reliable access to technology, and adds efficiencies and new sectors to the energy marketplace. Where energy is not always reliable, democratization will allow for more consistent availability, contributing to physical and communal security for underserved vulnerable populations living in the most remote regions. The scourge of terrorism arises, in large measure, due to poverty, lack of employment opportunities, and marginalization from the political system. Energy democratization addresses all these factors, and thus would assist in preventing radicalization and politically motivated violence.

The great power competition for energy is a high stakes endeavor. States will pursue their fossil fuel-based energy goals with the threat or use of military force. As these finite resources dwindle and energy demands increase, the likelihood of kinetic conflict increases. Shifting to renewable energy sources that do not require military brinksmanship will disincentivize the interventionism and foreign policy adventurism that contribute to state failure and to the destabilization of the global commons. Energy democratization, by domesticating resources, would play a major role in the elimination of critical friction points between states on a global scale. Funds currently spent on exploration and drilling could be diverted back home, an expense reallocation that would ultimately be a boon for national and local economies.

How do we incentivize the “energy elites”? For governments, energy democratization will lead to less bureaucracy, a higher employment rate and a new tax base as innovation and entrepreneurship will emerge from privatization. For corporate entities now dominating the energy market, their efforts in support of democratization should be rewarded, possibly in the form of tax breaks, sharing of I/P rights, green energy stimulus packages, and by securing a continued role in the future of energy through public private partnerships.

Climate change is inextricably linked to energy democratization. To reduce carbon emissions in a broader effort to combat climate change, we need what the World Economic Forum calls a “new energy order.” Current trends strongly suggest that the failure of nations to meet their targets under the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change will cause catastrophic economic loss. The resulting devastation from rising temperatures caused by greenhouse gas emissions – much of which comes from dirty fuel production, transport, and consumption – will inevitably lead to food scarcity, new zoonotic and biological threats, and rising sea levels that will render people, homes, vital infrastructure, and entire cities vulnerable across the globe.

168. Fundação Antonio Meneghetti

Addressing the thematic of the 2021 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), we would like to present our contribution. In our region, in the countryside of the southmost state of Brazil, named Rio Grande do Sul, COVID-19 pandemic has impacts specially on the SDGs 1 (no poverty), 2 (zero hunger), 3 (good health and well-being), 8 (decent work and economic growth) and 10 (reduced inequalities). For our NGO, this is all interlinked to SDG 4 (education for all), in which our work takes special attention. Throughout this pandemic, our perception has been that the work opportunities have diminished and the poverty and hunger in our region raised. Families who have low income are being affected more than others, because they have low access to Internet and to a good house with sanitation and basic conditions. This puts them in more danger in what regards their good health and well-being. Social isolation makes children suffer of educational lack of assistance. These are points requiring urgent attention. Bearing in heart the principle that no one is left behind, we have started a work in regional level. Through means of partnerships with city halls of the nine cities where we work, with public schools' network of those municipalities, and with civil society, we have been promoting actions targeting sustainable and resilient recovery from the pandemic. We have made the delivery of kits with food, health items, and didactic material for all the 1,2 thousand children that nowadays are reached by our educational and social projects. We have delivered to the poorer new clothes for the winter. Our team has been visiting the students in their houses in order to verify if they are reaching the school activities that their teachers send them and if they are able to finish those activities. The teachers of the public schools have been participating of virtual support groups with our councilors in order to share their fears and expectations. Projects as our Youth Orchestra, Soccer Project, Choir for Elder People and the Reading Project have been keeping their activities in a virtual manner. Our projects that follow this perspective are all based on the principles of the Ontopsychological Pedagogy, on the SDGs and on the UN Chart. We believe that communication is the key bases to help children and young people to overcome the effects of the pandemic. Virtuality can help us in that purpose. In the way forward we expect to keep helping this young people to feel closer to their community and we do recommend that this aspect is taken into consideration by the HLPF.

169. Fundacao de Assistencia Medica Internacional

The Covid-19 pandemic has enhanced the inequalities prevailing in the world, and severely compromised the 2030 Agenda. It is also causing a setback in the social and development cooperation work developed by civil society organizations (CSO's), which, in view of the increase in poverty and unemployment, are forced to provide emergency responses instead of concerted and long-term solutions aimed at breaking the poverty's cycle.

In our work, as a humanitarian and development aid NGO, even though strongly affected economically, we are experiencing this since 2020, in which we had a 10% increase of new people seeking for support and a 31% increase of the requests for food aid in our social facilities in Portugal. Moreover, in the first quarter of 2021, we have already registered an 11% increase of new social aid requests and a 33% increase of food aid demands. As it is well known, food is a matter of survival that, if not resolved, will limit all social intervention work, so it's a top priority, but with limited resources, CSO's don't have the capacity to tackle basic needs and promote a more sustainable solution when facing a significant increase in aid requests. Therefore, it is extremely important to empower CSO's, so that they can implement successful solutions to eradicate poverty and hunger and reduce inequalities.

Additionally, the local organizations which we support in several countries of the world are facing the serious consequences of the pandemic, on health and on the economy. Therefore, in addition to supporting new projects, we have maintained all the support we were giving, having accepted to redirect efforts, at the request of some organizations, to stop the spread of Covid-19 and face the economic difficulties in the regions where the projects were being implemented. We reaffirm that due to the urgency to respond to basic needs, this is unquestionably a priority, but the development process is compromised along the way.

Environmental protection is also lagging behind and climate change is moving forward, but it cannot be acceptable to aggravate one problem to solve another. Future generations will already be severely affected by the lasting consequences of the pandemic, so it is imperative not to leave the 2030 Agenda behind and continue to gather concrete efforts to contribute to the SDG's in order to reduce inequalities and provide dignified living conditions to all, even during challenging times. Solidarity is needed now, more than ever and it is of the utmost importance that governments, organizations and citizens act together with confidence, determination, honesty and bravery to attain global goals that will benefit all humankind.

170. Fundación Abba Colombia

COVID19 is impacting in different ways and levels civil society, Fundacion AbbaCol will mention its mandate and how we are working towards a more effective and inclusive path towards the SDGs agenda 2030. Fundacion AbbaCol is impacting in a positive way society with ethical and social responsibility as well integrating the communities we are reaching out and transforming them with ethical principles based on our work. We are providing humanitarian support during this covid19 pandemic to population who do not have access to technology; we want our work to enter into a new dimension of technological inclusion to transformed our society and developed social responsibility among the most vulnerable. The importance of connecting technology and different Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in this time is essential to develop our work more effective in educational, humanitarian and social arena. As an organization we believe the importance of digital inclusion for migrants, displaced population affected by the war in Colombia and those who do not have access to technology as a priority. Connecting technology with our humanitarian work by using different ICTs, as well implementing new ways to reach out the rural areas and zones that don't have access to technology in Colombia. The implementation of technology on our project has been key to develop a more effective way of reaching out to the affected population during this covid19 pandemic, the use of different ICTs like mobiles, computers, etc has been essential especially when we go into the field and help the target population. Fundacion AbbaCol is focusing on the following objectives of the sustainable development goals 2030 to prioritize our work.

Objective 1: No Poverty - With the help of different ICTs, we are combating poverty with the support of different United Nations agencies in Colombia, this by creating a platform so those in need can access to it.

Objective 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth - With have created the “Business and development centre” to provide tools and connections with national at international companies so people can have access to decent work and economic growth.

Objective 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions - we are reaching step by step that Colombia is a territory of peace, justice and strong institutions.

Something we also want to highlight is that our main focussed as a non-profit organization is the agenda 2030 of the United Nations, and with this agenda we are developing our projects.

As we achieved the above SDGs for our work, we are also working towards the covid19 recovery; as an NGO we are facing two big challenges:

1. Lack of internet network in rural areas
2. Lack of computers for all in rural areas

We continue with our commitment at a national and international level to achieved our goals and work, and building a more sustainable and inclusive work is our target to reach the most vulnerable.

171. **Fundación Argentina a las Naciones Camino a la Verdad**

FANCV suggests bringing Global Population closer to the Understanding of the Nature of emergent True Role of the UN Charter and the Spirit's Purpose that conceived the UN, as harmonizer of the Interregional Promotion and International Cooperation, which main goal is par excellence, the Prioritization of General Welfare of all Peoples of the World.

We imperiously need “Redefine the Scope of the spectrum of the R2P to a “Social, Ethical and Moral Responsibility of the States to Protect Citizenship”, from which its Delegated Authority comes forth”.

Is necessary to open the spectrum of the Field of Action of the Application of the R2P Principle to Global Population by analyzing:

1. What is understood and who is part of a “Vulnerable Population” in the face of crisis situations such as those generated by the COVID-19 Pandemic. Examples:

a) “Pandemic induced developments such as remote work and a surge in telehealthcare owing to social distancing measures have undoubtedly increased the threat surface for healthcare data.... ...Following a data breach, trust in the healthcare sector is eroded and patients can experience feelings of violation, betrayal and heightened insecurity when cybercriminals use stolen data to engage in identity theft.”

b) “healthcare is not only being increasingly targeted by cybercriminals aiming to monetize healthcare data but also by state actors seeking to gain a strategic advantage in the race to vaccine research and development or pandemic-response capabilities.”

c) “Disinformation operations have targeted healthcare both directly and indirectly, exploiting and contributing to the ambiguity of the COVID-19 Infodemic.”

It is necessary to Recognize that the Global Population acquires the character of vulnerable, consequently framing the basic principles of R2P.

It is necessary to Protect Global Citizenship.

The 3 fundamental pillars of R2P are being undermined, meriting the redefinition of its Spectrum of Action.

2. How diversity of “Global Challenges” claims from the Authorities the exercises of a Preventive Diplomacy to the effects to disintegrate unexpected blocks that conspire against the SDGs achievement, mining the Strengthen of Sustainable Development.

To not develop the Prevention Culture constitute itself in the best tool used by greedy minds that work tirelessly on the implementation of a new holocaust, through an agonic passive genocide before which the UN can't stay immune, on the contrary, is the time to expand the Holistic Vision,

Prospective, Inclusive, Solidary and Multi-sectorial, since the lack of prevention is prelude of the genocide. Thus...

“When we don’t do the due...we are accomplices of the undue...”

172. Fundación Descúbreme

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a considerable economic, social, and sanitary impact, and has also deepened the gaps affecting the most disadvantaged groups of society. In this context, people with disabilities have experienced new barriers that have limited or restricted access or participation in different areas of life, such as education, employment, or health care, among others

The purpose of this statement is to encourage the development of initiatives which promote inclusion and the reduction of the gaps experienced by this collective during the current sanitary emergency. This kind of actions are part of the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal No. 10, which addresses the reduction of inequality within and between countries, with a special focus on the most vulnerable groups.

Fundación Descúbreme as a civil society organization that has the mission to promote an integral inclusion of people with cognitive disabilities. In the last year, this organization implemented an online training model program to continue developing job skills to enhance the employability of this collective. Specifically, the training program included a module of transversal skills for work and another module in technical trade in high demand in the labor market.

To improve distance learning, this training modality includes the delivery of a tablet and Internet modem that allows them to connect to daily classes through a video call platform. Besides, the teacher of each course is supported by an occupational therapist who oversee the students' performance, and a person to solve any inconvenience related to the use of the mobile devices. These resources not only facilitate the students' learning of their chosen trade, but also give them the opportunity to strengthen their digital skills.

During 2020, Fundación Descúbreme conducted 73 distance courses and trained 1196 people with cognitive disabilities, which represents an increase of 46.2% in comparison to 2019, where 818 students were trained. It is also worth mentioning that the flexibility provided by digital technologies has made it possible to carry out training in locations that previously could not be reached. These results show that it is possible to continue creating, adapting, and implementing actions and programs aimed at reducing the gaps in labor market participation experienced by the most vulnerable sectors of society.

We make a call on civil society organizations, governments, and the private sector to use the possibilities offered by new technologies and replicate these initiatives in their local contexts. Therefore, it will be possible to develop job skills to enhance the employability of people with disabilities and other collectives, while also preparing for the challenges of an increasingly digital economy.

173. Fundación Luz María

The global pandemic presented unthinkable challenges to all of us. Not only Covid-19 claimed millions of lives worldwide, devastated economies and communities, it also highlighted the inequality and societal unfairness that we must address together through global cooperation and partnership. The catastrophic effects of the pandemic will be felt around the globe for many years to come. Access to remote education exposed the "digital divide" for children in developing countries and rural areas. Workers in the informal economy are in imminent danger of losing their lifelines. A hit to the global food supply chain put vulnerable populations at risk of going hungry. Luz Maria Foundation has been working with the food bank in the organization's hometown of Santiago del Estero, Argentina. This partnership helped ensure that no one in the vulnerable community goes hungry during these trying times. Committing to the Sustainable Development Goal 3 on good health and wellbeing, and SGD 2 on zero hunger are critical foundational steps towards global recovery. This pandemic has made it very clear that no one is safe until everyone is safe. Governments must apply the same philosophy to tackling poverty, reducing inequality, and creating economic growth not for some, but for all. In order to act on the Sustainable Development Goal 8 on decent work and economic growth, member states must not just aim to "get back to normal", but pass legislation and implement policies that address socioeconomic disparities and environmental issues. Member states must expand child care benefits and income support for families affected by the pandemic, invest in digitalization to bridge the technological gap, support small businesses and women-owned businesses, and ensure that access to basic healthcare is a human right, not a privilege.

Governments must acknowledge that the devastating impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic disproportionately affected women. Regulatory bodies must account for the gender poverty gap in their policymaking process. Legislators have to prioritize vulnerable women and girls as they develop policy responses to the Covid-19 pandemic. Another horrific side effect of this global health crisis is the shadow pandemic. Reported cases of domestic violence against women skyrocketed since the beginning of lockdowns. Victims were forced to shelter with their perpetrators making them vulnerable to continuing physical and psychological abuse. Luz Maria Foundation has been a dedicated advocate for women facing domestic violence, we have been working tirelessly to connect victims with the resources and safe shelters they need. The role of civil society and community organizations cannot be underestimated in the holistic process of the pandemic recovery. We must take on this challenge together and seize new opportunities that Covid-19 created space for. Our strength and resilience depend on our mutual respect, humanity, and meaningful partnership.

174. **Fundación Multitudes**

Fundación Multitudes is a non-profit civil society organization focused on developing co-responsibility between citizens and authorities in order to open decision-making processes and strengthen democracy. Its objective is to reduce the existing inequality in the citizen participation in the design of public policies for social development, in the protection of human rights and in poverty alleviation initiatives. Multitudes specifically promotes Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals - “peace, justice, and strong institutions” - but it generally supports the implementation of all the SDGs through its work. It also runs numerous projects in the LAC region to empower women and youth, which both have particular value in accomplishing the SDGs.

Fundacion Multitudes is also the acting Secretariat of the Civil Society Pillar (CSP) of the Community of Democracies (CoD). Being part of such a wide coalition of governments and civil society organizations, it enshrines the importance of cooperation and partnership in addressing global challenges. The CoD and its bodies have shown a great deal of leadership and guidance in the context of the COVID19 pandemic, attempting to promote a resilient recovery from the health crisis we are currently still living in.

Among other initiatives, a “Call to Defend Democracy” was issued in May 2020, during the first wave of the coronavirus outbreak, which shed light over authoritarian regimes which were using the crisis to silence critics and tighten their political grip. The COVID-19 pandemic threatens more than the lives and the livelihoods of people throughout the world. It is also a political crisis that threatens the future of liberal democracy. The COVID-19 crisis is an alarming wake-up call, an urgent warning that the freedoms we cherish are at risk and that we must not take them for granted. Through democracy, citizens and their elected leaders can learn and grow.

Moreover, the CoD Working Group on Enabling and Protecting Civil Society has developed a “Guidance for the CoD Governing Council Member States on the Protection of Civil Space in the Battle against COVID-19” which underlines the vital role of civil society in sharing information, informing responses, advocating for democracy and human rights, and holding governments accountable. Collaboration between governments and civil society will be essential to recovery from this health, economic, social, and humanitarian crisis.

Finally, at Fundación we strongly believe that the empowerment of women in democratic processes is crucial in accomplishing all SDGs. Beyond furthering SDG 5 (gender equality), in fact, gender-balanced leadership and women participation at all levels is also linked with fostering community needs. Their participation not only delivers positive outcomes for their own needs, but it also helps to further SDGs and targets such as quality education, clean water and sanitation, peacebuilding, reduced inequality, and good health and well-being. In our opinion, this extends as well to the COVID19 context. With this in mind, Multitudes have been ideating, developing and carrying out a wide range of capacity building programmes specifically designed for women, supporting their participation in political, economical and social life in Latin America and globally.

175. Fundación Novia Salcedo

In Spain the Covid-19 pandemic has caused a health, economic and social crisis that has exposed and aggravated the inequalities in our society. Youth unemployment has risen to around 40%, affecting a generation that has already seen its expectations and professional development frustrated by the Great Recession. The reconstruction that will follow this crisis has already started down the path of the inevitable green transition which should be based on a social approach to ensure that no one is left behind. The transformation will require a change in the management culture and in the training of workers. Thanks to the collaboration with the regional public employment services, the Basque Government's Public Company for Environmental Management and a wide network of companies, Fundación Novia Salcedo has launched a training programme in 2021 that will enable 60 young graduates to acquire the basic knowledge and skills that companies need to tackle the green transition.

The programme includes guidance and training in soft skills; technical training in sustainable development and the main challenges of the green transition; and the access of young people to companies through paid internships, where they participate in projects that allow them to put the knowledge they have acquired into practice. Businesses must be quick to address the current challenges and helping them to do so is the major innovative aspect of this programme. When identifying internship opportunities, our professionals help the companies to formulate their offers in terms of functions and tasks. The person being recruited is selected based on abilities rather than specific qualifications, therefore increasing the possibilities to a wide range of professional profiles capable of addressing organisational needs.

Group training sessions and individual interviews on how to prepare a curriculum vitae based on the professional skills are also developed. The lack of qualified work experience to submit to selection processes is often one of the major barriers young people face when trying to find a job; therefore, the awareness of the professional skills they have acquired throughout their life, education and career is critical to support their search for a decent job in line with their level of education. Companies and young people understand the needs of the former and the skills of the latter by speaking a common language that breaks down the barriers to employment. Of the first 20 participants, 5 have been hired and 14 are currently on paid internships in companies, highlighting the effectiveness of employee training policies when they are planned on the basis of public-private cooperation and with a view to combining social challenges and the needs of companies.

176. Fundación para Estudio Investigación de la Mujer

The pandemic of Covid 19 has aggravated economic social, economic and other forms of inequalities existing in societies. Those inequalities affected principally women and children, In the case of women, made care work more burdensome and dangerous, decrease the income and capacity of work by women especially those self-employees and in informal work, and increased gender-based violence. Patriarchal gender norms place the burden of care work directly on women and girls' shoulders, exposing them to additional risk as they carry the load for caring in both the professional and domestic spheres.

Regarding SDG 1: poverty, the pandemic dramatically increased the poverty rate for women and widen the gap between men and women who live in poverty. Since 2014, the economic growth in most countries of the region has stagnated and receded, suspending policies aimed at reducing poverty and the growth of poverty to levels that threaten the political stability and democratic rule in many countries. According to the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, a 5.3% drop in GDP and a 3.4% increase in unemployment could represent a 4.4% rise in poverty in 2020 compared to the previous year. This would bring the total number of people living in poverty to 214.7 million, or 34% of the LAC population.

Regarding the negative impact of COVID-19 on SDG 8: decent work and economic growth, the impacts of COVID-19 on women's economic autonomy in Latin America and the Caribbean have been immense. According to surveys carried out by the World Bank, female workers were 44 percent more likely than male workers to lose their jobs at the onset of the crisis. And while temporarily unemployed workers have begun to re-enter the labor market, job losses continue to persist at a higher rate among women: 21 percent of women who were employed prior to the pandemic report that they have lost their jobs. Given social and economic inequalities in the region, increased unemployment as a result of COVID-19 measures will disproportionately impact the poorest and middle classes, likely increasing informal employments as a survival strategy.

We want to emphasize the fact that the HLPF this year must guarantee proposals to change systemic inequalities and promote changes to address those systemic issues that maintain inequalities and affect gender equality, limiting to reach environmental justice and socio-economic transformation. Consequently, this will be only possible through an intersectional approach to the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs. We believe that, for achieving the Agenda, the HLPF needs an integral approach with new and innovative solutions. The problems we are facing due to the current pandemic are interweaved and caused by common systemic challenges. Consequently, we need interlinked solutions that directly address these problematic systems. A comprehensive approach will enable HLPF to provide interlinkages and integration across the SDGs and sustainable development frameworks as well as opportunities for assessing synergies and tradeoffs.

177. Fundación para la Democracia Internacional

The world is in crisis. A climate, economic, political, sanitarian and social crisis, bringing about serious withdrawals to social conquests. Although the food produced is enough to end world hunger, there are still millions of people who go to sleep with hunger every night, half of whom are children. According to the Global Humanitarian Overview 2021 hunger is still on the rise. “By the end of 2020, the number of food insecure people could increase to 270 million due to COVID-19, representing an 82% increase compared to the number pre-COVID-19...” “The effects of the pandemic will increase child hunger, and an additional 6.7 million children are predicted to be wasted by the end of 2020 due to the pandemic’s impact”. “Women and girls represent more than 70% of people facing chronic hunger. They are more likely to reduce their meal intake in times of food scarcity and may be pushed to engage in negative coping mechanisms, such as transactional sex and child, early and forced marriage”.

We are already seeing an increase in trafficking situations even though the number of denounces are less than the same period of previous years. The ever changing nature of this crime makes it more elusive and harder to detect, but is it on the rise. We can see that on the testimonies of people we interview and the statistics of the institutions investigating the creative ways in which the trafficking networks operate. The January 2021 report of the World Bank affirms that between 88 and 115 million people would end up in extreme poverty in 2020 as a result of the COVID-19. This creates the perfect breeding ground for exploiters. In March 2021 the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean claimed that in Latin America the total number of poor people increased to 209 millions by the end of 2020, 22 million more than the previous year. 78 million people of which were in extreme poverty, 8 million more than in 2019.

Furthermore, the International Labour Organization’s Monitor from January 2021 highlighted that “in 2020, 8.8% of global working hours were lost relative to the fourth quarter of 2019, equivalent to 255 million full-time jobs. Working-hour losses were particularly high in Latin America and the Caribbean. Accounting for 71% of global employment losses, inactivity increased by 81 million”. All this loss of formal work is migrating to the informal sector and therefore, facilitating exploitation. Inequality shows no signs of abating. “While nearly half of humanity scrape by on less than \$5.50 a day, the world’s 2,200 billionaires have more wealth than 4.6 billion people combined. The pandemic is exploiting and exacerbating these inequalities, as the poorest people are most impacted by loss of jobs and income. These inequalities trap millions in poverty and in hunger”. 82% of the world’s wealth is concentrated in 1% of the richest people. Since 2010 millionaires’ wealth has increased an average of 13% every year. This is a crime in itself.

178. Fundacion Pro Humanae Vitae

To accomplish the mission of “no one must be left behind”, a recovery and acceleration plan for the 2030 Agenda is vital, applying the principle of subsidiarity to multiply efforts (understood this as the State helping Civil Society to deploy its whole potential for taking action). Together, the States and Civil Society must articulate with the private sector to set a common agenda to generate social inclusion.

The impact of the COVID 19 pandemic halted the progress of the agenda and the implementation of the 17 SDGs around the world as the statistics are demonstrating. The management of the agenda alone by the Nation States is insufficient in most cases, as they are barely covering the basic health needs to alleviate the deterioration in community health produced by the virus.

In this context, civil society has a key role to play as an interlocutor in the post-pandemic, helping in the programmed and methodological exit through the creation of value and facilitating public-private partnership, a key mechanism for social resilience, especially in countries with low institutional quality and serious problems in their development indexes.

In our region in particular, where the differences in the distribution of wealth are expressed in 34.9%, where the population living below the poverty line in the region reaches 33.9% and having an average human development index of 0.766, shows us that the State alone, that governments alone, cannot guarantee the basic welfare state that allows decent living conditions for 646,430,843 people living in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The COVAX mechanism is an example of how multilateralism can help to generate true social inclusion based on the equitable distribution of vaccines in the world. In the same way we can try to address the problems arising from the implementation of the 2030 Agenda post-pandemic by creating global distribution systems based on equity. For this, the strengthening of national governance, with a deep sense of multilateralism, should be an option to take.

Considering that more than seven billion human beings had suffer impacts on their most basic aspects such as health and the possibilities (or not) of vital subsistence; that the economies in many cases are destroyed and reflect negative indexes rarely reached in previous decades leading to a "total social fact"; that the global free transit has been affected and stopped; we must understand them as indicators that teaches us that keeping the same conceptions will not allow us to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, which is fundamental aim is to seek development and opportunities for all the inhabitants of the world.

179. Fundación SES (Sustentabilidad, Educación, Solidaridad)

In the pandemic context, the suspension of classroom education exacerbates digital gap, requires teachers to adapt the curricula, teaching didactics and assessment modalities, and places them facing the challenge of dealing remotely with students needs of socio-emotional support. School closings also affects student's nutrition, especially in the most vulnerable sectors. Beyond this situation, statistical information shows that inequity in access opportunities to quality education and -fundamentally- to satisfactory educational paths were part of the Latin American panorama before the pandemic.

Efforts to guarantee the human right to education and lifelong learning are strategic for the achievement of the 2030 agenda. Many of the Sustainable Development Goals under review in 2021 High-level Political Forum -poverty, hunger, decent work, inequalities, peace, justice and solid institutions- has access to quality education as a condition of possibility. They are the satisfactory educational paths -recognized in their wide range of possibilities in terms of itineraries, chronologies and formats- those which make possible the realization of life projects committed to just, equitable and sustainable social configurations.

If many Latin America and Caribbean countries had failed to comply with the investment of a minimum of 6% of Gross Domestic Product, or 20% of the total public budget in education, the situation in terms of educational financing worsened even more with the pandemic.

Guaranteeing the human right to education is the starting point for the consolidation of a committed citizenship and for strengthening a democratic culture.

The pandemic prolongation and the necessary adoption of behaviors that minimize contagion level may contribute to a retreat into personal and private scope that accentuates the public sphere erosion as a space for collective and transformative action. It is necessary to avoid that the premise of maintaining distance as a way of solidarity transcends the health context, deepening the contemporary capitalism tendency to promote the well-being management as an individual matter. It is essential to ensure environments that stimulate civil society participation and the States are responsible for guaranteeing enabling spaces of citizenship's voice, commitment and initiative. Particularly in the case of youth movements, the lack of advocacy spheres, the persistence of adult centric paradigms and the militancy criminalization inhibit the potential of new generations of citizens.

Based on these diagnostic considerations, we address the States to request that, even facing the complex challenge of managing in a pandemic:

- Maximize the efforts to guarantee the human right to education, which implies committing to adequate and fair financing that slows the growth of educational privatization, prevents the widening of opportunities gaps and ensures the necessities adaptations to new pedagogical realities.
- Guarantee civil society participation, in appropriate modes for current health context, avoiding any way of persecution and recognizing citizens as a key actor to promote sustainable development, in all its dimensions.

180. Fundación Riba

The challenge here is our general state of mind (locked in for the last 200 years). We were told from young ages that natural resources were practically endless, so we used fuel, water and generally abused our planet into a dramatic extreme of weather and pollution with a very real possibility for it to get worse.

The COVID 19 Pandemic has demonstrated that we need to put our minds in rapid evolution mode so we can meet the necessary changes to save ourselves. Our next years will be filled with dramatic climate and social changes. A new uninspected massive migration can bring extreme difficult situations that will affect any region for the next ten years.

Our NGO proposes as an alternative to massive migrations, to establish the first safe migrant zone “la Pacifica City”

We believe that ideal countries to start these cities under the flag of the UN are the USA and Costa Rica. The countries with a good standard of living and strong values can have immediate positive action to provide a safe place and to be able to avoid the extremely dangerous situations that prevail in the different regions. So, this unfortunate human being can have a safe place to be, to be able to help improve themselves by giving them the possibility to learn about new futuristic technologies, language, laws, agricultural, rational use of natural resources. The management of these Cities will be working with possible final countries of destinations where they can be knowledgeable of their responsibilities as citizens.

We can afford to not fall into a comfortable rut, wearing away at the soil. Now the decision to stay in that rut has come to our doorstep to collect its due, and unless we re-evaluate our decisions, those dues will cost us dearly.

Fortunately, those necessary changes are already occurring. One doesn't have to be an intellectual to see it. Technology advances more and more, day by day, making it easier to identify and correct what needs to be. Unfortunately, there is resistance to these changes, from those who are stuck deep in the rut. Yet there are those who find no issue leaving it: the next generation. And it makes sense; they adapt far better to all the changes that this age brings, not digging a rut but rather constantly pathfinding. We older people could stand to learn from them. Maybe then could we start on the true road to recovery.

181. Fundación Ronda

The impact of the global Covid-19 pandemic has generated unprecedented consequences for the labor economy. Among the immediate effects, we can identify the rise in unemployment rates, the increase in informality and job insecurity, likewise, the restrictions to the normal functioning of trade and the difficulties in the international exchange of goods and services have caused a rise in prices in products for everyday use, exacerbating the crisis and pushing thousands of people into poverty.

As Ronda Foundation, we see with concern how this crisis has impacted society as a whole and has exacerbated the situation of vulnerability of groups that were previously excluded before the pandemic.

Decent work and economic growth are essential for the well-being, dignity, and full social participation of all, being this the most effective way to break the vicious cycle of exclusion and poverty that affects many.

In the case of people with disabilities in Chile, during the last decade important legislative advances have been promoted in terms of labor participation, access to education and in non-discrimination. However, despite these important milestones, people with disabilities are disproportionately out of the labor market, employed in the informal economy or self-employed, leading to exclusion and poverty. In addition, among people with disabilities, these inequities are exacerbated for women and for people living in rural areas.

We believe that digital transformations and the massification of remote jobs increased by the pandemic, represent an opportunity to advance the inclusion of people with disabilities and incorporate them into the formal economy. However, to ensure that this economic recovery is effective and we can seize the opportunities that this crisis has created, we need to have updated information and disaggregated data on how the crisis has affected people with disabilities and whether the economic recovery is including them, for this reason we have generated public advocacy actions in our country, in order to generate and inform public policies focused on the needs of people with disabilities and their caregivers, support networks and their closest relatives.

Likewise, the crisis generated by the COVID-19 pandemic had a negative impact on the employment and working conditions of women in Chile and Latin America, generating a setback of more than a decade in the progress achieved in terms of labor participation. In addition, the impact caused by the pandemic has generated an overload in terms of care and household tasks, directly impacting the mental health and wellbeing of thousands of women.

The 2030 sustainable development goals agenda challenges us to think about development without leaving anyone behind, as Ronda Foundation we call to move towards a recovery from this economic crisis, taking people with disabilities, women, and other historically excluded groups from having a leading role in the post-Covid-19 world.

182. Gain International

Many NGOs dependent on sending short-term teams to distribute aid have not been allowed in-country due to COVID-19 restrictions. In many cases, this delayed progress toward Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The primary strategy of Unto® (formerly Gain International) is to work through local partners to carry out humanitarian work. The following examples demonstrate how Unto continued to provide critical aid and promote sustainable development despite COVID-19 travel and shipping restrictions.

Due to strong ties with existing partners in Beirut, Lebanon, Unto was positioned to respond immediately after the Beirut port explosion on August 4, 2020. Unto's partners had access to a warehouse stocked with medical and hygiene supplies previously provided to support the Syrian refugee community. Our partners drew from the supplies and quickly assembled a team of volunteers to distribute critical aid throughout the city, beginning on August 5. Medical supplies, hygiene supplies, tarps, and clothing were distributed to recipients affected by the blast. With donations from an urgent funding appeal, Unto wired funds for our partners to purchase food, additional medical supplies, and basic building materials. Through our partnership, the volunteer team in Beirut provided critical aid to 933 individuals, making progress toward SDGs 1, 2, and 3.

In March 2020, Unto was scheduled to travel to Peru to conduct agriculture trainings. When the global pandemic hit, Unto team members were unable to travel; instead, the agriculture training adjusted to a virtual platform. COVID-19 restrictions had shut down local markets; food was becoming scarce. Unto equipped eight local leaders from three regions to train individuals in their communities to grow urban gardens and pass on agricultural knowledge to other community members, contributing to SDG 2. Local partners know best the needs of their communities, and their trusted relationships with individuals allow Unto to reach a larger audience.

The global pandemic meant many of Unto's standard relief and development projects could not happen as normal. Unused funds from cancelled projects were reallocated to partner countries that expressed urgent needs for food, clean water, masks, medical and hygiene supplies, and more. Wire transfers were an effective way to meet these needs. Thirteen countries received between \$1,000 and \$10,000, for a total of US\$108,650. Unto's trust in local partners to address the immediate need of their communities enabled progress toward SDGs 1, 2, 3, and 6.

These immediate responses would not have been possible without pre-existing trust and strong relationships with in-country partners. A key recommendation Unto suggests is for NGOs to strengthen ties with in-country partners so humanitarian work can continue even in the midst of global crises.

183. Global Campaign for Education

The Global Campaign for Education continue tracking the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on education and offering short-, medium- and long-term solutions to the crisis. The COVID-19 pandemic has put the entire Sustainable Development Agenda at risk, affecting around 1.5 billion learners in hundreds of countries where schools have closed and learning disrupted.

The GCE recalls that education is an enabling human right, and at the same time it is part of a social protection structure that includes all SDGs, specifically the right to health, information, work and comprehensive human safety.

The Global Campaign for Education considers that these difficult times offer a unique opportunity to review the current privatisation and utilitarian trends of education and strengthen the public education systems as part of a more robust public response for protecting people's life and dignity, including the establishment of tax systems in which the greatest weight of the contribution falls on the wealthier. The Global Campaign for Education calls on the national governments, and donors:

- To prioritise education in all emergency responses with immediate effect, and to include education in their COVID-19 response policies. Ensure the continuity of learning for all children, including those who are most disadvantaged and likely to be excluded.
- To dedicate appropriate resources, financial and technical, to ensure the right to free, quality public education for all is maintained during the COVID-19 crisis.
- Debt relief to unlock funds in developing countries' budgets and ensuring that the provision of additional finance does not put countries in higher risk of debt distress.
- Protect and increase aid, directed at the poorest countries and at key services.
- Uphold and increase national education budgets and Official Development Aid for education throughout the pandemic, and the economic crisis to follow.
- To increase funding and support to education in crisis to a minimum of 4.2% of emergency assistance in line with its needs.
- Ensure that teachers continue to be at the centre of education, through the development of distance learning materials, broadcasts, and are ready to teach when schools and universities re-open, with their wages and employment maintained throughout the crisis.

The Global Campaign for Education encourage the United Nations to strengthen a global response aiming to promote post-crisis evaluation plans that allow guiding new forms of social and economic response, especially the role that education plays during and after emergencies that are equitable, gender-transformative, protective of human rights and responsive to the different needs and risks faced by individuals.

184. Global Civil Initiatives, Inc.

Global Civil Initiatives (GCI) works on the grassroots level and on the level of National Governments. Through its own substantive research around the world GCI came to a conclusion that the biggest and frightening contributor to the worsening of global health, deterioration of the environment, climate change and depletion of natural resources is Planned Obsolescence when industries deliberately reduce the lifespan of their products in order to force the consumers to make repeated purchases and dispose massive number of outdated products. While this scheme generates income for manufactures and stake owners, it makes huge impact on the environment and eventually causes climate change and threatens millions of human lives and various species. Therefore, it is necessary to focus not on cleaning, however strange it may sound, but on preventing the appearance of new debris. At this point, we are sure that UN High-level Political Forum should urge all states to impose strict laws to increase the longevity and reusability of all produced good in order to do more repairs and re-use, thus producing less pressure on the environment. We would suggest:

1. The UN agencies deployed around the world assist the local governments to develop laws that prohibit planned obsolesce and impose ban on products with built-in defects designed to end the product's life.
2. The UN is to encourage Member States to incorporate the parameters for combating planned obsolescence into their public procurement policies.
3. NGOs to advocate and provide information on a product's estimated life expectancy or number of use cycles so that consumers can make informed purchasing decisions and encourage people to buy long-lasting products.
4. GCI believes that it would be useful to establish a system that guarantees a minimum lifetime for purchased products.
5. GCI recommends that Member States encourage responsible consumption to ensure that consumers assess the environmental impact of products.

185. Global Forum for Media Development

The Global Forum for Media Development is a coalition of 200 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) dedicated to the support of independent journalism and freedom of information, with a special focus on the implementation of SDG16.10.

Democracy and fundamental freedoms are deteriorating globally. More than 90% of the world's population lives in countries where the level of press freedom is regarded as problematic, difficult, or very serious. Systems that underpin professional production of news and reliable information face challenges even in the most advanced democracies. The coming decade will be decisive for the future of journalism, with the pandemic amplifying converging crises, including the demise of journalism's economic model.

Access to timely, high-quality information is one of the key pillars required to slow the spread of COVID-19, mitigate its impacts, and underpin collective societal responses. Public access to information and the free exchange of ideas are prerequisites for building “peaceful, accountable and inclusive societies” – the overarching aim of SDG 16.

To stop journalists from holding power to account, a growing number of governments have engaged in overt, sometimes violent, efforts to discredit their work and intimidate them into silence. This is a worldwide assault on journalism, on the public's right to know, on core democratic values, and on the concept of truth itself.

The Global Forum for Media Development respectfully calls upon this Forum and urges UN Member States and Governments to:

- Respect fundamental human rights: Fully respect, safeguard, and enable the rights to press freedom and freedom of expression, rule of law, access to information, privacy, and digital rights. International responses to this crisis will be more effective and command greater public support if they are subject to independent scrutiny, openness, and transparency.
- Release imprisoned journalists: States that continue to criminalise journalism must release all imprisoned journalists, including those detained or sentenced under the guise of prohibiting defamation or countering terrorism.
- Provide financial support: Work with journalism, media, and civil society organisations to support the sustainability of journalism and news media. Devise mechanisms to provide financial support to media that produce public-interest journalism. Ensure that this support is just and transparent, undertaken without favouritism, compromising editorial independence, or distorting the market.
- Allocate public advertising fairly: Continue to publish and broadcast public health awareness campaigns and public service announcements through advertising. But, like all uses of public funds, be transparent and avoid conflicts of interest.

- Enact and Implement Access to Information Laws: Member states without comprehensive Access to Information Laws must immediately enact them. Those with Access to Information Laws must put in place clear measures to facilitate and support their implementation.

186. Global Forum on Human Settlements

As a global non-profit organization recognized by the United Nations system and dedicated to promoting sustainable cities and human settlements for all, Global Forum on Human Settlements is making this statement based on its special competence in sustainable urban development, thus contributing to the effective deliberations at the 2021 High-level Political Forum.

Cities will see the five trends - decoupling, decarbonization, decentralization, digitalization and glocalization - manifest distinctly in post-pandemic urban development. To ensure a sustainable and resilient recovery and the achievement of sustainable development, we must prioritize cities and use green recovery as a golden opportunity to kick-start a green transformation and drive innovation at all levels and across all sectors, otherwise the world as a whole may be trapped deep in the triple crises - economically, ecologically and socially, during which the most disadvantaged and vulnerable will suffer the most. Against this backdrop, the Sixteenth Global Forum on Human Settlements will be taking place this October to call for urgent, necessary and collective actions in accelerating green transformation and innovation towards healthy, resilient and carbon-neutral cities.

We therefore propose a set of strategic recommendations as follows:

1. Cities must adopt an ecosystem-based and adaptive management approach and integrate nature and nature-based solutions in urban planning, design and development, as well as in climate action plans and disaster risk reduction strategies.
2. The core of resilience building is to leave no one behind. Cities should prioritize policies to confront spatial, social, economic and cultural exclusion. To deliver an effective enforcement program, monitoring, evaluation and reporting must be integrated into the program cycle.
3. Cities must implement integrated urban planning, harness the power of data and digital technology, strengthen financial sustainability and build governance capacity, so as to provide affordable, sustainable housing, mobility and public amenities as well as accessible green space, thus improving the quality of life for all.
4. We must eliminate fossil fuels subsidies, put a price on carbon, and ramp up investment in renewables and energy efficiency, thereby achieving a just and equitable transition from fossil fuels to clean energy.
5. While promoting a resilient, inclusive, gender-equal and green economic recovery, countries and cities should step up investment in economic diversification programs to transform from a single-industry to a diversified economy.
6. We urgently need to put inclusive multilateralism back on track and shift from piecemeal solutions to holistic approaches, cultivating systems thinking in coping with the pandemic, sea level rise, climate change, and environment degradation.

7. We must accelerate the initiatives towards metabolic circular cities, boost innovation in industries, promote bioclimatic design, strictly enforce eco-friendly consumption and procurement standards, and increase opportunities for urban youth and start-ups.
8. Cities must scale up sustainable land use systems through capitalizing on the synergies, using integrated approaches to minimize conflict and deforestation, and empowering local communities for effective land restoration.
9. Local governments and infrastructure system operators must improve its capability of using comprehensive asset management strategies to secure adequate capital investment and sound operations and maintenance.

187. Global Health Council

Global Health Council would like to thank the Economic and Social Council for convening this important meeting to discuss the sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The need for renewed commitment across the multilateral system and to the 2030 Agenda has never been more apparent. Global efforts towards pandemic recovery must prioritize the Sustainable Development Goals and establish the long-lasting tools necessary to ensure a more resilient global economy, healthcare systems, and institutions for when the next pandemic arises. With all of this in mind, Global Health Council makes the following recommendations that may be useful to ensure that the world is better prepared for the next pandemic:

- Identify and analyze health from the perspective of the last mile. This is vital to mitigating the spread and the effects— both primary and secondary – of the current and future pandemics. The COVID-19 pandemic clearly shows the interconnected nature of human health. Therefore, we must work with those implementers on the ground to ensure access to care and the necessary protections to all individuals in need of treatment and care.
- Leverage civil society voices to help multilateral and bilateral assistance programs to better meet the needs of the local communities. Bringing diverse local voices to the table will create opportunities for growth and resilience.
- Focus on funding and supporting efficient systems for vaccine distribution while maintaining essential health care.
- Learn from the past and call on governments to better support their health workforce by providing remuneration, training, supervision, and resources.
- Ensure a review of supply line stability and exploration of domestic production of medical tools, including medical technologies and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- Encourage stakeholders to invest in long-term prevention, care, and treatment, not just immediate needs.
- Invest in and develop digital technology to transform how we identify and prevent future pandemics.
- In order to meet SDG3 and achieve the 2030 Agenda, we will all need to commit to accelerated action. Resolutions passed at recent sessions of the WHO Executive Board and World Health Assembly can fully strengthen the data and evidence available to improve health and leave no one behind.
- Strong and good governance is critical for needs-driven health innovations and technologies and to ensure Government-supported Research & Development will be affordable to government and health institutions and free of charge to the public:
- It is imperative that equitable access principles are applied at every step of the R&D process, not only in the process of producing the basic science and R&D but also to its applications and products;
- Commit to transparent and collaborative research throughout the development process, including R&D funding levels, registration, and reporting of clinical trials including costs and results.
- Encourage all member states to use the key findings from the voluntary national reviews to support the implementation and accelerated actions for the decade of action.

In order to get on track to realize the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, global efforts to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic must leave no one behind and must consider the secondary and tertiary effects of the pandemic on daily life. Institutions must be accountable and transparent in order to be more responsive than ever to the needs of local communities and those on the ground. Innovation must be encouraged by welcoming partnerships and public engagement to ensure the participation of all stakeholders. Civil society organizations are well equipped to facilitate these partnerships with government and multilateral institutions. Investing in these relationships will benefit us all as we work together to overcome the pandemic and achieve our long-standing global health and development goals. We thank you for the opportunity to share our recommendations and stand ready to assist you all in this work.

188. Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

The COVID-19 pandemic has illuminated and exacerbated numerous structural vulnerabilities that impede progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

Firstly, the pandemic has revealed the problematic nature of long-term trends towards depending on the private sector to deliver services related to the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights. Whilst quality, universally accessible public healthcare systems have proved essential to address the crisis, private providers have been seen to repeatedly overcharge patients for COVID-19-related treatments, services and goods. The commodification of medical knowledge has also prevented billions from accessing vaccines, with the interests of commercial actors (protected by intellectual property law) taking precedence over the right to health. Similar failings are evident in the education sector, where private providers have been found to lack the will and capacity to face the crisis, resulting in mass closures of private schools and children being left without access to education. The pandemic has illustrated that privatization and commercialisation foster inequalities, threaten multiple human rights, and hinder progress towards Sustainable Development Goals 1 (end poverty in all its forms), 3 (good health and well-being), 4 (quality education) and 10 (reduce inequalities and leave no one behind).

The pandemic has also exposed the limitations inherent in the prevailing fossil fuel model of energy provision. Millions of households continue to lack access to clean, reliable energy, a failure that has a disproportionate impact on the lives of women and girls and has prevented individuals from continuing with work and education remotely during the pandemic. Challenges faced by healthcare facilities that lack access to reliable energy have also been exacerbated, hampering vaccine distribution and leaving large numbers of people without adequate medical care. Moreover, the fossil fuel resources that underpin these energy systems are responsible for three quarters of the total greenhouse gas emissions driving the climate crisis. As long as we continue to depend on this flawed energy model, Sustainable Development Goals 5 (gender equality), 7 (affordable and clean energy) and 13 (climate action) will not be achieved.

To ensure a sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, a path to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda must address these structural vulnerabilities. It must promote quality, universally accessible, adequately funded and transparent public services that are responsive to the needs of those they serve, including inclusive public education and healthcare. It must also promote renewable energy and recognise that the sustainable energy transition represents a unique opportunity to transform our energy systems so that they are more gender-equal, decentralized, and democratic.

189. Global NeuroCare

Global NeuroCare, holding Special Consultative Status with the UN ECOSOC, focuses on transformative pathways advancing sustainable access to healthcare, a goal reaffirmed, targeted, and endorsed by the Agenda [A/RES/70/1, Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3, Target 3.8], providing a cross-cutting impact across the SDGs, thus furthering economic, social, and political stability.

Fully aware that the world is mired in an escalating SARS-CoV-2 pandemic that originated in Wuhan, China in 2019;

Recognizing that this pandemic has infected 150 million people, caused 3 million deaths, and wreaked global economic and social devastation;

Understanding the need for a comprehensive, multi-faceted approach to address patient care and improve global health security;

Realizing this approach will necessitate strengthening public health capacity and advancing scientific technology to develop new diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines;

Keeping in mind these actions will divert healthcare funding and support from ongoing programs, potentially derailing decades of progress especially in sub-Saharan Africa], precipitating a resurgence of infectious and non-communicable diseases;

Noting that any resurgence will force millions of people into poverty, leading to increased vulnerability, marginalization, and exclusion, further destabilizing global health security;

And noting further with deep regret that a failure to properly investigate the origin of this pandemic impedes scientific advancement and further jeopardizes health security;

Global NeuroCare strongly reaffirms the critical necessity of (1) ensuring well-directed financing focused on self-sufficient local training programs to advance the recruitment, development, training and retention of healthcare workers in developing regions, in parallel with funding to effectively manage the ongoing pandemic, thus improving healthcare access and promoting public health equity and security, a position we have consistently ratified and which comports with the Agenda; and (2) independently and fully investigating the origin of SARS-CoV-2 thereby advancing scientific technology and potentially averting the next pandemic.

Having considered the above, Global NeuroCare respectfully calls upon this Forum to endorse our recommendations to properly investigate the origin of SARS-CoV-2, and support an integrated, multi-lateral, multi-faceted, cross-sector approach to improving healthcare access in developing regions, thus promoting a broad cross-cutting impact directly or indirectly across the SDGs by accelerating poverty reduction [SDG 1], advancing equitable health outcomes leading to global public health security [SDG 3], ensuring inclusive and equitable education [SDG 4], furthering sustained, inclusive economic growth [SDG 8.5], improving inclusion and equality [SDG 10.4], which encourages just, peaceful and inclusive societies [SDG 16] and enhances cooperation [SDG

17], thereby engendering positive economic, social and political stability, which will contribute to the global recovery from this pandemic.

190. Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption

Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC) supports and encourages parliamentarians to exercise their oversight function to ensure a sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: Building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development. Parliamentarians should be at the forefront in reviewing decision-making and funding acceleration of the SDGs in light of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Parliamentarians have a crucial role in overseeing the use of a state budget and development aid to ensure that such resources are managed effectively under national priorities in achieving sustainable development.

During this pandemic recovery time, parliaments need to step up to provide comprehensive legislation that is inclusive and aligned with the SDGs. Without addressing corruption and service delivery, needed SDGs resources will not effectively reach the most vulnerable. It has been five years since the SDGs' adoption. We appreciate the progress so far. Yet, more needs to be done. As the only dedicated international anti-corruption parliamentary organisation, GOPAC exists to strengthen parliamentarians all over the world, to deliver actions that can curb corruption in public resources, which is essential to achieve the SDGs. GOPAC calls upon our members to foster partnership, build networks and, more, a coalition to advance sustainable development programs and ensure every penny goes to those who deserve it. GOPAC also works with international organizations by adopting approaches that constitute a prerequisite for sustainable development; developing practical tools and training and delivering education to emphasize the role of parliaments in attaining SDGs' goals.

GOPAC and our regional chapters aligned to many of the world's parliaments have been strongly involved in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. GOPAC has been actively promoting parliamentarians' roles to make progress in achieving SDGs Goals, particularly Goal 16, which is focused on tackling corruption and promoting public accountability. GOPAC's strategic partnership with the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) delivers a global Parliamentary Handbook on SDGs as guidance for Parliamentarians to successfully implement the SDGs by monitoring the effectiveness of any development assistance and policies. The handbook is designed to be an easy-to-use resource, which lists good practices from around the world that can be adapted as needed, depending on the national context.

Our next target is local actions to strengthening parliamentarians and our members at national chapters to make use of the handbook as a valuable resource in achieving the national SDGs targets and implementing change. GOPAC also aims to strengthen the representative institution by promoting a more open, transparent, and participatory parliament. GOPAC commits to strengthening cooperation and collaboration with all stakeholders and welcomes future partnership against corruption and in the promotion of good governance as well as the SDGs so that everyone benefits from the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development Declaration.

191. Global Utmaning

We are in urgent need of finding solutions to achieve the global goals. Global challenges, such as the Covid-19 pandemic and the climate crisis, affect women and men differently and exacerbate gender inequalities. Girls and women belong to the societal group that is particularly vulnerable to uneven resource distribution, oppression and social exclusion. As a consequence, women make up the majority of the world's poor, and in step with increasing global challenges, the situation for women and girls aggravates. The widened gender gap needs to be seen through a lens of intersectionality with ethnicity and race. However, women are powerful catalysts for development and experience shows that investing in women's economic empowerment sets a direct path towards gender equality, poverty eradication, inclusive economic growth as well as sustainability and resilience. Building capacity for women's economic independence is crucial in the Covid-19 response as well as an effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

In 2019, only 3 percent of the global venture capital was invested in female founded businesses and the figures for female founders from minority groups are even more dismaying. During the Covid-19 pandemic, venture funding to female-founded enterprises fell significantly on a global scale, a 27 percent decrease compared to 2019, according to data. To exclude talented female entrepreneurs, on the basis of gender or background, is a loss for the whole society. Barriers for female entrepreneurs are both normative and structural. To overcome these hurdles, political efforts must be put on policies and initiatives for equal and efficient distribution of capital.

The importance of investments and the investor community are often overlooked when searching for drivers of change for greater gender equality, diversity and sustainability. The flow of investment capital needs to be diversified, less focused on the short-term and more focused on the long-term, with innovations promoting the necessary combination of sustainability and profitability. Including women in leadership and investment positions is key to making the transition possible. Building better structures in a post-pandemic recovery context requires a radical shift in the investment landscape, targeting both regulations and norms. By acknowledging the power of investments that today reinforce gender inequalities, we can turn it around and use it to put pressure and promote diversity and equality in companies, and thus benefit society at large.

In the Women Leaders initiative, structural barriers for female social entrepreneurs are targeted and the necessary global knowledge exchange is encouraged. Female entrepreneurs often deliver innovative solutions to complex problems which the public sector has a hard time coping with. The experience of cultivating and adopting these innovative solutions with social impact is often greater in the Global South and something for the North to learn from.

Consequently, Global Utmaning (Global Challenge) wants to see active political efforts to promote a more inclusive and equal financial sector - globally, nationally and locally. For a sustainable and resilient recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, decision-makers, together with institutional investors and private investors, must take the lead for gender equal investments and encourage private venture capital to be distributed more efficiently.

192. Global Vision India Foundation

There is no doubt that, COVID-19 has created great obstacles for the implementation of the SDGs-2030 Agenda, and to achieve 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by United Nations (UN). It is threatened by growing inequalities, economic crisis, financial sustainability. Mobility and migration have been significantly affected due to frequent lockdown measures. The pandemic triggers an economic crisis of large proportions with an augmented impact on developing countries forcing a large number of people into poverty, including capital flows, business operations, employment, and jobs. Education has been forcefully digitalized, impacting over 1.2 billion learners in the globe.

However, our NGO feels that the crisis can be used as an opportunity to strengthen the commitment to the 2030 Agenda. Future crises can be avoided by making investing more in health systems than defense. States should design policies to eradicate extreme poverty, gender inequality, to make resilient societies. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has predicted that the global economy is going to decline to the lowest level, so a global recession could cause approximately 71 million additional people to live in poverty. The vulnerable groups like women, youth, low-wage workers, small and medium enterprises, will be more affected. Multi-disciplinary systems are needed for exploring interconnections between the environment, wildlife, and humans. The public-private partnership in business policies with technological innovation can mitigate the negative impact of economic activities on the SDGs. It is estimated that global investment in recovering from COVID-19 will equate to \$20 trillion. Green recovery can be carried out by countries because measures depend on factors such as macroeconomic conditions, fiscal budget, pre-existing stimulus packages, capacity and ambition to address the climate crisis, and level of commitment to other policy objectives. Nature-based solutions provide a strategy for protecting ecosystems while simultaneously overcoming societal challenges and positively impacting wellbeing and biodiversity. We have to restructure environmental education, health education to analyze the impact of the pandemic. Forced home-office work has its effects on health, gender, and inequality. States have to review labor-related crisis management concerning securing the "Good Health and Well-being" (SDG 3) of employees and their social environment. SDG 12 "Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns" can be implemented by efficient use of natural resources, minimizing the loss and waste of food, ecological management of chemicals, solid waste management, sustainable tourism, environmental education

The Pandemic has global implications for mobility and climate. The pandemic has accelerated environmentally friendly mobility measures, and some positive impacts also. It is said that, during the lock-down, air pollution dropped by 60% globally, and bike use increased by 129%. UN can encourage people from different regions through civil society organizations to become more resilient, and independent in the face of a crisis situation. Our Indian Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi has already declared that India will be "Atmanirbhar", meaning self-dependent. I hope the UN can play an important role in bringing the world out of this crisis.

193. Global Voices

This submission stresses that the inclusion of youth perspectives in decision-making processes is critical to a sustainable and resilient recovery from the pandemic. Young people are disproportionately affected by the pandemic and among the most vulnerable to its economic and social impacts. It is therefore more important than ever to promote pathways for young people to meaningfully participate in multilateral forums.

Global Voices is a youth-led not-for-profit organisation that identifies the next generation of Australian leaders by providing practical experience in foreign policy, diplomacy, and international relations. Our team engages with young people across Australia and the world, who work on pressing challenges from Indigenous reconciliation and entrepreneurship in migrant communities to universal health coverage and reducing agricultural emissions. Every day, we are inspired by their passion and commitment to creating long-term, sustainable change on key economic, social and environmental issues. With the COVID-19 pandemic bringing unprecedented disruption and uncertainty, the creativity and innovation of our young people is more important than ever. Accordingly, there is tremendous opportunity for youth engagement with multilateral institutions to shape a more inclusive path towards achieving the 2030 agenda.

While the international community has committed to “ensuring that no one is left behind,” the pandemic has heightened existing inequalities, particularly among young people. School closures have severely disrupted young people’s quality of education. The impact of these measures has been particularly severe in lower-income countries where there is limited access to the internet. Young people have also increasingly fallen into unemployment and have had their career prospects undermined, with young women and youths in low-income countries being most affected. However, while they face a unique set of challenges, young people remain significantly underrepresented in key decision-making processes. In recent years, ECOSOC has taken encouraging steps to support youth leadership through various dialogues such as the ECOSOC Youth Forum. However, in the face of the COVID-19 crisis, it is easy to abandon constructive consultation with youth in favour of quick and decisive policy action. Young people remain the focus of many of the Sustainable Development Goals, including poverty elimination, decent work and economic growth as well as climate action. Responding effectively to this crisis and the resulting challenges to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals will require leaders to recognise and engage with youth perspectives.

With less than a decade remaining to bring about historic change and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, Global Voices continues to advocate for youth-led organisations to participate in the HLS. There are a range of options for how this participation and engagement may take place, including hosting forum sessions focused on youth perspectives, inviting youth-led organisations to participate in the forum and including impact on youth as a metric for reviewing national policies. These measures would contribute to more effective solutions to the key issues facing the HLS and ensure those most impacted by the state of the world in 2030 genuinely have a seat at the table.

194. Globethics.net Foundation

Globethics.net with the commitment to promote and contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, including Goals 4, 8, 10, 16 and 17, and the vision to embed ethics in higher education, calls attention to the need for urgent remedial measures to bridge the deepening inequalities in access to and provision of education at all levels and in particular to tertiary education and to address the accumulated learning deficit today that will have ramifications on economies worldwide for decades to come. In addition, that the measures taken be values-driven, ethically sound and sustainable for the common good of humanity, that no one be left behind.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has created the largest disruption of education systems in history, affecting nearly 1.6 billion learners in more than 190 countries... Closures of schools and other learning spaces have impacted 94 per cent of the world’s student population, up to 99 per cent in low and middle-income countries.”

The odds have shortened dramatically on today’s schoolchildren being able to access higher education in the decades to come. This will mean fewer choices, greater inequality, less personal and societal growth and development with more people in low paid, low skilled jobs, with a lower living standard and quality of life, poorer health outcomes and shorter lives.

“We already faced a learning crisis before the pandemic. Now we face a generational catastrophe that could waste untold human potential, undermine decades of progress, and exacerbate entrenched inequalities.”

Education is a human right and a basic need; without education, humans cannot survive. Within education, ethics education is fundamental; it is not an optional concern, if individuals and societies are to remain innovative and caring for the future.

The following measures are proposed for State, business, education and civil society actors to address together the learning deficit exacerbated in a world living with COVID-19.

- Invest in the capacity building of teachers, in lifelong learning and education of all people and especially young, underrepresented and marginalised people.
- Invest in education institutions, supporting leaders, teachers, students and professions with conducive learning environments, tools and resources.
- Facilitate interdisciplinary, cross-sectoral and international research opportunities particularly to address the ethical challenges related to climate justice, sustainable development and the equitable sharing and use of resources.
- Ensure national education policies support inclusive education with teaching and training on dialogue among cultures to foster tolerance among religions and secular society in the search for peace.

- Develop innovative technologies ethically and apply and influence the ethical use of technologies for open sharing of resources while respecting and supporting economic sustainability and cyber security with the aim to improve lives.
- Invest in a whole-person ethics education for responsible leadership in and across all sectors with priority on the political sphere and public administration, serving the common good.

195. Govardhan EcoVillage

Govardhan Ecovillage is at the forefront of creating sustainable and resilient smart villages and it follows strict SDG norms in all its capacity. As an NGO, the main thrust areas include Zero Hunger, Climate Change Action, Building Sustainable Communities, Clean Alternate Energy, Recycling, Sustainable Agriculture, Application of Alternate Traditional Medicine and Spiritual Philosophy and Equilibrium of Body-Mind-Soul. At Govardhan Ecovillage, under the Rural Development Program, we have successfully been able to impact the lives of 2,00,000+ people.

- During COVID-19 alone, we distributed over 2,13,000 meals.
- We have trained and supported over 17,000+ farmers.
- We have been able to implement Liquid Sewage Water Treatment Unit, Multiple Solar Units, Water Storage Units of Capacity up-to 10 Mn Litres, Weather Monitoring system, Sustainable Housing, Animal Waste based Energy, Plastic Recycling Units, etc.

However, multiple rural development activities have been severely hit by the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic. Govardhan Ecovillage operates from Palghar district in the state of Maharashtra, India where:

- 30% of children (under the age of 5) are underweight.
- 83% of children do not have an acceptable minimum diet.
- 9% of the children were surveyed to have taken proper nutrient diet including green leafy vegetables.

In this report, however, we shall investigate one of the important SDG that we are focused on viz.: Achieving Zero Hunger (SDG No. 2).

The effects during the COVID-19 pandemic are as follows:

1. Following safety measures, the farmer's training programs have come to a halt, forcing trainees to be on an unattended spot.
2. Lack of mobility, resulting from multiple nationwide lockdowns has resulted in Waste in agricultural produce.
3. Lack of availability of food due to the poor food supply chain has resulted in adverse effects in the already vulnerable section of the society.
4. Decrease in income has led to increased suffering, stress, anxiety, domestic violence, etc. leading to an array of other problems.
5. Health issues like malnourishment, have seen a direct hit due to the government resources being diverted to tackling Covid-19 (as a priority) which were earlier under monthly monitoring schemes and programs.

Faith Based Initiatives like Govardhan Ecovillage not only provide aid but also solidarity to vulnerable parts of society, acting as both information channels and first responders; thus building trust. This trust is crucial when recovering from the pandemic and resetting the global economy. Hence, a sound inclusive and sustainable design of a program is the Need of the Hour. The success of these programs lies in community participation. Government should pull in extra resources in Awareness Campaigns at times of disaster. Also, Hunger is not always about Food alone, it is also about meeting nutritional standards, improved lifestyle, living in a clean environment, gender

equality, community-led initiatives, sustainable organic agriculture, tackling isolation among community stakeholders, etc. Thus, with the wide scale participation of civil societies, Govt. policies should be designed to touch all the segments of the society ensuring a full-scale impact.

196. Graduate Women International (GWI)

The evidence is clear, poverty reduces a girl's opportunity to attend school. The World Bank estimated that in 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic-induced global new poor would be between 119 and 124 million. In 2021, the estimated COVID-19-induced poor is set to rise to between 143 and 163 million.

The number of children living in extreme poverty decreased by 29 million between 2013 and 2017. However, UNICEF and the World Bank Group also warn that any progress made in recent years is concerningly slow-paced, unequally distributed, and at risk due to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Considering this evidence, Graduate Women International (GWI) declares that the mere access to education is insufficient to the eradication of poverty and reaffirms its previous statements that the quality of the education is the key contributor to the realization of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1, No Poverty, SDG 10, Reduced Inequalities and SDG 16, Peaceful and Inclusive societies, while acknowledging the interrelatedness of all 17 SDGs.

One of the most significant barriers to improving education is the sector-wide occurrence of corruption. With government spending on education comprising approximately 20 to 30 percent of many national budgets, education systems are highly susceptible to corruption. Corruption in education emerges in many forms and affects all areas of education, including school financing and infrastructure; recruitment, retainment and training of teachers and educators; distribution of resources and equipment, administration and admission to universities.

When corruption is tolerated in education systems, quality students are overlooked. Impoverished girls are hazardously marginalized. Corruption prevents them exponentially from obtaining the same educational benefits as their peers, perpetuating globalizing of poverty.

GWI Position and Recommendations:

With its 101-year history in the promotion and advocacy of girls' education, GWI uses this voice to speak out about the interconnection of poverty, corruption and education. GWI makes these recommendations as steps for all women and girls:

Guarantee availability of quality secondary and tertiary education to all girls and women; enforce mandatory primary.

Ensure safe access to quality education through enforcement of laws that protect against varying forms of gender-based violence.

Include educational approach in all aspects of poverty eradication.

Identify/prosecute instances of corruption in the educational system.

Actively engage/support NGOs within the educational sector as partners.

Broaden accountability; institute sanctions for bribery.

Establish legal frameworks to recruit and advance careers based on merit.

Examine and strengthen policies of recruiting, hiring, retaining, and promoting female educators to provide young girls with role models.

GWI invites States and organizations worldwide to engage with GWI as a means to eradicate poverty worldwide.

197. Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Council of North and South America

Achieving the 2030 Agenda: Providing Environmentally Sustainable and Adequate Housing Solutions for Displaced and/ or Homeless Persons

The Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Council of North and South America, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, welcomes the theme of the 2021 High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on "Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: Building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development." The priority theme presents an opportunity for global action, in the wake of the novel coronavirus pandemic, with an opportunity to build back better focused on human and environmental sustainability and growth.

One of the greatest humanitarian challenges of the 21st Century is believed to be the displacement of people because of natural disasters and climate change. According to data from the Annual Thematic Meeting of the Platform on Disaster Displacement, approximately 25 million people around the world are newly displaced by disasters every year. Weather related occurrences, specifically floods and storms, are the largest contributors to displacement, but the slow-onset of sea level rise, river erosion, and drought among others, are undeniable threats that will contribute to the displacement of millions of people. The migration of people brings challenges to human protection, limited/constrained access to medicinal, psychosocial, and physical resources, and greater vulnerability to violence, especially gender-based violence. Projections calculate that sea-level rise will displace up to 90 million people in the Pacific and East Asia alone.

The Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Council of North and South America is inspired by the Encyclical of the Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Christian Church in Crete of June 2016. This Encyclical points to increased migration and refugees as one of the main challenges facing humanity today, and works from a Christian perspective to serve all and eradicate the causes and factors that create social problems, while continuing to provide assistance and relief to all people who experience a loss of home and livelihood.

Additionally, in *For the Life of the World: Towards a Social Ethos of the Orthodox Church*, serving our neighbor and caring for the environment is inextricably linked. The document states that the harmful effects of climate change, most directly affect those who are marginalized and living in poverty. Climate change is also an issue of social welfare and social justice. Investment in people, social protections, research and technology is crucial to reverse the dire effects of carbon emissions, pollution, and all forms of environmental degradation, which can lead to forced migration and/ or homelessness.

Migrants require safe and adequate shelter as they move into areas of safety, requiring the support of the local community and national government. In addition, existing inadequate housing situations and homelessness in areas where migrants are being received, further threatens the ability to provide safe and adequate shelter to all and poses issues especially during a public health crisis. The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the inability of many persons to safely "shelter in

place” due to living in inadequate housing, slums, encampments, homelessness shelters, or the street.

The increasing amount of evictions globally, in spite of eviction moratoriums, further increases the public health crisis and exposes the lack of affordable and adequate housing. In Brazil in July 2020, over 2,000 families were evicted from their homes, with thousands of more at risk of eviction in the cities and countryside of São Paulo state. In Kenya, a court order in May 2020, forcibly removed 8,000 persons from their informal settlements and all their homes were flattened, leaving thousands homeless without any temporary housing or provision of basic needs. Mr. Balakrishnan Rajagopal, the UN special rapporteur on the right to housing, states that losing one’s home during a pandemic could mean losing one’s life, because the right to life and adequate housing are intrinsically linked.

The Decade of Action calls for accelerated work for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The ability to provide environmentally sustainable, zero-emission affordable housing for persons who are displaced and are living in inadequate housing or are experiencing homelessness is vital. One’s ability to call a place “home”, that is safe, adequate, and affordable, while having little negative impact on the earth, will allow each society to be better equipped to deal with new migration and the effects of climate change. An effective example is found in the Green Village in Geneva, founded by the World Council of Churches, which has zero-emissions, promotes community life, and incorporates the natural flora and fauna of the area.

Forced displacement, in addition to displacement and migration caused by environmental changes and natural disasters, require innovative solutions to ensure planetary wellbeing and to be able to provide for people who are displaced or experiencing homelessness in different ways.

The achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals requires stronger partnerships between all stakeholders: Member States and Civil Society, public and private sectors, and all generations and segments of society. Efforts for recovery must be human-centered while at the same time being earth centered in order to ensure a more habitable and equitable home for current and future generations.

Therefore, we call on Member States to:

- Recognize the migration of peoples due to environmental causes, including but not limited to, natural disasters, drought, inconsistent weather patterns, etc.
- Recognize and address the increasing number of people living without a home or living in inadequate shelter
- Agree upon a universally accepted definition of homelessness to enable proper global measurement for better data and social protection systems
- Invest in innovative and sustainable solutions for safe and adequate housing with a zero-carbon footprint, such as the World Council of Churches’ Green Village in Geneva

198. Habitat International Coalition

Responses to COVID-19 and its consequences need to uphold habitat-related human rights and build a socially and environmentally just present and future. This statement outlines essential principles and state obligations for transformative and redistributive recovery, with actions and commitments going beyond “resilience” by remedying pre-existing and emerging inequalities through equitable and sustainable development.

Deepened pre-existing and emerging inequalities

Global habitat conditions reflect deep injustices due to privatization, speculation and dispossession that has maldistributed common goods and services essential to everyone’s daily life. Many virus-containment measures widen disparities between those who can and cannot comply, impacting especially those enduring multiple forms of discrimination. Self-care capacities differ, forcing ever-increasing millions of impoverished inhabitants into overcrowding under poor hygienic conditions, unable to isolate while facing multiple eviction practices. In many rural communities, health and social services are scarce. Amid crisis and confinement, abuse of women, children and older persons has increased. Education, internet, hospitalization, or social protection facilities and access vastly differ across social segments.

A Global Marshall Plan

A “lost decade” of development efforts now mortgages entire generations’ lives and opportunities, eroding public and universal health, education, housing, services, employment and social-protection systems. Recovery must not depend on models of capitalist speculation, subsidizing private interests, or “economic growth”. An international assistance plan must pursue alternatives that challenge foregone theories.

Collective management, common goods, and development States

This crisis has proved and validated collective capacity for self-built settlements, cooperative processes, popular civil-defense, and social production and management of habitat. Such survival and solidarity practices have always characterized social struggles for land, housing, services, education, security and health. The post-Corona State must now recognize and support these processes as a stronger duty holder and guarantor of rights.

States should ensure

1. Profound economic redistribution

Structural transformation requires enforcing the social function of property and land; constitutional amendments; criminalizing forced eviction; reversing privatization of public and communal land, goods and services; more-progressive taxation of individuals and corporations, land and property; productive economies instead of rentier schemes; budget reallocation to social-environmental protection, green innovation, reactivating the economy and demilitarization.

2. Recognition of differences and invisibilities

An urgency is protecting all from discrimination, stigmatization and marginalization; valuing multiple social identities, social production and management of habitat; cooperativism; caregiving and social reproduction primarily performed by women, solidarity economies, bio/cultural diversity, and reciprocal rural/suburban/urban development.

3. Parity in political participation

Mechanisms, at various scales, are needed for direct democratic participation without marginalizing gender, sexual orientation, class, age, ethnicity, religion, physical or mental ability, or any other status.

4. Human rights habitat, not war

Like the UN Secretary-General, we urge a global ceasefire to prioritize together COVID-19 responses and recovery, prompt and meaningful reallocation of resources away from militarism, ending foreign and military occupations, and upholding extraterritorial human rights obligations.

5. Mutual care and protection

As indeed we are all in this together, each of us bears both a personal and a social responsibility to take all measures possible to stop the spread of COVID-19.

199. HaritaDhara Research Development and Education Foundation

Education for Sustainable Future Living Post Pandemic

Resilient recovery from COVID-19 focus on education (SDG 4), health (SDG 3), local knowledge, work, (SDG 8), climate action (SDG 13) are of utmost important, and technology emerge as game changer which need new ways of handle. This pandemic tests us on all fronts, reminds us that we are all part of a global community; need focus on United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for Sustainable Future and living. We believe that international cooperation is a key in addressing climate change. To address issues of sustainability, equality, health, poverty reduction, education, and quality living condition for all, we need to shift towards institutionalizing the SDGs in our development, manufacturing, environmental, and educational programs. However, sustainable development requires participatory and inclusive approaches, involving all stakeholders, in particular citizens at all levels ensuring no one is left behind. To promote SDG 1, 2, 10, 12, 16, 17, and best practices to reduce global emission and temperature confined to 1.5 °C, we need Global standards delivery for 2030 agenda.

The role of Education in creating “Sustainable Consciousness” for agenda 2030

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is crucial for the SDGs awareness for All. To build capacity and awareness on SDGs, our organization conducts several workshops, lectures and various other activities such as:

1. Teacher development programs designed to develop and teach students for SDGs, climate change, and 21st century skills
2. Focusing on employability, skill development, innovation, and entrepreneurship with industry orientation and linkages
3. Learning for science, technology, engineering, arts, mathematics (STEAM) linking with SDGs with hands-on, game and problem-based approach
4. Establishing learning centers within community to imbibe responsibility, accountability, global citizenship, gender equality, values

HRDEF campaigned for Eco-bricks made from waste plastic, polythene, bottles for constructing structures, vertical garden from plastic bottles to reduce wastes and pollution. HRDEF also organised international level competitions for school students, and lectures to create awareness, capacity building on COVID-19, Life during Lockdown, Climate Action for Sustainable Future and Living. A young member of HRDEF has developed a mobile app for COVID-19 Education and Awareness. HRDEF is using games, projects, and hands-on approaches for interactive learning. We are addressing issues of quality learning and sustainable development through Information and Communication Technology (ICT), hands-on activities in a curriculum-based way supported by research inputs and driven by a new learning paradigm based on cognitive science, neuroscience, AI, makers approach.

A way forward

Education now needs more participatory, community-oriented accountability to shape Generation Z's future with sustainability in mind to create “Sustainable Consciousness.” Information and

communication technology should be used as a tool for change, transparency, and data validation. Young people can be driving forces for sustainability and act as agents of change for responsibility, accountability, global citizenship, gender equality. These values, community engagement within learning centers can provide real-life scenarios focusing on the SDGs. We need synergy between all stakeholders with proper participation, monitoring, accountability, and evaluation frameworks during decade of action.

200. Heal The Planet Global Organisation – HTP

It gives us immense pleasure to contribute to this year's Theme "Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: Building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development." . HTP is a civil society that holds Special Consultative Status with United Nations since 2017 and it is a Global Agency whose genesis resulted out of Universal minded ideas & Organizations to redefine the Global Agenda geared towards healing our World. We are focused towards mobilizing and inspiring communities in ensuring a Peaceful and Conflicts free world, Food security to fight World Famine, Poverty, Diseases, Abuse of Human Rights, and Illiteracy. We are committed to Protecting the Environment, Climate, Conserving Wild and Aquatic Life; through advocacy and sensitization of groups to adopt environmental sustainability behaviors and engage people on how to overcome barriers, and to take effective action measures on climate change so as to bring smiles and hope to millions of Children, Women, Youth, Elderly and every one anywhere who is marginalized, compromised, denied or not in position to have a better life including refugees. During the COVID Lock down, HTP reached out to several organisations to raise funding to feed vulnerable groups affected by the pandemic, with support from old and new partners we reached out to more than 6000 families in 50 villages of Kampala and Wakiso in Uganda and provided food relief to enable such families run for a while with food since there daily activities which could bring daily income and food were on stand still. Together with SDGs Youth Coalition (An umbrella 30 youth led organisations under the office of UN Resident Coordinator & Office of the Prime Minister of Uganda under SDG Secretariate) HTP recently had interaction with Uganda Head of State Yoweri Kaguta Museveni at State House Entebbe aimed at providing remedies to ending poverty amongst the youth as well as protecting the environment. The State House of Uganda is exposing the Youth Coalition Members to demonstrating practical agriculture model learning aimed at utilising land for meaningful commercial farming. This is creating opportunities for youth and the people to have enough food to avoid dependence on government and donations in case of future threats like the lock down. HTP and Youth Coalition recommends the following; 1) Let's work from the bottom up because wealth is at the bottom of the pyramid. 2) Create jobs at home 3) Put emphasis to those who have started something help them to grow and train others. 4) Create markets within the region.

201. Heavenly Shower of Peace Church of God

There is no doubt that the pandemic had increased the suffering of greater majorities of people in terms of hunger, poverty, health risks, and serious environmental challenges. Even before COVID-19 reduced incomes and disrupted supply chains, chronic and acute hunger were on the rise due to various factors including conflict, socio-economic conditions, natural hazards, climate change and pests. COVID-19 impacts have led to severe and widespread increases in global food insecurity, affecting vulnerable households in almost every country, with impacts expected to continue through 2021 and into 2022. However the goal now is how to overcome these global challenges and to ensure that is a deliberate effort for a sustainable and unrestrained resilience to mitigate these challenges if we must recover well to ensure the sustainable development goals are met still.

Overview: The road to recovery and efforts to achieve sustainable development goals 1 (no poverty) ,goal 2 (zero hunger) from the pandemic are in no doubt under serious threat especially in sub Saharan Africa .If these threats are not addressed and checked the situation compounded by the Covid-19 will further aggravate the already grave problem of poverty and hunger in this region of the world. The threat of insecurity, insurgence, and the activities of the Islamic extremists are further compounding the problem of poverty and hunger. People are being displaced and also making it impossible for farming activities and foods distribution. The farmers herdsman clashes is another challenge to the recovery from the pandemic. Nigeria is on the global spot for the activities of herdsman. Due to the increased attack on farmers farming activities has been drastically affected. The results is imminent hunger. Banditry and kidnapping in Nigeria is another major threat affecting virtually every aspects both economy, social, health and even the environment dealing a big blow to efforts in recovery from the pandemic. Companies and multinational organizations are being forced to closed down thereby throwing people out of jobs. With the pandemic reducing the labor force and now these the challenges are unprecedented. In northern Nigeria schools are being forced to close down, International aid agencies are being attack while endangering the plight of the internally displaced people. Malnutrition is on the increased among the vulnerable especially children, women, elderly and the physically challenged persons.

Way forward: Government at all levels must set politics aside and deliver on governance for which they are elected. For example in Nigeria you will not be entitled to some government aids if you don't belong to a certain political party. You will not be entitled to some opportunity if you don't belong to a particular ethnic group. These acts of injustice has created a great divide and distrust among the people. Recovery and sustainable will be very difficult to achieve in such an atmosphere. I strongly believe that the key to achieve successful recovery and sustainable development in achieving the sustainable development goals is peace. Therefore government should create that enabling environment for sustainable peace. Today the elusive peace in sub Saharan Africa is the cause of hunger and poverty and poor health. For the success of post Covid-19 , the international community must come to the Aid of Nigeria,Mali, South Sudan, Congo Democratic Republic, Central Africa Republic, Ethiopia, Eritrea, and many more.

202. Hellenic Association of Political Scientists

Although initially a health crisis, COVID -19 has been also developed into a socio-economic and environmental threat requiring a multifaceted response from states. Making use of its special consultative status in the United Nations Economic and Social Council, the Hellenic Association of Political Scientists submits the present statement on building a post-COVID-19 plan to achieve the 2030 Agenda, addressing the 2021 ECOSOC High-Level Segment.

Multilateralism is more relevant than ever, as global cooperation and solidarity are central in fighting against the pandemic. For example, member states of the World Health Organization should financially and politically support its post-pandemic efforts to strengthen healthcare systems around the world, as a way of contributing to well-being and stability. On the national level, fortifying the healthcare systems should go beyond the pandemic-period. It should be also set as a longer-term investment for health systems preparedness and resilience to be achieved. The (re)emergence of an all-inclusive welfare state that creates a safety net for those in need should become a vision arising from the current situation.

Furthermore, as the pandemic has intensified global unemployment, support to small and medium-sized enterprises through economic and recovery programs is necessary. With a major debt crisis coming into the foreground the financial consequences of COVID-19 should be addressed through long-term sustainable solutions, which will lead to social cohesion. Fiscal and monetary policies capable of creating the needed income flows for debt-service obligations should be formulated within a framework of active social policy and through the establishment of fair and viable debt-repayment plans. Otherwise, a domino of bankruptcies threatens the global economic and financial stability once again. Furthermore, symmetrical economic recovery is essential, as regional, and global inequalities impact negatively on sustainable development. Public-private partnerships hold a key role in redirecting the economic development model and setting sustainable, long-term goals as a priority. Equally significant is the reinforcement of interstate cooperation in the context of implementing international agreements sustainable recovery and development.

Regarding the environmental dimension of COVID-19, a “Green New Deal” should constitute the core of a sustainable post-pandemic environmental strategy. The pandemic also pointed out the connection between environmental factors and societal resilience, emphasizing the need of paying additional attention to greater vulnerability to diseases resulting from poor air and water quality and environmental degradation.

The Hellenic Association of Political Scientists believes that political action should be guided by scientific research. Acknowledging that the later comes with policy implications, the Hellenic Association of Political Scientists has been actively contributing to the production of relevant research material and policy proposals.

203. Hellenic Research and Educational Institute "Panos Mylonas" for the Road Safety and the Prevention/Reduction of Traffic Accidents

The Hellenic Research and Educational Institute for Road Safety and the Prevention of Road Traffic Accidents, in brief RSI "Panos Mylonas", was both privileged and challenged to be an official MY World partner to promote the MY World 2015 Campaign - with a particular focus on "Better transport and Roads" - as well as associated MDG and post-2015 outreach. More than 8,500 citizens of Greece (and neighboring countries) participated giving top priority to "better transport and roads", "A good education" (4,664 and 4,662 votes respectively) and "Better healthcare" 4,354.

Transport, Education and Health was the triptych global leaders were asked to focus on, during the process of defining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Later in 2015, "Panos Mylonas" began closely following the development and progress of MDGs to the Sustainable Development Goals being actively involved in forae (UNECE WP1, Global Road Safety Forum), participating also in Committees within its membership in the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration, and Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile, having active involvement and commitment in contributing to the improvement of road safety and sustainability in Greece and the world with a vision for a world without road traffic crashes.

RSI has significantly contributed to the improvement of road safety in Greece, working closely with relevant Authorities and the motorways in halving road fatalities during the last decade 2010-2020. According to the preliminary figures on road fatalities for 2020 (European Commission, 24.04.2021), Greece marked a significant decrease of a 54% reduction in fatalities during the last decade - the only country in EU27 that exceeded the target of 50%. However, this does not leave us satisfied since there is a long way to go.

In consideration of the COVID-19 effect on road safety, it can be seen that around the globe, traffic fatalities and serious injury rates increased in the shadow of the pandemic, despite lower traffic volumes. Speeding, distraction, fatigue and stress-imposed driving, in combination with less enforcement, led to a spike in fatalities in countries such as the USA. On the other hand, we witnessed how focused political attention on the vital need for safe and healthy streets during the pandemic encouraged walking and cycling; transforming the streets and thus sharing roads more equitably and keeping the young and the vulnerable safe.

The current global response to the pandemic provides a unique opportunity to build on this momentum and refocus on the biggest threats addressing education and advocacy for the vulnerable. Quality education on Road Safety is very important since travel modes and mobility patterns are rapidly changing. Road users should be fully aware of the cognitive factors related to driving and safe mobility based on scientific evidence.

The proposed recommendations should do with child and youth safety, health, infrastructure, and technology -adopting the minimum set of safety standards for motor vehicles, including Intelligent Speed Assistance (ISA), tackling speeding and adopting a 30 km/h speed limit in urban areas to prevent serious injuries and deaths for vulnerable road users when human errors occur.

204. Helpline Foundation for the Needy, Abuja

2020 was a challenging year; the world went on a break, while it caught many countries unprepared, vulnerable countries were further left behind sustainable development, widening the gap of inequalities in socio-economic and environmental divide.

In the wake of the pandemic, countries imposed restrictive measures to contain the spread of the virus and for cross-border cooperation and looked inwards in their immediate response to the health crisis taking off track most efforts to achieving the SDGs in 2030, the challenges of women and girls in many developing countries amplified, gender based violence and gender inequality rate increased rapidly.

Since 2003, Helpline Foundation for the Needy Abuja has been advocating the all-inclusive social protection for rural communities and women empowerment. Our mission in helpline foundation is to build sustainable chain of empowering girls and women for the promotion of gender equality, reducing poverty and enhance participation in politics.

There is no doubt that women empowerment is key in the sustainability of development in any community. In the event of the pandemic, most businesses and work was put on hold, activities were held virtually for the few individuals who could access digital devices. There was a decline in basic household income, increasing poverty margins and hunger which directly deteriorated the health and well-being of individuals. The burden on already poor health facilities and infrastructures took a toll on the vulnerable (children, women and senior citizens).

Women and girls were forced to stay with their abusers for as long as the pandemic lasted, increasing the rate of physical injuries, unwanted pregnancies and maternal mortality. In all of this, the rural areas dwellers were mostly the victims

Recommendations

Women Empowerment as well as providing inclusive social protection for rural women is key in achieving Goals 1, 2,3 10 to a large extent.

Women and girls education is a starting point for women empowerment. More can be done to reduce the number of out of school children through strict implementation of the UBEB policy.

Women must represent at least the 35% of most leadership positions to enable her influence policies affecting women and girl.

Financial institutions should provide enabling ground for women to access loans for businesses and equal opportunities in accessing government contracts and grants.

Maternal and child healthcare should be given the needed priority at all levels of government.

Digital transformation is one tool available to us today, more than during any other past crises, women must key in to this technology transfer to contribute to a resilient discovery post Pandemic.

In all of these, Partnership and collaboration is essential. We can only achieve the aim of this action decade through global and inclusive partnership.

205. High Atlas Foundation

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals are aspirationally universal, addressing globally relevant issues with earnest objectives. Despite the profound good that they represent, there exist fundamental problems with the Goals. They lack prescriptiveness and provisions for local participation.

Perhaps most important, their conception is not the weighted totality of needs expressed by local communities worldwide. As a result, the people whose lives the Goals are meant to improve remain largely unaware of them while, at the same time, they need to feel vested in order to utilize them as helpful guides for action.

Part of the Goals' character is their applicability worldwide, in a vast diversity of contexts, including that of a global pandemic. Given this diversity, it is difficult to prescribe an approach that can be appropriate and effective in all situations. However, without some instruction for means of accomplishment, the Goals might seem detached visions rather than actionable objectives.

To move toward a more prescriptive strategy, we suggest identifying approaches that transcend locality and individual Goals. While they are global and universal, in many respects, the Goals are to be implemented at the community level. For example, encouraging the measure of decentralizing decision-making and management to the beneficiaries is also promoting the primary cross-cultural factor that leads to sustainable development - being people's participation.

An aspect of prescriptiveness the Goals should include is adaptiveness to the conditions of localities. This involves locally-led research and data gathering, which integrates qualitative components and allows for variation in culture, politics, environments, etc. Such ethnographic methodologies and participatory research helps illuminate local conditions in the people's own perspectives. Through this group analytic process, community members are in an improved position to identify viable projects that extend directly from their self-described needs, and ones that can be carried out safely during COVID-19.

The Goals' universality is generally positive: people can see themselves reflected in the Goals because they touch all aspects of life and reflect commonly-held ideals. However, that does not completely then equate to people's willingness to accept the Goals as motivational or as an actionable framework. Their investment inspired by the Goals and their implementation are tied to the degree to which they participated in the Goals' design and development.

In short, the breadth of the Goals are commonly adopted to a degree because some people can see their own principles reflected in them. For others, however, the means of conception matter; a lack of emotional connection to the Goals can hinder their use as an applied benchmark. The humanistic ideal represented by the Goals most deeply absorbed when local participation delivers its conception, or even now reconception, if it may be warranted in some measure for the sake of wider global public incorporation.

206. Hope For Life Initiative

“The world has seen many crises over the past 30 years. Each has hit human development hard but, overall, development gains accrued globally. Corona virus, with its triple hit to health, education, and income, may change this trend.” UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner. Putting an end to the spread of corona virus is vital to the promotion of economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. However, the recent introduction of a vaccine has helped end the acute phase of the pandemic.

An inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 agenda is a roadmap that demonstrates to the public, private and social sectors that sustainable and resilient recovery from the virus is crucial and essential to our future development. This means working with all sectors to ensure that development encompasses all parts such that no one is left behind. The unifying efforts of all UN organizations is paramount and vital to the control of Corona virus. Furthermore developing close networks with global and national partners will increase commitment to build in country capacity and infrastructure to help civil society.

In Nigeria, many people are faced with rising food costs with food access becoming difficult. Border restrictions and lockdowns both played major roles in slowing harvests. The pandemic has jeopardized basic human rights so for humanity to survive, priorities and values must change. Despite the challenges the virus has brought on humanity, it presents an opportunity to inspire change and revolutionize development of the system.

The health sector, goal number three received a major setback due to the pandemic. However, to achieve control of the pandemic, according to global health experts, the current health crisis should be given the highest priority. Strategies to create resilience in the system should be adopted and must first include engaging the citizens and managing expectations. Strategies must effectively utilize communication tools to ensure individuals, families and communities embrace solutions that will completely eradicate the pandemic. Credible information must be heard and adequately transmitted.

A comprehensive action must be developed in line with the UN approach. Following, the development and availability of a vaccine, the response and recovery program designed must increase then strengthen intervention and accelerate progress to development. This is because the promotion and delivery of vaccines will increase economic activities, promote healthy lifestyles and healthy environments. Going forward, the lessons learnt will serve as guides to building a more resilient society, capable of accelerating an effective path to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda

Last decade, the availability of vast technical expertise and experience in implementing resilience programming improved. So, in this decade of action and delivery, strives to expand and integrate skills must be maximised. This means adopting, policy interventions that accelerate progress towards a resilient and growth oriented process and system

Moving forward, the worst is behind us, therefore, decision makers need to look towards and beyond 2030. This will allow actors manage the socioeconomic response, ensure continuity and provide alternative strategies for achievement of the 2030 agenda.

207. Human Impacts Institute, Inc.

We are at the precipice of many global tipping points and are truly living through historic times. As international leaders, it is your distinct privilege and opportunity to lead us in a just recovery that transitions us from conquering to collaborating with nature and in which determines worth based on how much our systems improve the health, equity, security and dignity of our communities. You have the power to create connections where there were none before, to elevate the voices of those who have long been ignored, and to bring to the forefront the diversity of solutions held within our global community.

At the Human Impacts Institute, we are experts in inspiring actions that ensure a just and livable world. But it is not individual action that will drive a just transition, it is large-scale action from our governments, institutions, and corporations that are needed to truly shift our social and economic systems from nature-destroying to nature-affirming. A just transition means shifting resources from polluting industries to those that benefit our communities; It means an end to social and economic systems that benefit from extractionism and colonialism; and It means equitable access to natural resources, education, security, and dignity. Addressing emissions reductions and a rapid shift away from the dependency of our economic processes on socially and environmentally destructive industries must be at the forefront of any resiliency and recovery plans.

Community resilience and a just recovery will only come from an increased push from international leaders to connect with local communities. At the United Nations, you have the opportunity to serve as a clearinghouse for going beyond ‘best practices’ from our frontline communities to bringing their expertise and solutions to the forefront of any plans for a just recovery. Frontline communities need to be at the forefront of decision making processes within our national borders and beyond them. Similarly, we call on you to ensure that youth voices are central to any plans for a just recovery and the implementation of SDG goals. Without the inclusivity, drive, and fearlessness of the youth global climate movement, we would not be seeing the public outrage and monumental shift in the climate conversation that we see today.

It is within each of our stories that we see the potential for impact and change. It is within each of our cultures that we find the strength, innovation, and experience that is necessary for reimagining how our social and economic systems can coexist with nature, rather than extract from it. The planet’s natural systems don’t function within our political boundaries, so solutions to our climate crisis must reach beyond these constraints to deeper social innovations. Many of our current political borders are rooted in a history of imperial domination and colonial subjugation. We urge you, as Member States, to be at the forefront of innovative conversations on what new visions for social and economic organization can really be.

208. Human Rights Association for Community Development in Assiut

The pandemic has highlighted the disparities in access to high-speed connectivity and brought to the forefront, online safety issues as many people shifted to work, and communicate online. This global health crisis has significantly underscored humanity's growing reliance on digital connectivity for education, commerce, healthcare, and other essential services. With the emphasis on connectivity, the crisis has led to an accelerated response in improving Information Communication Technology infrastructure and access to services globally.

In addition to constrained access to infrastructure and devices, poor digital skills and/ billions of other marginalized people struggling with poor connectivity, are unable to leverage the power of digital transformation in a way that could catalyse seismic shifts in development outcomes.

Regarding Actions, policy guidance, challenges..., etc.

- This pandemic is highlighting inequality among countries along a contour line between those with and without access.
- Collaboration, partnership and development of inclusive and sustainable models are more essential than ever as we leverage the power of broadband to promote a faster recovery for all.
- The opportunity remains for countries to further their efforts by continuing to adopt more of the recommendations, with a focus on implementation.

Which require:

- 1) Making broadband policy universal
- 2) Making broadband affordable
- 3) Getting people online
- 4) Digital skills and literacy
- 5) Digital financial services
- 6) Getting businesses online
- 7) Achieving gender equality in access to broadband

In another hand:

- Establishing a baseline for universal digital connectivity.
- Identifying and supporting public-private financing of universal broadband, pioneering sustainable financing and investment models for all types of networks.
- Advocating for enabling Information Communication Technology regulatory environments. and online safety and security, especially for children.

The COVID-19 crisis has dramatically illustrated the vital importance of broadband networks and services in driving robust, resilient and well-functioning societies and economies.

Therefore, this statement willing to stand ready to spearhead global efforts for the digitally-enabled and digitally-driven pandemic response, recovery.

Also, Invite all parties – intergovernmental, regional, national, industry, civil society and technical and academic communities. Focusing on its core capabilities and strengths that include:

- 1) Continued high-level advocacy efforts and high-quality research on key topics.
- 2) Leveraging the momentum to support other related initiatives, such as the General's High-Level Panel and Roadmap for Digital Cooperation
- 3) Continuing collaboration among Commissioners and organizations to incubate highly effective and impactful partnerships.

As follows the measures and policy recommendations on building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda are:

1- Resilient connectivity:

Sustain and secure infrastructure to support all populations, including emergency responders. Strengthen network resilience, prioritize connections to critical government functions.

2- Affordable Access:

Increase affordability of services to ensure business and service continuity, and promote social cohesion during confinement to help with financial hardship and economic challenges.

3- Safe use of online services for informed and educated societies:

Support safe use of online services by all. support mobile payments, e-government platforms; ensure child safety online; and provide distance-learning programs for all ages.

209. Humanitarian Ambassadors NGO

In the context of the Covid 19 pandemic, human society is facing many problems that can negatively affect the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. The negative effects of this pandemic have affected all issues such as poverty, hunger, educational justice, economic prosperity, health and well-being. Children, as a vulnerable group, are the first group to suffer from these negative consequences.

Humanitarian Ambassadors Organization (HAO) believes that in the midst of a pandemic and with regard to the goals of sustainable development, steps should be taken to ensure that children are less harmed during these difficult conditions. We have tried to strengthen and participate in the goal of eradicating poverty, eradicating hunger, and increasing justice and educational opportunities for children through supportive and educational programs. We shall launch a nutrition program to reduce child poverty to targets vulnerable families including children. We are aiming to improve the wellbeing of children, from conception up until their second birthday a period that is crucial for human development. Children with malnutrition are often from families that face a range of economic and health problems. Programs, with the added components of family and community empowerment on improvement of nutrition, health and well-being of children, are known to be impactful.

Children also needs to education based on equality education in sustainable development goals. With participation of all governments, NGOs and UN efforts, we reached to significant result, which is 91% enrollment in primary education in developing countries. There has been enormous progress in achieving the target of universal primary education but still 57 million primary-aged children remain out of school. Progress has also been in some developing regions due to high levels of poverty, armed conflicts and other emergencies but in the context of the Covid 19 pandemic, has seen an increase in the number of children out of school. This is a worrying trend and while the greatest progress in primary school enrolment among all developing regions from 52 percent in 1990, up to 78 percent in 2012 but large disparities still remain. Children from the poorest households are up to four times more likely to be out of school than those of the richest households during the Covid 19 era. Achieving inclusive and quality education for all reaffirms the belief that education is one of the most powerful and proven vehicles for sustainable development. This goal ensures that all children complete free primary and secondary schooling by 2030. It also aims to provide equal access to affordable vocational training, to eliminate gender and wealth disparities.

Every child has the right to grow up healthy and free from Poverty, Hunger, Deprivation of Education and we should keep going our activities in helping and educating children in deprived areas of our country in Iran (Islamic Republic of), to improve nutrition, protect children and reduce poverty regarding sustainable development goals (SDGs). It will provide to effectively alleviate poverty by allowing parents to decide what their children need most, such as education, food, medicine, or clothes. This activity can also include intensive counseling on nutrition, health and education through an existing community health and social activist's volunteers.

210. **IBON.International Foundation Inc.**

As governments grapple with the COVID-19 pandemic, the climate crisis ravages especially in the global South. Despite the drop in carbon emissions, 2020 was the third warmest year on record. Extreme weather events, from droughts to tropical cyclones, resulted in loss of lives, resources, and livelihoods. Hardest hit are peoples in Latin America, South Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa amid high rates of poverty and income inequality. The deepening climate crisis disproportionately affects the poorest and most marginalized communities. The development gap between the global North and South is widening because of the social and economic impacts of climate change, the pandemic, and economic downturn.

As governments implement stimulus packages for fossil fuel-driven industries, global carbon dioxide emissions are set to rise by 1.5 billion tonnes this year, the second biggest increase in history. This would reverse most of last year's decline. Fossil fuel demand is predicted to rise in 2021, with both coal and gas surpassing 2019 levels.

Systemic and transformational change becomes ever more critical today. The narrative of “net zero” emissions economic recovery from COVID-19 is a smokescreen for false solutions: from unproven or ineffective technologies to corporate-driven mechanisms. Institutional investors are encouraged to make a market out of climate-resilient infrastructure. These do not deliver real-world emission reductions, and instead violate peoples' rights especially of rural and Indigenous Peoples, and obscure the culpability of the biggest corporate polluters.

Developed countries, recognising their historical responsibility and relative capability, and in accordance with equity, science, and the 1.5-degree Celsius temperature limit, must fulfill ambitious domestic mitigation targets. They should rapidly phase out fossil fuel extraction and subsidies, towards negative emissions by mid-century.

Developed countries must significantly increase climate finance contributions to the global South, as grants and additional to official development assistance (ODA), towards supporting efforts to adapt and transform to zero carbon societies. Developed countries should commit to provide loss and damage reparations to those most affected yet least responsible for climate change.

International cooperation should support Southern fiscal and policy space, through debt cancellations, quality ODA flows at 0.7% of donors' gross national income, progressive taxation, structural reforms in multilateral trade policies, and controlling speculative and illicit financial flows. Policy coherence for sustainability requires shifts away from neoliberal models that promote extractivism and unsustainable production patterns.

These could improve Southern capacities to respond to climate change and inequalities when complemented with development effectiveness, including democratic ownership and inclusive partnerships. Enabling environments for civil society, people's rights, and the substantive participation of working peoples and women must be foundational if we are to move towards transformative, people-centred, and sustainable development.

211. IDP Foundation, Inc.

Though the focus of the 2021 High Level Political Forum excludes Goal 4, IDP Foundation strongly believes that education is a key factor in the implementation of all the SDGs, and has a specific impact on SDG 1, 8,10 and 17. We also believe that sustainable and resilient recovery from the pandemic will be incomplete without a collective effort towards strengthening global education systems. School closures, lack of access to remote learning, and economic decline has resulted in many students having little to no access to education for a sustained period, which has created an alarming learning gap. New policies on the regulation and support of all schools are crucial and must be inclusive of independent low fee private schools. These schools currently serve a large and growing percentage of the population in many developing countries, without adequate support or oversight. Without them the public education system would become increasingly overwhelmed and the number of out of school children could grow, threatening the success of the SDGs.

SDG1 on No Poverty

Education is key to reducing intergenerational poverty. The World Bank estimates 7 million primary and secondary students are at risk of dropping out of school leading to a 2% increase in out of school (OOS) children (on 258 million children currently estimated to be OOS) – which will make the fight against poverty even more challenging for much longer. The only way to tackle this is to get all hands-on deck by mobilizing all education providers, both state and non-state, to work together in preventing long term increases in the OOS population.

SDG 8 on Decent Work and Economic Growth

It has been predicted that COVID-19 is likely to lead to the worst recession since the great depression. To manage the long-term effects on the economies of developing countries it is crucial to bridge the learning gap caused by school closures, which currently are estimated to reduce this generation of children's earning capacity by \$1trillion. For economic growth to be sustainable a more resilient approach to learning access across all schools is imperative.

SDG 10 on Reduced Inequalities

The disruption of education during school closures poses significant risks to continuous learning for children, particularly girls. Low-income families in underserved communities presently face a worsening learning gap because technology-dependent learning support systems have failed to cater to them. What is needed are solutions designed specifically for the constraints of these communities and the independent schools, by investing in systems that create a sustainable and resilient future.

SDG 17 on Partnerships

If global foreign investment is expected to decline, education is key to the long-term goal of sustainability beyond aid. Non-state schools must be seen an important contributor to this, and one

that can be strengthened through effective public-private partnerships to achieve greater results. Citing education as the way out of poverty is not new, however, a renewed commitment to a collective responsibility for its provision and a converged solution for its delivery could make intergenerational poverty a thing of the past.

212. Il Cenácolo

Il Cenácolo is a non-governmental organization (NGO) in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of United Nations. The organization holds social activities with a focus on human rights. Il Cenácolo is an independent, non-profit completely self-financing cultural organization. It has more than 800 members from five continents including professionals, scientists and artists. It has been carrying out its activities since 1990.

Il Cenácolo promotes research, courses, activities, contests, conferences, congresses, and publications in various areas of learning. The goal is to enrich contemporary culture. The association gives prominence to the human person and their dignity within the objectives and principles of the United Nations.

Il Cenácolo is committed to achieving the objectives set by the UN Agenda for 2030 with a special focus on: sustainable economic growth, protecting employment, reduce inequality, care for the environment.

Il Cenácolo will urge governments in their post-pandemic policies and perspectives so that women will be included in the structural changes that follow. In fact, post-Covid requires us to incentivize spending on research and development, taking into account the structural change of the economy that requires the achievement of equality, in order to be able to access sustainable development which provides for new international standards to protect work and social security, especially in favor of the most fragile categories such as women. Il Cenácolo will strive to achieve a new international cooperation, also focused on the essential contribution of women.

In this phase of activity aimed at 2030, Il Cenácolo, as it has always done, will participate in all the sessions of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, as well as in New York in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), and in workshops for the promotion and verification of the advancement of women.

Il Cenácolo, in the spirit of the UN directives, will organize concrete activities to defeat poverty, hunger, with attention to the achievement of health and a dignified quality of life for all. In this, particular attention will be paid to education and gender equality, which includes attention to the environment, necessary to obtain a new quality of work and economic growth.

Il Cenácolo will participate in the activities of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) which is based in Santo Domingo and deals with research and training for the progress of women.

213. Imamia Medics International

The COVID-19 pandemic has had an unprecedented global impact, extracting a high toll because of pre-existing inequalities as well as exacerbating these inequalities. The pandemic and its mitigation measures not only overwhelmed health systems globally, but also caused global economic repercussions, furthered poverty and hunger, and increased educational disadvantages with greater impacts in low-income, minority and other vulnerable populations. Better health is essential to achieving all three pillars of sustainable development-economic, social and environmental. As such, in addition to specific COVID-19 interventions, universal health coverage, public health promotion, and tackling non-communicable diseases must remain global priorities for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

States must urgently curtail the COVID-19 pandemic through testing, vaccinations and continued social measures like physical distancing and masking. In addition to vaccine access, states must increase public health awareness on COVID-19 and vaccines and collaborate with civil society and trusted community-based institutions to accelerate vaccinations. As evidenced through Imamia Medics International's programs globally, the existing trust between communities and community-based clinics/pharmacies has been important for successfully addressing vaccine hesitancy and overall healthcare delivery.

States must enhance the prevention and treatment of non-communicable diseases. Mental health needs have grown exponentially and those with non-communicable diseases are at a higher risk for severe illness and dying from COVID-19. COVID-19 is exacerbating the already heavy burden of non-communicable diseases on numerous states, with patients developing cardiovascular, pulmonary, and/or other chronic conditions. The pandemic severely disrupted regular screening, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of non-communicable diseases due to resource limitations as well as public fear. States must rebuild trust and educate their populations on the importance of mental health and preventative care.

Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic must include aggressive actions to ensure vulnerable populations are not left behind. Universal health coverage and digital equity are critical to achieve sustainable development goals as unequal access to technologies has a substantial impact on communities' abilities to confront and recover from the pandemic. Digital equity is necessary for meaningful access to healthcare, as well as education, breaking the intergenerational transfer of disadvantage, decent work, economic growth and poverty eradication. Partnerships with civil society organizations and focusing on disadvantaged populations are pivotal not only for vaccination campaigns but across all sectors to facilitate trust, increase education and awareness, and enhance meaningful access to lifesaving and life-changing services. States should utilize these partnerships at all levels to build an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

214. Independent Noncommercial Organization Road Safety Promotion Centre – Movement for Safe Traffic

During the pandemic of COVID-19, the situation with the transport use has changed significantly. The number of trips by all types of transport has significantly decreased in 2020. This has influenced both the improvement in air pollution indicators and the behavior patterns of road users. In Russian Federation the number of killed in car accidents over the last 10 years has decreased by 39%, and the social risk has reached 11.01. On the example of Russian Federation, we also see that, firstly, during the pandemic, the traffic decreased, however, because of this, it became possible to drive at high speeds, which leads to more serious consequences in case of a car accident. Secondly, the number of users of bicycles, electric scooters, hoverboards, unicycles (particularly rented ones), has grown significantly. Thirdly, the sharing economy - carsharing, kicksharing - suffered a lot from the lockdowns, but with the proper level of disinfection, it has proven that it can compete with the use of personal vehicles. In general, the same applies to public transport. Thus, we, as an organization engaged in road safety, note that during the pandemic, the number of deaths in car accidents has decreased in Russia, however, at the global level, this is not enough to achieve the goals stated in the SDG (target 3.6) - a 50% decrease in the number of deaths in car accidents by 2030.

To achieve these indicators, we propose:

- Create general United Nations requirements for countries for speed limits in urban environment - 30 km/h in areas with heavy pedestrian traffic.
- Formulate unified requirements/recommendations for the transformation of road infrastructure in the urban environment to reduce accidents.
- Formulate guidelines for community outreach to explain why such changes are needed.
- Create a unified approach to regulating the use of electric scooters, hoverboards, unicycles, taking into account both the need to increase the proportion of users who choose such means instead of personal vehicles (positive effect: reducing traffic congestion, reducing harmful air emissions), and the need to ensure their safety and the safety of other road users.
- Form recommendations, a list of the most successful cases for the development of a car sharing, kicksharing systems and the use of public transport as an alternative to personal transport.
- Based on the best practices, form recommendations for an enhancement of driving training courses in driving schools.
- Conduct fundamental international research on the causes of road accidents with a broad specter of specialists from different fields.

The main results of such policy should be:

- Restructuring of patterns of road users' behavior - they will more often choose a bicycle, an electric scooter, car sharing or public transport instead of a personal car, which will reduce the risk of getting into a car accident
- Formation of a special road user's risk-assessment system and prevention of accidents, improvement of the drivers' skills
- Improving the safety of pedestrians in the urban environment

- Reducing the level of use of personal vehicles, reducing traffic congestion and the amount of harmful emissions into the atmosphere.

215. India Water Foundation

India Water Foundation, founded in 2008 to ensure inclusive and participatory sustainable economic growth and development that prioritizes the fundamental premise of Leaving No One Behind. In the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic, the focus area remains recovery of economic, social and environmental aspects, for all governments, private sector and civil society organizations globally and domestically. India Water Foundation's efforts during 2020-2021 have been to create public outreach by generating awareness of the health dimensions, safety measures, hygiene and sanitization sensitization through use of e-platforms. The Foundation's avenues of work include climate action and projects that had commenced prior to national lockdown in March 2020. These projects while nearly ceased operation due to the unprecedented circumstances posed by this health crisis, were led into continuation through web-conferencing and online mechanisms. Additionally, we intensified efforts in urban as well as rural areas to engage with local administration and elected representatives in villages (Panchayats) via e-governance. The panchayats have been significant in mitigating the spread of the disease from Levels 2 to 3 in suburbs and villages, ensuring their place in history as winners of grassroots governance systems that contained a global pandemic locally. The experience of coping with Covid-19 highlights the significant inequalities in Indian society, with respect to the "internet gap" that remains gendered and rural-urban area divided with only 24% of Indian households with access to internet for e-education, as determined by UNICEF. The pandemic has derailed the progress towards achievement of all SDGs by 2030 and within 9 years, the global community and India is faced with the challenge of strengthening its healthcare systems while ensuring access to livelihoods, education, reduced poverty and ecosystem rehabilitation. Recognizing water as a connector to all sectors- energy, food, education and health, India Water Foundation has utilized policy advocacy and dissemination of information, best practices and technology to engage various stakeholders, inclusive of vulnerable, marginalized and local communities during the year 2020. Digital communication was the tool used to continue engagement with schools previously associated with the Foundation as Jal Mitras (Friends of Water), village local bodies and district administrations, since the commencement of several projects at rural level. These projects relate to water, environment and climate change, serving as examples for fostering partnerships within States, government bodies and civil society in furtherance of SDG 17. For a sustainable and resilient recovery, we need coordinated and comprehensive regional and international cooperation, response and recovery efforts guided by the Sustainable Development Goals. It is critically important to expand access to better health infrastructure, build the resilience for the most vulnerable in the region, promote low-carbon development by resurrecting MSMEs and generating employment. These decisions taken today can provide immediate relief, but also secure a lasting economic recovery, increase community resilience, and ensure a long-term pathway to sustainable development. We should not let this chance slip and make it imperative to shed the traditional thinking of working in silos and promote regional cooperation and look forward to being a part of it.

216. Initiative: Eau

The COVID-19 pandemic has reminded us that sufficient water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) capacity in healthcare facilities is essential for protecting public health. Insufficient WASH capacity in healthcare facilities has posed a particular challenge for many countries in controlling and preventing COVID-19 infection. This is especially true in lower- and middle-income countries, like Burkina Faso, Initiative: Eau's primary target geography, where chronic resource limitations undermine health system integrity. Based on its work in Burkinabè healthcare facilities, Initiative: Eau has made observations that warrant consideration as authorities and partners design and implement COVID-19 recovery efforts, both for Burkina Faso and more broadly.

Inadequate critical infrastructure, non-existent procedures, and limited essential materials present challenges to WASH capacity in Burkina Faso's healthcare facilities. In February 2021, Initiative: Eau conducted an evaluation of WASH capacity in health centers in Fada N'Gourma, capital of Burkina Faso's East region. This evaluation revealed critical gaps in 1) safe water access and storage, 2) excreta management systems, and 3) environmental hygiene capacities. Several of the health centers evaluated only had water access for part of the day. Aging sanitation infrastructure posed imminent threats of soil & water contamination in all centers evaluated. No centers had Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for cleaning, and all lacked essential cleaning products. While the evaluation is specific to healthcare facilities in Fada N'Gourma, the gaps observed are similar across the country. These gaps reduce the ability of healthcare facilities to safely provide essential health services, putting community members and health center patients at increased risk of transmissible disease.

In light of this, and of similar findings highlighted in the joint World Health Organization and UNICEF report "Global Progress Report on WASH in Health Care Facilities," Initiative: Eau advocates that national authorities and their development partners prioritize strengthening WASH in healthcare facilities during COVID-19 recovery efforts. Specifically, Initiative: Eau recommends that national authorities:

- 1) Standardize WASH support needs analysis in healthcare facilities through the employment of comprehensive evaluation tools such as WHO's Water and sanitation for health facility improvement tool (WASH FIT);
- 2) Elaborate and adopt national technical norms and standards for WASH infrastructure in healthcare facilities; and,
- 3) Systematize the inclusion of budget lines for the operation and maintenance of WASH equipment in healthcare facilities in national health budgets.

To support national authorities, Initiative: Eau recommends that development partners:

- 1) Promote the implementation of the three aforementioned recommendations to national authorities; and,
- 2) Increase funding for WASH-in-Health interventions.

In doing so, COVID-19 recovery efforts can work to sustainably fortify health system resilience against future disease outbreaks, while improving health service delivery and safeguarding public health.

217. Intercontinental Network for the Promotion of the Social Solidarity Economy

The global COVID-19 pandemic has dramatic consequences for public health, the economy and society, causing massive job losses especially but not only in the informal economy, and creating hunger and homelessness. The world needs to embrace radical alternative approaches to the ‘business as usual’, recommended post-2008-2009 financial crisis. There are many people-centred solidarity economy-based approaches that can make major contributions to achieving Agenda 2030.

Social Solidarity Economy (SSE) is the heart of this approach. Over the last 25 years, grassroots organisations have developed cooperatives and innovative community-led solutions to meeting their needs in housing, sustainable food systems, social protection and health, in helping people move beyond the informal economy, etc. The UN Inter-agency Taskforce on SSE has documented many of these achievements. We are committed to an approach built on human needs and rights!

SSE is currently playing a critical role in addressing and mitigating the short- and long-term impacts of the COVID-19 that can significantly contribute to a paradigm change. In the short term, SSE actors have collective solutions that strengthen public services and complement government action. In the long run, SSE provide economic alternatives, promote inclusive and sustainable models, and strengthen access to many human rights. The challenge, as specified by RIPESS in the statement issued on the consequences of the pandemic, is to build an alternative development model, driven by the needs of all the peoples and communities, and that protects of our planet.

As highlighted by the UN Secretary-General in his report presented in the 59th edition of the UN Commission for Social Development, amongst the policies and measures that need to be adopted to achieve an inclusive, equitable, resilient and sustainable development, the SG mentioned “the SSE embodies another alternative growth model that seeks a new balance between economic efficiency and social and environmental resilience”.

The SG also expressed “the efforts to date have been insufficient to deliver the change we need, jeopardizing the Agenda’s promise to current and future generations,” (SDG Summit September 2020). It is clear that SSE can make a significant contribution to implementing that appeal. Values such as solidarity, justice, empowerment, cooperation and democratic participation are the basis of SSE. It’s part of the struggle for active human-rights based citizenship, the right to housing and health and food sovereignty, communities and women's emancipation, and respect for environmental, cultural, religious, sexual and racial diversity, and ensures that resources are managed to realise social justice.

There is a need to strengthen international recognition for SSE in contributing to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. We urge Member States to include SSE success stories in their national voluntary reports. The time has come for those States with SSE framework legislation to raise the voice of SSE in the international arena, and to enhance cooperation amongst States and SSE networks and actors to support the construction of ecosystems that promote SSE development. The time has come to collectively build a new normal, based on social economic financial and environmental justice, solidarity and equality and equity.

218. International Academy of Environmental Sanitation and Public Health

International Academy of Environmental Sanitation and Public Health (IAESPH), New Delhi, India has been serving for the promotion of environmental sanitation, water, solid waste management, bio-energy generation from waste and waste water management (SDG-3,6,7&13). When the United Nations along with other stakeholders debated, discussed and finalised the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015, even those gifted with the acknowledged foresight could not have imagined what lied ahead five years down the line. With millions dead and still counting, one year down the line and the end of the dark tunnel is not yet in sight as the world is now grappling with the second wave of Coronavirus or Covid-19 pandemic. Developing economies like India, which was still in the process of creating a good healthcare infrastructure, were hardest hit by it. This scourge is not merely confined to India or other developing nations. Even the developed countries with far better healthcare infrastructure in place were found wanting.

Among the 17 SDG plans adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015, SDG-6 dealt with water and sanitation for all by the year 2030, besides making the world free of open defecation, which causes so many diseases. While the experts were aware that hand-washing and proper sanitisation held the key to the success of achieving SDG-3 and do away with avoidable death among children, only none had any inkling that was just around the corner and would create global havoc in 2020 itself. Likewise, SDG-7, which dealt with clean energy, was identified as another crucial aspect for the sustainable development goal. Energy is directly linked to the well-being of the people as the availability of clean energy at affordable rates lead to economic development, which in turn eradicates poverty, paving the way for a safer and better life. Moreover, SDG-7 is the only remedy for the lurking catastrophe that might be caused due to global warming on a future date. IAESPH, which has been at the forefront of many social activities towards making India a cleaner and safer land to live in over the last two and half decades, has reinforced its energy to take the Covid-19 challenge heads on its in own way.

If any, the system that was supposed to fulfil this goal by 2030, has encountered a temporary roadblock. Individual nations and their governments must not slacken their efforts to meet the set sustainable development goals, overcome the odds and try to meet the 2030 target to prevent the preventable. Time has also come to inculcate the habit of personal hygiene and a robust sanitisation practice at the individual levels. At the same time, efforts of international bodies like the UN and WHO, as well as respective governments, must not get diverted from the target of “ensuring that no one is left behind” at the national, regional and global levels in achieving the 2030 agenda. A setback cannot be allowed to derail a noble goal aimed at making the world a better place to live in for the present generation and posterity.

219. International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness

On behalf of the global eye care sector, we take this opportunity to commend the leadership of Bangladesh, Ireland and Antigua and Barbuda and the work undertaken by all Member States to adopt the first United Nations General Assembly resolution “Vision for Everyone: Accelerating action to achieve the sustainable development goals”.

Vision is fundamental to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to ensuring that no one is left behind. Over 1.1 billion people are needlessly living with poor vision because they do not have access to basic eye care services. They are some of the poorest and most marginalised people in society. Without action, the number of people without access to eye care will rise to 1.8 billion and over half the population will have myopia by 2050.

Behind these figures are huge, missed opportunities; the ability to gain fulfilling employment, to escape poverty, to learn, to drive safely, to read a book or play sport and to enrich and develop communities and countries. This lost human potential already costs the global economy at least \$411 billion dollars every year in lost productivity alone. Improving eye health is a practical and highly cost-effective way of unlocking this human potential. 90% of all vision loss is avoidable. Simple solutions, such as glasses and cataract surgeries, already exist. But national commitment is needed to address the vast inequities in access to eye care services.

This High-Level Political Forum comes at a time when the world is facing unprecedented challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed and exacerbated the vulnerabilities and inequalities within and among countries – with the poorest and most vulnerable suffering the most. People with blindness and sight loss have been disproportionately impacted by the health, social and economic impacts of COVID-19, and eye care services across the world have been severely disrupted. The global eye care sector stands ready to support countries to build a more equitable, inclusive and resilient future, where everyone, everywhere, has the best possible vision and where people living with vision impairment can achieve their full potential.

We call upon Member States and the international community to incorporate vision in their efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals over the next decade, so that no one is left behind because they do not have access to basic eye care.

220. International Alliance of Patients' Organizations

The International Alliance of Patients' Organizations (IAPO) is an alliance of patient organisations in official relationship with the WHO and a consultative status with ECOSOC and is representing the interests of patients worldwide. We reach over 1 million patients through our 286-member patient alliances and organizations based in over 70 countries covering over 50 different disease areas.

COVID-19 has reminded us that without health there can be no economic and social wellbeing for all. Health that was previously considered a sovereign matter and a national political choice is now they only global economic, social, and political choice.

This statement proposes that the Sustainable Development Goal 3 is now promoted to SDG 1 and Target 3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all become the high priority target 1.1. This reordering of priorities will ensure we can rapidly progress recovery and attaining the global herd-immunity we need to ensure everyone is safe.

At the WHO 148th Executive Board, IAPO welcomed the WHO Director General's Report 148/7 Political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases and recognised that it was a timely report on the threat posed to the progress being made on the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases as our member organisation reported a global collapse of NCD programmes across the whole spectrum of health care from health promotion to prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and palliative care.

IAPO wants all NCD patients be vaccinated against COVID-19 as a priority and the Political Declaration of the UN High-Level Meeting on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs) be implemented to the full and. The disrupted NCD healthcare services should be reinstated and resumed as a priority.

The disruption has increased NCD mortality and morbidity as patients have either not been able to access timely, quality, and safe health care, or the patients have through fear of infection refused to attend screening services and follow-on treatment clinics. Lack of access to NCD services is brewing a new 'pandemic' of mental health and wellbeing.

In conclusion, IAPO would like to see an enabling environment be created for NCD patient engagement in national NCD programmes and fast-track pathways created for patient co-creation in national and global build back better efforts to ensure we attain the UHC 2030 NCD targets.

221. International Alliance of Women

The International Alliance of Women is an international non-governmental organization that works to promote women's human rights around the world, focusing particularly on empowerment of women and development issues and more broadly on gender equality.

We note the development of the Covid vaccines has been possible because of the women scientists who have been instrumental in every phase of the work. While we celebrate all women who have made significant contributions to society in the eradication of COVID-19, our objective here is to highlight areas where United Nations Member states can boast commitment to gender equality post COVID.

Overview Of The Issues

Within the last decade, there have been new yet familiar threats to the fundamental tenets of women's rights. Over the last year, with the negative impact of COVID-19 on society violence against women, including human trafficking, has escalated. Connected to the increase in violence against women is the underlying economic challenges exacerbated by financial pressures, climate crisis and food insecurities that originate from loss of income and barriers to food production in extreme climate conditions.

International debt architecture and liquidity has to be reimagined to finance sustainable development in the era of COVID-19 with specific focus on recovery for women and girls.

The Impact Of Covid-19 On Poverty Poor Women And Girls

Women under COVID-19 are facing great challenges. They make up the majority of those working in jobs on the frontline and those working in industries that have been closed entirely, particularly in those sectors such as hospitality, which are at higher risk of being destroyed, as it is unclear when and at what capacity they will be able to reopen. Because of social norms and expectations, the burden of unpaid care work primarily falls on the female members of the household. The COVID-19 crisis is currently widening the gender gap at work, where women are more likely to lose their jobs than men and at home, where women are taking on the bulk of childcare. The closure of schools and nurseries due to lockdowns has added education and childcare services to pre-existing home production needs with a likely increase in disparities between women and men.

In some countries women because of social norms are discouraged from investing in education and skills. This further entrenches women into domestic un-paid care work, creating a cycle of social norms that exacerbates gender inequality. In some countries young girls are very often forced to drop out of school, to assist with unpaid care work in their households. The undertaking by women of unpaid care work within the family is the main barrier to entry into paid employment and therefore it exacerbates poverty, gender inequality, in particular of poor women. The COVID-19 crisis is expected to widen the poverty gap between women and men according to data from UN Women and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The report from Insights to Actions circulated on the issue states that the global economy is expected to contract by 5% in

2020 facing an additional 96 million people into extreme poverty by 2021, of whom 47 million are women and girls. This will increase the total number of women and girls living in extreme poverty to 435 million. COVID-19 has hit hardest the informal sector where women globally make up 58 % of it while this percentage is much higher in developing countries; 91% in South Asia, 92% in Sub-Saharan Africa. Members of the informal workforce are most susceptible to layoffs and job cuts. Workers also have far fewer social protections including health care, paid sick leave or time off. COVID-19 is also making existing gender inequalities worse. Women make up 70% of the global health and social care workforce and infection rates among female health care workers are up to three times higher than male health care workers. Women from marginalized groups are globally overrepresented in personal care jobs and domestic work jobs that require closer contact with others and can lead to exposure to the virus. Moreover the COVID-19 Pandemic has underscored society's reliance on women both on the front line and at home while simultaneously exposing structural inequalities across every sphere from health to the economy, security to social protection. Hard fought gains for women's rights are also under threat. Developing countries currently face the prospect of costly debt crises with far reaching consequences. The International Labour Organization (ILO) predicts that the pandemic will trigger a 60% decline in earnings for 1.6 billion informal workers. FAO estimates that more than 265 million people face acute food insecurity. Responding to the Pandemic is not just about rectifying long standing inequalities but also about building a resilient world in the interest of everyone with women at the center of recovery.

The Impact Of Covid On Decent Work And Economic Growth

In recent times neoliberal policies have become dominant, which means a focus on macroeconomic policies, reducing the role of the state, cutting back on public expenditures and liberalizing markets and trade. All these policies have negative effects on women. Gender equality and economic growth are influenced by the measures of gender equality that are used, so an increase in gender equality in productivity has to be matched by an increase in wages, otherwise we have growth by exploiting women. Workers in care sectors are often among the most exploited, receiving low pay and working under precarious conditions. As a result, women continue to be discriminated against and their contributions undervalued. The gender division of labor in the care economy has put women at the front and center of the global pandemic, very often in the most unprotected terms. Women and girls have been disproportionately affected in every sphere. Care work in the household is a huge constraint for women in all aspects of life. Time has come to develop counter strategies from a feminist perspective. Economics is not gender neutral and women's experiences should be accounted for or even be at the center of economic analysis. We need to redefine our economy. We need new concepts to bring into the heart of the understanding of the economy. Care economy is one such concept, reproductive economy is another one. We should consider both as integral parts of the economy. We need a genuine transformation of the global order. UN Member states should therefore all work toward a feminist economic model, which is not solely based on economic growth, which reproduces gender inequalities, but one that prioritizes people over profits.

The COVID-19 crisis has uncovered the huge decent work deficits that still prevail in 2021. The crisis highlights the vulnerability of millions of working people in the informal sector, where women have high participation and which does not have social protection coverage. Among them

are women working in the unpaid care sector and in the health sector. WHO calls for healthy, safe and decent working conditions for all health workers amidst COVID-19 Pandemic. The crisis is having an impact on women's health and safety. Women find it hard to access much needed maternal, health services given that all services are being directed to essential medical needs. The majority of front-line health workers, especially nurses, are women (67% of global health force is women). So emphasis should be put to other needs of women, like menstrual hygiene products.

COVID-19 severely disturbed the International Alliance of Women's Health Commission's work in advancing the Water and Pads for School Girls – Empowerment for Life Programme. The 6 member organisations carrying out this extremely successful project in Africa and Asia had to interrupt their activities due to COVID-19 restrictions and school closures.

The IAW Project is an important contribution to fight the prevailing ignorance about biological facts; the onset of the period is a most normal happening in adolescent girls. The typical girl in our project countries faces barriers to access her education because she does not have disposable pads or enough washable pads and a place to dry them for re-use. This deficit forces these girls to skip school during their period and further widen the education gap. Even developed countries such as Canada are now just moving toward free menstrual products in schools.

While 94% of companies that responded to the UN Global compact annual survey report that they have policies and practices in place specifically advancing labor rights only 29% of them conduct impact assessments for labor rights .

Millions of companies worldwide are in danger of being forced out of business with grave impacts on employment. Enterprises in the travel, tourism, hospitality, food service, retail and manufacturing sectors have been especially hard hit with large portions of their workforce vulnerable to layoffs.

A Way Forward

Finally it is striking how many of the key decision makers in the process of de-signing and executing the pandemic response are men. The voices of women can lead to better outcomes.

Stimulus packages must include social protection measures that reflect an understanding of women's special circumstances and a recognition of the care economy.

UN women say women's absence from task forces will perpetuate a gender divide. Policy makers must act now to close the gender gap.

The world faces a devastating challenge. Confronting the issues of debt sustainability is an opportunity for the International Community to help all countries build forward better. Ensuring that no one is left behind, solutions must prioritize a comprehensive approach to recovering countries such as liquidity to all International Monetary Fund (IMF) countries and not add to their debt load. Action on debt is an integral part of this recovery plan.

It is imperative that the international framework for transparency is strengthened and a common framework implemented with scaled up support for their members from the International Monetary Fund.

The most acute stress is being felt by the most vulnerable countries and the women and girls therein. Trade and debt sustainability are closely linked especially island economies. Action on trade can help to reduce debt and help countries to take advantage of market opportunities. This can help to rekindle growth and trade and engage women in the economic development.

Debt vulnerabilities, greater spending needs and domestic currency depreciation are all factors that negatively impact a recovery plan and makes it difficult to build forward better.

The World Bank has the authority to fully implement the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) to help countries concentrate their resources on fighting the pandemic and safeguarding the lives of its citizens, including women and girls. This restructuring framework must include consultation with Women's organizations to ensure an authentic gender perspective as well as women in the crisis region or countries at war must be participants in all peace processes at all levels (according to UNSCR 1325, 2000).

The International Alliance of Women stresses the importance of UN Member States acting with urgency to pass a comprehensive recovery legislation, especially as we witness recent attempts to suppress women's voices -- including the successful passage of an Agreed Conclusion at UNCSW65 which rolled back fundamental gender based language to ensure human rights for all.

The International Alliance of Women however applauds the mobilizing commitments of philanthropic bodies such as "Women Moving Millions" with a minimum of a \$100,000,000 hybrid contribution to show what can be done. As well Canada launched the Equality Fund. In conjunction with building back better the Ford Foundation made a major contribution. It is clear that the Feminist Funding Eco-System is a must have in any recovery plan.

222. International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience, association sans but lucrative

In today's globally connected world, it is more important than ever to help young people develop skills to succeed in a global workplace. International experience-based learning builds intercultural competencies and advances skills in critical thinking, problem solving, and communication, that can provide long-term benefits to career advancement.

Founded in 1948, the International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience (IAESTE A.s.b.l.) began consideration of remote internships for STEM students in its 84-nation network in 2019. The 2020 pandemic forced it to take action. Those preparing to grow skills through international internships are struggling to find 'the right' virtual experience – and wondering how to translate that to a resume that impresses a potential future employer. Now, all young people are coping with a paradigm shift that may forever change how they attain professional development – and how they demonstrate that to others judging the value of a work-from-home experience. Our community responded assertively and creatively to support remote STEM internships (a particular challenge because STEM students do not have access in their home to sophisticated equipment often used to perform many engineering tasks). One promising outcome came out of the Latin American region. Members in Bolivia, Peru, Chile, Colombia, and Ecuador saw the increase in the number of remote internships as a means to reach deeper into more rural and lower socioeconomic regions to attract students whose mobility is challenged by cost to travel to Europe, Asia, or North America.

International internships provide all students with hard and soft skills, but rapid advances in technology perhaps make skills acquisition that much more critical for emerging STEM leaders eager to contribute to addressing complex global challenges. Can remote STEM internships replicate the learning outcomes of an in-person experience? Remote international internships have provided opportunities for students who cannot travel outside their home country given financial and visa considerations. But if these experiences don't offer students opportunities to gain the same hard and soft skills, does this newfound access actually act to put them further behind their more mobile colleagues when global travel resumes? That is, is a remote internship better than no experience at all, or will those forced to 'settle' for a remote internship because of their personal circumstances not be able to gain necessary experience – and grow their professional network – to capture a good entry-level job?

However, the world needs much more – and more prepared – STEM talent to tackle a full range of complex problems. Given this, the future of inclusive effective career development for tech talent will require collaboration between students, host internship sites, universities, and program providers to assure participants have worthwhile internship experiences – whether in-person or remote.

This may sound like a 'first-world' problem, and there may be less empathy for young people already able to attend university. But, IAESTE A.s.b.l.'s efforts have been contributing to point #15 in the 2030 Agenda for more than 70 years. Its founder, James Newby of the United Kingdom, had a lifelong passion of providing global experiences for British tradesmen who did not have the advantages of wealth, formal education, and networks. Post-World War II was a similar "time of

immense opportunity,” and the international training scheme he helped to establish began to lay a groundwork to allow those “hundreds of millions of people [to] emerge from extreme poverty.” In 2021, IAESTE A.s.b.l. seeks to assure that “the spread of information and communications technology and global interconnectedness [that] has great potential to accelerate human progress, to bridge the digital divide and to develop knowledge societies” does not inadvertently create a new sub-class of engineers whose efforts challenge societies to adequately grow infrastructure to support an enhanced quality of life.

IAESTE A.s.b.l. concurs with 2030 Agenda point #27 that “all countries stand to benefit from having a healthy and well-educated workforce with the knowledge and skills needed for productive and fulfilling work and full participation in society.” Toward this end, our efforts seek to support Sustainable Development Goals 8.2 (“achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation”) and 8.3 (“promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation”), helping a more inclusive set of young people to access experiences that will help them to help their societies grow and flourish.

IAESTE A.s.b.l. believes international governments – with an emphasis on education and commerce ministries – need to pay attention that the COVID-19 pandemic-inspired move to remote experiences for young people does not result in building a cadre of lesser-trained and less-regarded workers relegated to lower-level future jobs. We challenge these governments to instead work to integrate these experiences which offer opportunity to a broader spectrum of the population into effective career readiness efforts that allow more young people to contribute to sustainable economic development of their societies.

IAESTE A.s.b.l. stands ready to contribute to the discussion. Beginning with information about its 2020 experience moving in-person internships to remote experiences, our support for the 2030 Agenda will focus on two elements: assuring remote experiences are worthwhile; and efforts by regional partners to expand access to students with barriers to participate in in-person internships. In the first element, we will gather and study testimonials of student experiences in remote internships from across the world to showcase best practices by host internship sites offering well-rounded experiences. In the second element, we will use the example of the regional effort by Latin American partners to use remote internships as an opportunity to reach deeper into communities of STEM students for whom travel to other parts of the world for in-person internships is challenging.

IAESTE A.s.b.l. will use its position of having representation in 84 nations to facilitate discussions about learning elements important in both in-person and remote STEM internships, and to curate the top learning elements a diverse global audience believes need to be a part of a STEM internship – the results of which will be shared with governments, students, universities, host internship site, allowing partners to prioritize learning elements offered in future internships.

We will further engage with our global network to solicit commentary from representatives of STEM companies to outline their vision of the post-pandemic STEM workplace, and what skills they will expect from STEM graduates. Our efforts will focus on how STEM students can best prepare themselves – which skills can be provided in academic courses, which can be developed

in internships, which can be achieved through online delivery of specialized content. This will help to position the role of remote internships in career readiness.

IAESTE A.s.b.l. strongly believes that a post-pandemic laissez-faire approach to monitoring the quality of career readiness efforts will ultimately grow a divide between nations. Instead, a proactive engagement of all stakeholders is necessary to assure more informed policies and practices emerge to help prepare young people to confront global challenges the entire world faces.

223. International Association of University Professors and Lecturers

Si la continuité pédagogique a été assurée dans les établissements d'enseignement pendant la crise sanitaire liée à la Covid-19, le passage des enseignements à distance a suscité un grand nombre de difficultés qui mettent en exergue les plus-values de l'enseignement en 'présentiel'. Le retour au présentiel est réclamé par les universitaires avec tous les questionnements que soulèvent le passage partiel ou total des enseignements à distance en temps de pandémie.

La nature et les volumes des contenus prévus n'ayant pas toujours été adaptés à la modalité 'distancielle', les enseignants et les étudiants passent de longues heures devant l'écran et souffrent d'une surcharge de travail. Ceci remet en cause les conditions de travail du personnel de l'enseignement supérieur. Par ailleurs, ces conditions de caractère exceptionnel ne sont pas précisées dans la Recommandation de l'UNESCO concernant le personnel enseignant de l'enseignement supérieur. L'Association Internationale des Professeurs et Maîtres de Conférences des Universités (IAUPL) soutient le principe de libre choix de la méthode d'enseignement (en 'présentiel' ou en 'distanciel'), qui est une condition de la liberté académique de l'enseignant. L'IAUPL dénonce en outre les tentatives d'imposer le 'distanciel' comme modalité pérenne d'enseignement post-covid. Sans une prise en compte des considérations éthiques et du respect des libertés fondamentales des enseignants, la pérennité du distanciel comme modalité d'enseignement post-covid ne pourra, avec l'arrivée des outils de l'intelligence artificielle dans l'enseignement supérieur, qu'aggraver les conditions de l'apprentissage humain et d'exercice du métier d'enseignant.

La pandémie amène aussi à s'interroger sur la valeur des diplômes au regard du manque de fiabilité des évaluations, des résultats académiques obtenus par les étudiants pendant la pandémie, des connaissances acquises pendant les semestres concernés de leur cursus et des difficultés voire de l'impossibilité à obtenir et à effectuer une mobilité académique (stage, apprentissage en alternance université-entreprise, mobilité interuniversitaire). Autant de questions qui suscitent chez eux de fortes incertitudes sur leur avenir et sur leur insertion professionnelle dans les conditions décentes ODD 8 et égalitaires ODD 10.

L'enseignement distanciel ou le futur apprentissage artificiel imposés sans prise en compte de l'avis de l'enseignant est aussi une menace contre le caractère national et international des diplômes : chaque université étant en effet amenée à modifier les maquettes et les méthodes d'apprentissage. Cela crée des différences substantielles entre les enseignements et favorise des conditions défavorables à la reconnaissance des qualifications universitaires dans le cadre de la mobilité académique. En outre le distanciel amène à l'abandon progressif des exigences dans l'obtention des semestres ou années, source de dévalorisation du diplôme ou de déqualification des étudiants.

L'enseignement supérieur est présenté comme partie intégrante de l'objectif du développement durable ODD 4 Éducation de qualité qui garantit l'accès équitable à un enseignement universitaire, la reconnaissance internationale des titres universitaires et la liberté académique. Dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre de l'Agenda 2030 l'IAUPL souhaite réaffirmer que les libertés académiques doivent être respectées dans toutes les conditions d'exercice du métier d'universitaire.

224. International Charitable Initiative for Girl Child and Women Development Foundation

It will be recalled that on 11th March, 2020, the World Health Organization declared that COVID-19 a pandemic given the wide level of spread and the severity of its health consequences on the general population. The effect of the pandemic led to severe dislocation of the economic and social activities amongst others. Consequently, it affected realizing the 2030 Agenda and SDG. Invariably, the resultant and after effects of the pandemic has shown considerably, the risk and vulnerability of countries especially those in the developing countries. In Nigeria, the level of unemployment is 33%; inflation rate has equally risen to 18.17% as at March 2021, high level of insecurity in the country. Nigeria has been declared the poverty capital of the world. Public health and educational institutions are almost in comatose. In addition, there has been an unprecedented upsurge in domestic gender violence. However, those that seems to be impacted more from these negative indices are the girl child and women who represent a sub group of the general population. These equally shows the vulnerability and risk exposure of the girl child and women in our society. There could not be any sustainable development without proper attention to women and the girl child, the realization of 2030 Agenda and SDG will be gravely hampered.

1. Availability and equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines to the general population and by extension the girl child and women in a seamless manner. It should be noted that there seems to be a lot of misconceptions surrounding the vaccines which invariably imply that there is urgent need for continuous advocacy to be made by the government and nongovernmental organizations to allay the fear of the population concerning the COVID-19 certified vaccines. The successful use of these vaccines holds the key in bringing normalcy to society and achieving the SDG.

2. There is need for a high level inter-ministerial co-ordination of key ministries, Department and Agencies (MDAs) to make sure that the right policies are in place and careful evaluation and implementation of policies and plans are carried out to logical conclusion.

3. Upscale of resource mobilization human, material and financial from all sources in order to invest into a sustainable recovery from COVID -19 pandemic.

4. Availability of reliable data that are verifiable and could be subjected to scientific evaluation is key. The agencies saddle with the responsibilities should be equipped with the necessary tools, technologies and manpower.

5. NGOs should be encouraged to act as watch dogs and in addition, play a veritable role in performance, direction and mobilization.

225. International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment

The following issues and recommendations are drawn from the COVID-19 experiences of professionals and families supporting persons with visual impairment (VI) in the Latin America, Africa and West Asia regions of the International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment).

SDG 1 No Poverty

In Latin America and West Asia, approximately 70% of persons with VI lack opportunities for economic growth and have informal jobs, regardless of their level of education. The COVID-19 pandemic has increased this gap, as persons with VI and multiple disability living in poverty, have lost whatever limited earning opportunities they had.

Recommendation

Financial provisions for persons with VI, including COVID-19 financial resources for disadvantaged populations.

SDG 2 Zero hunger

In the ICEVI West Asia region, many persons with VI are on the verge of starvation due to restrictions in their movement and lost earning opportunities, and many who are infected with COVID-19 have no scope for home quarantine and are being further driven towards starvation and hunger.

Recommendation

Provision of “Food Security” and safe quarantine support.

SDG 3 Good health and well-being

In West Asia region, most COVID-19 hospitals do not permit the services of human guides/personal assistants and free or affordable health care has often not been made during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Recommendations

The United Nations and State Members develop general protocols for the medical care of people with disabilities during global pandemics and other health emergencies and natural disasters.

Training in safely seeking human guide assistance, use of protective clothing, personal hygiene techniques, and how to be safely included in hospitals, shelters, public spaces, and local and assisted transport.

SDG 8 Decent work and economic growth

In many low and middle-income countries, persons with VI have severely limited access to formal employment and decent work due to such factors as their lack of work preparedness, inaccessible work environments, limited government incentives and employer knowledge about workplace modifications, and marginalisation and discrimination on the basis of disability.

Recommendation

National Governments ensure that persons with disabilities and other marginalised populations are included in cash incentives and social security provisions which should ensure basic income security and compensation for disability related costs.

SDG 10 Reducing Inequality

In African countries, students with VI are being left behind or totally excluded from alternative learning processes resulting from school closures. The COVID-19 response measures within the education sector have increased their alienation from the right to learn, further exacerbating already prejudiced situations. In addition, due to the long stay at home, females with VI who have been cut off from essential protection services and social networks, with growing concern they may not be able to continue their education, with increased dropout rates further entrenching existing gender disparities in education.

Recommendation

Systematic collection documentation and dissemination of disaggregated data on the effect and impact of COVID-19 on education and employment participation rates for persons with disabilities, women and girls, and other disadvantaged populations.

226. International Council of Nurses

International Council of Nurses, a federation of national nurses' associations in over 130 countries and the global voice of nursing, is pleased to submit this statement on behalf of the over 27 million nurses worldwide it represents.

As the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted, health and wellbeing are essential to building an inclusive and effective path towards sustainable development. Health and wellbeing are strongly connected to quality education, gender equality, decent work and economic growth, and peace and justice. As nurses are the backbone of health systems, they are key to a transformative and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and to achieving the 2030 Agenda.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had devastating effects on the global nursing workforce. A number of International Council of Nurses reports published since the start of the pandemic contain evidence from around the world showing that nurses are experiencing unsafe working conditions, mass traumatisation, violence and abuse, and high rates of burnout and anxiety. Due to a high risk of exposure and a lack of protection, the number of infections and deaths from COVID-19 are disproportionately high in nurses. With 90% of the nursing workforce being women, these impacts are also contributing to the unacceptably wide gap in gender equality.

International Council of Nurses is extremely concerned about the long-term impacts on the nursing workforce. International Council of Nurses members report concerns that the physical and mental burden placed on nurses will drive them to leave the profession and several have highlighted reports of increased intention to leave. Due to existing nurse shortages, ageing populations and changing healthcare needs, we will already need to replace more than 10 million nurses by 2030 in order to meet the health workforce requirements of the Sustainable Development Goals and to achieve universal health coverage targets. In the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, this could rise to a number nearly half the size of the current nursing workforce. With 89% of these shortages in low- and middle-income countries, nurse shortages will reverse progress made towards universal health coverage and further exacerbate existing inequalities between countries.

For a sustainable recovery from the pandemic and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, the International Council of Nurses urges Member States to expand investment in nursing education, jobs and leadership and commit to long-term strategies to educate and retain enough nurses to meet population health needs. This includes the following urgent actions:

- Ensure measures are in place to protect the physical and mental health of nurses including adequate personal protective equipment, psychosocial support, and protection against violence and abuse;
- Accelerate action to ensure fair and equitable vaccine rollout, prioritising healthcare workers and vulnerable populations;
- Ensure fair pay and decent working conditions for nurses;
- Ensure systematic and standardised data collection on COVID-19 infections and deaths in healthcare workers with adequate reporting mechanisms to ensure data availability for monitoring impacts on the health workforce and for an effective COVID-19 response;

- Increase and strengthen involvement and leadership of nurses in COVID-19 response and recovery.

227. International Council Supporting Fair Trial and Human Rights

The impact of the Covid19 pandemic was not limited to the health sector only, but included all sectors and caused negative effects that would take years to repair. This pandemic did not threaten the sustainable development goals, but it made the whole world facing a big challenge to find other ways to achieve them.

The International Council Supporting Fair Trial and Human Rights stresses that the absence of joint cooperation between countries is what hinders the achievement of these goals, especially in the Arab countries whose population suffers from poverty, wars, exclusion of civil society from participating in decisions related to the development process through strict laws, absence of a fair distribution of wealth and national income, and inequality in Providing basic services such as housing, water, sanitation, and transportation, as well as social services such as education, health, and culture, and the lack of job opportunities for all groups of people.

In addition, the unilateral economic sanctions imposed by member states on other countries hinder the achievement of sustainable development goals. As is the case in Yemen, which suffers from the worst humanitarian crisis, yet the coalition of aggression continues to impose a comprehensive siege on the Yemeni people and detain fuel ships. In Syrian Arab Republic, the unilateral sanctions imposed by the USA and the EU have led to the collapse of the economic and health sector, a rapid increase in poverty rates, and an increase in the prices of medicines and materials needed to prevent Covid19 by about 500%. The unilateral coercive measures bring suffering and death in countries such as Cuba, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela and Yemen.

Recommendations

- Strengthening international cooperation to re-promote the international system with minimal humanitarian, economic and social losses under the supervision of UN bodies.
- Lift all forms of unilateral coercive measures against states to end people's suffering.
- Emphasizing the rights of vulnerable groups (women, refugees, people with special needs and stateless persons, especially the Bidoon in Kuwait, after the high rates of suicide including children).
- Review the public policies of the Member States and their dealings with the crisis (labour market, health care system, housing, education).
- Develop a global humanitarian response plan aimed at combating COVID-19 in the world's poorest countries and addressing the needs of the most vulnerable people.
- Eliminating the phenomenon of economic inequality and stealing the wealth of the public peoples and privatizing it for the benefit of presidents and some politicians, as is the case in Kuwait and some Gulf countries.

228. International Dental Federation

The International Dental Federation (known as FDI World Dental Federation) is the official representative body of over one million dentists, representing close to 200 National Dental Associations in 130 countries.

We commend the World Health Organization (WHO) for its leadership in responding to the coronavirus pandemic and, in terms of oral healthcare, for its guidance to ensure the provision of essential oral health services in the context of COVID-19. Such guidance is of paramount importance given the 3.5 billion people currently living with oral diseases globally (almost half of the world's population).

Oral diseases are both a cause and an effect of poverty, disproportionately impacting those from low- and middle-income countries and marginalized groups. The situation has not improved during the coronavirus pandemic with WHO reporting that oral health services were among the most affected essential health services (over 70 per cent of countries reported partial or complete disruption), exacerbating health inequalities.

Oral diseases continue to have a significant negative impact on individuals' education and employment, and impose a huge financial burden on families and health systems. They are a global health problem that is of relevance to many aspects of the 2030 Agenda.

Moreover, poor oral health is closely associated to other noncommunicable diseases such as cardiovascular diseases and diabetes. Thus, overall health outcomes can be improved via integrated care interventions that include basic packages of oral healthcare and a common risk factor approach to prevention.

In these times of need for health systems resilience and recovery, we therefore congratulate Member States and WHO for prioritizing the need to address oral health as part of the universal health coverage and noncommunicable disease agendas towards 2030, with a World Health Assembly resolution on Oral health and a revised WHO report on Oral health.

In line with these efforts, and to ensure we build back fairer, we urge Member States to:

- recognize oral health needs as an indicator of well-being; Sustainable Development Goal 3 has a twin objective to one, ensure healthy lives, and two, promote well-being for all at all ages, and the latter requires indicators that measure quality of life;
- produce data for the Sustainable Development Goal indicator 3.8.1 expanding the universal health coverage tracer topics to include oral healthcare as an essential health service;
- include in priority vaccination groups all health professionals, including dentists and other oral health professionals, that provide essential health services to mitigate disruptions in care and progress towards the 2030 Agenda, and enable dentists to administer COVID-19 vaccines when possible within national legislation and regulations to support the rollout of vaccination strategies.

229. International Federation for Family Development

Over the past forty years, information and communication technologies have transformed the way we work, the nature of learning and education, and the methods by which we achieve personal and collective goals. Parents, grandparents, children, and the range of loved ones who form part of the modern family today face new and challenging choices about technology use, access, and control. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown how much we can depend on the use of technologies and how they can affect our lives.

This increasing reliance on digital technologies has created intense pressures and opportunities for families. Digitization, for example, presents new threats to the financial security of many families by making them more vulnerable to surveillance and discrimination in the marketplace. At the same time, technologies are providing important connections, as families scattered across the globe stay connected and engage in “remote caregiving.”

Researchers, policymakers, popular pundits, and journalists often note that digital technologies have the power to disrupt personal relationships and deliver uninvited content. This anxiety centers on the impact that new technologies can have on the well-being of children and the strength and social cohesion of families. Child development experts worry that cell phones and personal computer devices—now common fixtures at the dinner table—distract parents from their children (and vice versa) and prevent them from engaging in positive, nurturing conversations.

The “anytime anywhere” access of Internet-enabled technologies has produced a thicket of benefits and dangers that families struggle to navigate. There are also great disparities in how families use technology, whether merely for entertainment or for social and educational betterment.

The effects of new technology vary widely across socio-economic and other divides. Children from low-income families, for example, spend more time with TV and videos than children from affluent families, and are three times more likely to have a television in their bedroom. There are also great disparities in how families use technology, whether merely for entertainment or for social and educational betterment. Parents in low-income families struggle to acquire digital literacy and often do not have easy access to teachers, librarians, mentors, and other educated professionals to help.

These technologies will continue to play an integral role in families’ life choices and opportunities. Today, families have no choice but to use digital communication to interact with the many public institutions that no longer accept paper applications or other communications. Public assistance programs have increasingly become “smart,” meaning participants are now more likely to interact with an algorithmically trained virtual assistant rather than a human caseworker. Caregivers must also contend with digital systems in schools and elsewhere, as learning processes become computer-driven. In short, technology is becoming the primary medium through which people gather, do schoolwork, shop, apply for jobs, schedule child care, communicate with teachers, read to their children, share neighborhood news, and spread the word about family celebrations and hardships.

Consequently, the impact of New Technologies on families has been featured as one of the megatrends suggested by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs for the preparations and celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2024.

Organizing this focus group, we wanted to understand better all the different aspects of this topic, so that we can produce recommendations that can be validated by experts and confirmed by the families we are in contact with along the world and other global NGOs, as part of the proposals for the Anniversary, especially of those who will be included in the Civil Society Declaration we are promoting on the occasion of that anniversary.

To this end, we gathered a group of experts who are active in a variety of fields related to families and new technologies, so that their opinions could derive the central elements to our advocacy work on this topic.

Focus group attendees discussed whether access to the internet should be a human right, the problems with measuring access to the internet, the impact of technology on work-family balance, the lasting impacts of COVID-19 on education, the importance of digital skills and citizenship curricula, intergenerational differences, and the role of parents and policymakers in preventing online abuse. Across the discussions, participants underscored how the sociocultural context of families shapes their experience and the need to broaden discussions of technology and family to include families around the world. In addition, focus group attendees echoed a call to action--the need for accessible and comprehensive digital education across the life span.

Recommendations

1) Access to the internet should be a human right and the appropriate instruments should be implemented for it. States should work towards universal access through developing an underlying infrastructure, as well as helping citizens to gain access to appropriate devices, skills and protections, and encouraging everyone, particularly the most vulnerable or least privileged to partake in digital citizenship.

2) There is a consensus on the need for more qualitative measurement of access, rather than broad general figures that can be misleading. Policymakers must understand the gaps in connectivity, infrastructure, but also other gaps in training for families, students, teachers. For a better understanding, figures on access to the internet should be broken down as follows:

- The proportion of households with functional internet access and the underlying infrastructure.
- The proportion of households with a computer.
- The number of devices per person in the family.
- Family composition and demographics (number of children and parents, age, type of work, caregivers...).
- The type of skills and attitudes family members hold
- The kind of technology children and teenagers use, and the corollary threats

- 3) Policymakers should support log in / log out digital workplace policies to encourage a healthy work/family balance and promote clear schedules in telework environments.
- 4) Policymakers should encourage all employers to provide recommendations and resources on the benefits and the risks of teleworking.
- 5) Policymakers should develop and encourage a right to teleworking solutions for people who would not be able to work otherwise.
- 6) Policymakers should adopt a holistic approach when considering the experience and needs of all the various partakers in education, like children, parents, caregivers, teachers, institutions.
- 7) Policymakers should initiate the process of a holistic transformation of school teachings into an online environment, including the development of different pedagogies, and build education systems that enable children to learn both in schools and online equally.
- 8) Education professionals should help children to be able to develop soft skills in an online safe environment, promote access to mental health and counseling services when necessary and develop innovative methods of assessment in virtual interactions.
- 9) Policymakers and educational professionals should work together to build digital learning platforms working that can operate in low connectivity contexts to reduce the exacerbation of disparities across and within countries, and to think strategically about how to leverage internet access and technology to address issues of poverty and inequality.
- 10) Policymakers and educational professionals should promote digital technology as an opportunity for traditionally disenfranchised audiences (e.g., school dropouts and unemployed adults) to find meaningful work. Besides, they should work to develop training and support for the least digitally literate students and parents as a means to improve equity.
- 11) Policymakers should support digital training for all generations, and build mentorship schemes between young people, parents and older adults.
- 12) Policymakers should make it compulsory for digital platforms and websites to include protections and software to reduce bullying, blackmailing, and illegal content.
- 13) Education professionals should expand access to and develop understanding in all stages of education on how the internet, online content creation and algorithms work, as well as constantly promote the acquisition of creative and managing skills.
- 14) Education and child-related professionals should promote open communication between parents and children about digital technology, including discussions about online risks and benefits. Further, they should encourage parents to engage with the platforms and media their children utilize as a means of understanding their children's digital lives.

230. International Federation of Associations of the Elderly

La Fédération Internationale des Associations de Personnes Âgées (FIAPA), créée en 1980, a pour but principal de défendre les droits et les intérêts des personnes âgées au sein de la société contemporaine. Son rôle de relai des constats et propositions de ses associations membres lui permet d'assurer la représentation des personnes âgées en alertant les instances internationales, nationales, politiques et autres sur la place et les conditions de vie des aînés et plus particulièrement des plus vulnérables.

Au nom de la solidarité et de la défense des droits des personnes âgées dans ce siècle, la Fédération appelle tous les gouvernements présents dans Le Forum politique de haut niveau sur le développement durable et aux membres de la société civile à :

- La vigilance et au combat contre toute forme d'âgisme y compris celles qui se cachent insidieusement derrière des propositions de protection collective.
- À prioriser l'accompagnement des impacts climatiques à venir.
- Favoriser l'éducation toute au long de la vie et la lutte contre la pauvreté.

L'augmentation mondiale de la population vieillissante doit être au centre des préoccupations politiques dans chaque pays. Il faut veiller de façon active à que chaque pays intègre le vieillissement dans ses politiques et dans les programmes de développement. Comment pouvons-nous atteindre chaque objectif du développement durable sans intégrer de façon transversale qu'avec l'avancée en âge, certaines personnes gardent leur pleine énergie constructive et que d'autres perdent une partie de leur autonomie entraînant potentiellement une dépendance vis-à-vis des autres. Malgré cet état de fait, chaque personne doit être considérée comme un agent autonome et respecté dans ses décisions et en même temps il doit être accompagné voire protégé lorsque son autonomie est réduite. Il convient donc de créer un cadre juridique cohérent qui rende effective la reconnaissance de la capacité de la personne et l'expression de sa volonté, de ses choix et de ses préférences.

Les changements climatiques, les faits de guerre, les pandémies seront au centre des préoccupations en ce siècle. Il faut que les gouvernements puissent prendre en compte les personnes âgées dans leurs programmes de façon inclusive en leur permettant de participer aux décisions, aux processus de planification et de prise de décisions en prenant en compte leurs droits, besoins et envies. Valoriser ses compétences et expériences de vie permettra aux générations futures de mieux faire face aux situations catastrophiques.

L'Objectif de développement durable (ODD) 4 doit favoriser l'éducation et l'apprentissage toute au long de la vie, c'est essentiel. Il doit permettre aux aînés, en accord avec l'ODD 8, de développer des compétences nouvelles, de l'entrepreneuriat et favoriser la transmission de savoirs faire entre générations. Les discriminations empêchant l'accès aux crédits, le maintien quand il est souhaité au sein des entreprises, la reconnaissance des apports économiques des aînés au sein des sociétés devra enfin se matérialiser. Seule des politiques publiques conscientes des nombreuses contributions que les personnes âgées apportent à l'économie (bénévolat, consommateurs importants de l'industrie touristique...), s'avèreront volontariste en faveur des personnes avancées en âge et particulièrement des plus vulnérables en raison de troubles temporaires ou chroniques

qui les atteignent permettra de réelles avancées. Ce qui appelle un débat public avec des choix et des priorités y compris en terme de moyens matériels.

En ce qui concerne les objectifs de santé, le bien-être et l'absence de pauvreté, comment expliquer que pour réduire les dépenses publiques, de nombreux pays réduisent les budgets alloués à la sécurité sociale, favorisant davantage la pauvreté et l'impossibilité pour les personnes les plus vulnérables d'avoir simplement accès aux aides qui leur sont nécessaires.

Cette protection sociale inadaptée est synonyme de pauvreté et creuse les inégalités au sein des sociétés. Les personnes âgées sont souvent traitées comme objets d'aide sociale au lieu d'être considérés comme des sujets détenteurs de droits. Le manque d'accès à la protection sociale constitue un obstacle au développement économique et social. Les pays doivent construire une véritable stratégie nationale de changement de paradigme qui vise à promouvoir le développement humain et la croissance économique inclusive.

La FIAPA et ses partenaires sont en faveur d'un nouvel instrument juridiquement « contraignant » qui apporterait des éclaircissements sur la nature des droits des aînés en particulier leur accès sans limite ni contrainte à ces droits. Les droits des personnes âgées seraient ainsi repris dans un seul document, il y aurait une reconnaissance des défis spécifiques liés au vieillissement et il servirait comme outil anti-discrimination pour éradiquer les stéréotypes négatifs liés à l'âge de façon générale et tout particulièrement les discriminations et inégalités envers les femmes et les migrants âgés.

Lutter contre l'âgisme est un travail de longue haleine car cette discrimination est très répandue et ancrée dans les pratiques sociales. Parfois, les aînés eux-mêmes ne s'en rendent même pas compte et ne se révoltent pas, c'est le silence. Certains âgés commencent même à se convaincre de leur responsabilité dans la prolifération de la maladie, comme si la notion d'âge suffisait à expliquer les risques d'embouteillage et de saturation des services dédiés au COVID-19. Les autres générations ne sont pas toujours conscientes de l'impact de leur regard sur la santé des aînés : la violence de l'âgisme peut être involontaire, mais traduit aussi un manque de compréhension de l'altérité.

Quelles sont les résistances profondes de nos sociétés à l'égard des aînés ? Nous alertons sur les risques de fractures intergénérationnelles. Face à des problématiques et à des questionnements semblables à ceux des périodes de guerre et de cataclysmes, l'âgisme qui est la plus répandue et la mieux ancrée de toutes les discriminations se diffuse de façon insidieuse, saugrenue et sans pitié. La pandémie mondiale fait ressortir de façon plus perceptible les maltraitances dont les personnes âgées sont victimes.

La COVID-19 touche tous les pays membres de la FIAPA, et leurs personnes âgées subissent toutes les mêmes discriminations. En réponse à la pandémie, les États ont majoritairement choisi de confiner l'ensemble de leur population, quel que soit leur âge. Les phases suivantes ont appelé des mesures différenciées selon les territoires ou le type d'activités, face à la nécessité de sauvegarder l'économie des pays et pour limiter les conséquences souvent lourdes pour la santé physique et mentale qu'avait pu entraîner un confinement total. A cet égard, nous pouvons noter que cet isolement a eu un impact particulièrement délétère sur les personnes âgées, renforçant l'inactivité physique, psychique et sociale. Or le confinement au domicile durable est une situation

pathogène démontrée en gériatrie. Celui-ci a pu aussi par endroit altérer les possibilités de recevoir aides et soins.

Un débat est né sur la possibilité d'un déconfinement différencié selon l'âge, à travers la notion réductrice de « personnes fragiles ». Cet antagonisme entre les seniors et celles et ceux qui ne le sont pas encore a eu des effets néfastes sur la perception des aînés et a porté préjudice au lien intergénérationnel. Stigmatiser cette partie de la population renforce ou entraîne chez de nombreux adultes âgés des sentiments d'inutilité, de culpabilisation, une démotivation et une inactivité lentement mais fortement pathogènes. Cette fracture entre les générations nie l'utilité sociale des personnes âgées, alors que celles-ci sont les aidants de leurs parents, les bénévoles des associations, ou encore les maires de leur ville.

Dans le Manifeste de la Havane, il a été solennellement rappelé que :

- Vieillesse n'est pas synonyme de déficiences, maladie et vulnérabilité. Cette fausse croyance est répandue dans les médias et auprès des décideurs politiques.
- Les personnes âgées vulnérables ont le droit d'être soignées en toute circonstance quelle que soit la gravité de leur état.
- Les droits ne changent pas et ne sont pas limités par l'avancée en âge. La population âgée est diverse. Cette diversité est à respecter. Elle inclut une majorité large et croissante de personnes autonomes, indépendantes, expérimentées et actives, une part de personnes fragiles et une minorité de personnes à l'autonomie (capacité de décider ou d'agir pour soi) déficitaire. Toutes ces différentes personnes âgées demeurent des Citoyens.
- Il est urgent de faire émerger des formes nouvelles de communication, des solidarités actives parfois inédites, de lutter contre toutes les discriminations et de refuser l'isolement social et l'âgisme. Cette démarche doit être impulsée par nos dirigeants politiques afin d'ouvrir la voie à la citoyenneté des plus âgés.

Au-delà de la perception et de la place des aînés dans nos sociétés, l'objectif de développement durable relatif à la santé ne pourra être atteint qu'en apportant une attention particulière aux métiers du social et du médico-social, qu'il est urgent de valoriser. Ces métiers sont essentiels et doivent continuer à se développer. Il s'agit ainsi de mieux former aux métiers du médico-social, de les transformer et mais aussi permettre au personnel de se former spécifiquement sur la promotion de la bientraitance et la lutte contre la maltraitance.

Un des aspects de la maltraitance doit être gardé à l'esprit, celui des maltraitements financiers. Moins visibles, car souvent tues, celles-ci n'ont pas diminué pendant la pandémie et ont pu prendre d'autres formes : arnaques liées au contexte sanitaire, que ce soit pour la fourniture de services ou de protections médicales ou des pratiques thérapeutiques déviantes, ou encore emprise familiale en lien avec des menaces d'isolement. Les personnes âgées sont surexposées à certaines formes de délinquance qui peuvent les placer dans une situation économique fragile conduisant à une extrême paupérisation, voire à une exclusion de la société.

Alors que de nombreux experts annoncent que nous rentrons dans une nouvelle ère, celle des pandémies mondiales, nous devons tirer les conséquences de ce que nous avons appris. Les personnes âgées peuvent ainsi partager leurs expériences et leurs pratiques de la solidarité, pour

les mettre à disposition de la cohésion sociale. Cette promotion de l'intergénérationnel est essentielle, tant la crise a démontré l'utilité sociale de toutes les tranches d'âge.

Ce sont aussi les acteurs de terrains et notamment institutionnels qui doivent apprendre à mieux travailler ensemble. En effet, des remontées de territoires moins favorisés ont mis en exergue les manques de moyens financiers des associations et des acteurs institutionnels locaux pour accompagner convenablement les personnes âgées. La distribution de matériel et de fournitures (protections et matériel médical, vaccins, etc.) a aussi été impactée en raison des difficultés d'acheminement et de continuité territoriale entre les acteurs de terrain. La solidarité internationale doit primer sur ces sujets.

La crise sanitaire a ainsi révélé de nouvelles fractures entre pays développés et les autres. Au cours de ces douze derniers mois, les pays ont pris des mesures politiques pour contrôler la propagation du virus et atténuer son impact socioéconomique. Pour pouvoir réduire la pression des systèmes de santé qui sont débordés, les décisions des divers gouvernements ont été d'imposer un isolement social sans précédent. Toutes ces mesures d'urgences ont permis de sauver des vies mais ont également abouti à un appauvrissement des pays développés et des autres, mais l'impact a été plus fort pour ces derniers.

Les experts soulignent la nécessité d'un allègement de la dette pour créer un espace pour les investissements dans la reprise et pour atteindre les objectifs de développement durable.

En conclusion, il sera nécessaire de financer des recherches, actions et dispositifs concernant l'impact de cette crise de façon générale et particulièrement chez les personnes âgées. Après cette sortie de crise viendra le temps d'un recensement des bonnes pratiques constatées, d'une analyse approfondie sur la gestion de crise et non d'à priori voire de projections fantasmées.

Plus que jamais, l'accélération des travaux en cours sur la convention internationale des droits des personnes âgées semble une priorité, pour que chacun puisse se prémunir d'un socle commun de droits.

Ensemble, avec une détermination collective, nous pouvons aider tous les pays à investir dans la réponse, le relèvement et un avenir plus durable et résilient.

231. International Federation of Medical Students' Associations

Young people, one of the largest demographics on earth, are essential agents of positive change in the world. We are both the backbone of the future and the new leaders of tomorrow. Through active participation, we play a vital role in our own development as well as in that of our communities, readily responding to their needs. We believe that we offer refreshing and innovative ideas reflecting the needs and concerns of future generations in order to fulfill the 2030 agenda. Throughout the years since the adoption of the framework for the Sustainable Development Goals, we have been calling out for more civic, economic, political and social involvement.

However, worldwide, we still face multiple challenges in terms of access to equal opportunities and involvement in decision making processes which affect our lives, our health, our future. These challenges withhold us from participating and engaging in a meaningful way, often a result of lacking the proper tools, education, employment, resources and opportunities to participate effectively. We would like to emphasize that not only sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, but the Sustainable Development Goals agenda will not become a reality without youth contributing meaningfully.

In light of this, we would like to call upon all Member states to:

1. Firstly, ensure full and effective engagement of youth-led organisations and entities at all levels, including high-level meetings;
2. Secondly, develop national policies which ensure youth participation in social and economic development, and support youth efforts in decision making processes;
3. Finally, strengthen and support regional and international youth networks that provide platforms for youth to share and exchange knowledge and experience.

We certainly hope our message calling all stakeholders to put youth at the centre of action goes further than this short statement today, as we can only achieve change if you, Member States, are on board with us.

232. International Federation of Psoriasis Associations

The International Federation of Psoriasis Associations welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the 2021 United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs' High-Level Segment, and to offer its perspective on the progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly slowed down progress toward Sustainable Development Goal 3 target 3.7 on non-communicable diseases and mental health. People living with life-long, incurable non-communicable diseases, such as psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis, are profoundly impacted by the current health emergency. Research data and direct testimonies from people living with these diseases show the difficulties of accessing health care services, obtaining appointments with health care providers, and procuring the medications needed to keep the diseases under control. Mental health, one of the two pillars of Sustainable Development Goal 3, is already adversely impacted in people living with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis and has been damaged further by the stress and anxiety experienced on such a broad scale during the current COVID-19 pandemic. Moreover, stress and anxiety heighten the risk of disease flares: for people with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis, anxiety is the cause of physical symptoms.

If we want to regain the lost ground towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and stand better prepared to face future health emergencies, we need to make sure that policies adopted to build back from the COVID-19 pandemic take into account the millions of people living with non-communicable diseases, including those suffering from diseases that are not currently represented by the indicators for Sustainable Development Goal 3 target 3.7, but nevertheless represent 55% of the global non-communicable disease burden.

The International Federation of Psoriasis Associations strongly encourages the implementation of the commitments made during the High-Level Meetings on Non-communicable Diseases and Universal Health Coverage. Universal health coverage is the primary tool to reduce the burden of disease for those suffering from chronic, incurable non-communicable diseases. Non-communicable diseases often do not occur in isolation but are associated to an increased risk of developing other life-threatening conditions. In particular, we support a model of care that puts people, not diseases, at the center of health systems.

The International Federation of Psoriasis Associations, as a patient association, is equipped to support Member States of the United Nations and invested stakeholders in achieving this ambitious goal, in the spirit of Sustainable Development Goal 17 on global partnerships for sustainable development.

233. International Mayor Communication Centre Limited

Revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

From 5 to 7 March 2020, Global Mayors Forum of the International Mayor Communication Centre Limited participated in the World Sustainable Development Forum held in Durango, Mexico. With the Covid-19 starting to challenge the world, the Forum is to call on leaders and people from all over the world to take immediate climate action to control the temperature rise within 1.5 °C limit. As the world is shrouded in the unexpected disaster caused by the Covid-19, the International Mayor Communication Centre Limited demonstrated to the leaders attending the Forum with the documentary films of wonderful stories about people from all over the world supporting Wuhan in their fight against the Covid-19. The documentaries calls on leaders from all countries to lead people to unite and fight against the common enemy of mankind, take action to solve the problems that were threatening our survival, improve the climate change and protect people's well-being.

On 1-5 December 2020, Global Mayors Forum of the International Mayor Communication Centre Limited partnered with Protect Our Planet for the Second International Conference & POP Festival for Youth Climate Action. Its purpose is to unite 1.8 billion young people and call on climate actions for a better future. In Shenzhen China, we worked with Protect Our Planet and other 60 partners from 75 countries for 44 sessions and 12 seminars. On this dynamic platform, young people and leaders from all over the world demonstrated their climate ambitions to take immediate actions.

In this event, Global Mayors Forum of the International Mayor Communication Centre Limited demonstrated its practice of SDGs and 169 targets. Since 6 July 2018, OGCLab of the International Mayor Communication Centre Limited has published 63 subscriptions written in Chinese and English on the topic of sustainable development. Each subscription includes four outstanding cases of SDGs implementation mainly in Shenzhen China. We will continue to implement SDGs with its 169 targets so as to establish the good cooperation and communication network between Shenzhen and other countries in the world, and to promote sustainable development goals among cities of various countries with online training.

In response to the challenges caused by the Covid-19, we developed partnership with Haier Biological and promoted its comprehensive solutions for tackling the COVID-19 pandemic. Haier is one of the top valuable brand of internet of things. Their solution is about an intelligent mobile car containing equipment of disinfection and defense, vaccination and treatment, which plays a key role in fighting against the Covid-19, especially for the vulnerable groups and regions.

234. International Movement for Advancement of Education Culture Social and Economic Development

IMAECSED aimed at 2030 agenda achieving the Sustainable development Goals (SDGs), leave no one left behind at the global, regional and national levels in promoting sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. HLPF priorities nine SDG focuses on inclusive economic growth by eradicating poverty (SDG 1) improving the marginalised and vulnerable sections so that hunger can abolish (SD 2). It's a challenge of IMAECSED to accelerate its movement to ensure good health and well-being (SDG 3) and promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth and decent work (SDG 8) which is one the most vital part of IMAECSED by reducing inequality (SDG 10) with responsible consumption and production (SDG 12) maintain peaceful society with law & justice (SDG 16). Integrated approach to monitoring and managing environmental change (SDG 13) and to extend our partnership universally (SDG 17) fully recognizes the need to focus on all 17 SDGs in order to bring about the desired changes and to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all.

IMAECSED maintains regular working relations with numerous organizations and members and partners both within and outside the UN system to stress the need for promoting the 2030 Agenda and to raise awareness about challenges facing during this Covid 19 and its post effect. Among our most important partners from the UN are, UNCCD, UNEP / UNEA and member of its Major Group, UNODC, VNGOC, WSSCC, UNFCCC, GEF, World We Want, Partnership with UNOP, Participant of UN Global Compact and actively involve with OHCHR, UNDESA, UN NGLS, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNDP, OCHA, WTO, WHO, ILO, ADB, World Bank, IMF, UN Global Communication, etc.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a tremendous shock to the global health & human well-being (SDG3) and threatens our collective efforts towards achieving economic growth (SDG8). To meet up the current global challenges and uncertainty within such a short span of a decade we call the government and other stakeholders for sustainable and resilient recovery by reducing inequality, improving the production and supply chain, condition of employment. Climate change on the other part remains the biggest threat to humanity and slowing down the rapid progress of recovery for achieving sustainable development for 2030 agenda.

ECOSOC 2021 High-level political forum 2021 is the key point to take action within the decade and delivery for SD. It inter linkages for all SDG, developing and implementing effective education, lifelong learning and training policies, multi sectorial partnership at societal level. Our movement accelerate economic, social and human development with regard to quality higher education, health safety, in the face of fast-changing learning and work environment to increase inclusive access and enhance equal opportunities of success for all. With relation to the other SDGs that play a crucial role in 'empowering people to build equal and inclusive societies,' causal links are identified in both directions.

The SDGs aim to be universal, holistic, and applicable to all countries, embodying a universally shared common vision of progress towards a safe, just and sustainable space for all human beings on the planet. The planned SDGs are interrelated, including integrated environmental monitoring,

identifying the causes of deteriorating public health and the environment. Education is vital for building sustainable, inclusive and resilient societies and has linkages with SDG's.

235. International Organisation of Employers (IOE)

The International Organisation of Employers (IOE) considers the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) as a vitally important forum on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda), particularly its follow up and review. We take this opportunity to provide a written statement in which we highlight the importance and benefits of private sector engagement in the United Nations development activities and COVID-19 socio-economic recovery.

About Us

The International Organisation of Employers (IOE) is one of the leading voices for business at the global level and on the ground. With more than 150 employer organisation members in 145 countries, the International Organisation of Employers (IOE) represents the interests of over 50 million companies. Quite simply, it is the largest global community network of the private sector.

For over 100 years, it has been a powerful and balanced voice of business and offers a diverse and unique perspective based on members that include companies ranging from large multinationals to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and a vast collection of industries. Together with trade unions, the International Organisation of Employers (IOE) plays a vital role in shaping labour markets and providing support to its members. The International Organisation of Employers (IOE) is also integrally involved with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and other United Nations entities, the Group of 20 (G20), and other emerging forums, and contributes to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The Private Sector as a Partner toward the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and COVID-19 recovery

The challenges facing today’s global community are numerous and daunting – from the health and socio-economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, stalled progress on sustainable development, accelerating climate change, and questions of equal access to opportunity – just to name a few. Now, more than ever, finding solutions to these problems will require a collaborative, “whole of society,” approach as envisioned by the 2030 Agenda. Active engagement of all stakeholders – governments, the United Nations system, employers, workers, and civil society, among others – will be key to address these pressing issues.

Bringing Together Resident Coordinators and Employer Organisations

In 2020, the International Organisation of Employers (IOE) embarked on a project to enhance and increase employer organizations’ engagement with United Nations Resident Coordinators (RCs) to foster the 2030 Agenda and to address the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The initiative examines region-specific challenges while fostering partnerships that build momentum for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the local and national levels.

Working in collaboration with the United Nations Development Coordination Office (DCO) and its regional offices, the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS), several dialogues, deep dives, surveys, and analyses have been organised to better understand different perspectives and encourage collaboration and engagement on the ground. Resident Coordinators and leaders of employer organisations in many instances met through the dialogues for the first time and expressed excitement to translate this new engagement into collaborative partnerships on sustainable development. Additionally, through the initiative, and in partnership with the United Nations Development Coordination Office, a guide has been published titled, *Playbook: Building Momentum in the Decade of Action through Collaboration between Employers and UN Resident Coordinators* to give employers organisations and Resident Coordinators a practical guide and toolkit to enhance mutual understanding and build partnerships on the ground toward the 2030 Agenda.

Inclusion in the Planning and Implementation of United Nations Sustainable Development Activities

Given the key role that the private sector must play in making the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development a reality, meaningful business engagement should be part of the institutional infrastructure of United Nations' Sustainable Development activities. The private sector must be a meaningful partner to build back better – contributing not just funding, but innovation, expertise, technology, fresh ideas, and diverse perspectives of business and employers, particularly small and medium enterprises (SMEs), who are so crucial to economic growth at the local level. We urge Member States and the United Nations Development System to bring in diverse stakeholders, such as employer organisations, into the formulation of United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks and United Nations Common Country Analyses. Doing so would ensure that programming more effectively reflects the reality on the ground and leverages the valuable perspectives and contributions of the private sector to tackle the most pressing issues. Only by working together and to jointly address the major challenges of our times can we build back better and make the Decade of Action a success.

Employer organisations, including business member associations and employer federations, are a particularly valuable private sector partner to the United Nations as the representative and legitimate voice of business at the national level. They are deeply involved in the policy-making process through their engagement with governments and trade unions and in the development of legislative frameworks. Individual companies and business networks cannot provide such extensive representation. At the country level, employer organisations are highly engaged with Small Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs), young entrepreneurs and their associations, and often work with and in collaboration with United Nations Global Compact Local Networks. Their diverse perspectives are vital for the planning and implementation of sustainable development activities on the national level as they bring a more realistic and nuanced view of the private sector landscape within a country. They can also tap into their member network for a diverse collection of resources and expertise for collaboration with Governments and the United Nations on the ground.

Inclusion in the Follow Up and Review of the Sustainable Development Goals

Employer organisations are also a valuable stakeholder in the follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda, including Voluntary National Reviews. The inclusion of private sector representatives, particularly employer organisations, in the preparation of Voluntary National Reviews helps to strengthen engagement, identify areas of convergence for collaboration, as well as highlight best practices and obstacles for enterprise and job creation and COVID-19 socio-economic recovery, and identify the necessary actions to address challenges.

A Way Forward

Active and inclusive engagement of all stakeholders, as well as ambitious action and collaboration on the ground will be essential to regain and intensify stalled progress toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, which has been undermined by the COVID-19 pandemic. We stand ready to work with Member States, the United Nations system, employer organisations and all other stakeholders at this critical juncture when a crisis has provided both incredible challenges and transformational opportunities.

236. International Organization of Automobile Manufacturers

During the current COVID 19 crisis, road safety may not be attracting the political focus as it should. But we must all agree that road transport continues to take too high a toll of human lives and suffering, and unless we continue taking action, this will continue well beyond the current pandemic.

The International Organization of Automobile Manufacturers, representing the global auto industry, finds this totally unacceptable and strongly supports improvements.

With its 2019 Road Safety Manifesto, the world auto industry worked to stress its strong collective commitment to ever increasing safety.

However, this manifesto also explains that this is not an easy task. There are multiple factors: vehicle quality, infrastructure including roads, rescue response and more. Traffic conditions and rules as well as their enforcement also impact safety. And of course, most of all, user behaviour plays a crucial role.

This calls for an integrated, safe-system approach. One that considers all of these aspects as a whole, without trying to single out individual factors.

While vehicle manufacturers are doing their part, they cannot control all elements of the equation. But manufacturers have a major responsibility in offering safe and affordable vehicles to the public.

That is why vehicle manufacturers have agreed on the need for minimum vehicle safety requirements to be incorporated in legislation, especially in those countries and regions still lacking minimum legal requirements in place.

We therefore call upon all governments around the world to place all players in the automotive sector on an equal footing, in a spirit of free and open competition, by setting mandatory minimum vehicle safety requirements for all new vehicles sold on their territory, in line with established United Nations requirements or other standards in use in well developed markets. This must be done in close consultation with industry, considering the local market needs and possibilities.

More details as to these suggested minimum requirements can be found in our manifesto, and we have the intention to regularly update the list of the proposed requirements.

Our manifesto is to be seen as “a common foundation”, laying down a level playing field for all actors, and on which each specific market can build its own levels of safety; this will not prevent individual initiatives from going further and/or quicker.

We also wish to thank Mr Jean Todt, the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Road Safety, for his strong commitment, guidance, and compelling push to the manufacturers.

Vehicle manufacturers recognise their responsibility in road safety, but also need help and cooperation to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

237. International Prison Chaplains' Association

The coronavirus pandemic poses a worldwide challenge. When vulnerable groups are mentioned, prisoners are rarely included.

Prisons can easily become hotspots for coronavirus. In many prisons around the world, coronavirus is killing people either directly or indirectly.

The Sustainable Development Goal 3, stated that Good Health and Well-Being and under the Nelson Mandela Rules, prisoners have the same right to health as everyone else.

Prisons in many countries are facing challenges. Inmates do not always have access to clean water. In many countries, inmates rely on family and friends to bring food and supplies. With the restrictions, these possibilities disappear.

We acknowledges that prison administrations are doing their best to use lockdown measures to keep the pandemic out of prisons by minimizing contact with everything outside the walls. As result, prisons have been protected from coronavirus outbreaks.

We supports efforts to protect the lives of the prison community, inmates and staff worldwide, but regrets restrictions beyond those strictly necessary that limit access to jobs and counselling for inmates.

We wish to highlight the consequences of such restrictions:

Friends and families cannot help due to their situation outside the walls and the restrictions on visits.

No access to prison chaplains, volunteers, rehabilitation programs and many other counselling services, no religious or spiritual services - all of this leads to not only to economic hardship, but also to mental and spiritual hardship. In some parts of the world, the coronavirus is killing people in prison and we should do everything we can to protect them. But in the long run, lack of contact, visits, religious, spiritual, and other care can also kill.

We expresses concern that restrictions needed for health reasons may persist even when they are no longer appropriate.

We welcome the fact that Michelle Bachelet, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, has encouraged governments to release inmates who are particularly vulnerable to coronavirus, such as the elderly and low-risk offenders. "Detention should be a last resort, especially during this crisis," she said in March 25, 2020 statement. Experts believe that there is enough leeway for prisoners to be released. At least 46 countries around the world, the majority of prisoners have not been convicted of a crime. Pre-trial detention rates are high. For example, a third of Brazil's sizeable prison population are inmates on remand. (Source: The Lancet, May 2, 2020).

We plea to Member States to act urgently wherever and whenever there is an opportunity to reopen access to prisons to those who provide support in the form of religious/spiritual care, counselling, and similar activities.

238. International Public Relations Association (IPRA)

The International Public Relations Association (IPRA), established in 1955, is the leading global network for PR professionals in their personal capacity. IPRA has been a recognized NGO in consultative status on roster A1 with the Economic and Social Council since 1984. IPRA plays a role in the planning of the Department of Global Communication's UN civil society conferences. Our representative, Barbara Burns, serves on the Global NGO executive committee.

IPRA applauds the theme of the 2021 session namely, "Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: Building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development."

In this statement IPRA lays out three actions over the last year that helped with communication on COVID-19 and the promotion of the SDGs. We conclude with two policy recommendations.

Overview: three programs that raise awareness of the SDGs

1. IPRA is the organiser of the annual Golden World Awards recognizing excellence in public relations practice worldwide. Started in 1990 in partnership with the then UN DPI, IPRA put together an award for outstanding achievement to recognize PR programmes that address UN issues. This prize is now known as the IPRA Global Contribution Award – in support of UN sustainable development goals. Recent recipients have excelled in communication programmes that help people understand the SDGs. 2020 and 2021 entries had a focus on communication programmes to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. IPRA is a founding member of a coalition of global PR groups offering a free consultation service to help communications leaders manage their organisations through the COVID-19 crisis. The service connects experienced advisors from around the world with those seeking support via 30-minute confidential consultations. The majority of the IPRA board are advisors.
3. In 2021, IPRA published a collection of essays on COVID-19 communication.

A way forward

1: Improved SDG communication strategies

Strong communication strategies are necessary for further dissemination of the Sustainable Development Goals in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Awareness amongst the global population must be the first priority among UN entities and their NGO partners. IPRA recommends the UN, governments and civil society establish strong global communication programs around the SDGs.

2: An end to fake news

The decline of traditional journalism with editorial oversight, combined with the rise of social media, has changed how the world sends and receives information. Fake news is a main and under-recognized challenge that inhibits achieving the UN goals and fighting COVID-19. This was a key finding of a global member outreach conducted in July 2020 by IPRA as its contribution to the UN75 dialogue. IPRA recommends an even more robust UN program to fight fake news building on initiatives such as Verified. The UN should also consider support to member states which are considering legislation to remove the indemnity of social media providers for the content they carry, thus recognising them as news providers.

239. International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance

Introduction: Ensuring a reliable supply of water is of critical concern to many households, schools and health centres, globally. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, accelerating the provision of rainwater harvesting and storage systems addresses the twinned goals of water security and community resilience to the virus, particularly for those institutions that meet their water needs through self-supply. Harvested rainwater affords a drinking-water quality supply and clean water for personal hygiene; thus, it facilitates handwashing, an essential public health measure to reduce COVID-19 transmission. Additionally, meeting water needs through a domestic, self-supply approach avoids families gathering at public water points when social distancing is deemed necessary.

Overview: Around 6-8% of the world's population lack a safe water supply in proximity to their homes. A further 3 % have a limited supply of water; 2 in 5 people lack basic handwashing facilities, and in the Least Developed Countries only 61 % of schools have adequate sanitation facilities. Additionally, seasonal variations in ground- and surface-water flows, extreme weather events, and rapid urban growth impact on available water supplies, including water resources managed by public utilities. In this context of water-stress, introducing decentralised rainwater harvesting fed WASH infrastructure, coupled with blue-green rainwater retention systems can alleviate the stress householders (often women) and public institutions experience in meeting their water resource needs.

In many cultures, rainwater collection and storage traditionally enabled households and communities to prosper even under challenging meteorological conditions. When safely managed, domestic rainwater harvesting could significantly contribute to sustainable development goal 6.1. It saves time, reduces accident risk and alleviates the burden disproportionately placed on women and girls to ensure their household's water supply needs are met. Having a store of water at home, in a small reservoir or a pond, creates many opportunities for poverty alleviation, health, nutrition, and hygiene (sustainable development goals 1-3 & 6). The value of integrated, water management approaches at WASH and watershed scales has become increasingly clear in light of the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. Rainwater harvesting has a key role to play as we 'build back better'.

The International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance brings together a community of rainwater harvesting practitioners. We observe that rainwater-fed agroforestry (Senegal), rainwater-resourced urban agriculture (Malawi), integrated water resources management that follows EbA principles (Nepal) and ensures a water security in island contexts (Maldives) has multiple cross-cutting benefits at households and community scales (goals 1-3, 6, 13 and 16).

A Way Forward: Several technical United Nations agencies previously published on rainwater harvesting, but the diverse applications of this sustainable development approach deserve further recognition in national policies and adaptations plans written after the experience of the COVID-19 pandemic. Countries including the Maldives, Singapore, Kenya, Uganda and India (Meghalaya State) have rainwater harvesting guidelines in their adaptation policies and water management plans. However, we invite all Member States attending the July 2021, High-level Political Forum

of ECOSOC to consider rainwater harvesting and management as essential components of a sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

240. International Real Estate Federation

FIABCI, The International Real Estate Federation was honored with Special Consultative Status in 1995.

The federation is guided by Strategic Planning defined by its Board of Directors. Members were present for the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 and business activities began to target the natural environment. Two actions were identified: secure a commitment for sustainable living translating principles to practice; and integrating conservation and development to keep our actions within the Earth's capacity to provide long healthy and fulfilling lives.

Representatives to the United Nations Offices and its Regional Commissions are selected by federation leadership for their unique knowledge and communication skills in the human issues related to the built environment which has been identified as contributing 40 percent to the world's carbon emissions. The Covid-19 pandemic has forced nations, companies and individuals to set aside their own interests to collaborate in the fight against the virus. This is the same awakening required to address climate change and sustainability. Sustainable policies reduce the impacts of economic activity on the planet. This mandates our engagement to focus on sustainable solutions in collaboration with our Academic Members and Legislation and Environment Committee within the organization. External partners support our efforts to address the global demand for affordable housing, protection of water resources, clean energy initiatives and sustainable communities both rural and urban. These include developers, both large and small that we are highlighting for their positive impact by awarding their excellence.

The pandemic highlighted many inequities in our social structure, health, poverty, working conditions, dependence on women, unemployment, front line workers, peace and justice. Many of these are targets of Sustainable Development Goals but we found our leaders and members were not focused on these with the intensity focused on construction techniques. We have made a concerted effort to educate leadership on the urgency of understanding the outcomes from implementing these goals. The pandemic provided time for reflection and a medium for communication that intensified our action.

We encouraged participation in the Sustainable Development Goals "Festival of Action" among our members, and are developing a "Pilot Project" to showcase a Green City in Switzerland by producing a film showcasing the residents as they share their experience in selecting and thriving in a sustainable development where energy utilization is measured as well as the quality of life. As we highlight this project we hope the metrics that reflect humanity as identified by the Development Goals targeted to 2030 will become more relative to not only our members, but to the greater development community and civic leadership. One of our members created a song which will open and close the film incorporating her passion and our joint responsibility.

We plan to use the Pilot to bring the principles, features and as the world reopens after the pandemic, our business networks in all nations to develop actions to lead the Sustainable Restoration of our Global Community.

241. International Shinto Foundation (ISF)

This statement is based on a revolutionary suggestion by Japanese sociologist, Mr. Masachi Osawa. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced many to put their financial health on the backburner, suppressing economic activity. This drastic decline in economic activity is threatening livelihoods'. In Japan, for example, many young people have already committed suicide after losing their source of income as a result of COVID restrictions.

Ideally, we should never have to be in a position to choose between physical health and financial health. While anti-Covid-19 responses such as self-quarantine have become rather indispensable, sufficient economic support is still necessary, especially for those who lost their jobs and income. In order to avoid the economic calamity that can lead people to suicide, the government ought to guarantee and supply the money necessary for survival. Governments have a responsibility to support small companies and impoverished and unemployed workers with public funds, as they did for big companies and banks during the financial crisis in 2009.

If federal hand-outs become normalized, the government may turn to a policy referred to as Basic Income (BI). Is BI realistic? What would source it? The most viable option would be to issue government bonds. But could government bonds be issued eternally? Of course, it is widely believed to be impossible.

Large-scale curfew, as a response to COVID-19, means a paralysis of capitalistic economic activities. Many people lack the income to pay rent and so their landlord cannot repay the bank. It should be noted that the majority of our economic necessity derives from capitalistic rules. The Modern Monetary Theory (MMT) is meant to operate under capitalism, but because it says that money is a government's debt instrument without obligation of repayment (so long as it is in its own nations' currency), it can issue bills as it likes, while avoiding hyperinflation. Choosing between physical health and mental health requires too much sacrifice no matter the option. There may only be one other remedy – to create a new option entirely.

BI is essentially a free gift to the people. It is against the principle of private ownership, which is the backbone of capitalism. It can work against our current economic system, and lead to the abandonment of the capitalistic framework. Our need for a nation may subsequently disappear. When BI is practiced in a nation-free setting, there could exist the so-called utopia that people have long been dreaming about, where everyone contributes to the community according to their capability, and only takes as necessary. What will appear then, instead of nation, will be the ultimate commons. Our labor products will belong directly to the commons in principle.

If we courageously face our current obstacles and strive towards what may seem impossible, we could make possible the first step of the long journey to utopia. When we are forced to choose between physical health and economic health, we should demand both without hesitation.

242. International Society for the Study of Trauma and Dissociation

Achieving Sustainable Development Goal #3, Good Health and Well-Being, must include universal and reliable access to mental-health care to assist individuals, families, communities, and societies who have endured traumatic life conditions - including violence, forced migration, poverty, inadequate healthcare, disasters, denial of human rights, lack of access to nutrition and education, isolation from social support, and other disruptive social conditions. Unsafe societal conditions disrupt healthy human development, in ways that are both communal and transgenerational, undermining future social and economic success even long after national, community, and personal de-stabilizing conditions may have improved.

Societies are as strong as the families that comprise them, and families are as strong as the bonds between the individuals in it. The Covid-19 pandemic has caused a loss of life, livelihood, and security, as well as overwhelming both internal and external resources. Few other factors will determine a return to healthy functioning as much as the availability and accessibility of quality trauma-sensitive mental health care for all those who need it. The survival and future of our societies, families, and individuals, depends on it.

In its consultative status with the UN, The International Society for the Study of Trauma and Dissociation encourages ongoing recognition of the significant and transgenerational mental-health impacts of these traumas.

We therefore strongly support action for inclusive health care that addresses mental as well as physical health for all, in line with the World Health Organization's 2013-2020 Mental Health Action Plan. Like WHO, we also advocate reducing stigmatization and discrimination of people and societies struggling mental health and related trauma responses. We know that mental health, including the psychological impacts of trauma, must be a key part of any discussion about health care policy.

We recommend that primary health-care delivery should be trauma-sensitive, and that it should include mental health care that is readily available for all those who need it, at any age and throughout life. Health-care personnel therefore also need to be thoroughly trained in trauma-sensitive practices, including those working with NGOs and civil society. Understanding, preventing, and addressing trauma is essential for rebuilding and maintaining societies – and for reducing future instances of social disruption.

The International Society for Study of Trauma and Dissociation supports this effort by developing and promoting comprehensive, clinically-effective, and empirically-based responses to trauma and dissociation. We advance clinical, scientific, and societal understanding of chronic trauma and dissociation; we educate through trainings, webinars, conferences, and research shared in *The Journal of Trauma and Dissociation*. We seek to make effective treatment available by influencing social policy and encouraging health-care systems to take into account the impacts of trauma, both individually and collectively.

As the UN strives to create a world that operates on the basis of peace, international cooperation, and human rights, addressing the impact of trauma on physical, mental, and societal

health is essential for people and societies to be safe, stable, productive, economically viable, and able to work together effectively for the benefit of humanity's collective future.

243. International Women's Year Liaison Group

The International Women's Year Liaison Group resolved on November 2020 at its quinquennial general assembly of All Women NGOs that the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic have affected women more severely. What follows is a familiar story. Women suffered significant loss of employment and forced leave without pay, as 69.5% (8.5 million in 2019) of part-time workers, vulnerable to economic fluctuations, are women. Expectations of extreme dedication, brutally long working hours, and apparent caps on their remuneration due to severe financial problems (loss of revenues) that most medical institutions face, also affected care workers and medical workers, majority, if not most, of which are women. Those people and their family members also suffered from groundless discriminations that those people might be "contaminated by the virus". Women who were able to work at home also suffered from unequal burden of domestic chores and care works at home, and increased occurrence of domestic violence. The situation has not improved much after more than one year since the pandemic began.

Poverty looms as the problem largely affecting women today, we suggest that participants at the High-level Segment do not follow the foot-steps of Japanese Government. The Fifth Gender Equality Basic Action Plan of December 2020 promotes self-help and declines to refer to existing public assistance scheme or to redistribution of income and basic income schemes. The expectations are for the elderly pensioners to stay healthy and work longer, and single-parent families, almost 90% of whose parents are working, just to try harder.

We are deeply saddened to report that targeted figures for enhanced participation of women in leadership positions for the next five years, as stated in the Fifth Basic Action Plan did not change from that of the Fourth Basic Action Plan, even after the enactment of the bipartisan Gender Equality in Politics Act of 2019 and the abysmal Global Gender Gap Index 2020 ranking.

NGOs, including our organization, have worked hard to achieve equality in numerous fronts. Yet the Government are unable and unwilling to alter the gendered structure of society. One such example is the idea of introducing an option to retain separate last names on marriage. The ruling Liberal Democratic Party is adamantly refusing to consider the option and proposals to change the current law have been ignored since 1990's, in spite of the fact that, in recent opinion polls, the majority of society supports this legal change to support options to retain separate last names. Changing laws are not enough to transform this society to a perfect gender equal society, but we believe such and similar changes will help advance the well-being of the population at large, and equal participation will promote diversity and enhance the chance for expected delivery for sustainable development.

Our sincere wish to the High-level Segment participants is realize that "market mechanism in economy" will not be compatible with meaningful sustainable development.

244. Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

The Internet is an important tool for achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals as set out in the 2030 Agenda. Preserving the security, safety, stability, and resiliency of the world-wide network is vital to sustaining and fortifying the overall trust that users around the world have in Internet services. Many technical organizations around the world work together to ensure such stability with a growing reliance on the domain name system (DNS) as a trustworthy underlying infrastructure. The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), whose mission is to coordinate the stable operation of the Internet's unique identifier systems (including the DNS), dedicates an important part of its work to ensuring a strong foundation for this activity globally. It does so in cooperation with other relevant stakeholders, by monitoring security trends and potential threats to the stability of the DNS and keeping the global community informed about the latest developments touching on ICANN's mission. This allows for a cooperative and multistakeholder approach in identifying and mitigating risks.

The Domain Name System is a centerpiece of the Internet infrastructure, providing the ability for anyone globally to access services and applications online by name instead of by numbers. The continued resilience and security of the DNS is critical regardless of the situation, location, and contingencies.

Several factors, introduced by different measures and imposed by the pandemic, have forced people around the world to work and live differently: lockdowns have increased remote working, decreased travel has transferred many face-to-face interactions and events to online video calls, and (in countries with the existing infrastructure) have boosted online shopping habits of consumers. Inevitably all these changes created additional demand on the DNS. To assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the DNS, ICANN has conducted tests and analyzed traffic data to measure and test the resilience built into the DNS. These measurements and studies, completed during the pandemic, have demonstrated that the DNS has handled the increase in traffic and lived up to the expectations for resiliency by responding to the new challenges.

ICANN will continue to encourage and work with all relevant stakeholders around the world, who are actively engaged in delivering on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, paying particular attention to ensure provisions are always made to deliver these goals, on top of a strong and resilient Internet infrastructure.

245. Institute for Planetary Synthesis

Toward a Sustainable Global Economy

Imagine! If everyone on Earth received around \$500 per annum to be spent on environmentally friendly goods and services, the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals could be greatly accelerated.

The Plan for a Supplementary Income for All (SIFA) proposes a sustainable supplementary economy financed by a new hard digital currency backed by sustainable marketable goods and services. This Plan was originally conceived by the Dutch economic and social innovator and artist, Pieter Kooistra, and backed by 1969 Nobel Prize winner, Jan Tinbergen. Kooistra explained it in two books, one financed by the Dutch Government.

Implementation of the Plan will allow the present world economic system to evolve gradually towards an inclusive, sustainable global economy, as businesses increasingly focus on the growing markets for sustainable supplementary production.

For people who earn around \$500 annually, an extra income of \$500 per family member means a fortune which would quickly help to meet the basic needs for individual and community development. In richer countries, this amount would mean a much smaller percentage of individual income, but still enough to open up new markets and to bring about attitudinal change. It would reduce the income gap between rich and poor, within and between countries.

Creating the currency

In general a currency is related to the gross domestic product of a country. The SIFA is brought about by empowering those in need and producers globally to trade sustainable goods and services. The new hard currency, estimated to grow between 5-10% annually, is created by making an accurate tally of this extra production globally via a global electronic mail-order system, run by an Administrative Agency which finances the creation and running of the system and where necessary converts SIFAs into national currencies.

Decision-making

All participants are asked annually to determine together which sustainable goods and services may be offered under the Plan. Its accurate implementation is supported by especially trained development workers.

This newly emerging market would meet basic human needs and personal well-being in harmony with Nature. Thus, the parameters of this supplementary economy match those of the Sustainable Development Goals and will speed up recovery from the pandemic.

Requirements for implementation

1. An electronic “SIFA account” for all participants (eventually for all people);

2. A globally linked electronic communication system; connected to
3. An Administrative Agency with capacity to exchange the SIFAs into national currencies;
4. Grassroots discussion groups worldwide to determine each year what can be purchased under the Plan; and
5. Development workers trained in explaining and supporting the implementation of the Plan.

246. Institute for Security and Safety GmbH

The COVID-19 pandemic has seen a global exponential increase in the usage and reliance on digital services and products, brought on by the deployment of contact prevention measures. The development of such services and products often heavily focuses on satisfying market demands for novelty and functionality. Taking these prevalent prerogatives into consideration, the increased scale of usage and heavy reliance on these services and products brings with it a cybersecurity problem which strongly touches on sustainable development issues.

Many aspects of society and public life, such as education, work, social life and administrative tasks have moved online to be facilitated despite social contact restrictions. The economic significance of these digital substitutes increased massively. A disruption of digital services and tools such as video conferencing systems, cloud and Virtual Private Network services, etc., holds the potential to shut down whole education systems, companies or public institutions, in a time when no or few viable alternatives for operation exist. Such disruptions can often be facilitated with inexpensive means, such as Distributed Denial of Service and ransomware attacks. Meanwhile, the relative lack of ‘Security by Design’ concepts for the development of digital services and products on the one hand and awareness of cybersecurity risks on the other hand, create an unbalanced cybersecurity environment which manifests itself in the disparities between developed and developing states: Governments and the private sector in developed countries are able to spend vast funds into additional, ex works cybersecurity, such as capacity building, software, personnel or consulting and system hardening, etc., to compensate for the lack of existing ‘Security by Design’. Developing countries often can’t afford the necessary financial expenditures to close this cybersecurity gap. This creates an unequal cybersecurity environment, in which countries at different development stages experience varying degrees of cybersecurity, even when using the same services.

The Institute for Security works to raise awareness for more comprehensive ‘Security by Design’ concepts in the development of digital services and products and the promotion of cyber risk awareness for each individual involved. An awareness of the importance and benefits of such concepts presents a significant step in enabling more equal levels of cybersecurity for countries irrespective of their developing stage, directly contributing to Sustainable Development Goal 10 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. While the introduction of Security by Design can help developing countries attain higher overall cybersecurity, it would at the same time reduce the cybersecurity expenditures of more digitalized and developed nations and to an extent decouple the relation between cybersecurity and economic wealth. An increased implementation of such concepts would signify a more responsible production of these services and thereby also contribute to Sustainable Development Goal 12.

247. Investment Migration Council

On behalf of the Investment Migration Council, our members and stakeholders, I ask the Economic and Social Council to consider the economic and social contribution that investment migration can make in the post-Covid 19 environment and to join our efforts in advocating for a concise regulatory framework with strict minimum standards across all countries with investment migration programmes.

Investment migration refers to obtaining citizenship or residential rights by individuals in return for a financial investment or other contributions to the host country. In addition to increased employment opportunities driven by investment – from manufacturing and technology to construction and tourism– funds generated by investment migration are largely used by national states in line with United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Flows coming from investment migration programmes have increased public sector revenues, particularly in small states, helping to improve core infrastructure, education, and health services as shown in research done by Dr Andrés Solimano in a more recent Report on 'Investment Migration, Economic Development and the [United Nations] Sustainable Development Goals' issued in cooperation between the Investment Migration Council and the International Centre for Globalisation and Development. Most importantly, investment migration provides countries with an opportunity to increase capital inflows without having to increase their internal or external debt. Instead, investments provide direct capital injections of non-debt liquidity to national balance sheets, strengthening thus national economies and narrowing down the gap created by inequalities within and between nations.

These days, the entire world faces one of the biggest economic crises known in peaceful times owing to COVID-19. Investment migration is positioned to make a very positive and lasting economic difference by bringing fresh funds, new skills and entrepreneurial capacities to receiving economies. To have this desired economic effect, the Economic and Social Council need to act swiftly to recognise the financial impact of investment migration and encourage both investments through investment migration programmes and the adoption of a common regulatory framework.

We share the concerns of different observers of the inherent risk in any industry that is based on a constant flow of multi-million financial transactions. The Investment Migration Council has put as a first priority the strengthening of due diligence standards in the investment migration process, carried-out at all relevant levels and by all parties. It is of particular importance, however, to have the support and assistance of the Economic and Social Council to increase the probability of success in this endeavour.

Working together we could come closer to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals while strengthening the minimum strict standards across all countries.

248. Irene Menakaya School, Onitsha

Our organization Irene Menakaya School Onitsha and its partners affirms their commitment to the theme of the 2021 HLPF and note that the HLPF in the past years has remained the global platform for integrative collation of SDG successes across members states. Through Voluntary National Reviews, Member States have challenged the import of the Development Agenda in their various countries and harnessed the gains into their national development agenda.

The 2021 HLPF has engaged to discuss SDGs 1 on no poverty, 2 on zero hunger, 3 on good health and well-being, 8 on decent work and economic growth, 10 on reduced inequalities, 12 on responsible consumption and production, 13 on climate action, 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions, and 17 on partnerships in depth consideration and consolidation of combined nature of the Sustainable Development Goals.

However, the 2021 HLPF is constrained by the continued menace of COVID19 pandemic and its impact on development across nations. With the HLPF programed discussion on SDGs 1,2,3,8,10,12,13,16 and 17 reflecting on human needs and development, the clarion need to recover from COVID19 to promote the economic, social and environmental dimension of sustainable development in building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

Our organization affirms that the surety of sustainability resting on these SDGs for the Decade of Action posits that concerns must be rooted to the human needs of people in communities of developing countries.

In the discussion at HLPF on the:

SDG1 on poverty should focus on strategies of eradication of poverty on people in rural communities.

SDG2 on ending hunger is an increasing trend among the less privileged in communities.

SDG3 on health and wellbeing calls for attention to create affordable resources to achieve universal health that could be available to community dwellers in ardent poverty.

SDG8 on decent work and economic growth emphasizing on improving of skills and job creating among the working age, enabling environmental action on job availability for youth as well as bridging gender gaps in extreme situation.

SDG10 on inequality addressing gender equality and positioning of development roles across communities including gender parity

SDG12 on responsible consumption and production to ensure environmental security toward productivity and concerns to consumption

SDG13 on climate action to ensure ways for economic growth without climate unfairness on sustainability.

SDG 16 on peace and justice institutions expunging on communal conflicts, create peaceful harmony and community peace

SDG17 on partnership to advance strategies for trade exchange, economic , social and environmental dimension in building inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. With yet the end to COVID-19 pandemic, the global surge on vaccine and the high cut down on employment opportunities and economic growth, the 2021 HLPF should hope to provide outcome that could utilize the existing challenges to bridge the gap in paying attention to the Decade of Action for human growth and development, most importantly for humanity in less privileged communities.

249. Israel Trauma Coalition for Response and Preparedness (R.A.)

The impact of COVID-19 on the health and well-being of medical health teams is devastating. Over a year into an unprecedented pandemic, those working in hospitals and community health care are still exposed to a variety of burdens. The result of not treating can be an experiential rise in burnout, depression and suicidality or career change. They are overwhelmed, emotionally drained, and unable to meet constant demands. Studies from Spain, Canada, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland have studied compassion fatigue, psychological distress and burnout amongst nurses and doctors, each finding high rates of psychological stress.

The experience, of the Israel Trauma Coalition for Response and Preparedness derives from years of working with thousands of medical teams throughout the country before and during the pandemic and our knowledge and experience in working with teams in high exposure. Although we often conceive of healthcare systems in terms of the physical hospital beds and medical equipment, the system's most fundamental, valuable, and vulnerable assets are, our medical teams.

We need to raise awareness, share findings on best practices and implement an effective global response to create strength and resilience.

Israel Trauma Coalition for Response and Preparedness have formulated a response, based on the operating concepts and principles of the health system, which will ensure both the personal and team resilience required to reduce psychological risk factors for healthcare workers. As a way forward, we recommend and are currently implementing nationwide a program including:

- Direct care- provision of trauma care focused on helping individuals and teams identified as experiencing and expressing symptoms of stress.
- Psychosocial training for teams -Tools designed to cope with stressful experiences and events. Understanding triggers for stress as well as personal coping strategies. Identification and use of strategies and positive coping techniques. Tools for identifying distress, processing, self-care. Including enhanced self-compassion, mindfulness, grounding and balancing home and work.
- Resilience Trustees Program – Creation and training of a group of resilience trustees within each institution whose role will be to preserve resilience amongst the medical staff, provide coping tools and teach the teams to maintain resilience, identify burnout and maintain wellbeing. Teamwork and team cohesion -leadership and support for multidisciplinary teams including strengthening team cohesion, coping tools, supporting team members.

Medical teams always work in emergencies and this is an on-going, foreseeable concern. As part of the sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, no one should be left behind, particularly our heroes who have fought so bravely and compassionately for all of us.

250. J'ai Rêvé Foundation

J'ai Rêvé Foundation (JRF) is an international organisation from the civil society, and non-governmental, founded by young Pan-African native from Central African Republic (CAR), Guinea and the Democratic Republic of Congo. JRF aims to provide an assistant to the most vulnerable (Women, Men, Young Girls / Boys, Children, and the Vulnerable).

JRF has acquired six years of humanitarian experience, in the implementation, realization of its activities in emergency and development in Central African Republic and neighbouring countries. JRF specializes in the field of Child Protection, and Gender-Based Violence against women and girls. However, in the other hand JRF works in the areas of (access to education for all, access to primary care for community health, support for food resilience, and the promotion of climate change and development).

Since the eruption of the Seleka rebellion coup in March 2013, an interim president was nominated head of state then, a presidential election which seem to be democratic in 2016, meanwhile the president has been elected by the support of the European community, within the HNO 2016 reported by OCHA more than 447 487 IDP, 235 594 in shelters in the neighbouring countries, 2.3 millions of vulnerable people affected by the lack of assistance in (food, health, inequality of basic care.) The first confirmed case of the COVID-19 virus was imported by an Italian priest confirmed in March by the institute Pastor of Bangui, during this period the Central-Africans prepared for a second presidential election scheduled for December 27, 2020, nevertheless the country is plunged into a terrible economic crisis which has drown the majority of the Central African households into poverty not knowing how to see the future of tomorrow or how to feed themselves, loss of housing, lack of medical care. The confinement decree on the March 25th worsened the situation of investors, the private sector and international organizations deciding to postponed all of their activities and terminate jobs contracts, knowing those actors are the main source of revenue for a minority of Central Africans supporting their families.

As for many developed countries with strong governance of their administration management survive to maintain their economy at flow, which cannot be said for the Central-African regions specifically CAR who is under state emergency, an ongoing conflict.

Recommendations

For a sustainable development building and inclusive and affective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of actions and delivering sustainable development we recommend in case of a global pandemic, the 2030 Agenda should include an emergency fund for African Regions under poverty or in conflict to overcome the economic crises, a systematic inclusion of the civil society's organisation as primary recipients.

251. Japan Center for a Sustainable Environment and Society

Take Urgent Action to Combat Climate Change

Our focus and concerns

In light of the climate crisis and the social changes caused by COVID-19, to prevent further damage from climate change, we should take actions to significantly reduce global emissions of all types of greenhouse gases, and strengthen adaptation measures for the most vulnerable groups to ensure that no one is left behind.

Our recommendations

- 1) We need to extend the supports to strengthen adaptation measures for the most vulnerable people domestically and internationally. The adverse impacts of climate change are more severe for marginalized people that lack finances, know-how and other resources. When promoting adaptation measures, we therefore urge countries and international organizations to consider and support measures to address impacts on the most vulnerable people (women, children, indigenous people and so on).
- 2) It is necessary to dramatically reduce global greenhouse gas emissions. For this, we should not forget other types and sources of emissions than energy-derived CO₂ since one-third of all greenhouse gas emissions are composed of CO₂ from Forestry and Other Land Use, fluorocarbons, methane, and so on. Therefore, in domestic measures and assistance to developing countries, it is important to recommend to select, invest in and implement cost-effective reduction measures from among not just measures for energy-derived CO₂ but for all greenhouse gas emissions.
- 3) Although the transparency of reporting under the Enhanced Transparency Framework is a pillar of the Paris Agreement, there are still many countries lacking of collecting valid and reliable data. Not only does it make governments harder to track their progress such as reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, but also the prediction of damages from natural disasters. These lead to the confusion in prioritizing and reinforcing effective measure. To monitor the global progress and devote resource to each measure more effectively, we must improve the current statistical systems of each country, and provide support for developing countries to build their capacities. We must also guarantee that collected data is accessible and beneficial for all.
- 4) From the perspective of effective use of funds, it is important to generate multiple benefits that address climate change and other social challenges simultaneously, for example, poverty alleviation, gender equality, and energy and resource access. We face various social challenges, including recovery from COVID-19 pandemic. In achieving climate change goal, it is necessary to consider their impact and contribution to social and economic goals. As an example, the reskilling of those who have lost their jobs and support for them is also important in addition to creating jobs through green recovery.

252. Japan Federation of Democratic Medical Institutions (MIN-IREN)

Purpose of statement

We are an organization of medical institutions providing medical care, nursing care, and welfare services with the goal of achieving equality of life. Looking at diseases from perspectives of life and labor, we have been addressing social issues of the times that affect life and health. With concerns over people's lives and livelihoods and their right to education during the COVID-19 pandemic, we conducted surveys to understand present situations, published the results, and made policy recommendations.

Overview of issues

We conducted two surveys. In the first one, we worked with hospitals, clinics, dental clinics, nursing facilities, and pharmacies throughout Japan and collected 435 consultation cases involving those who or whose family member fell into poverty due to reduced income, unemployment, business closure, or bankruptcy caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

This survey revealed: the prime working age group has been affected greatly; 86% of respondents who are in their 70s are working, indicating that they have to continue to work to make a living despite their age; and 35% of respondents have unstable jobs, such as part-time, temporary, and contract work, who are experiencing unemployment and reduced working hours. It also found that 66 people (2.6%) of 2,550 cases consulted by medical institutions refrained from seeing a doctor due to financial reasons. Based on the perspective of SDH, economic disparity has led to life disparity in a much wider area.

The second survey was conducted among nursing students. Working with nursing schools throughout the country, we received answers from 1,127 students.

The survey found: 57.2% of respondents receive financial supports from parents; more than 90% receive scholarships; and 53.9% work part-time. Some respondents said that they have to give up their dream of becoming a nurse due to financial hardships. Others expressed that they wish there were a grant-type scholarship program available under the loan-type scholarship system that force students to shoulder debts.

On the other hand, we received positive comments from respondents who expressed that the COVID-19 pandemic reminded them of important roles of nurses. As they have been motivated to work in the nursing profession despite the challenging environment, we realized that we must strive to help make their wishes come true.

The two surveys have revealed how vulnerable Japan's social security system is.

We held a press conference based on the survey results. We opened "life consultation centers" across the country and worked with other organizations in community activities, such as food pantries and school supply distribution.

We requested the national government to establish a system that enables people to receive medical treatments without worrying about money, flexibly utilize livelihood protection programs, and expand grant-based scholarship programs, and achieved positive outcomes in some of them.

Future directions

The COVID-19 pandemic has hit livelihoods of people who were barely making ends meet under the increasing disparity and poverty.

We are proposing that the government increase public expenditures for social security and education programs, reduce health insurance premiums and payments at medical institutions, and reduce tuition fees.

253. KARP

As a nationwide non-governmental organization, KARP (Korean Association of Retired Persons) has devoted to improving the rights and interests of 506070+ in the era of aging society for about twenty years since its inception in 2002.

It's our mission to improve the quality of life in old age community in Korea. Our main activities are researching welfare and employment promotion for the senior, coping with an aging society as well as presenting alternative measures and policies to the relevant government agencies for overall employment and welfare issues in Korea's aging society.

Bridging the gap between retirement and pension

General workers in the Republic of Korea are required to retire at the age 60, regardless of their will as it is stipulated by the relevant laws and regulations.

Today's life expectancy is getting longer, and more and more people keep a healthy state who can continue working even after the age of 60, but most of the senior workers are forced to leave their workplace at this time. Once they lose their job, it is very difficult to find new jobs again.

However, age at which they start receiving national public pension is currently 62 in accordance with present system in Korea. Furthermore, it is scheduled to be extended over years and finally will be 65 in 3 years. There is, therefore, a gap of income deficiency for two to five years. This matter becomes a social problem that an 'income cliff' exists when many workers have no income and suffer from financial difficulties after their retirement.

We, KARP hereby propose improvement measures as follows.

- Gradually raise the retirement age up to 65, matching to the pension age.
- Increase jobs employs the retired during their income gap period by providing public fund.
- Raise the disposable income by 1~1.5million Won per month by providing public pension plus government subsidized.
- Foster aged-friendly environment making learning and working longer.

Support developing countries by the developed countries in preparation for the post-Corona era

With the success of COVID-19 vaccine development, it is expected that the corona pandemic would be eradicated soon. These epidemics are highly likely to reappear at any time, and greater catastrophes may come back periodically.

Developing countries cannot timely cope with this challenging situation due to the lack of technology and financial resources in the process of overcoming such a disastrous epidemic.

We believe developed countries should actively provide technical, financial and medical assistance to developing countries so that they can get through the deadly difficult situation.

KARP urges developed countries to solve this problem as follows.

- Recognize the repetitive pandemic seriously and take proactive actions to prevent from it.
- Advanced countries should take lead to support developing ones for the era of post-Corona.
- Establish systematic mechanism to support developing countries in the process of overcoming the disastrous pandemic.

254. Kathak Academy

The undersigned NGOs of this statement believe that governments and the civil societies can speed up the achievement of sustainable development goals through cooperation. Also, if the policies and development plans of countries are drafted towards global achievement of sustainable development goals, this global process will pick up more speed; although the continuation of the current unilateral sanctions seriously prevent some countries from achieving the sustainable development goals by 2030, deliberately make them fall behind and lead to a huge failure in the realization of SDGs for the international community. While stressing on the need to respect the independent governance of countries and non-intervention of other countries in the development process, the NGOs recommend that in order for the international community to achieve sustainable development goals, the first step is condemning unilateralism, restrictive policies and unilateral coercive measures while insisting on multilateralism.

255. Khair al Kuwait Charity Organization

The COVID-19 pandemic had a great impact on all levels in the State of Kuwait, where the education sector was affected (so we moved to online education), the health sector (it cost millions, and many operations and ICU rooms became difficult to provide due to pressure) and the economy in particular, which necessitated making decisions and developing plans to confront COVID-19. Non-governmental organizations had a prominent role in cooperation with government and official agencies in the state, so this cooperation gave non-governmental organizations importance to citizens and residents of the State of Kuwait, as they were able to collect financial and in-kind donations to support the needy inside and outside Kuwait, as was the media represented by Social Media and its interaction with events the most prominent role for everyone.

Likewise, the young of both sexes contributed and volunteered to serve the needy and facilitate matters for them in various needs, and volunteer groups emerged in this period that heralded a brilliant and prosperous future for voluntary humanitarian charitable work, as was the coordination and understanding between the Gulf Cooperation Council states and the Arab countries to emphasize the principle of international cooperation.

256. Khubaib Foundation

The objective of this statement is to highlight the impact of the pandemic on the NGOs in the developing countries to achieve the SDGs during the pandemic.

- COVID-19 pandemic has not only given a serious blow to health sector of developed/ developing countries globally rather due to its negative impact economies are passing through a spell of severe depression. The issues has direct bearing on the work of the NGOs which are mostly charity-based, due to adverse impacts on the businesses, the incomes have been adversely affected, resultantly there was decline in charities, resultantly reduction in the income of charities.
- The trickled down affects have impacted the social development and certainly it will disturb achieving SDGs. We being a social welfare and disaster relief NGO work for SDG 1 no poverty, SDG 2 on zero hunger, SDG 3 on good health and well-being, and SDG 17 on partnerships. These SDGs have interlinkages, it therefore require a meticulous approach to face the challenges caused by pandemic in the present era. Charity based NGOs particularly working in the field of education and orphan care are under great stress. The prevailing environment has resulted in to financial constraints for such organizations.
- The pandemic has resulted in to increase in poverty level, unemployment and impeded social development. Which are likely to continue for prolonged period and economic recovery will be slow, inequalities are likely to enhance as the vulnerable segment of societies.
- As per our assessment of situation regarding the principle of “ensuring that no one is left behind” at the global, regional and national levels, in achieving the 2030 Agenda, the LDCs / developing countries will be mostly affected, they need special assistance to sustain the pace for achieving the SDGs.
- The spirit for achieving SDGs is in cooperation, commitments, and partnerships at all levels in promoting sustainable and resilient recovery. The role of civil society is of paramount importance, the social development cannot be materialized without the vigorous participation of civil societies, which needs to be strengthened with added resources.
- Country faces specific challenges in pursuit of SDGs. The most vulnerable countries should take action to review support for implementation, report on progress and obstacles. We welcome the HLPF-2021 on the longer term positioning of the UN development system and look forward to taking action on these issues, as appropriate. We also recommend these meeting instead of after 4 years to be held biannually in post Pandemic scenario.
- Every disaster brings with it tremendous opportunities, so is the COVID-19. It may provide unique opportunities for the corporate sector and NGOs to evolve collective collaborative strategies, solution to achieve SDGs is embedded in the corporate strategies where concept of public- private partnership with the involvement of NGOs should be hallmark. The spirit of a knifed approach with a common purpose and objective towards the social development of humanity could be the best strategy in achievement of set SDGs. Khubaib Foundation will continue its efforts in timely achievements of SDGs with all its resources.

257. Korea NGO Council for Overseas Development Cooperation

The outbreak of COVID-19 has become a global crisis. Since the WHO declared it as a pandemic on March 11 last year, we've seen exponential growth in the numbers of confirmed cases and deaths. As developed countries with relatively effective healthcare infrastructure are struggling with the pandemic, the magnitude of damages on developing countries would be unimaginable. It would be difficult for vulnerable states to tackle the crisis by themselves. Therefore, we should forge international solidarity. If we decide to start supporting developing countries only after our domestic situation is under control, it would miss the critical golden time to save lives. Moreover, supporting them for infection prevention and treatment also means protecting us.

We, the civil society organizations of Korea on international development led by 140 members of the Korea NGO Council for Overseas Development Cooperation(KCOC), request the following to the United Nations to ensure a meaningful impact on developing countries.

First, streamline the support process and rapidly transfer necessary resources including vaccines to developing countries, then they can establish protective measures for their citizens quickly and support vulnerable groups. And prioritize the LDCs based on their needs, as they largely rely on international support.

Second, Regarding the supply and demand of vaccines, it is necessary to prevent Vaccine nationalism as export restrictions. Through global solidarity and cooperation all countries are safely and equitably supplied with vaccines.

Third, urge special sources of finance for humanitarian assistance as well as the quick process and system in which emergency support can be provided immediately.

Fourth, establish a consultative body of the government and civil society on fighting COVID-19 in developing countries and engage in close consultation on response measures.

Fifth, as a disease, Coronavirus is fair, but its impact is discriminatory. Human rights violations caused by COVID-19 are serious, such as an outbreak of coronavirus-related racial attacks, child labour, gender-based violence. To build back better, multilateral safeguard system, mutual respect and global citizenship is needed.

We, also, commit to the following to ensure that the projects to tackle COVID-19 in developing countries are people-centered, non-discriminatory, safe, and effective.

First, we prioritize and empathize with the most vulnerable of the vulnerable, including women, children, people with disabilities, ethnic minorities, and refugees.

Second, the process and results of projects will live up to global standards, in compliance with internationally agreed humanitarian principles and human rights-based standards.

Third, we closely work with the governments, civil society, and communities of the partner

country and ensure that the responses are owned by local actors.

Fourth, we ensure high levels of transparency and accountability by closely cooperating with the international community and actively communicating and coordinating with donors in the process.

Fifth, we will make all necessary efforts to accurately assess the situation by country and provide effective joint support, based on our strong cooperation and solidarity.

We hope our solidarity will help developing countries and vulnerable groups facing extreme difficulties return to their everyday life without losing hope and contribute to sustainable development and peace of the international community.

258. Krityanand UNESCO Club Jamshedpur

We all live in a world which is increasingly interconnected and interdependent. Today, countries, in addition to the pandemic, are also dealing with several pressing challenges including climate change. All these challenges yet again underscore the need for multilateralism and global solidarity. The Sustainable Development Goals are more important than ever before.

While the effect of COVID-19 on all the sustainable development goals (SDGs) has been and is being documented and examined across the world, the Krityanand UNESCO Club, Jamshedpur, draw attention to the importance of the sustainable development goal (SDG) 16 – anchored on the principle of the rule of law – in these times. The standard government response has – understandably – been to enforce severe restrictions on freedom of movement, in situations generally referred to as “lockdowns”. However, grave concerns have already arisen that some of the measures adopted by the governments are disproportionate, and involve the use of excessive force, lack transparency, misuse emergency regulations, and that the restrictions are serving as a smokescreen behind which governments are engaging in repressive practices. It is crucial that the rule of law, accountability, transparency, and access to information are maintained in this period. It is only when these principles are observed that a people-centred approach, responsive to the most vulnerable, will be able to ensure that “no one is left behind”. Lockdowns should not have a more severe effect on the right to life or other fundamental rights due to excessive securitisation. In the enforcement of lockdown regulations, the role of law enforcement should be aimed at persuasion where possible, and coercive measures only a last resort, while also adhering to the recommended practices such as physical distancing. Emergency or lockdown measures must conform with the principles of legality, necessity, proportionality, precaution and non-discrimination. These measures should be reviewed continuously and reasons for their imposition provided. It's high time that the member states should involve the respective organisations under general consultative status to Economic and Social Council on designing a road map to achieve the SDGs with role of good enforcement law. More emphasis should be given on environmental sustainability and livelihood opportunities as this two are basic catalyst for the survival. We would like to appeal the HLPF to adopt a concrete policy on alternative good policy on peace, justice and strong institutions, and on partnerships.

259. Kuwaiti Society for Autism

In order to build an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development during this COVID-19 pandemic, Kuwait Autism Society suggests the following taking into consideration the safety of people with autism:

- 5) As the COVID-19 situation is prolonging indefinitely it is very essential for each person with autism to follow the safety precautions of COVID-19 at home, school or work place. They need to be trained to wear mask properly, maintaining social distance, wash the hands at regular intervals, stop going to public places unless it's necessary and keep their environment clean;
- 6) Apart from the external safety measures they need to be trained to increase their immunity level through their food and medicine intake;
- 7) The training must also include daily exercise to keep their body fit;
- 8) Also they need to be closely and constantly watched in case they have high temperature, any aches in body, running nose, cough, etc. which are also symptoms of COVID-19. If possible they can also be trained to express their discomfort;
- 9) All these needs more time to achieve it throughout the world. But the current pandemic situation has triggered the speed to train these people all over the world. To train them the trainers are also practicing it and in turn their families and finally the whole society.

Like any other pandemic COVID-19 has brought together the mankind to fight against it. As per the goals suggested for inclusive institutions at all levels if people with autism are trained to face this COVID-19 pandemic successfully then almost all the goals for their personal safety and societal safety can be achieved effortlessly. So we can definitely accept that Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic promotes the economic, social and environmental.

260. La Manif Pour Tous

La pandémie du COVID-19 n'a pas stoppé l'exploitation reproductive, bien au contraire : les "cliniques" spécialisées, les agences, les intermédiaires de l'exploitation reproductive ont poursuivi leurs activités. Ils ont même intensifié leur lobbying pour l'assouplissement des règles gênant leur trafic international.

Les femmes sont les premières victimes des conséquences de la crise sanitaire du COVID-19. Très vulnérables économiquement, de plus en plus nombreuses à être privées de revenus, elles sont des proies faciles. Or l'exploitation reproductive est fondée sur les femmes les plus fragiles économiquement et socialement. Elles sont spécifiquement visées par toutes les méthodes de recrutement.

Toujours présentée, à tort, comme un travail comme un autre, la maternité de substitution est une exploitation de la femme au profit d'un tiers. Cette pratique sexocentrée relève même strictement de la définition de l'esclavage, telle que définit par l'article 1 de la Convention relative à l'esclavage de 1926 : "l'esclavage est l'état ou condition d'un individu sur lequel s'exercent les attributs du droit de propriété ou certains d'entre eux".

Ainsi, la pratique de la maternité de substitution ne peut, en aucun cas, être présentée comme une forme de travail décent. Parce que cette pratique aliène le corps des femmes et les prive de leurs droits sexuels et reproductifs. Dans ce cadre, les femmes sont privées de toute autonomie de leur corps, de leurs droits sexuels et reproductifs. C'est pourquoi, tant que la pratique de la maternité de substitution, sous toutes ses formes, commerciale ou non commerciale, perdurera dans le monde, la réalisation complète et universelle de l'Objectif de Développement Durable numéro 8 pour un travail décent pour tous est totalement impossible.

Comment protéger les femmes et les filles du monde entier de cette exploitation ? La Manif Pour Tous voit dans la réalisation de l'Objectif de Développement Durable numéro 17 (le partenariat entre les États) la clé pour empêcher cette forme d'exploitation reproductive.

La maternité de substitution n'est en effet pas traitée de la même manière par tous les États membres : elle est soit autorisée soit régulée ou même interdite. Dans tous les cas, elle se cache : les statistiques la concernant sont même inaccessibles, seules de vagues estimations circulent. Quel que soit le régime juridique choisi, elle est répandue dans le monde et met en danger toutes les femmes.

La crise du COVID-19 rend encore plus urgente la lutte de la communauté internationale contre l'exploitation reproductive, en commençant par l'abolition internationale de la maternité de substitution.

Le drame des centaines d'enfants nés de GPA restés abandonnés en Ukraine depuis la première vague de la pandémie, la nécessité de protéger la santé des femmes en leur évitant ces grossesses à risques, l'hypocrisie de la gestation pour autrui dite « éthique », les gigantesques profits sur le dos des femmes pauvres et le trafic international d'enfants sont les principaux éléments qui doivent amener les États à agir.

Le « monde de l'après COVID-19 » doit être celui où la maternité de substitution est définitivement et globalement abolie.

261. Ladli Foundation Trust

COVID-19 Pandemic has been an instrument of change, unexpected transformations and an awakening at individual level. The idea of resilience and recovery from this pandemic is not something that can be supported with sheer thoughts and beliefs but has to do much more with the idea of real time implementation and execution of initiatives which support holistic development and sustainable living.

This Pandemic has affected each and every individual if not at physical level but surely at mental level making each one suffers issues of anxiety, depression and emotional instability. One can clearly state that this pandemic has affected the total population around the world severely as it has disrupted their lifestyle, everyday living and above all questioned their existence. During our relief activities in Pandemic lockdown we have witness the lives of people especially it has made women groups most vulnerable as they were not only subjected to the unknown burden of family but also were made the reason for every consequence of this natural disaster causing them double victimization making their safety and security a serious cause of concern. This rising concern needs to be addressed in a way which is scientifically proven and is sustainable. Therefore, we believe that each one of us should involve ourselves in one of most authentic practice i.e. Yoga, Meditation and provision of mental health sessions to develop a stable Emotional Quotient (EQ). It is an alternative healthcare practice involving complete body and mind reformation and has the ability to make the body release hormones like dopamine, serotonin, endorphin etc. which produces a sense of contentment, pleasure and well-being which will help people to overcome from side effects of the pandemic. We believe that this practice should be made accessible to each and every citizen. It is also important to instill within each mind, to adopt COVID-19 learnings as a part of their everyday life and making them realize the need to be gentle and cautious about their own health for future prospective.

Secondly, this Pandemic gave rise to Economic Pandemic within the society which had created severe losses in terms of trade and employment. At the same it has made a phishing attack on the healthcare system too especially in developing countries where medical professionals have started taking advantages of this emergency to gain surplus income by creating threat and fear among the individuals as each one is trying to save their lives. Therefore, it requires a serious reformation within the healthcare system by making it more transparent and accessible with proper facilities.

This pandemic surely has made us identify the loopholes of our everyday living and requires us to adopt and adapt to changes which are fruitful and fulfilling. Where the solutions of recovery and resilience are required, we need to also work on the onset of this change is gradual and significant making a chain of global changemakers who can represent countries and lead their way of better redressal of pandemic.

262. Leadership Initiative for Transformation & Empowerment

This statement is on issues of critical concern to the work of the NGO, and it is aimed to promote greater commitment and concrete actions towards sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic in line with the priority theme of the 2021 ECOSOC High-level Segment.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has taken a significant toll on the roadmap to achieving sustainable development goals. Over 41 percent of people in Sub-Saharan Africa live in extreme poverty (World Bank Group), a situation that is further exacerbated by the adverse effect of the COVID-19 pandemic, and weak social support system. Prevailing malaria cases and mortality rates in the global south exceed far more than rates of HIV and COVID-19. Also, misinformation around COVID-19 has greatly contributed to an increased substance use disorders and alcohol consumption. Expectations and demands on COVID-19 restrictions, testing, and vaccinations put potential ramifications for human rights protection. It is important to state that an increasing number of young people are out of school, employment or training due to COVID-19 which has also taken its toll on the increasing recruitment of child soldiers by non-state armed groups in conflict-prone regions. The COVID-19 associated stigma has further amplified social discrimination on the basis of social factors which has continued to trouble the building blocks to achieve SDG 10. Proactive disclosure of information on primary government expenditures related to COVID-19 has recorded significant setbacks.

Recommendations

- Inclusive social protection for pro-poor and vulnerable groups in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic to achieve SDG 1 is recommended.
- Aggressive policy directions and concrete state actions to roll back malaria should leverage the strategic approaches to the COVID-19.
- Inclusive public awareness targeted at demystifying COVID-19, and harmful substance, alcohol use.
- Due diligence to ensure that testing and vaccination especially against COVID-19 do not provide a basis for social discrimination and denial of the fundamental rights and freedom of citizens and non-citizens in a bid to achieve goal 3.8.
- Innovative approaches driven by digital technology to address the rising cases of unemployment, out-of-school children, and recruitment of child soldiers into armed groups to actualize SDG 8 is recommended.
- Concrete state actions to eliminating discriminatory laws, and practices on the basis of COVID-19, religion, ethnic minority, and sexual orientation to achieve SDG 10.
- To this extent, state parties should create a safe space for NGO active engagement at every stage in building an inclusive and effective path for sustainable and resilient recovery, and the achievement of sustainable goals.

263. Legion of Good Will

We, from the Legion of Good Will (LGW), present our recommendations with regard to the theme of the 2021 High-Level Segment of the United Nations Economic and Social Council: “Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development.” Since the beginning of the social distancing protocols, in March 2020, the Legion of Good Will, a 71-year-old organization, has intensified its efforts to fight hunger and misery, surpassing, after a year of the pandemic, over 3 million kilos of food and essential items donated to vulnerable families in nearly 200 cities in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, Portugal, the United States, and Uruguay.

The long duration of the health crisis, which is exhausting everyone and has generated economic, social, and emotional implications, poses additional problems for the poorer population. As of the closing of this statement, almost 400,000 Brazilians have died due to the pandemic, while some 10 million Brazilians do not even know if they will have a meal the next day according to the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE). The total number of citizens who live in extreme poverty tripled between August 2020 and February 2021. Today, this contingent of 27.2 million Brazilians is larger than the entire population of Australia. The research entitled “Favelas and hunger,” carried out by Instituto Locomotiva in partnership with Data Favela and Central Única das Favelas, revealed that 8 in every 10 residents living in peripheral regions in Brazil need donations to survive.

Social assistance in the context of the pandemic

In this challenging scenario, civil society organizations have also been feeling the impact of this turbulence, with an increase in requests for social assistance, although they operate with fewer resources. The Legion of Good Will is one of the organizations that has not missed a single day in providing help for the most vulnerable people in its 94 units, comprised of 81 social service centres, 10 schools, and 3 shelters for the elderly. It also offers guidance by way of its Solidary Society Network, which brings together hundreds of organizations and leaders nationwide and provides courses, consultancy services, and workshops to strengthen and qualify the work they do.

During this health crisis, we have been promoting remote social and educational activities with those we help and distributing non-perishable food baskets, “green” food baskets (with locally produced salad greens), and school supplies, as well as hygiene and cleaning products (including face masks in some cities). Companies from different industries, food banks, the Army, and public bodies, such as the Civil Defense, have embraced this solidary cause.

Donations have reached settlements, favelas, indigenous communities, quilombos [remote settlements originally founded as a refuge by fugitive enslaved people or their descendants], isolated villages in Brazil’s semi-arid region, and other vulnerable places, particularly in the Amazon region, which has been badly affected by the pandemic. Another service provided is the Children: The Future in the Present! program, which has been offering important support to the parents and legal guardians of the kids helped in order to prevent them from toxic stress at this

time of social distancing, thus reducing any negative emotional impacts. Carried out by the Legion of Good Will in 63 cities in Brazil, this service for socializing and strengthening bonds seeks to ensure that girls and boys from 6 to 15 years old are socially protected and have access to social and educational actions that promote their full development.

Our team of educators reinvented their teaching practices, planned and made available activities of music, dance, arts, and recreational activities, and cooperative games; this is all being done online until it is safe to resume in-person classes. Using communication and messaging apps, the Organization's teams across the country sought, even from a distance, to achieve the main goals of this action and provide everyone with moments of interaction and fun.

A major concern of young people is the impact the pandemic is having on the world of work. According to surveys by the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics, the unemployment rate in Brazil (14.2 percent in the quarter ending in January) is the highest since 2012. For people aged between 18 and 24, the rate is more than double the general average (exceeding 30 percent). However, in the four cities where the Legion of Good Will runs its Good Will Apprentice program, which helps place young people in the job market, the Organization has managed to maintain the average number of those being hired.

For the elderly, in the three shelters we operate, in addition to following the recommendations of the official health agencies, we have adopted a series of other preventive actions. Contact between family and friends with the residents, who are part of the group at higher risk from the new coronavirus, for example, is made by video call or telephone. Manual or reflective recreational activities have been carried out outdoors, in the units' external areas. Others that need to be done inside, such as physiotherapy and meals, respect social distancing protocols.

The temperature and respiratory rate of the elderly are being measured at least three times a day, and if there is any change, the nursing team immediately relocates them to the isolation area for monitoring and additional care. The same goes for employees who have flu-like symptoms and/or a fever; they return home and self-isolate, as instructed by the World Health Organization. All were part of the first groups vaccinated in Brazil.

The Full Life program, which is carried out in 40 cities in the country and is aimed at people over 60 who live alone or with their families, offered follow-up and emotional support by way of communication and messaging apps. Now face-to-face activities and workshops resumed the work that began before the pandemic, maintaining contact with the Organization's professionals and the bonds established between those who participate in the program on a regular basis.

All these improvements carried out by social workers and representatives of civil society organizations and social movements were the main topic of the LGW's 25th International Congress on Social Assistance, which took place on November 9-11, 2020. With the theme "The impact of COVID-19 and the future of Social Assistance," the event collected good practices, which have been made available in English, Spanish, and Portuguese in 12 thematic panels:

- Rethinking the right to play
- Identity and belonging: strategies for maintaining bonds in times of social distancing

- Socializing and strengthening family ties during the pandemic: challenges and possibilities
- Multistakeholder actions in Social Assistance
- Social participation in the trans-pandemic period

The Congress also served as an opportunity for strengthening the skills of professionals who work on the front line, where they support the most vulnerable people, who have been suffering from anxiety and breakdown due to the pandemic. As the President of the Legion of Good Will, Paiva Netto, states: “Faced with a wide variety of situations, in which pain and suffering afflict us, often without warning, a gesture of solidarity is essential when providing spiritual and material help for others. Alongside this immediate support, we need to nurture the strength of Hope and of Accomplishing Faith, which drive human beings to remain under the protection of the Heavenly Father and encourage them to roll up their sleeves and turn their fair supplications into a reality.”

Education in the context of the pandemic

In facing up to COVID-19, schools around the world have suspended in-person classes, which presented a challenge that had never been experienced before: remote teaching en masse. In Brazil, whose various regional realities differ enormously, efforts and creativity were needed to bring online learning to the public in the poorest areas. To avoid further problems to students and them dropping out of school, the Organization promptly and diligently acted in order not to leave anyone behind. Our schools distributed learning materials, food baskets, and cleaning and hygiene kits to vulnerable families and supported those who had difficulty accessing the Internet and technology equipment.

The Legion of Good Will also developed educational and teaching tools for the educators, who continued working during social distancing. These were shared during the Organization’s 22nd International Congress on Education, which discussed the theme: “The challenge of remote learning and the post-pandemic school — A view beyond the intellect.” Streamed on the Internet in Portuguese and Spanish, the event took place between June 29 and July 1, 2020, and more than 7,000 participants registered for it from 589 cities in 13 countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, France, Luxembourg, Mexico, Paraguay, Portugal, Switzerland, the United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

The Congress included talks and workshops on the Organization’s teaching methods, which are based on the Pedagogy of Affection and the Ecumenical Citizen Pedagogy, both created by educator Paiva Netto. The quality education provided by the LGW’s schools enabled, even in the difficult year of 2020, our students to rank high in the Brazilian Science Olympiad and to get into the most competitive university in the country.

During the pandemic, by way of its Boosting Skills program, the Legion of Good Will has also innovated by adjusting their inclusive actions and has continued supporting students who have specific educational needs, such as those with Autism Spectrum Disorder or Down syndrome. The initiative remotely monitors the educational, emotional, and social development of students, proposing strategies that can help them learn the curricular content and have autonomy to carry out everyday activities.

Even with in-person classes suspended, the teachers continued to support the students and provided them with individualized teaching plans, from producing special remote or hybrid lessons to making assistive technologies—in other words, tools, materials, methodologies, or resources, such as games—that are sent to the homes of those who need this support. The multidisciplinary team uses a messaging app to maintain a partnership with family members and exchange information regarding the children’s progress and their real needs.

Science and Faith promoting Hope

In addition to educational and social assistance actions, given the unprecedented suffering being experienced by humanity, the Legion of Good Will has been giving hope to the population; besides providing people with information regarding protection against COVID-19, the Organization has been offering them words of spiritual comfort and support.

It was in this context that the Legion of Good Will held another edition of its Spirit and Science World Forum, which had the following theme: “Science and Faith promoting Hope to overcome the new coronavirus pandemic.” Ten renowned speakers presented their perspectives on the current health crisis, the phenomenon of death, coping with grief, and other issues.

For two decades, the Forum has been bringing together scientists, religious people, and philosophers in a permanent movement of dialogue at the World Parliament of Ecumenical Fraternity, the ParlaMundi, which is located in Brasília, Brazil. In 2000, when Paiva Netto created the Forum, he highlighted its main goals, which are even more urgent today given what we are currently facing: “To reconcile the current knowledge in the physical world with the infinitely broad knowledge, located in the dimension of the Immortal Spirit, in a powerful force at the service of the people. . . . Discord, radicalism, hostilities of all types must remain distant from religious, philosophical, political, scientific, economic, artistic, sporting, and all other debates and propositions, because human beings are born on Earth to live in society, a Solidary, Altruistic, and Ecumenical Society.”

The Legion of Good Will thus reaffirms its belief in the power of dialogue and constructive cooperation for overcoming the impacts of the pandemic, as well as its commitment to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

264. LICHT FÜR DIE WELT - Christoffel Entwicklungszusammenarbeit

The 2021 Economic and Social Council High-Level Segment is a moment to discuss the long-term impact of current trends in the economic, social and environmental areas on the realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This year, the stocktaking is framed by the global COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 has been demonstrating the universality and fundamentality of the right to health. “The highest attainable standard of health [is] a fundamental right of every human being.” This articulation stands at the heart of the constitution of the World Health Organisation (WHO). States must realise this universal human right without delay. In practice, this entails both the entitlements to health care that is available in sufficient quality, accessible and culturally acceptable and the freedom from non-consensual or degrading treatment.

According to the WHO, persons with disabilities make up 15% of the world’s population. Like everyone else, they have general health needs. Universal health coverage means that all people have access to the health services they need, when and where they need them, without financial hardship. However, discrimination often stands in the way of meeting these needs.

With Article 25, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities includes a stand-alone article on the right to health. This is also echoed in the SDGs. In SDG 3, all States are committed to “ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all.” Among other targets, this includes universal health coverage, access to essential medicines and vaccines as well as sexual and reproductive healthcare services. These goals apply to everyone. Consequently, reaching SDG 3 is not possible without including persons with disabilities.

Despite clear policy requirements, persons with disabilities continue to experience discrimination in their access to health. The prevailing attitude of health care professionals to focus on disability and disregard the overall well-being of a person stands at the core of discrimination. Half of the persons with disabilities cannot afford healthcare, compared to 1/3 of persons without disabilities. Public health campaigns, such as information about COVID-19, often do not address persons with disabilities by offering information in inaccessible formats and without involving Organisations of Persons with Disabilities. As a result of these barriers and rights violations, persons with disabilities report lower standards of health and experience higher mortality rates.

The problem is not personal but structural. Governments, international organisations and development actors urgently need to mainstream disability into health services and interventions. A new decade of action and delivery for inclusive sustainable development has just started. We need to act now to make sure that no one is left behind in this pandemic.

265. Lion Damien Club

During this moment of great agitation our eyes are on the Democratic Republic of Congo. Concerned about the upsurge in serious human rights violations and impunity across the whole country, in particular in the east.

Indeed, the situation in the East remains tense, clashes, forced displacement, deaths and cases of sexual violence against children and women remain unpunished and without attention. We are living through the greatest genocide of our lifetime and no one is finding lasting solutions.

We have seen millions of deaths in overseas due to COVID-19 creating lockdowns and planetary concerns but the millions of Africans deaths had never created such a massive involvement of States and your services.

We Lion Damien Club cry for injustice.

Despite our efforts and risks that we are taking by denouncing this culture of impunity in the Republic Democratic of Congo, we are witnesses your indifference despite all the efforts that we put in place to do our mission.

This culture of impunity which encouraged the upsurge in human rights violations, which had nevertheless diminished, in the first half of 2020, your services recorded 4,013 cases of human rights violations, of which 43% of these violations are attributable to state agents and the rest by armed groups but you still not taking serious actions.

We are well informed of the will of the Congolese Head of State to build a state of rights, but we deem your involvement in helping the Democratic Republic of Congo in these efforts insufficient.

We hope that our statement today will provide a much more involved model of cooperation.

266. Make Mothers Matter

Revisiting SDG 8 with a “Care Lens”

In this written statement, Make Mothers Matter (MMM) focuses on revisiting SDG 8, which will be reviewed this year. We argue that “Work” must be redefined as a holistic concept, where both paid and unpaid work are combined. We also challenge the notion of “economic growth” as being a goal per se, and call instead for a repurposing of our economic system to serve the wellbeing of people and the planet.

The COVID-19 crisis has shown what really matters. It has highlighted in particular the critical importance of Care work, whether paid or unpaid, and increased visibility of the people carrying out this invaluable work, most of whom are women.

It is precisely because of their care responsibilities, which dramatically increased with lockdowns and schools moving online, that many women, mothers especially, were forced out of the labour market.

Feminist economists have for many years pointed to the inequitable distribution of unpaid care work as a root cause of Gender inequalities and discriminations, especially as it pertains to the labour market. But this crisis has really spotlighted the challenges that most mothers face in trying to juggle not only work and care responsibilities, but also home-schooling.

As part of the “Decent work” agenda, we at MMM believe it is high time that governments address this issue and seriously invest to support women, parents and other caregivers doing this essential yet unpaid or underpaid, mostly invisible and unrecognized work of caring.

Unpaid Care Work is work and the world of work must adapt to caregivers

As a starting point, governments must recognize that unpaid care work IS work – a fact which is supported by the 2013 resolution of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) on statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization.

Unpaid care work remains a barrier for many women to access the labour force, make a career and earn a decent wage. Women have been pushed to join the ‘productive’ labour force, but they remain responsible for the bulk of care activities: more than three-quarters of all unpaid family care work is done by women, and when both paid work and unpaid work are combined, women work more than men. And, they are heavily penalized for that, especially when they have children.

- This necessitates that we redefine “work” as a holistic concept, where both paid and unpaid work are combined. The world of work must adapt to this reality, and private companies must contribute to supporting workers with family responsibilities
- Governments must invest in a social protection floor that includes maternity protection. Unpaid caregivers should have access to such worker’s rights as social security – including cash transfer to complement income when necessary, pension rights (“care credits”), as well as training – notably for women to re-enter the labour market after maternity leave. Currently,

only 41% of new mothers benefit from paid maternity leave: every mother works and should be entitled to full maternity protection

The critical importance of investing in public infrastructure and services

Second, it is critically important that governments invest in accessible public infrastructure and services, and that they do so with a gender lens, with the aim of both reducing the time spent on domestic chores and supporting care work. Essential infrastructure and services notably include water and energy, as well as healthcare, education, and childcare. But the crisis has shown how critical access to digital technology and services also is.

A 2020 report by the Women’s Budget Group in the UK also shows that investment in Care infrastructure and services creates more jobs - and more jobs for women - than investing in a sector like construction.

Our recommendation to optimize resources is to work at community or local government level, assess actual needs by involving community members and beneficiaries, including women.

Investing in public infrastructure and services is investing in people. Austerity is not an option: countless reports have pointed to the disproportionate negative effect of austerity policies on women.

Care is not a burden, an expense to be minimised, it is an investment

Care is work, but it must not be considered as a ‘burden’, as an expense to be minimized. The Covid crisis has demonstrated that Care is valuable and essential work, that must instead be considered as an investment – an investment in people, especially women, but ultimately it is also about investing in children.

We know in particular, how vital nurturing care is for early childhood development - and it is an investment with high returns.

So let’s stop talking about the ‘care burden’. It is also not the right way to engage men in taking their share of care responsibility, so that this work can be better distributed.

An opportunity to rethink and rebuild our economy in a fairer and more sustainable way

The COVID-19 crisis provides a unique opportunity for systemic change, for “building forward transformatively”: it is time to move beyond a narrow and short-term focus on GDP growth and profit making, and to repurpose our economy to a caring economy, one that is human-centred and serves the wellbeing of both people and our planet.

The recent joint report of the European Environmental Bureau and Oxfam Germany makes it clear: “The economy is far more than what can be bought and sold in shops: [...] it is also about the vital care work done within households, about the joint management of common resources such as lakes and forests, about having access to well-run schools and hospitals provided by the state or by

communities. It is about having a roof over your head, having enough healthy food to eat, being safe and being looked after when you need help. Care and community are all a part of this.”

A number of countries and cities are showing us the way. The governments of Finland, Iceland, New Zealand, Scotland and Wales are committed to moving to “wellbeing economies”. Cities like Amsterdam, Berlin, Brussels, and Sydney have adopted the doughnut economic model, which provides a useful framework to build a solid social foundation for their economy, while ensuring that economic activities are sustainable and stay within environmental boundaries.

In the current context of the multiple crises we must face, it is absolutely urgent and essential that at every level, we endeavour to change the course of our economy, which has been exploitative and destructive. Whether we call it a wellbeing economy, a caring economy or a doughnut economy, it is high time that we change the narrative and revisit SDG 8.

267. Managing Committee of Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences

SDGs in the Time of COVID-19 - The KISS Action Agenda for a Sustainable and Resilient Recovery

The COVID-19 pandemic has derailed progress towards the SDGs. At the same time it has also provided opportunity to various institutions, agencies and structures to re-imagine and re-focus on their roles and opportunities. It is an opportunity to shift to new pathways that allow successful national and regional responses, promoting an equitable, just and sustainable recovery and building resilience for future shocks and crises.

As the world's largest educational institution for indigenous people – KISS is playing an active crisis response role to sustain momentum for the SDGs in the times of Corona.

We believe that a sustainable and resilient society is not possible until the recovery effort doesn't emphasize on the lives of the most vulnerable and marginalized. All our efforts are directed towards improving the lives of those 'at the margins' during and post pandemic. It follows a multi-dimensional and integrated approach to meet the objectives.

In its efforts towards building a sustainable and resilient society, the various steps undertaken are:

- Building a body of knowledge with evidence-based research to understand risk factors, gaps in implementation and the lessons learnt especially towards building sustainable and resilient food systems and reinforcing indigenous knowledge systems.
- Generating political will to ensure transformative learning as part of the policy process for ensuring inclusive and sustainable growth during and post-pandemic.
- Working with communities and strengthening capabilities for local action, preparedness and resilience to deal with the crisis situations along with linkages to ensure poverty reduction, sustainable and resilience strengthening objectives in tandem with economic objectives.
- Leveraging digital transformation and bridging the digital divide to reach out to those 'at the margins' and bridge the gap across various social contours.

KISS is using its platform to promote the use of innovative ways for delivering integrated SDG solutions. It is also catalyzing and mobilizing financial resources to meet the above objectives in line with the credo "Leave No One Behind".

268. **Martial Arts Academy**

Martial Arts Academy has established 5 Sustainable Development Goals (3, 4, 5, 16, and 17) as integral parts of our mission. As the only consultative status non-governmental organization relating to Martial Arts and Music Therapy, we are focused on demonstrating the need for a greater societal emphasis on these. Any form of Martial Arts can be used as one of the “effective and resilient institutions for sustainable recovery from the pandemic and timely implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.” For example, Martial Arts classes at the refugee camps are intended to support peace rather than impose hard security, and the objectives of SDG 16 and 17 with local authorities and civil society are key in that regard. We are proposing and requesting more support from government, businesses, and individuals to promote, support, and broaden the reach of successful Martial Arts and Music Therapy classes around the world.

In keeping with SDG 3, Martial Arts extends far beyond sports. By harmonizing and tuning the body and mind, they are a way to teach social etiquette, self-discipline, self-confidence, and respect for oneself and others. During this pandemic, many people have felt pressure and frustration from the forced isolation and radically altered lifestyles. Practicing Martial Arts can help overcome those pressures and frustrations by channelling energy, discovering, surmounting, and sometimes exceeding personal limits, and relieving stress through physical exercise.

Fabrice Robeaux, the Founder/CEO of Martial Arts Academy, has more than forty years as an experienced Martial Artist, practicing and teaching Taekwondo and Judo to police forces, and to adults, children, and disabled people. He has been working with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva, which has released a video reporting on Syrian girls at Azraq refugee camp in Jordan training in Taekwondo even during this pandemic.

By incorporating Music Therapy, the Martial Arts Academy has added yet another advantage to its programs and further bolstered SDG 3. Many doctors have studied and proven the benefits of Music Therapy. Harvard Medical School’s Women’s Health Watch stated, “Music therapy can calm anxiety, ease pain, and provide a pleasant diversion during chemotherapy or a hospital stay.” The American Psychological Association reported, “... in a meta-analysis of 400 studies, Mona Lisa Chanda, Ph.D., found that music improves the body's immune system function and reduces stress.” Our Paramedic Director, Valeria Florencio, is an opera singer and a licensed music therapist in France. Ms. Florencio has shown that it is beneficial for everybody, including people with physical disadvantages, through her classes.

Martial Arts Academy has been actively seeking partnerships with more Martial Arts teachers, clinically licensed Music Therapists, corporations, and other government and non-governmental entities who can provide training and classes, time and expertise, uniforms, and small musical instruments to the growing number of MAA/MT chapters around the world. These have ensured that the implementation of SDG 16 and 17 will be always tied to SDG 3.

269. Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic, Inc.

For more than a year now the COVID-19 pandemic has shown no sign of being eliminated. Even though it is being curtailed in some places it is surging in other places. The prolonged effect of the pandemic is taking a toll even in powerful world economies. This results in even more people plunging into deeper poverty. The gains in the implementation of SDGs are in danger of rollback to a situation of a few years back. The climate crisis, threats to biodiversity loss and other systemic risks are compounding the impacts of the pandemic. We must act together to address all these in a systematic manner. At this time we should come to the realization that we cannot go back to business as usual but instead radically shift to address nature at the heart of every pandemic recovery. We humans must switch to a safe operating mode of living in the planet. We must rebuild our economy and address development that is in harmony with nature. Women, youth and indigenous peoples must be given the leadership and place at the table of decision-making.

The path forward is to align our finances, programs, initiatives, policies and decisions to an economy of care and well-being that respects, conserves and restores nature and its ecosystems so that all human beings and life on Earth can thrive and be sustained for the sake of the generations to come.

COVID-19 may well destroy our present civilization if we do not take the wise turn required at the end of the road.

270. Migrant Offshore Aid Station Foundation (MOAS)

The impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the health of refugees and displaced people, many of whom are among the most marginalized and vulnerable members of society, has been particularly demanding. In camp settings, lack of the access to water, poor sanitation systems, limited health facilities, the challenges of respecting social-distance and limited access to masks all create challenges.

The health impacts of COVID-19 go far beyond the virus itself. Often it is the pandemic's secondary effects that have had the most severe consequences. The pandemic has fueled hunger and malnutrition among refugees and decimated job opportunities. Lockdowns in refugee camps have exacerbated mental health crises among their inhabitants.

In this complicated framework, the aim of building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular for SDG 3 on good health and well-being, becomes increasingly difficult.

Since 2017, MOAS in Bangladesh has worked to alleviate the plight of the persecuted Rohingya people in the Cox's Bazar refugee camps. In 2020 at the beginning of the pandemic, in response to the substantial need for preventative measures to combat the spread of the virus in the densely populated region and its refugee camps, MOAS established a mask-making project. The aim of this initiative was to produce facemasks that would be distributed among front-line workers, local communities and Rohingya refugees across the region. Throughout the year, the project also served as a crucial livelihood for host community and refugee workers alike including local tailors and seamstresses, many of whom lost income sources due to COVID-19. Our original goal was to make 350,000 masks independently and a further 500,000 with other partners. However, thanks to the dedication of our fantastic team, we exceeded this figure and made an incredible total of 883,514.

Migrant and refugee communities have also faced distress due to the pandemic. That is why, MOAS launched the Malta masks project, for the asylum seekers and refugees who live in overcrowded centres. The Malta Remote Learning Project, was also created to provide children in the centres with access to remote education services through the purchase of technology for educational use.

Despite the importance of these initiatives, a global vaccine roll-out remains crucial. Since the development of the first COVID-19 vaccine, we have seen high and middle income countries launch large-scale vaccination programmes. This has led to concerns that low and middle income nations are being priced out of the market, reducing the vaccine procurement ability of those countries which host the most refugees.

The unequal primary rollout of vaccines has led experts to warn that refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants will be left behind as countries push to vaccinate their citizens first. In many countries that are recording positive statistics in terms of number of doses ordered and numbers of citizens vaccinated, refugees have not been included.

At MOAS we believe that to respond to a world pandemic, a global response is needed. A response that includes everyone and ensures no one is left behind.

271. MIROSLAVA International Alliance

Taking into account serious impacts and implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on all 17 SDGs.

Taking into account that there is anti-terrorist operation (actual and hybrid war) in Ukraine, Donbas, and the situation is very complicated.

As contribution to issues of critical concern to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for SDGs 16 on Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions, SDG 17 on Partnerships for the Goals, MIROSLAVA proposes to pay extraordinary attention to implementation of International Humanitarian Law and invites United Nations Bodies for cooperation for Geneva Conventions implementation in support of the SDGs.

This direction activity is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being, to bring assistance on the international and national level without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, to prevent and alleviate human suffering cost by war. It is protection of civilians and those who have stopped taking part in military actions (the wounded and those, who were in captivity).

International Humanitarian Law as a branch of the International Law is aimed to humanize the warfare and alleviate the suffering of war victims and is applied in international and inner armed conflicts.

Sources of the International Humanitarian Law:

- Geneva Convention (I) on the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field
- Geneva Convention (II) on the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea
- Geneva Convention (III) relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War
- Geneva Convention (IV) relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and Additional protocols. The Conventions were signed and ratified by Ukraine in 1949.

7 years, Ukraine has been resisting terrorist threats and attacks and has extreme humanitarian problems, a huge number of killed and wounded, a high level of suicide as a result of the war. Ukraine is in dire need of humanitarian aid. The situation is dangerous for sustainable development not only for Ukraine, but also for Europe and the world. Therefore, based on international humanitarian law, using the principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality, we call bridge the digital divide and mobilize the international community to create complementary partnerships and multistakeholder initiatives based on the principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and the principle of “making sure no one is left behind” at the all levels.

Stability cannot be realized in conditions of war and human suffering. To achieve sustainable development, there must be systematic, regular, well-coordinated long-term partnership activities to overcome the suffering and consequences of military aggression against Ukraine.

As contribution to issues of critical concern to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, MIROSLAVA International Alliance, Ukraine, is ready to coordinate international activities using International Humanitarian Law, its Geneva Conventions and promote ideas of peacemaking, partnership and SDG.

272. Miss Caricom Int'l. Foundation CIP, INC

The journey of recovering and building back better from the unprecedented COVID-19 has impaired negatively on education and economic development. As efforts are geared towards the thematic reviews of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 12, 13, 16 and 17, practical tracks on the SDGs are needed to enhance innovative solutions to education and economic challenges. Through good practices, the SDGs 1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 12, 13, 16 and 17 can play an important role in building an inclusive and effective path on education and economic development for the achievement of the Decade of Action and the SDGs. Leaning on this, Miss CARICOM Foundation International CIP Inc. has noted the significant relevance of these SDGs to building back better humanity and has deigned programs utilizing fashion and fashion education to bring the SDGs in discussion to practical application for sustainability.

Through Digitalizing the Business of Fashion, DBF , Miss CARICOM International Foundation CIP Inc. has geared efforts through digital empowerment and fashion education significantly noting the global effect in overcoming poverty and hunger among the young adult if adequate skills are inculcated in them.

Miss CARICOM considers fashion education imperative to societal progress and recognition of social identity giving its way to inculcating social responsibility. Fashion has the ability to change and shape lives exhibiting personal and intrinsic human relationship. In considering the SDGs 1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 12, 13, 16 and 17, Miss CARICOM is committed to utilizing fashion education to:

- Advance eradication of poverty among the young adults, youth and children. Provided education and empowerment skills that could enable economic growth and work toward ending hunger;
- Provide basic health and nutrition education that could be pertinent to achieving sustainable health and wellbeing. Provide adequate skill training and empowerment education to encourage economic growth and development in the minds of the young adult, youth and children;
- Provide education that could address gender parity and inequality and encourage programs that can include men and women, boys and girls;
- Utilize fashion to promote production and increase consumption;
- Climate is synonymous to fashion and can be used to express climate action in seasons;
- Advancing the knowledge and information about peace and justice through use of fashion to campaign for culture of peace and ending communal conflicts;

Through Miss CARICOM Partnership of Action initiative, Miss CARICOM adopts collaborative action to advocate for inclusive participation of fashion organization, industry and stakeholders to get on Board for the promotion of the Decade of Action.

It is the utmost concern of Miss CARICOM International Foundation to see that the High-level Political Forum adopt fashion and fashion education as an instrument of committing the SDGs to development action with focus on humanity and social responsibilities. Fashion should be utilized as identity to SDG Successes in building an inclusive and effective path on sustainable

development for the achievement of the Decade of Action and goals of Sustainable Development Goals.

273. Moorish Holy Temple of Science / Moorish Science Temple

The Moorish Holy Temple of Science / Moorish Science Temple, de jure citizens of the Moroccan Empire in the western hemisphere, acting in the capacity as a non-governmental organization participating in the United Nations system, whole heartedly believes in the intentions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Anticipating its implementation being in true alignment with its preamble, the eradication of poverty amongst the human race and the ultimate realization of human rights. Our only hope is that participating members states hold its voluntary obligations not only as necessary for the fulfillment of sustainable development goals within this framework, but for the sake of humanity.

We hold a very unique position in the international community compromising both hemispheres of the earth, and at the same time, we fully comprehend the complexity of successfully achieving sustainable development goals, so that the planet is not compromised due to intellectual dishonesty and wanton negligence. We too are determined to take the bold and transformative steps which are urgently needed to shift the world on to a sustainable and resilient path. Embarking on this collective journey, the agenda pledges that "no one will be left behind", but from our particular vantage, we clearly see approximately fifty million people being left behind with no authentic representation, thus inlying the intellectual dishonesty among member states. To ensure that all human beings can fulfil their potential in dignity and equality, authentic governmental representation must be had in order to sustain inalienable rights.

"There can be no sustainable development without peace, and no peace without sustainable development." Based in the Islamic faith, our peaceful society is naturally free from fear and violence, despite political propaganda, and desires to be inclusive as we deem fit so that we may support the needs of the present and future generations. Taking into account the different levels of national development and capacities, disingenuous collaborative efforts amongst the nations of the world seem genuinely conspiratorial and compromises the entire agenda.

Recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic is absolutely ideal but at the same time, we observe countless organizations, non-governmental and specialized agencies, United Nations affiliated etc., exploiting the pandemic in order to fulfill their dog whistle agendas, scurrying to implement opposing agendas, no one outside of its board of directors are officially aware of, i.e. "The World Economic Forum" and "The Great Reset". Once again reiterating the importance of Agenda 2030s' preamble and genuine collaborative efforts among all participating parties, Member States, non-governmental organizations, specialized agencies and the likes.

274. Mosaic

Building a Caring Community (BCC) is a shared partnership between Mosaic, the largest faith-based provider of services for people living with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the United States, and the Northern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. Mosaic's accompaniment style, undergirds BCC to address the needs of individuals living with disabilities and their families in the foothills of Mount Kilimanjaro. Serving over 200 children and young adults and their families through eight centers, in home visitation by outreach workers, and a young adult vocational program, BCC has also developed parent production coops, instituted micro-credit loans, and established emotional therapeutic care for single mothers.

BCC battles the effects of poverty, sexism, ableism, stigma, and ostracization as much as disability. Despite the challenges of COVID-19 and its resulting reverberations, BCC has remained focused and is progressing in its sustainable development goals.

No poverty, zero hunger, good health and well-being, gender equality, decent work and economic growth, all are addressed by specific programs, actions and efforts of BCC.

Quality education of both staff and participants is paramount to achieve the SDGs of BCC.

On-going and subject matter focused parent seminars continue to be conducted as tools to enhance life. These training sessions have focused on parenting skills, reproductive health, nutrition, sanitary implementation, child protective policies, as well as facilitating parent support groups. Because over 90% of our parents are single mothers, two hospital psychologists have been conducting gatherings dealing with depression, loneliness, and feelings of being overwhelmed. Individual care is also offered.

Staff development has been enhanced by collaboration with other NGOs serving similar populations. A recent staff addition, who has a strong background in special education, has reinforced a growth mindset. Over 80% of staff are women, as well as our director, which enhances intentional efforts to raise a high profile of female empowerment.

BCC's young adult program has successfully graduated students to prepare them for work in their community. We have two shambas/farms for training participants in gardening and poultry raising. This serves three purposes that address the SDGs: 1) quality education in a marketable skill 2) raise nutritional food for our centers, and 3) salable goods for income. COVID-19 has made efforts to find paid positions for graduates more difficult.

The health of our participants has been greatly strengthened by nutritional and hydration programs. Yearly health screenings with Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center doctors have provided data to show where improvement has occurred (urinary tract infections were cut in half) and where focus is needed. Despite the pandemic and the Tanzanian government's lack of testing, BCC has kept children safe. We have experienced one death in our centers this past year. Masking, social distancing, and consistent hand washing have been practiced.

275. Movimento Italiano Casalinghe

Movimento Italiano Casalinghe (MOICA) is a non-profit Italian organization composed of a head office in North of Italy and many territorial groups located in regions of all the country, operating on a network and locally, as volunteers and jointly.

MOICA works in Italy and in Europe to recognize human, social, cultural, political and economic value of “Family and Care Work”, to give visibility and dignity to this indispensable job from the times of the times;

Today, especially, women engaged in extra family work too, aren't exempt from this important and necessary commitment.

Women are really overloaded, above all in this period, “smart working” has added further confusion between family and extra family work.

Family work is the base of the life for all people, base of the entire society, in which all women are mostly engaged, whether they are part-time or full-time housewives.

“A Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development” building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development can't forget women, in particular, can't exclude them from the development of the global digitalization and communication world, the new obliged communicating ways, especially the relations with the Institutions and particularly with Public Administration.

The critical concern we put at the attention of the ECOSOC refers to people, particularly women, already heavily penalized by the pandemic situation; most of them have lost the extra family work; when a selection had to be done, it was to fire women, not men, but this is a global problem, not only a women's problem.

This concern is "the exclusion of women by the digital and technological development of society and all world life". This could seem like a contrast to basic human needs and hunger in the world, but it is also important not to create a gaps in civilized and progressing society.

Today not being in step with the times excludes from the future.

All new communication systems with Public Administration are made by computer, by communication platforms, by other digital systems and will increase in the future. It won't be possible for people have a direct contact in presence to fill in a form, to withdraw you pension, to deposit or withdraw money into bank account, have a personal certificate, and so on.

All these practices are already made on line, but not all people, especially women, can do it so easily. Two reasons: digital inability, and not having computer and / or connection system.

This is a serious problem, especially for grown up women that have been engaged all their life exclusively in family work and leave them out of society and world life.

This has to be considered an inequality.

Italian Recovery Fund doesn't consider the gap suffered by women, particularly the grown up ones or the elderly ones, especially when alone.

A transversal digital literacy is needed in order to not exclude a very large segment of population by a sustainable and resilient recovery post pandemic, in order to promote global equality between genders and ages.

A global digitalization has to include all population segments not to create a serious social penalty with serious impacts and after effects.

276. Musawah Global Vision Berhad

Musawah, the global movement for equality and justice in the Muslim family, in our submission to the 2021 Economic and Social Council High-level Segment, highlights to States that the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on women and girls has exacerbated injustices they already face under discriminatory family laws, especially in contexts where Islam is a source of law and public policies. Musawah urges States to ensure that Muslim family laws that govern 1.8 billion Muslims globally treat women and men as equals in marriage and within families.

Throughout the pandemic, many States called on individuals to stay home to contain the spread. But “home” can be a dangerous place for many women, especially when norms, laws and policies deny them equality and dignity in their families and society. Musawah’s “Survey findings on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on women living under discriminatory Muslim family laws” outlines how lockdowns and resulting financial strain in 12 countries in Asia and the Middle East created space for increased domestic violence, women bearing the brunt of care/domestic work, spikes in harmful practices like child marriage, and heightened precarity in resolving child custody, divorce and maintenance. Interruptions to court systems and proceedings further impeded access to justice.

SDG Indicator 5.1.1 specifically identifies family law as one of four legal frameworks that must be reformed to accelerate progress on gender equality (SDG5). This has clear intersections with:

SDG 10: Reduced inequalities

The pandemic, combined with patriarchal social norms and discriminatory Muslim family laws that grant men authority and guardianship over women, increased gendered inequalities. Women’s security, decision making, mobility, livelihood opportunities, and access to health care were adversely affected.

Recommendations:

- Establish strong response systems for survivors and persons vulnerable to domestic violence, and child and forced marriage;
- Ensure Muslim family laws treat women and men as equals;
- Centre women’s lived realities and address all areas of discrimination in family matters.

SDG16: Peace, justice and strong institutions

Pandemic-related closures of court systems resulted in a denial or delay of legal redress for many women in cases of divorce, maintenance and child custody. Many countries did not adequately resolve domestic violence, child abuse, and family-related cases. Women also faced difficulties accessing justice due to travel restrictions, inadequate notice, and technology and information gaps.

Recommendations:

- Establish physical and remote services for family dispute resolutions to assist with access to justice and prevent delayed justice and costly litigation;
- Develop digital payment mechanisms for maintenance, alimony, and child support, and ensure information and technical assistance are readily available;
- Establish efficient systems to regulate child custody, parenting time, maintenance, and child care/protection;
- Conduct training for legal professionals to better handle emergencies, work remotely, and acquire technological skills.

Ensuring egalitarian family laws and effective justice systems can work towards achieving the 2030 Agenda. Equality in the family is essential for equality in society. We urge States to end discrimination in family laws while building back better.

277. National Association of Women Entrepreneurs

The National Association of Women Entrepreneurs is highly cognisant of the impact of the COVID-19 on female entrepreneurship and sustainable development in Iran (Islamic Republic of). The economic recovery in Iran (Islamic Republic of) has been marred by international sanctions with a dire effect on female entrepreneurship. However, Iranian female entrepreneurs have shown resilience in these times to overcome the challenges to promote sustainable development. Since the beginning of the pandemic, National Association of Women Entrepreneurs has been instrumental in instilling resilience in its members and female entrepreneurs in urban, rural and those in deprived areas. National Association of Women Entrepreneurs mandate is to encourage female university students to embrace entrepreneurship and provide necessary tools to make a smoother transition after graduation. In addition, National Association of Women Entrepreneurs together with different government agencies has actively pursued empowering female entrepreneurs by offering webinars on ways to promote female founders, their businesses and products thru creating synergy between members and non-members alike. These efforts include webinars on ways to combat fear of business failure and introduce innovative ways to cope with the pandemic. Some of the webinars include encourage entrepreneurship for female students by introducing success stories in eight provinces. The webinars were launched together with the Ministry of Higher Education.

Based on National Association of Women Entrepreneurs' belief in digital transformation as the way forward, it has identified female entrepreneurs in deprived areas and in conjunction with the National Information Technology Trade Union has furnished hardware to female-owned businesses.

National Association of Women Entrepreneurs has promoted startups to ensure equal access especially those with female founders and has strived towards providing equal access to government initiatives. As such, National Association of Women Entrepreneurs has signed an Memorandum of Understanding with the Science and Technology Vice Presidency to introduce innovative companies to benefit from government incentives.

National Association of Women Entrepreneurs also provides training and mentoring to female-owned businesses active in agriculture and food products in the rural areas with an emphasis on ways to improve sustainable development in these sectors highlighting environmental issues.

National Association of Women Entrepreneurs has launched media campaigns both in traditional and social media outlets to focus on female founders and the skillset necessary to promote successful entrepreneurship.

With all these efforts and together with its lobbying efforts with different governmental agencies, National Association of Women Entrepreneurs is active in promoting sustainable development by encouraging and buttressing female entrepreneurship in urban, rural and deprived areas. National Association of Women Entrepreneurs constantly strives to level the playing field for potential and female entrepreneurs by highlighting the importance of their contribution to the sustainable domestic economic development.

278. Nesakkarangal Charitable Trust

Nesakkarangal Charitable Trust, originating from Pamban Island, India, is a non-governmental organization that operates to serve the fishermen community of the Island town. Since 2016, the organization has been conducting the majority of its activities through its own community radio station “Kadal Osai FM 90.4”. SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 14 (Life below water) are the primary focus of the trust presently. Our mission is to be a Community Radio that runs through the active participation of the community where they use the platform to solve their hardships and issues. Our vision is to promote alternative sustainable lifestyles and to develop a better future for the community. We aim to provide a voice for the voiceless in the region.

Issues faced by the organization due to COVID-19:

When the pandemic struck, and the Indian government imposed a total lockdown during the initial few weeks of its spread, things were very difficult in our region. Being a rural area which largely consists of people that lived on daily wages, it was really difficult to get people to stay in their homes for their own safety. Fishing was banned, with just about a month to go for the annual fishing ban period, and so many fishermen and their families were left in despair worrying about their livelihoods. The first COVID-19 case in the Island region was discovered nearly 2 months after the lockdown had been imposed, and this gave rise to entirely new problems in the form of social stigma. The local administration had instructed officials to barricade the streets of houses in which detected COVID-19 patients lived. This caused a rift between the locals, who felt that their daily activities were being hindered in already tough times, and the authorities. Due to the pandemic situation, we were unable to organize field activities like narrowcasting and other outreach activities.

A way forward:

SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) and SDG 13 (Climate Action) are 2 sustainable development goals focused by the trust that fall under review in the 2021 HLPF. Regarding sustainable development goal 3, unlike what we saw in global news, hoarding of food and supplies was not an issue in the region. The issue was the halted economy due to which people living on day to day wages could not afford to even buy basic necessities during the lockdown. The trust supported the community by distributing rice and biscuit packets to people in really backward areas. Masks and sanitizers were also distributed by the trust. During this time, the trust was approached by a corporate company who sought our help to identify to them the most backward areas in the region so that they could use their funds to help people in those areas, and we gladly offered our assistance. Many health based projects were also undertaken by the trust’s community radio to create an impact during these times.

279. Niger Delta Budget Monitoring Group

Africa's Development within the Context of COVID-19 Upheavals and Economic Uncertainties- Way Forward

Niger Delta Budget Monitoring Group is among frontline fiscal governance Non-Governmental Organisations in Nigeria. We have been involved in tracking, monitoring, and evaluation of public expenditures, especially, pro-poor related budget line items.

The objective of this statement is to draw attention of government throughout Africa about non integration of civil society actors into the monitoring and evaluation mechanism of (several) governments in Africa towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Most countries around Africa are not proactive towards year 2030. The Sustainable Development Goals is supposed to be pursued through a mutual tripod, being government, civil society, and private sector. Through these, monitoring and evaluation mechanism across the tripod is supposed to be structured for collective social and fiscal accountability. Presently, governments alone are the judges in their own (sustainable development) courts. Ironically, without these tripod's involvements in tracking public spending on 2030 targets, Africa will lament again by 2030 on how the continent was left behind.

This document, serves, as a wake-up call for governments across Africa. COVID-19 has exacerbated economic conundrum of Africa's society, with mounting (unsustainable) debts that are fuelled by high appetite for borrowing, even when the citizens are wallowing in chronic deprivation and poverty, as these borrowings are done without an inclusive fiscal template for tracking of spending from lenders by ordinary citizens. If the world turns a blind eye, it could be interpreted as a strategy for recolonization and repartitioning of Africa by unelected club of lenders. Reconciling COVID-19 quagmire, mounting debts and how to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by Africa, should engender strategic mental blinkers in leaders across the region to act fast in this direction. Tomorrow is today.

In view of the above, social, and mental mobilization of Africans towards the Sustainable Development Goals should be accelerated. Governments across the region should kick start the process through overhauling of skewed frameworks that recognizes government alone as the "owner" of concept.

This statement, therefore, notifies the development community, that; further borrowing to Africa without a template for inclusive (fiscal) accountability and protection of human rights through repayment mechanism that captures end users as partakers in (self-impacts) evaluation is a disservice to millions of African citizens. Citizens should be involved in monitoring and tracking of spending from borrowings. Furthermore, sectoral envelopes in budgets should be tailored with structural cost dynamics that accelerates quickwins for Africans for the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Sustainable Development Goals is a tool for fiscal equity and reduction of economic inequality. Africa should embrace it!

280. NIGH World

Florence Nightingale defined health as “not only to be well but to use well every power we have.”

Similarly, the World Health Organization Constitution defines health as “a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.”

Today, we live in a global village where digital inter-connectedness is our new normal — beyond geographic limits and between individuals and groups of like-mind and heart. This new reality calls us to lead as ‘global citizens’ who inhabit our global village by pro-actively participating in global discourse — calling for a better, healthier world. NIGH World contributes to our new normal by engaging grassroots voices to achieve global goals.

Overview of the Issues

While the COVID-19 pandemic has been ravaging humanity, now, for more than a year — nurses and others continue to struggle on the demanding and perilous frontlines of this global crisis. While they are appreciated for this service, their public voices are seldom heard.

As well, this pandemic has amplified the many societal challenges we already face — beyond risk — including worldwide poverty, the erosion of human rights, inequalities of race and gender, plus the immense tasks of sustaining healthcare delivery itself. All these challenges are embedded within the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2015-2030. Also, all are identified as social and environmental ‘health determinants.’

The 17 SDGs have been adopted at high levels — yet not widely appreciated at ‘grassroots.’ For these Goals ever to be achieved, they need to begin at ‘grassroots’ levels. While nurses, midwives, teachers and interdisciplinary groups of concerned citizens could play a major role in bridging this gap, their ‘grassroots’ advocacy is yet to be made widely available, inspired, voiced and understood.

Florence Nightingale foresaw the complex global challenges — actually anticipating the issues now identified as the 17 SDGs. Indeed — based on her own ‘calling’ to serve the world — Nightingale became a nurse and a strong global advocate for health. She was a change-agent who defined ‘Health-Nursing’ with her own activities to address these same challenges, advocating to achieve solutions.

A Way Forward

Capturing Nightingale’s modern relevance, this project builds on worldwide commitments to the multi-language Nightingale Declaration for A Healthy World.

It provides nurses and concerned citizens with a robust online multi-media stories platform to meet humanity’s health challenges through worldwide ‘grassroots’ advocacy.

This project provides opportunities for nurses and concerned citizens to project their voices — extending their capacities to write, speak and present their compassion, caring and commitment within the multi-media public space.

This project empowers nurses and concerned citizens to proudly become world citizens as ‘grassroots’ advocates for global goals and encourages grassroots-to-global diplomacy for health. This project bridges the gap between the global discourse to identify and discuss global needs and the voices of the people who actually struggle to meet these needs — at the ‘grassroots’ — where they live and work.

281. Nobel Laurate Mother Teresa Charitable Trust

COVID-19, is a contagious disease caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome, SARS- CoV-2 which was identified in Wuhan, China, in December 2019 spread worldwide, leading to ongoing pandemic. Symptoms are fever, cough, headache, fatigue, breathing difficulties, and loss of smell and taste etc.

So far world witnessed Spanish flu, Cholera, Zika virus, Swine flu etc. and now COVID-19. As of today it affected 143 million people and death toll is 3,061,037. So far 122,074, 565 million recovered.

Now the pandemic has reached its peak, especially in India, COVID-19 is experiencing the second wave. Various governments are taking earnest efforts to control the pandemic in different ways for preventing and controlling infections and transmission.

To control the pandemic, WHO is also issuing periodical guidelines to fellow stakeholders all over world. Outbreaks have been reported in restaurants, fitness classes, nightclubs, offices and places of worship where people gather.

The risks of getting COVID-19 are higher in crowded and inadequately ventilated spaces.

To safeguard from COVID-19 is, to keep distance, wear a mask and wash hands frequently. Cleaning hands with soap and water eliminates germs.

The pandemic which now spread worldwide passed its 1st, 2nd and 3rd stages.

The immediate human suffering caused by the disease itself and the loss of livelihoods for millions, the COVID-19 pandemic has also highlighted several key vulnerabilities of our societies and economic system.

Global interconnectedness has helped to create huge economic and social benefits facilitated the rapid spread of the pandemic. The depth and breadth of the current circumstances have brought the issue of resilience and preparedness high in the public consciousness.

Returning to business as usual will not deliver a sustained long-term economic recovery that also improves well-being and reduces inequality. Governments, businesses and societies as a whole have both responsibility to not only look for near-term measures to shore-up livelihoods, but to take a step back and reflect on the political and economic driving forces leading to the current crisis.

The COVID-19 crisis has posed unprecedented economic challenges for governments across the world with certain sectors becoming more vulnerable to this pandemic. The pandemic has worsened the condition of migrants as it has put the severe challenges to poverty eradication programmes and increasing the income of farmers. Most informal workers, labor for micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises that emerged as intermediate inputs and services suppliers to the modern sector, struggle to get paid, which the government identifies as great challenge.

The pandemic totally paralysing the tourism sector, disrupting the supply chain of the interconnected global market to forcing us to rethink our security concerns. The decline in the economic growth undoubtedly impacts all sectors of the economy. The pandemic has brought specific difficulties to poverty eradication efforts.

Recommendations

Adequate steps be taken to rehabilitate the migrant laborers, resources be provided for re-employment, rural economy encouraged, agricultural sector supported, environmental safeguard be evolved, social engineering be encouraged, food supply ensured, innovative inventions encouraged, youth empowered, unemployment curtailed and equal opportunity given to one and all.

282. Nor Luyce Mentoring Center for Youth

Nor Luyce Mentoring Center for Youth NGO is the first mentoring organization in Gyumri, Armenia working with adolescent girls from orphanages and socially vulnerable families providing them with mentoring relationships, skill-building, career planning, and scholarships to pursue a college degree.

It was March 2020, when Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan declared a State of Emergency in Armenia, forcing the closure of schools, public gathering facilities, and churches. However, we could quickly reorganize our program to ensure everyone's participation in our program and to continue to provide counselling assistance, organize meetings with coaches and successful people outside of Armenia.

As an organization, we strongly believe that the following advocacy efforts made by Nor Luyce will contribute greatly to Agenda 2030 and progress toward the SDGs:

- 1) Educate and motivate more people to take actions towards realization of SDGs through mapping out the roads to achieving their national SDGs.
 - 2) Provide support and education for women to feel empowered to speak up for themselves and each other knowing they can lean on an entity that promotes continuous self-efficacy development and growth hindering any type of violations towards women.
 - 3) Educate and share techniques for everyone to know how to stop violation, abuse or bullying.
- Nor Luyce's mission and vision align with three sustainable development goals, SDG 4: Quality Education, SDG 5: Gender Equality and SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities.

Target 4.7 emphasizes the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development. Nor Luyce educates on topics like the UN and its mission, ECOSOC status of Nor Luyce, discrimination, professions without genders, human rights, etc.

Target 5.5 addresses women empowerment and tangible changes in managerial positions by women. This aligns with Nor Luyce's goal of improving self-efficacy in young girls and empowering them as successful leaders in technological and global environments through giving mentees active roles in training and the education of others.

Finally, target 10.2 emphasizes the importance of reducing inequalities for all. Nor Luyce continuously educates their mentees on sustainable living, women empowerment and the importance of gender rights and human rights.

Inclusion is a large part of Nor Luyce and its philosophy. It not only works on inclusion as a program by focusing on uplifting girls and specifically those from vulnerable backgrounds, but also the girls are taught about inclusion and bullying to foster a mind-set of community.

Our actions work towards target 4.5 by understanding additional hardships each mentee faces and continuing equal access to educational opportunities for girls from vulnerable backgrounds in Armenia. During online meetings the girls were encouraged to send private messages to the coordinator for help or support.

Resilience displayed within Nor Luyce staff as well as within the mentees solidified an effective, efficient, and sustainable path towards achieving Agenda 2030. The UN must emphasize the importance of self-efficacy building within youth organizations, especially those working with vulnerable populations. The UN can take Nor Luyce's successes and uplift our method as an effective way of achieving pandemic recovery and working towards the 2030 goals.

283. Northern Ireland Women's European Platform

The COVID-19 pandemic has laid bare the gender inequalities experienced by women and girls worldwide. Importantly, the pandemic has highlighted that these inequalities are fundamentally similar across the world, and therefore an effective response must be global as well as national. The SDGs provide an internationally agreed framework for building back better, and focus needs to be on agreeing global approaches to strengthen, support and invest in initiatives aligned with the SDGs. There is a unique opportunity to build a gender equal future and it is vital that the opportunity is taken; empowering women is critical for women's agency and wellbeing, and also inseparable from a sustainable future.

Evidence at the global level, as well as national level across countries, indicates that women and girls have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. A dramatically increased unpaid care burden has affected the majority of women, while women and girls have been more likely to lose their jobs and livelihoods than men and boys, due to the disproportionate impact on female dominated sectors including domestic work, hospitality and retail. Violence against women and girls has increased dramatically, and girls are at greater risk of falling out of education or facing disadvantage. Women's rights in many countries are stalled, or under attack; intersectional rights are openly challenged across the world. As recognised by the United Nations, progress across the SDGs under review, as well as on women's rights, has been all but wiped out, and it is imperative that the High Level Political Forum takes a decisive leadership role in recommitting Member States to Agenda 2030 to prevent further rollback.

Northern Ireland Women's European Platform works to represent and amplify the voice of women in Northern Ireland at the national and international level, and also coordinates the civil society response to international human rights treaties and mechanisms, in particular Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and UN Security Council Resolution 1325. Peace and strong institutions are central to sustainable development and gender equality, and depend on open and participative democracy. Women's leadership has been shown to support both democracy and a strong COVID-19 response, and it is vital that women's leadership is supported, with gender parity in public life a goal for 2030.

SDG5 is integral to the achievement of Agenda 2030 as a whole and reflects all of these issues. Therefore, focusing on this interlinkage is crucial and should be prioritised in policy and decision making at all levels, as recently advised by the Committee for the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Interventions should be aligned with this Convention and also the Istanbul Convention, as internationally agreed standards and mechanisms to advance gender equality and eradicate violence against women. Cognisance should also be taken of the Generation Equality Forum commitments made in Mexico City and Paris to achieve a coherent and comprehensive agenda for change.

284. OneMama Incorporated

The COVID-19 pandemic presented unprecedented challenges to rural communities worldwide with women trapped in domestic violence situations, limited access to medical care, and a collapse of economic opportunities.

Building an inclusive path for sustainable recovery while honoring the 2030 Agenda and principle of “ensuring that no one is left behind” at the global, regional, and national levels is crucial.

As an NGO supporting the rural community of Kirundi in Uganda (East Africa), we are an emblematic case study of the challenges the COVID-19 pandemic both exacerbated and enhanced for rural communities and their women globally. OneMama Incorporated promotes sustainable development, maternal health, and community health in a rural model and advocates for sustainable and resilient recovery through our unique programming. We advocate for building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda particularly around the SDGs that closely align with our program and work: Goal 1 (No Poverty), Goal 3 (Good Health and Wellbeing), Goal 5 (Gender Equality), Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), Goal 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities). Sustainable development will not holistically happen until rural women and their communities are considered.

In rural areas in Uganda, particularly that of Kirindi, COVID-19 restrictions on transportation (motorcycle and buses) have made it extremely difficult for woman to get to our health clinic without walking long distances while pregnant or suffering from illnesses. COVID-19 restrictions also put a halt on all community meetings, craft and OneMama collection women's group meeting, including our ability to offer limited domestic violence prevention trainings.

Sales of agricultural crops in physical marketplaces shrunk drastically due to contact restrictions and transportation cuts. All these restrictions are also making it hard to get medical supplies like our birth control and medications. Simple home COVID-19 tests have been impossible to access so we can't track it in our community. The vaccines that have been made recently will most likely never reach our community and if they do, they also may not keep since we don't have the kind of refrigeration needed to protect the vaccine.

We recommend the following actions to ensure rural women in all global communities are not left behind as developed parts of the world rise from the pandemic more rapidly:

- Tracking health issues, we suspect to be COVID-19 due to absence of testing. We are watching and communicating daily with our patients and community and increasing medical supplies for both the birthing and medical clinic;
- Hosting community education days on COVID-19, birthing, family planning, domestic violence prevention;
- Searching for funding and partnerships and partner to provide COVID-19 testing and a vaccine.

285. Organisation Mondiale des associations pour l'éducation prénatale

La parentalité

Chacun des parents a un rôle bien spécifique à jouer pour satisfaire l'ODD3 de santé et de bien-être. Pendant la gestation, la femme porte et forme l'enfant dans son ventre, le rôle de l'homme est de soutenir la femme et l'enfant. Et si la mère a le bonheur d'allaiter son enfant, la présence du père est indispensable pour la soutenir dans cette expérience magnifique mais contraignante.

Le rôle du père est de donner à la femme et à l'enfant un cadre de vie de qualité. Les parents étant les premiers transmetteurs de la notion d'équilibre homme-femme, nous insistons sur le fait que notre société puisse donner aux futurs parents les moyens de se préparer à la parentalité et ainsi construire un système familial répondant à l'ODD16 de Paix et de Justice, évitant la violence conjugale par un apprentissage du vivre ensemble qui sera automatiquement transmis à l'enfant par l'exemple familial.

Ainsi, le congé attribué à l'homme dans le but de s'occuper de son enfant est d'une importance capitale et devrait être en tout point similaire au congé de maternité, permettant de réduire les inégalités au sein du foyer parental (ODD10). En effet le COVID-19 a montré la nécessité pour les deux parents d'intervenir dans la responsabilité de l'éducation des enfants. Trop de femmes ont dû rester à la maison avec les enfants pendant les confinements perturbant ainsi leur travail voire leur santé par des burn-out parentaux. Partager le temps de travail domestique et de soin aux enfants entre les deux parents est essentiel et amènera un équilibre harmonieux de l'enfant en développement qui apprendra directement l'égalité homme-femme.

Cette mesure permettrait également de réduire les discriminations à l'emploi et au salaire que subissent actuellement les femmes, leur procurant un travail décent et une croissance économique demandée dans l'ODD8. L'homme et la femme étant alors sur le même pied d'égalité au travail, et chacun prenant sa part de responsabilité pour éduquer l'enfant dans la notion d'équilibre égalitaire, et cela dès la conception car le caractère de l'enfant se construit en grande partie dans le ventre de sa maman par les pensées, sentiments et actes de sa mère et de son père lors de la gestation.

Lorsque les droits de parentalité sont bafoués, les droits de l'enfant le sont aussi. Nous recommandons de donner à tous l'occasion de se préparer à la parentalité par un apprentissage scolaire. Avoir des parents prêts à l'accueillir et à l'éduquer dans la notion d'équilibre homme-femme, fait partie des droits de l'enfant, et nous demandons d'accentuer les droits humains dans ce sens. Le développement durable de notre humanité de l'Agenda 2030 passe par ce chemin-là. Sans cet équilibre parental, l'humanité marchera toujours à cloche-pied.

286. Organização Nova Acrópole Lago Norte

The social isolation and suspension of a number of economic activities have brought additional pressure and distress on the livelihoods of millions of people due to the uncertainty of getting infected with COVID-19, the unpredictability involved and the constant news around the problem.

In this context, the Organization New Acropolis in Brazil has worked to help the Brazilian population through 1) encouraging people to face the crisis with resilience and dignity, 2) promoting volunteerism to assist the most economically disadvantaged; and 3) creating a network of health professionals to assist in severe contexts such as the COVID-19 crisis in the city of Manaus early in 2021. Our experience has shown the importance of:

1. Promoting free, online lectures on Applied Philosophy which have helped to encourage people with the teachings of great philosophers and sages of all times and distinct cultures. During the pandemic, approximately 343,000 have joined our YouTube channel and more than 300 live events were promoted on Instagram by our volunteers.
2. Promoting courses for children, young people and adults on Applied Philosophy, with an emphasis on ethical values which are indispensable to improving peoples' relationships with life and within their communities. These courses have been helping to build connections which are respectful and mutually beneficial. We have over 5,000 members in Brazil spread throughout the country working to bring philosophical knowledge to enrich lives.
3. Promoting social and emergency work with the distribution of food baskets for the most disadvantaged, all with the support of volunteers mobilized throughout the country. During the pandemic, more than 4,000 food baskets have been distributed by our volunteers and our project Children for the Good has been assisting 180 children with regular online after school classes.
4. Generation of funds to buy equipment for those infected with COVID-19 in the context of the health crisis in Manaus in early 2021 and the creation of a network of health professionals who have joined efforts around the proposal of an alternative approach to medicine which is more humanistic and integrative, with no commercial interests.

It is our belief that by building better citizens from the inside out, we are helping to build a better future for all. The experience of New Acropolis in Brazil shows the importance of fostering the following policies and actions in order to achieve the 2030 Agenda:

1. Increase efforts for teaching Applied Philosophy and fostering lifelong learning based on the teachings of Eastern and Western philosophers and sages of all times with a view to promote resilient and more altruistic individuals and communities.
2. Increase the support to networks of volunteers who have the potential of serving their communities aligned with the efforts of the government, especially in times of crisis.
3. Increase alliances with various stakeholders to foster the importance of education for life, based on shared values, for low-income communities.

287. **Osdife Osservatorio sulla Sicurezza e Difesa CBRNe**

Within the framework of Sustainable Development Goal 16, we call for an increased effort to fight against politically, racially and ethnically motivated online violence, with a specific focus on the use of memes and similar expressions of dark irony that may become violence and terrorism.

In recent years, “Memetic Warfare” has become one of the privileged means of attack of Racially and Ethnically Motivated Terrorism (REMT), meaning widely (cyber)socialized violent extremism entities. These entities are primarily characterized by xenophobia, Islamophobia, anti-Semitism and, more generally, hatred towards minorities.

Extremists use Memetic Warfare to conduct hybrid, multi-domain – mainly the social, cultural, and political –, medium-to-long-range operations across the infosphere, aiming to activating hate propaganda campaigns and targeted violence. They make recurring use of stereotypes to identify, make explicit, label and negatively stigmatize the Enemy, through disinformative narratives – in the sense of artificially shaping reality – of variable depth. Thus, they aim to exponentially expand the spectrum of information disorder, triggering subversive reactive actions, destabilizing and disintegrating communities. Memetic Warfare also allows to share social media tactics of aggression or even field combat methods. Subversive strategies include indirect action (such as boycotts, demonstrations, riots and occupations) as well as direct action (including vandalism, sabotage, devastation, engagement armed, guerrilla actions, entrapments, kidnappings).

Today we are experiencing a “memedemic”, the global production and diffusion of memes, partly because of the growth of socio-cultural and political-economic trends of the global crisis. This in turn was caused by the COVID-19 epidemic, which accelerated the growing “radicalization of society” and media weaponization in the post-truth era.

In this context, we call for an increased allocation of resources for national and international projects. The target audience of such actions should be twofold: on the one hand the level of political-institutional decision-makers, as well as criminal justice systems and internet governance bodies, and on the other the general public, to help increase awareness of the phenomena observed and to propose concrete tools for the recognition and limitation of risks and effects. Actions should focus on the specificities of national cultures and socio-political contexts, but also with an effort towards coordinated projects: while a one-size-fits-all approach will not properly address the multiple cultural and political sensitivities, international cooperation will allow to share the experience gained by single Countries to provide the basis for a common understanding of the issue and the joint analysis of how techniques, tactics and tools already observed in a context can affect other political and social dimensions.

Flagship funded projects should aim to identify the fundamental elements, the logics and the tools in use, to make a detailed risk assessment and to define strategies and operational tools for control and countering the threat and the related narratives. Cascading actions should then focus on customization and innovation of countermeasures, while a knowledge capitalization mechanism should enable circularity of information.

288. Osservatorio per la Comunicazione Culturale e l'Audiovisivo nel Mediterraneo e nel Mondo

The path towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals has been deeply shaken by the pandemic.

Nevertheless, a great acceleration was detected in terms of new paradigms, determining the birth of a new, globally interconnected society, based on platforms and algorithms more and more pervasive.

Their management is likely to cause risks as well as opportunities. All depends on how governments and the United Nations are able to drive the process to the benefit of social instances from of the peoples, able to rebalance the great power gained by big companies and multinational enterprises, driven by their own profits, until now undisputed protagonists of the digital revolution.

This statement sums up the results of the Infopoverty World Conference, active since 2001, at the UN Headquarters, focused on the fight against poverty through Information and Communication Technologies and Digital Solutions, and organized by OCCAM, the Observatory on Digital Communication. Its 20th Edition, dedicated to the theme “Towards the Digital Society inspired by SDGs” was held on December 3, 2020, and streamed on the UN WebTV. The Final Declaration of the Conference highlights how new technologies are essential for the realization of the SDGs.

The digital revolution caused the quick obsolescence of the ancient regime, proving its incapacity to tackle health crises and to solve conflicts, inequalities and poverty, which dramatically increased during the pandemic.

The enormous amount of accumulated knowledge and skills could be shared to elevate the standard of life, promoting women and young people, preserving the planet, giving a strong great push impulsion to environmental and social justice issues.

Only a convergent strategy arising from a global Response to the Pandemic challenge could ensure and foster this process, in order to include the half of humanity currently in distressing situations.

There is a great challenge in front of us: to overcome the social, energetic, economic, housing and food security gaps through the implementation of digital solutions able to provide basic forms of e-welfare to all, including telemedicine, food security, e-learning and socio-economic support.

How can Governments and the United Nations relaunch SDG-related policies empowering these digital solutions to support the great masses of poverty-stricken citizens, as well as tackling the climate crisis?

Moreover, the pandemic originated a unified response. Can we increase these efforts which involved the whole of humanity to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, envisioning a new society?

In other words: “How to build a fairer and inclusive Digital Society?” This is the fundamental question, and this will be title of the next Info poverty World Conference, to be held on December 4, 2021, at the UN Headquarters.

289. OutRight Action International

The COVID-19 pandemic has profoundly impacted populations globally in every aspect of life. While harmful to all, COVID-19 has been especially taxing on marginalized populations. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex populations continue to experience stigma, discrimination, and violence based on their sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and sex characteristics, and face high barriers in accessing development, experiences which have been exacerbated by the pandemic. Without measures of sustainable and resilient recovery from the pandemic that take into account this reality, they will continue to be left behind in the attainability of the sustainable development goals.

Among other measures contributing to increased vulnerability, the following are pervasive: the enactment of selective restrictions against lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex persons to peacefully assemble on the basis of COVID-19 spread prevention; limitations and disruptions of HIV prevention and ART programs, as well as of access to hormonal treatments or gender affirming services; the exclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex populations from humanitarian aid programs, especially for trans and non-binary persons who have been unable to access relief efforts due to not having identification documents reflecting their own identity; higher rates of domestic, family, and intimate partner violence, coupled with decreased support services due to pandemic control measures; and the exclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex populations from social protection measures in an environment of elevated job loss, experiences of greater financial and food insecurity, poverty, and homelessness.

The current health and economic crisis highlights the fundamental need for universal healthcare, social floor, social protection and access to justice measures. Urgent responses are required from States and other stakeholders to end criminalization and pathologization of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex populations, decrease barriers to accessing human development, and to create and implement public policies, laws, and programs that include and address the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex populations and guarantee they are not further left behind.

Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic requires an inclusive approach to development. These approaches should be free from assumptions of heterocisnormativity, respond to misconceptions and stereotypes that are often used to exclude lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex people from development activities, and must be designed, implemented and evaluated with regard to all. We call for all stakeholders to acknowledge the amplified impact COVID-19 has had over lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex populations, and to cooperate with them internationally and domestically in order to ensure that no one is left behind and that we fully achieve the Agenda 2030 while “building back better”.

290. Pan Pacific and South East Asia Women's Association

The Pan Pacific and South East Asia Women's Association is a non-governmental organization that has documented the reality of women's lives in the Asia Pacific region for over 90 years. Our mission is to promote cooperation toward common goals: ensuring equal access to education, health, and financial literacy; building skills for decision-making; and eliminating gender-based violence. Our programs address cultural and economic structural barriers to gender equality through community-based programs aligned with targets raised at the United Nations.

We aim to build capacity for a woman's self-determination and self-sufficiency throughout her life course. Women often do not, or cannot, access government services due to their location, lack of literacy, legal status, or societal stigma. Our programs address the intersectionality of needs found in Sustainable Development Goals. We enable village women to bring handicrafts and local foods to market for supplemental income in Fiji, Japan, and Samoa. These projects lead to realizing targets 2.3 access to land and markets for small-scale food producers, 8.8 safe and secure access to markets, 12.2 using natural resources for economic production, and 12.3 reducing food loss along the supply chain. We started a waste savings bank for elderly women without family support and impoverished children in Thailand. They use the dividends from sales of plastic recyclables for basic needs, which mitigated economic downturns after severe flooding and also the coronavirus pandemic. Our financial empowerment program in Singapore targets low income Supermoms with 1 to 8 children. Supermoms were suddenly unemployed but did not have savings to tide them over so we helped them apply for government grants for COVID-19 Relief. They then participated in a financial empowerment program with group and individual training. This program was adapted to offer non-traditional vocational training for operating food stalls and plumbing/electrical home services. We established a platform for home-based businesses, crucial for single mothers balancing childcare with income generation under lockdown. We have health programs targeting the disabled and undocumented like breast cancer screenings for female prison inmates and reproductive health education for disabled adolescents in Thailand, health and digital literacy programs for migrant children along borders of Malaysia and Thailand, and a project led by Youth to bring remote learning to off-grid areas of Sarawak.

Non-governmental organizations like ours provide data and comparative best practices from diverse national settings, to guide socio-economic development policies that respect gender and ethnic differences. The way forward is government commitment to financing education and resilience at every level and life-stage, and promotion of shared responsibility for household income, care work, and social wellbeing as a societal norm.

291. Panoramic Charity Foundation

With the popularity of novel coronavirus pneumonia worldwide, this sudden public health event is gradually evolving into financial crisis, economic crisis and social crisis. Today's global sustainable development goals (SDGs) are facing severe challenges.

The most direct impact is that some important activities in the field of sustainable development have been postponed or cancelled. The postponement of these activities will undoubtedly worsen the implementation of the 2030 sustainable development goals, which is already very urgent.

The impact of COVID-19 and Its Countermeasures COVID-19 has caused great impact and influence on the world structure and China. China has taken advantage of its strong institutional advantages and taken various effective measures to win the battle against COVID-19 and block it. With the gradual progress of returning to work and production, China's economy and society has been restarted, and the birth opportunity and vitality have been radiated again. During the epidemic, many countries took measures such as exit-entry control, shutdown, cancellation of competitions, and restrictions on the movement of people. The epidemic also affected investors' expectations, resulting in turbulence in the international financial market and ups and downs in commodity prices. COVID-19 is lagging behind the globalization process. COVID-19 has not only opened up the distance between people, but also greatly widened the distance between countries.

Although the epidemic has been effectively controlled, we should have a sense of urgency, and we should see the persistence and severity of the impact of the new coronavirus epidemic. On the one hand, we should pay close attention to the prevention and control of the new coronavirus epidemic, on the other hand, we should not ignore economic growth.

292. Partenariat français pour l'eau (PFE)

With profound impacts on health, income, and education, the COVID-19 pandemic has also brought to the forefront the vital importance of universal access to water and sanitation. Water and soap are essential for hygiene, and safe and reliable drinking water and sanitation services are key to fighting infectious diseases including COVID-19.

Water cuts across all SDGs and the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation are central to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. Yet, despite the vital importance of water for all aspects of life on earth, the world is severely off track to achieve SDG 6.

The FWP calls upon the UN System and Member States to consider :

1. Establishing a UN intergovernmental platform on water and sanitation with regular high-level meetings:

Today, there is no intergovernmental mechanism or body within the UN system dedicated to producing recommendations and corrective measures on progress towards the SDG water-related targets.

2023 will mark a historic milestone in the international water agenda as UN Member States will convene at the UN 'Water Decade Conference'.

We recommend that the 2021-2023 intergovernmental processes be leveraged so as to advance towards the establishment of a permanent UN intergovernmental platform on water and sanitation. This mechanism would enable Member States to: regularly discuss water and sanitation-related challenges; promote and review progress towards the achievement of the SDG water-related targets; guide and feed the UN's work on water and sanitation (including on the context of the HLPFs); and adopt political decisions.

The Secretariat of this permanent mechanism could be entrusted to a strengthened UN-Water and be informed by an independent United Nations Scientific Panel on water and Sanitation.

2. The urgent need to accelerate action towards the achievement of SDG 6 and the SDG water-related targets :

At current rates of progress, we are severely off-track to achieve SDG 6. Overall, achieving SDG 6 will require up to a four-fold increase in the current rates of progress towards targets 6.1 and 6.2.

In the context of this year's HLPF, it is of critical importance to correct the statement included in the 2019 HLPF Ministerial Declaration (A/RES/74/4 ; para. 19) according to which progress has been achieved in 'some areas' including 'access to safe drinking water'. This statement is misleading (i.e. the number of people without access to safe water is increasing in Sub-Saharan Africa and in the urban half of the world).

The inclusion in the 2021 HLPF Ministerial Declaration of a call for urgent and accelerated action on all SDG targets on water and sanitation would be timely and welcome.

3. Bridging silos and mainstreaming the central role of water and sanitation in the 2030 Agenda across the UN's work.

The FWP recommends that all United Nations summits or conferences devoted to specific SDGs systematically include a water component (i.e. food, energy, biodiversity, cities, etc.).

In the context of the HLPF, water should be discussed every year (not only when SDG 6 is under review) and should be systematically addressed in VNRs.

293. Passionists International

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to rage, Passionists International urges member states, and other private sector supporters to form partnerships and provide financing to ensure that medical equipment, treatment, and vaccines are made available globally.

The pandemic has exacerbated conditions of poverty, hunger, multiple forms of violence and social inequities, and has prompted a regression in progress toward the 2030 Agenda. We urge member states to fortify their commitments and resources to prevent further back-sliding, and to regain and go beyond the progress previously made.

Passionists in Haiti report a rapid deterioration in all aspects of life and safety there. Amidst grave political crisis, rampant kidnappings and killings are now a daily feature of life. Large-scale massacres and burning of homes and bodies have occurred. Devoid of a functioning government and with widespread corruption on all levels, Haitian citizens are at great risk. The Archdiocese of Port au Prince has described the situation as a “descent into hell”. Additionally, the World Food Program reports that nearly half the population need immediate food assistance.

We urge the UN and the international community to stand in solidarity with the Haitian people: to quell the violence, provide necessary aid, ensure security, and facilitate national dialogue among all sectors – all prerequisites to meeting criteria for any free, fair, safe and transparent elections or a constitutional referendum.

In Central America severe economic conditions are causing increased vulnerability to trafficking. We urge member states to recognize that desperation to provide for their families increases people’s vulnerability to exploitation, and even death. We urge states to commit to ending all forms of trafficking, blocking and prosecuting perpetrators and their supply chains, and address the root causes of poverty.

Passionists in the Philippines express an urgent need to transform our approach to conservation of biodiversity by respecting the knowledge of indigenous people and including them in all planning and policy development. We urge member states to enact robust policies and legislation that enforce land rights, treaties, and informed consent procedures, and address serious health ramifications as a result of water and land contamination by industry, as well as gender based violence by contractors.

Women and Girls are also increasingly at-risk globally, by the failure of states to prioritize their rights to equality. The impact of Covid-19 has eroded previous educational gains, increased rates of family violence and sexual assault and other forms of gender-based violence in public spaces and online, as well as increased risk for early and forced marriage and teenage pregnancy.

We urge all member states to implement and extend social protection floors, take a gendered perspective in all policies and program development, and provide meaningful opportunities for women and girls’ participation in all levels.

There is still no sustainable development goal for special at-risk populations such as migrants and refugees, yet they face enormous vulnerabilities. We urge member states to make good on the vision adopted unanimously in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants.

294. Paz y Cooperación

To try to reach the disappearance of COVID-19 and the poverty that pulls down developing countries, the first thing to do is to ensure “global vaccination”. So as that developing countries have access to vaccines, that are now in hands of big pharmaceutical corporations, that are generating poverty to extreme limits. It is therefore impossible to reach the sustainable development goals, between these, poverty, hunger, health and well-being.

In this moment, the World Trade Organization is dealing with the coronavirus vaccines patents and we are numerous NGOs organized in an international level, asking for the liberation of the patents, during pandemics, as a previous step to reach sustainable levels of vaccination and to generalize the vaccine as a tested and efficient tool to end the pandemic. Due to the lack of health control and vaccination, hunger is now spreading throughout the most vulnerable countries without the possibility of reaching the minimum levels of health, wellbeing and access to the labor market.

Another previous goal is the creation of a restructuring mechanism of the sovereign debt, along with creation of a multilateral agency of credit rating which is a significant and efficient contribution to the global response of protection in the poorest countries, developing and reinforcing platforms of information exchange and a cooperation between North-South and South-South.

To end with these types of crisis it is necessary to have in advance, the mechanisms of automatic action in a multilateral level, that guarantee the joint action if the provision of tools to contain the focus and the transmission of the virus.

It is therefore essential to reinforce primary health as a whole, to stop the catastrophic situation suffered by the most vulnerable countries, where the fragility of their health systems along with other serious problems in their population, predict a high risk of collapse of the primary health systems, and which will be also suffered by the rest of the population and vulnerable groups.

295. Peacebuilding Solutions

When considering sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, internally displaced persons and refugees must be included. Displaced persons and refugees are vulnerable groups as they are pushed from their homes because of persecution, war, or violence. They often live in conditions which lack adequate sanitation, hygiene, and health care services that pose a threat to their well-being. Such circumstances are great impediments to displaced persons and refugees, who have challenges meeting basic COVID-19 safety guidelines, including handwashing, wearing face masks, and social distancing. This has led to a disproportionate burden of COVID-19 for groups that are already facing social stigma, scarce economic opportunities, and lack of political advocates; these obstacles have only grown in the face of the pandemic.

States have attempted to respond to COVID-19 outbreaks among these populations, but unfortunately cases have still occurred. Though some refugee camps have received support in expanding quarantine centers and treatment facilities, they have been insufficient for containing the virus. In some situations, such as with Rohingya refugees in Bangladeshi camps, authorities have tried to relocate people to prevent further illnesses. However, these measures often exacerbate existing challenges of shortages of personal protective equipment and other medical supplies, health care providers, and spaces for treatment. These difficulties put the patients they serve at increased risk for COVID-19 and other diseases, both infectious and non-communicable. Challenges in obtaining appropriate health information, testing, and treatment have risen accordingly, aggravating burdens faced by displaced persons and refugees.

As the pandemic has raged on, organizations that support governmental response to emergencies have also suffered. Non-governmental and humanitarian agencies have received less funding and increased restrictions on travel. These issues have made coordination of relief efforts increasingly difficult and weakened crucial partnerships among organizations as well as between organizations and communities with which they work.

It is crucial to keep in mind the conditions of such populations in promoting economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable development as we move forward with vaccine distribution and COVID-19 response. When considering Sustainable Development Goals (especially SDG 10 regarding Reduced Inequalities), we must advocate for increased political commitment, financial allocations, economic opportunities, and social programs to specifically target forcibly displaced persons and refugees. Governmental and non-governmental partners must work together to ensure that these vulnerable groups are not left out of sustainable and resilient recovery plans from the COVID-19 pandemic.

296. Peace Trees Vietnam

Fragile and conflict-affected states are the furthest away from achieving the SDGs, and ‘ensuring that no one is left behind’ requires acknowledgement of the interconnected nature of humanitarian action, development, and peacebuilding. In fragile and conflict-affected states, mine action is at the heart of this nexus and is often foundational to humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding programs. Mine action is about creating new opportunities for access and is also intimately linked to the 17 SDGs. Concerning the SDGs under review at the 2021 HLPF, mine action contributes directly to each. For this reason, as the world looks towards a sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, a greater focus on localization and partnership approaches in the humanitarian system and mine action as well as increased funding for the sector is critical to achieving the 2030 Agenda.

COVID-19 and Mine Action

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the need for a greater focus on localization in humanitarian action, development, leadership and capacity. Emphasizing a localization agenda will be important in ensuring the sustainability of programs. As we aim for cooperation, measures, commitments, and partnerships at all levels that represent sustainable and resilient recovery from COVID-19, a reckoning of unsustainable power-structures within the sector should result in partnership driven approaches to humanitarian response and development initiatives. Civil society should recognize the value of localization and partnership approaches as sustainable and strategic paths forward for the humanitarian and development sectors. In the mine action sector, focusing on the capacity development and national ownership of mine action will remain paramount in ensuring resiliency for communities impacted by EO and the sustainability of the mine action sector. This reckoning and accountability should come from all levels, including and especially at the donor level.

There remains an increasing gap between funds available and the needs of communities impacted by both COVID-19 and EO. As funders look to contribute to the SDGs more directly, the link between mine action and sustainable development can help mine action efforts access funding earmarked for support of the SDGs. As we look towards a sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and as donor states are increasingly tapped for resources as they respond to other crises, it is essential to ensure that funding for mine action remains consistent. Mine action is at the foundation of humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding work in fragile and conflict-affected communities. Building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda will require the recognition of the critical role mine action plays in sustainable development. Without this recognition, we risk leaving some of the most marginalized communities behind.

Various Measures and Policy Recommendations

Recognition of the importance of mine action as foundational to humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding sectors in fragile and conflict-affected states

Earmarked SDG funding for the mine action sector

Increased focus on localization and partnership approaches in the humanitarian system and mine action as a way to support sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and to promote resilience in EO-affected regions

297. People's Cultural Centre

Sustainable and Resilient Recovery from COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has posed serious challenges to lives and livelihoods of the people all over the world. In the first wave, India resorted to strict measures like lock down of the nation which affected the livelihood of the people. The second wave has posed more threat than the first one being more fatal. However, the major consolation is the vaccine this time. Hence, India has decided to enforce lock down as the last resort and to carry on speedy vaccination to contain the pandemic and march ahead to find a path for the achievement of the 2030 of Sustainable development.

The inequalities in our societies has disproportionately affected the elderly, women, youth and migrant workers and has magnified health, social and economic vulnerabilities.

Our prime focus should be the investment and reforms in health and social care systems to deliver on the Agenda 2030. We regard that this can contribute to healthy and resilient systems to protect our societies in future. Health and well-being must be considered as a development priority. This include universal health coverage, reduction of premature mortality from non-communicable diseases and health services to all leaving behind none. Financing in health sector has been noticed as poor, inefficient and insufficient and crippled availability of health information. Hence, infrastructure development in health sector, improvement in health education and extensive research facilities are the key to alleviate poverty and can prove beneficial to achieve sustainable development and to fight against pandemic and future health hazards.

We suggest the followings to act upon as a way to come out successfully from the grip of such pandemic and to achieve the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development:

- 1) In order to minimize the pandemic like health hazards, we should work sincerely for a clean environment and maintenance of biodiversity. Hence, our prime agenda should be to keep global warming in limit.
- 2) Phasing out of fossil fuel subsidies to reorient the economy towards zero carbon alternatives, focusing more on solar energy and bio-gas energy.
- 3) Encouraging public transport system and shifting to electric driven vehicles.
- 4) Greenery in urban locations and effective waste management system.
- 5) Extensive use of compost manure which can be effective in income generation and production efficient.
- 6) A good package of debt and loan relief of poorer countries who are in huge debt from IMF and World Bank to support farmers and MSME sector.
- 7) Universal vaccination and to help poor and developing countries for 100% vaccination.
- 8) Priority in the study and research in Bio Science, Bio-Technology and medicinal inventions with public private partnership in a transparent manner.
- 9) Health and sanitation should be taught from Primary level.
- 10) No child should go to bed in hungry stomach. Standard nutrition to every child to live with dignity.
- 11) Online education access to be made universal.

A cohesive society can face any challenge, may it be pandemic or post pandemic economic growth.

298. Pirate Parties International Headquarters

Pirate Parties International is a conglomeration of organizations who collaborate through online forums towards the improvement of democracy, human rights, and digital rights.

Pirate Parties all over the world are working hard to help the world to recover from the pandemic. Czech Pirates introduced a policy to better compensate small business owners whose businesses were closed. Israeli Pirates assisted artists and independent workers, advocating municipalities providing social services and benefits for non-salaried workers who were left uncovered. Chilean Pirates joined nationwide calls for post-pandemic rebuilding to focus on sustainable solutions and to instigate a universal basic income policy across the country as a means of achieving environmental, social and economic justice in the context of human rights commitments and SDGs.

Pirate parties in 36 countries proposed new pandemic policies to deal with challenges in a better way in the digital age than current emergency laws, which are often better suited for a war time than a pandemic. We've introduced policies for housing homeless during the pandemic. We've organised collections of IT equipment to allow all children to participate in remote learning. Across the globe we are proposing new and safe ways of voting under the current conditions, and also engaging in protests over surveillance of internet users and mass surveillance systems. Also, we promoted police reform bills as a means to stopping the power of authorities and security control.

Pirate Parties around the world are committed towards establishing policies and promoting technologies that will mitigate further crises. Pirate Members of the European Parliament continue their calls for decentralisation of social media. The social media market must not be monopolized, whereby one organization is the arbiter of what is and is not disinformation. Proper oversight needs to be established to better mitigate global emergencies and misinformation about them. The solution involves better oversight and regulation of social media and the corporations behind them.

In the face of restrictions imposed to combat COVID-19, information and communication technologies have greatly facilitated labor, education, and social relations. Many countries are still lacking the laws which would moderate instruments such as home office, remote work and especially remote education. Therefore, we propose reforms in workplace regulations to accommodate remote work more flexibly, norms for teleworking and online schooling. The pandemic highlighted the value of personal data, including medical data, and the importance of ensuring adequate protections. Furthermore, patents, copyrights, and other intellectual property rights that provide greater good to the entire world population, such as production of vaccines and therapeutics, should be waived, given their crucial role in solving this crisis and any future crises.

299. Poka Healthcare Foundation

Recently the world has gone through a devastating pandemic at lightning speed. The global economy has been severely disrupted with international border closed and social/entertainment closed to the public to avoid social gathering. Federal and state agencies place entire cities on lock down while under pressure to revive the economy.

The medical system became over whelmed with complex situations with outrageous number of death recorded, the international stock market plunged, unemployment rate soar, poverty and raging crime affected millions across the globe especially in Nigeria where the rate of inflation has risen and worsen the state of the Country making it extremely difficult for families to feed. Africa especially Nigeria has been seriously affected by the pandemic with high rate of unemployment, insurgency, insecurity and a host of other vice which has created a wide gap in the society far-off from the SDGs of the UN to end poverty and create a better world. The 2030 Agenda is itself a roadmap for pandemic response and it is universally applicable to all countries and can address disparities in pandemic response. A critical area in pandemic response is mitigating the economic fallout of States with efforts to achieving the SDGs.

To achieve this, partnerships between international organizations, governments, and the private sector is paramount. An example of the COVID-19 pandemic is the WhatsApp Coronavirus Information Hub, formed out of a partnership between the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the World Health Organization, UNICEF and WhatsApp. The hub delivers guidance to people to help control the spread of COVID.

The objective of the United Nations is to set respective government in position that will result in good governance which will culminate in poverty eradication and improve quality of life for families and put an end to poverty and other vices that infuriate the world tranquility. An intensive partnership will result in a response Plan for the most vulnerable countries, implemented with cooperation between UN agencies, international organizations, NGOs, and community-based actors. They are to actively participate and give input into the required responses at the field level and keeping with the priorities and needs of the locals.

The 2030 Agenda encompasses the complexity, interconnectedness, and interdependency between health, development, peace, and stability through its 17 goals. In achieving these goals States need to adopt a holistic approach, in which global health is accounted for. Enhanced health, education and gender equality would help reduce poverty, hunger and strengthen peaceful societies and just institutions all of which are encompassed in mutually-reinforcing goals.

Nigeria with a very high rate of illiteracy which has lead to gender inequality, poverty and domestic violence with poor health care facilities and services among the populace need to partner with UN agencies, private and public sector, NGOs and outline with the SDGs of the UN and come up with an action plan to improve the welfare of citizens.

300. Pos Keadilan Peduli Ummat

Based on some studies conducted by the Ministry of National Development Planning of Indonesia and University of Indonesia, the pandemic has been affecting Indonesia's SDGs target significantly in all goals. It is predicted that people who live under the poverty line (10.86%) and the vulnerable population (30.77%) have been hit most by the pandemic. In Human Initiative's perspective, multi disasters currently occurred have increased the poverty numbers significantly. The large-scale social restrictions have hampered the transportation and logistics system, the climate change has worsened household food insecurity which caused maternal undernutrition and 7 million Indonesian children under the age of five are stunted of which Indonesia is the 5th rank in the world.

Pos Keadilan Peduli Ummat issued a number of policies to implement its humanitarian activities during this pandemic, among others: Protection Against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, Safeguarding, Mechanism of Work From Home, Covid Task Force for employees, polymerase chain reaction health examination, psychosocial support, health consultation services. For beneficiaries, it provides online psychosocial services, offline one with the health protocols and safety mobile. It is currently engaged with other organizations to provide vaccines to humanitarian activists.

The principle of "No one left behind" in SDGs, it worked together with its partners with the target of the marginalized people including disabled persons, people with HIV/AIDS (ODHA), homeless, orphans, low-income citizens, children of the low-income families, female sex-workers, household assistants, scavengers, unemployed persons, tuberculosis, diabetes type2, hypertension, cancer, female domestic/gender violence victims, children of domestic, and lepers. This program has organized the education of up to 82,975 marginalized people.

It participates and cooperates with many stakeholders in allocating the resources used to respond the COVID-19 along with various government agencies, private sectors, international organizations, humanitarian agencies both local and national, UN bodies as well as various elements in the society in order to build the strength together in responding the pandemic. It is also actively engaging itself in many CSO forums as both members and partners including cluster meeting activities in national, regional, and global scales.

It has created some programs to mitigate the health, social and economic impacts affected by COVID-19 and to support the SDGs and Agenda 2030: Firstly, prevention of contagion to high risk groups and all the people, in general. Secondly, the establishment of Society Movement for Healthy-Life Attitudes. Those support SDG 3. Lastly, the establishment of food security, social and economic sustainability for the society. This supports SDGs 1, 2, and 8.

Along with the Ministry of Social Affairs, Pos Keadilan Peduli Ummat, its partners, and private sectors have performed Joint Needs and Market Assessment in regency and province levels.

301. Pragma

The pandemic has amplified all the inequalities in our societies and driven a regression on most human development parameters, particularly in less-developed societies. Unfortunately, the broad brush of the pandemic has meant that the moral compass of the developed world has also been compromised as rich countries struggle to address the problems on their shores, and economic and political goals have been prioritised over global public health. Sustainable and resilient recovery would rather require an enhanced sense of mutuality, a ‘one world’ thinking. Contributions to the less fortunate need to be mandated for the developed societies and for large companies in the true spirit of SDG17. We suggest a targeted initiative by media and civil society to question global and industry leaders and highlight their accountabilities, towards not only recovering from this crisis, but also ensuring reduced adverse events and equitable recovery and development. There is also a need to pressure for a reshaping of our multilateral institutions towards greater independence in their decisions and actions and greater authority to compel governments and leaders for appropriate, equity-enhancing measures.

Given the adverse effects of the pandemic on the human development trajectory, there also needs to be a re-calibration of status against SDGs. The path to recovery must have a hyper-focus on all the groups and goals that have been disproportionately affected- informal workers, women and girls, aged, healthcare, education, decent work and livelihoods. On these, the pandemic has not just set us back, but the barriers to progress have grown manifold. Thus large numbers of women have dropped out of the workforce and incidence of violence against women has become infinitely more; low wage workers who lack any form of safety-nets have been pushed to penury and starvation, having lost their sources of income; lack of access to healthcare for the poor has become pronounced and had dire consequences. Developing country governments should collaborate with local civil society to conduct rapid assessments on the extent of reversals on progress on SDGs and the specific barriers. New programmes must be fashioned to create institutionalised supports, such as childcare facilities for women and social protection systems for informal workers, as well as to significantly upgrade and enhance public health infrastructure, thereby creating mechanisms for sustainable and resilient recovery.

In the rush to commercialise all services as a single mantra for enhancing access, the value of civil society and institutions had been progressively eroded. The pandemic has however brought out the role that these play, particularly in adverse circumstances and for the especially disadvantaged. Industry tends to drop back in these cases, where opportunities for economic gains are low, and the normal channels of delivery give way. A mature society on the other hand recognises the need for a balanced co-existence of economic and social purpose and the equal presence of appropriate institutions for each. It is imperative therefore that investments be made to bolster and increase the capacities of institutions and civil society, recognising them as partners for equitable and pro-poor development.

302. Project 1948 Foundation

From the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, inequality has been increasingly apparent and more challenging to address globally. The sudden and long-lasting closures across the global economy have only amplified an ever-widening divide in the areas of income inequality, supply chain shortages of personal protective equipment, and vaccine poverty. The pandemic heightened vulnerabilities and left behind rising inequality as the economic fallout pushes inequality higher.

At Project 1948, we know that there are structural shortcomings in applying the framework during this unprecedented pandemic. Currently, the Sustainable Development Goals lack an established plan for a pandemic response. The onset of the pandemic has shown that achieving sustainable development, eradicating poverty in all forms, and continued strengthening of institutions is at the intersection of both national and global strategies for a compassionate, effective, and inclusive response within our reach.

Due to a limited national response, Bosnia and Herzegovina's healthcare system has caused local authorities to declare a state of emergency, with the population growing increasingly vulnerable. Bosnia and Herzegovina remain among the top ten countries with the highest deaths per million. Hospitals and medical staff are overwhelmed with COVID-19 patients; in Sarajevo, vaccine diplomacy is a limited response. The sole reliance on healthcare is a disjointed reaction from the international community, including Serbia, Turkey, the European Union, and WHO-led COVAX.

At the center of the insufficient response throughout the region lies an ongoing and deep-seated pattern of corruption and the mishandling and misallocation of emergency funds, contributing to an erosion of trust among institutions and tripartite governmental processes.

Universal Health Coverage in post-conflict reconstruction is reachable. We must commit to not only invest in the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: but we must understand how imperative it is to budget transparently for it. And, by our non-governmental organization estimate, it is clear that meeting such investment should not push people into poverty because of basic healthcare costs. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, it is cost-effective to implement Universal Health Coverage, with projected costs less than 6% of the overall GDP versus the 9% currently being spent. We make a firm recommendation in favor of Universal Health Coverage, as it would reduce poverty-related to health-related expenses and enable the country to meet health-related targets on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We recognize healthcare is a fundamental human right and pillar for a more equitable future. We cannot act alone.

We call upon member states to fully support and drive efforts to accelerate the transition towards universal access to affordable, quality services for resilient, equitable, and responsive health care to support an inclusive and effective path ensuring no one is left behind. In the Decade of Action, we strongly reaffirm our commitment to best practices in amplifying the voice of civil society and invite decision-makers from organizations, Member States, and United Nations leaders worldwide to dialogue on building Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions in the Western Balkans.

303. Public Organization "Public Advocacy"

Discriminatory Policy Toward the Ukrainian Orthodox Church as an Obstacle to Achieving the SDGs

Our human rights organization Public Advocacy is engaged in providing legal assistance to victims of crime in Ukraine, Montenegro, North Macedonia and the Middle East, defending human rights in the field of religion and belief.

By participating in the HLPF 2021, we'd like to reaffirm the importance of achieving SDGs 10 and 16, especially with regard to victims of mass crime and discriminatory public policy.

It is unacceptable that states at the level of central authorities implement an inequality policy on the national, ethnic or religious grounds. Unfortunately, today this policy is applied against religious communities in Ukraine, North Macedonia, and earlier in Montenegro. In these countries, states interfere in the religious affairs of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, the Serbian Orthodox Church, creating conditions for the emergence of alternative religious structures, directly promoted by the authorities.

Thus, the Ukrainian government provides wide-ranging support to the project of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, created by the decision of Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople, who granted the Tomos of Autocephaly to the religious structure as a merger of the UOC-KP (Ukrainian Orthodox Church-Kyiv Patriarchate) and the UAOC (Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church). The Ukrainian Orthodox Church opted out of this project and hence got subjected to persecution for having communion with the Moscow Patriarchate.

Given that the Ukrainian Parliament adopted the so-called law "on renaming", legal structures of the UOC are currently denied the opportunity to freely acquire any property, open bank accounts, change their statutes, and conduct activities. Under this law, all 12,000 religious communities of the UOC are required to reflect in their names their affiliation to the governing center, located in the territory being recognized in Ukraine as the aggressor state – the Russian Federation. Such an obligation deprives the UOC believers of the right to their canonical and historical identity to choose names for their communities. A bigger threat, though, is an attempt to forcibly create an image of the enemy out of believers of this confession amid the armed conflict in Donbas. This policy, coupled with inaction of the Ukrainian law enforcement, resulted in seizures of over 80 UOC churches, beating of our believers and perpetration of grave crimes since 2015. Despite countless appeals to courts and criminal proceedings, none of the offenders was brought to justice, which cultivated an atmosphere of impunity for committing offences against this victim group.

We will reiterate that the UOC is an association of millions of Ukrainians of different nationalities, united by Orthodoxy. They are entitled to freely profess their faith and have an equal footing with other denominations.

At this forum, we once again urge Ukraine to ensure the observance of the UOC believers' rights and abandon the discriminatory policy towards this denomination.

The SDGs can be achieved, providing there is a commitment to peace in religious relations.

We request the HLPF participants to contribute to maintaining interfaith peace in Ukraine and other countries.

304. Qatar Foundation for Social Work

There is no doubt that COVID-19 has a multidimensional effect on our collective efforts towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Qatar Social Work and its centers continue to provide services to our targeted beneficiaries. We would like to take this opportunity to highlight the lessons learned and shed light on the existing barriers.

During this time, the lived reality of people with disability especially those with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and their families reflect a series of challenges including full access to rehabilitation services, online education and wellbeing support. As the pandemic created further isolation for people with disability there is a risk of decline in therapeutic, educational and social progress which might create a setback in securing the rights of people with disability.

In our work, we realised the importance of family members, community and institutions in implementing our interventions to secure the rights of people with disability. The first network is the family, we need to explore ways to further support and enable family members and caregivers of people with disability. As part of our interventions, we aimed to empower and support family members to adapt to the new context and play an active role in shaping the experience of their children. Also, we realized the importance of ensuring access to information and building on existing synergies with other local organisations to achieve effective results.

It is also imperative to highlight that in the middle of challenges is an opportunity to reevaluate our modalities and adopt a forward-looking approach. Qatar Social Work acknowledges that the way forward into a post COVID-19 world is a world of partnerships. To accelerate our efforts into ensuring that "no one is left behind", we need to invest in building networks of partnerships to accelerate knowledge transfer to build the ground for collective innovative solutions to our existing challenges. This includes conducting further research on the impact of COVID-19 on people with disability and their families. In addition, we need to explore the role of technology in creating an inclusive educational and therapeutic experience for people with disability. Lastly, we need to include people with disability in the policy conversations to ensure their active participation in policy shaping.

305. Ramola Bhar Charitable Trust

The year 2020 marked as an extremely challenging year in recent history. The pandemic put unexpected halt and disrupted “normal life”. These disruptions presented governments with issues leading to rise in socio-economic gap in the society. With the pandemic continuing to remain as a challenge, the gap only seems to be widening. Besides unparalleled, overwhelming stress created on the healthcare systems across the globe, issue of poverty, hunger, rise in inequalities, lack of decent work, etc, are enormous challenges which will be faced even long after pandemic ends. Ramola Bhar Charitable Trust is a right-based organization working towards providing assistance to marginalised and vulnerable individuals, especially victims of various forms of violence and Human Trafficking. The organization takes this opportunity to discuss the learning and challenges at the grassroots since eruption of the pandemic in the specific domain for the Sustainable Development Goals under review in the 2021 High-level Political Forum in Indian context.

Ramola Bhar Charitable Trust is working towards reduction of inequality, gender-based discrimination and creating violence free, safe communities for women and children in India with a special focus on eradication of Human Trafficking. The key components of the assistance programmes implemented by the organization aims at creating just and violence free communities wherein struggle for food, healthcare, and livelihood is minimised. The last year has presented unprecedented hurdles to the interventions as many people were facing difficulties in providing means for survival to their families and themselves. People living in these communities have lost livelihoods which have led to rise in issues pertaining to safety of women and children alongside issues such as hunger and poverty. Socio-economic inequalities are one of the main reasons for human trafficking and largely violence against children and women. With lack of economic opportunity and certainty, safety of women and children is under risk. Lack of livelihood options and economic opportunities is one of the key factors contributing to trafficking. After decades of efforts to reduce the factors that make individuals vulnerable to various forms of exploitation, the current scenario has placed people under the fear of survival with no means to lead lives. As an immediate action, accessibility to quality healthcare and support to curb the hunger crisis is required. Long-term efforts in form of intervention and policy are essential towards ensuring reduction of inequality and poverty.

These challenges call for a global, collective action. World leaders and state administrations are working to help individuals through assistance as well as policy, nonetheless, this requires for a global coalition of Civil Society Organization/ Non-Governmental Organization under different agencies of the United Nations in India. These agencies can mobilise organizations and work towards universal healthcare as well Sustainable Development Goals under review to prevent rise in inequalities with the communities. Such coalition will strengthen government towards ensuring assistance to all as well as help build policies in future that would help in preventing similar consequences faced in years to come with a global crisis such as the ongoing pandemic.

306. Red Dot Foundation

Red Dot Foundation would like to highlight the adverse effects of COVID-19 on women and girls in India.

- a) The number of cases of domestic violence has risen during the pandemic and the strict lockdown imposed by the government. The National Commission for Women suggested in April 2020 that there was a 100% increase in distress calls with the first few weeks of the lockdown.
- b) India noted a surge of porn usage and sale of condoms and sex toys, reflecting increase in sexual activity thereby indirectly indicating increase in chances of sexual rights violation.
- c) Childline, a children's helpline, has reported a 17% increase in distress calls related to early marriage of girls in June and July 2020 compared to 2019.
- d) The burden of family care falls disproportionately on women in a patriarchal society like India. This had its impact on the ability to “work from home”. Further with schools being closed, the responsibility of children’s education also became an added burden for women.
- e) Women have lost jobs because they are seen as being secondary bread earners in their families.
- f) Women were being trafficked as many of their families have fallen into poverty.
- g) Teenage boys are also being forced to work in factories though they are underage as many jobs were lost and families are desperate to make ends meet.
- h) Many girls and women have dropped out from education and work respectively due to lack of digital access and internet connectivity.

We highly recommend that:

- a) Governments, especially the Government of India have dedicated budgets for women and girl’s safety and relief measures. The Nirbhaya fund is yet to be utilised efficiently.
- b) A moratorium on interest rates for self-help groups or loan repayments would also help because they are the women who support families in a big way.
- c) Increase women’s participation in employment.
- d) Quotas for women in political leadership. Affirmative action is the only way to increase numbers.
- e) Make it easy to report sexual and gender based violence through online channels. There is low trust in the police.
- f) Fast track courts to be set up to adjudicate cases of domestic, sexual and gender based violence.

g) Harsh punishment for discriminatory actions by corporations and institutions.

h) School and college education must include gender sensitivity, violence prevention, conflict resolution and digital literacy as part of the formal curriculum.

i) Access to digital devices and internet should be mandatory so as to give everyone an equal opportunity to an education and work from home.

307. Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary

The NGO Committee on Migration and the Committee to Stop Trafficking in Persons urge member states and the United Nations to address as a priority concern the heightened risks of migrant children to trafficking as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 2020 World Migration Report estimated that there were 31 million children who have been forcibly displaced. The failure of governments to develop effective policy responses to assist and protect migrant children, despite legally binding commitments and support for Agenda 2030, has been exacerbated by the turning of political will and resources to the pandemic. This void has been filled by those who would exploit unprotected children into trafficking for labour or sexual exploitation.

Increased poverty, loss of family members, racial discrimination and xenophobia, school closings and mobility restrictions have children “living in limbo”. The insecurity and vulnerability caused by these factors has both short and long-term effects on the well-being of migrant children and their families and often results in children being lured or sold into labour trafficking or sexual exploitation.

Protecting children in migration begins with collecting better disaggregated data on how migration has affected children and their families and putting in place policies and programs to meet their needs. There is a critical need to implement a rights-based approach, based on state obligations to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

In their construction of evidence-based policies, it is important that municipal governments, community leaders, faith-based organizations and youth led-groups work together to assess priority needs as well as risks for exploitation. The voices and experiences of migrant children themselves as well as their parents is essential.

It is critical to build the capacity of child protection authorities through budgetary allocations and training of personnel who will be sensitive to the special needs of vulnerable children. Lack of trained front-line workers allows children to slip through the cracks.

Civil society organizations have long been valuable partners in providing much needed assistance to children on the move, often in situations where there is a void in state activity. These organizations have also been negatively affected by financial and staff reductions due to COVID-19. It is important that governments actively participate in supporting these groups.

Families and unaccompanied children migrate in search of a better life. The Convention on the Rights of the Child insists children have a right to have space for living, learning and playing, but the pandemic has limited those possibilities. Providing these opportunities is an essential element of the well-being and protection of migrant children.

Monitoring the efficacy of new and improved policies and programs to ascertain if they are achieving the desired outcomes is an integral part of providing services and protections to migrant children.

With strong political will, migrant children can be protected from harm and journey to their new lives as productive citizens of the future.

308. RENTAS - Rede Nacional De Combate Ao Trafico De Animais Silvestres

Wildlife trafficking probably gave rise to COVID-19 and presents a serious challenge for national governments and for humanity in general.

RENTAS has been engaged in combating wildlife trafficking in the Federative Republic of Brazil since 1999. In these almost 22 years of activity, RENTAS has developed hundreds of projects with the objective of combating this criminal activity, which causes serious damages to the conservation of Brazilian wild species and, not least, that brings significant social, economic and environmental consequences.

In the Federative Republic of Brazil, it is estimated that 38 million wild animals are removed from nature every year and that out of every 10 trafficked animals, nine will die either during its capture or transport.

The beginning of the chain of illegal wildlife trade occurs with the systematic exploitation of needy communities, where young people are enticed by traffickers to act as animal gatherers in the wild. In several traditional communities in the Amazon region, for example, it is not uncommon to verify the exchange of captured animals for basic supplies for human subsistence. Thus, the illegal animal trade in addition to causing enormous damage to our biodiversity serves as a gateway for thousands of young people to the world of crime.

It should also be noted that tropical forests are a large reservoir of microorganisms unknown to science and that the wildlife trafficking is the main factor in the spread of pathogens that can cause serious damage to public health worldwide.

In 2005, RENTAS had already publicly warned the Brazilian government and foreign governments represented by its embassies in the Federative Republic of Brazil about the risks of a worldwide pandemic caused by animal trafficking. At that time, RENTAS drew the attention of the aforementioned governments to establish an alliance to act together to combat this illegal activity, warning that no country could feel effectively protected from the consequences of this illegal trade, no matter how good were their health inspection and control bodies at their borders.

Thus, in view of the above, RENTAS comes through this declaration to appeal to the participants of HLPF 2021 to reinforce with their governments the importance of promoting the social equity of traditional communities as one of the main strategies to combat illegal wildlife trade.

309. Restoration World Outreach Ministries

Restoration World Outreach Ministries Inc. (RWOMI) is an organization dedicated to the social development of all, and in particular, the most vulnerable and the poorest among us.

The rapid spread of COVID-19 had far-reaching consequences in almost every corner of the world, negatively impacting trade and economic activities, which had spill over social problems, including unemployment and poverty.

As a result, strides made in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals stalled and reversed in many instances by the onslaught of the pandemic. This severely impacted countries as they channeled both human and financial resources to curtailing the spread.

SDGs 1, 2 and 3: Due to the pandemic, more families fell into poverty as many “bread winners” were laid off, or had wages reduced as places of employment scaled down production or closed. As a result, more families plunged into hunger, many suffered from mental illness, such as depression or suicide. Persons with chronic diseases defaulted on medical appointments for fear of leaving home, lest they contract the COVID-19 disease, or were non-compliant with regular medication.

Goal 8: This goal was severely hampered by the COVID-19 pandemic. The slowing down represents a negative development for the global economy, with adverse effects on living standards and real wages of families.

Goal 13: The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) State of the Global Climate 2020 revealed that despite setbacks from COVID-19, global greenhouse gas emissions increased in 2020, along with planetary warming increases.

Goal 16: While there was some progress promoting peace and justice, this remains unequal across and within regions. Limited or no progress was made in the judicial system to process and try the accused in a fair, timely and transparent manner. This needs to be addressed from a legal and human rights perspective.

Goal 17: Member States need to be fully committed to accomplishing the 17 goals. There must be an enabling environment along with renewed Global Partnership for all countries irrespective of developmental stage.

Recommendations

We concur with the President of the Economic and Social Council that the COVID-19 pandemic is equally a health and an economic crisis for Small Island Developing States, as it has compounded existing challenges related sustainable development.

We make the following recommendations:

- While battling with the pandemic, North-South cooperation in science and technology/technological innovations is required.
- International health goals achieved by countries should not be allowed to fall behind or deteriorate and mental health must be given special attention.
- Food systems challenges must be addressed to ensure that no one goes hungry and innovative agricultural interventions must be put in place.
- Member States should review human trafficking to identify loop holes and develop interventions to prevent this, including harsher punishments for perpetrators

We support the notion that no one must be left behind.

310. Roshd Foundation

The COVID-19 pandemic not only has created one of the enormous disruptions of public health systems around the world, but also it has had severe economic repercussions beyond the spread of the disease itself. Also, the global lockdown of education institutions is caused a significant interruption in students learning and internal assessments. This crisis has exposed the many inadequacies and inequities in world education systems from access to the broadband and computers needed for online education and the supportive environments required to focus on learning up to the misalignment between resources and demands.

On the other hand, it is a fact that the swift recovery from the pandemic to boost the economic, social, and environmental aspects of sustainable development is accessible when NGOs and volunteer groups promote their activities in deprived areas, which should be supported by United Nations and governments. Furthermore, they have to try to remove barricades and bureaucracy to improve the progress of equality and justice in deprived areas.

At Roshd Charity, our viewpoint is that the goals such as eradicating poverty, providing food security, and promoting industrialization, can be achieved by linking academic knowledge and specialty with volunteerism in deprived areas. For instance, expert volunteers can help hold training workshops on solutions for increasing productivity in agriculture and managing water resources in order to grow modified plants to save water resources and improve production per area under cultivation. Also, developing technologies and Internet access should be considered an essential step in achieving poverty eradication. Such a platform provides the possibility of transferring new knowledge and methods to deprived areas, such as modern irrigation systems in agriculture. Technology can assist people with becoming trained in new skills that are practicable for their jobs, which can reduce cost and increase production.

In addition, it is worth mentioning that despite the efforts of governments to create equal educational opportunities for all, the statistics are not satisfactory yet in developing countries. This shortage has been highlighted by the COVID outbreak remarkably. In fact, poverty and lack of educational facilities in deprived areas of a country can hinder the education of children and adolescents. Besides, lack of support from the education of individuals in a community will cause eternal poverty for poor people. Thus, one of the leading solutions for this issue is prompting online education. It is a fact that remote learning is effective in sustainable development in deprived areas, which provides the opportunity for NGOs and governments to move beyond executive restrictions to provide equal opportunity of education for all. The benefits of technology were demonstrated when Roshd Charity provided online educational classes for high school students in Sistan and Baluchestan Provinces (rural areas in Iran).

Finally, sustainable development will be accessible if people, non-governmental organizations, United Nations, and governments increase their participation in deprived areas. They must unite in striving towards ending poverty in all forms by their global actions.

311. Sacro Militare Ordine Costantiniano di San Giorgio

The Sacro Militare Ordine Costantiniano di San Giorgio (Sacred Military Constantinian Order of Saint George) has the historic mission of helping the sick, the needy and the most disadvantaged in society. The Order provides medical and social assistance, disaster relief in the case of armed conflicts and natural catastrophes, emergency services, help for the elderly, the handicapped and children in need and the provision of first aid training, and support for refugees and internally displaced persons regardless of race, origin or religion.

The Order believes that civil society will play a critical role in promoting sustainable and resilient international recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic by serving as an advocate, a watchdog and a trusted authority.

Serving as an advocate

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed systemic flaws and drastic inequality. While the most privileged have been able to isolate without worrying about future income, large numbers of people have experienced hardship and have been forced to isolate in small spaces and in difficult conditions, if they were able to isolate at all. Civil society organizations provide important aid. Around the world, the Order and other similar non-governmental and not-for-profit organizations advocate for the sick, the poor, the needy and the most disadvantaged people.

Serving as a democratic watchdog

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many governments have adopted emergency powers to act efficiently to combat it. While restrictions on personal liberty can be justified by the severity of the crisis, these restrictions must be proportional and temporary. Non-governmental and not-for-profit organizations are in a position to speak out against human rights violations under the guise of national protection. Civil society is also in a position to scrutinize government and private-sector action and demand more transparency and accountability in order to ensure a fairer, more just and more rights-respecting post-pandemic future.

Serving as a trusted authority

From the start of the pandemic to the ease of the lockdown, efficient communication and trust in government have been critical to citizens following national emergency orders, such as wearing masks and staying inside. Civil society provides an essential and trusted link between the government and citizens. Often, non-governmental and not-for-profit organizations have a wide network that reaches the rural areas not easily reached by others. Such trust and a wide network are crucial when promoting sustainable recovery from the pandemic and resetting the global economy.

For its part, the Order reaffirms its commitment to the Millennium Development Goals and underscores its intention to engage in collaborative projects that advance, within its sphere of influence, a sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and promote the

principles of the Goals as well as the broader development goals of the United Nations relating to promoting sustainable development at all levels.

312. Saint Petersburg Institute of Bioregulation and Gerontology of the North-Western Branch of the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences

Bridging the Gap between Research and Policy Making

The current COVID-19 pandemic has become a true challenge to the global society, surfacing the underlying potential problems and weak points of the existing policies and health care systems. Sadly, older persons are the most vulnerable group at risk in this situation, being not only exposed to health issues, but also suffering from social exclusion caused by containment measures and self-isolation. Limited access to healthcare institutions, untimely medical assistance and inappropriate measures of enforced isolation have significantly degraded the quality of life of older people worldwide.

As of the beginning of September, the COVID-19 pandemic has affected more than 27 million people in 208 countries. More than 880 thousand people have died; more than 18 million have recovered. Despite the efforts of health workers, the death toll in the world is increasing. The results obtained at the Saint Petersburg Institute of Bioregulation and Gerontology revealed the ability of the peptides synthesized herein to epigenetically regulate immune status in severe COVID-19 patients, thus preventing the development of the "cytokine storm" that occurs in severe COVID-19 cases.

Preventive treatment and boosting human vital resource using the achievements of the modern studies, particularly in the molecular-genetic mechanisms of peptides geroprotective action, could be considered as fundamental and prospective measures in the present pandemic situation. It is most important that the results of research are translated into good practices.

The involvement of all stakeholders and experts, including policy makers, research institutions, civil society, business sector, older people themselves in analyzing and implementing research findings will help in bridging the gap between policies, research and healthcare, thus improving the life quality in older age.

Research and knowledge dissemination may help in designing appropriate policy responses, thus helping in “promoting the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: Building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”.

313. Salesian Missions, Inc.

The Salesians of Don Bosco work in 135 countries for the integral development of children and youth, especially those most vulnerable and poor, responding to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development's call to "Leave No One Behind".

COVID-19 has accentuated the earlier fault-lines of inequal development and has hit the poor hardest. An additional 207 million people could be pushed into extreme poverty by 2030, bringing the total number to more than a billion.

The pandemic threatens millions of children and adolescents with food insecurity. 1.2 billion children are out of school. Globally more than 24 million children are at risk of dropping out of school. In 2019 for 310 million poor children, school was ALSO a place where their nutritional needs were met. An increase in child labour and child marriages have also been noted.

A recent study conducted in 112 countries among 12,000 youth finds the impact of the pandemic on young people to be systematic, deep and disproportionate, impacting especially young women, younger youth in both developed and lower-income countries.

Salesians of Don Bosco from the beginning of the pandemic has served the needs of 10,867,853 persons from 623,496 families in 121 countries, spending \$24,466,500: to combat hunger, provide social protection, support education through digital connectivity, online training that eventually enhance employment. We continue these services despite paucity of funds and resistance in certain countries.

We appreciate the initiatives of the United Nations, International Financial Institutions and Central banks to support the liquidity needs of the most vulnerable countries: moratorium on debt payments, targeted debt relief, fresh financing by international financial institutions, G20's Debt Service Suspension Initiative, G7 endorsement of additional Special Drawing Rights.

For a resilient, sustainable recovery and to build forward better we recommend the following:

- 1) Above provisions should continue for as long as poorer nations require them to revive their economy. They cannot be substitutes for commitments made under the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement.
- 2) Countries benefitting from these provisions should ensure debt transparency and management through sound legal accountability mechanisms, good governance and ending corruption.
- 3) While strategizing to increase blended finance and Public Private Partnerships for additional resource mobilization, pursue a development model that puts people and not profit at its center.
- 4) Social protection measures, food security, access to free vaccines must be prioritized while allocating additional resources raised.
- 5) Invest in internet infrastructure to enhance digital literacy in general and access to children of poor families.
- 6) Enhance financial inclusion and support value addition through local production .

- 7) Invest in education, skills development, employment generation to build forward better.

314. Samarathanam Trust for the Disabled

The main purpose of this written statement is to capture, analyze and articulate the critical glimpses of the issues and concerns of persons with disabilities which they underwent and raised during the COVID-19 and lockdown period so that the policy makers take appropriate measures to prevent such situation and protect them from the pandemic.

Samarathanam Trust for the Disabled exist to strive for facilitating effective and meaningful inclusion, empowerment, holistic development, promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of all persons from most excluded, poorest of the poor and deprived sections of the society with a specific focus on persons with disabilities.

The vision and mission of the organization has been achieved through a wide range of strategic interventions. The interventions included but not limited are: education, livelihoods, health care and nutrition, care for senior citizens, empowerment of deserted women and girls, environmental protection through dry waste management and recycling, sports, arts, culture, recreation and leisure; cricket for the blind, promotion of start-ups on assistive technology accelerators, rescue, relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction during disaster, conflict and humanitarian emergencies such as COVID-19 pandemic. We work on almost all the SDGs and contribute to achieve on the ground.

We call upon the policy makers to have explicit reference about persons with disabilities in all the policies, guidelines, statutes and other documents in order to protect their interest. All the guidelines should be inclusive and accessible for persons with disabilities and ensure that persons with disabilities and their representative organizations take active part in the consultative processes during the formulation of such guidelines. The disaster mitigation authorities should collect and maintain data of persons with disabilities during humanitarian emergencies. There should be an exclusive policy for persons with disabilities in order to combat the effects of emergency situation. Specific attention should be given to mental health and psycho-social disabilities. The guidelines of Jinter Agency Standing Committee (IASC) and Mental Health and Psycho Social Support (MHPSS) should be made inclusive and accessible so that they can easily deal with the situation. They and the representative organizations should be involved in the consultative process while framing such guidelines. Statistics and data is a major issue during the disaster and any kind of humanitarian emergencies. The policy makers should ensure that the appropriate authorities should have adequate data of persons with disabilities who are affected by the risk and humanitarian emergency situation.

315. Saudi Green Building Forum

Saudi Green Building Forum (SGBF)'s purpose of the statement is "Energizing Civil Societies on Sustainable Pathways." Where, women, youth and global citizenship are the essential component of cross-cutting issues in promoting Sustainable Development Goals.

The Arab region of West Asia shares a common language, culture and religion, is divided into three contiguous clusters falling in two continents, two hemispheres, and borders on five oceans and seas. Covering around 14 million square kilometres, the region covers 9 percent of the Earth's total land area, with a population of over 350 million, of which 56% is urbanised.

Confronted by extreme climate, limited natural resources, economic conditions and conflict, the environmental challenges depicted are striking.

Our review of the issues as it relates to the work is being the "honest voice" to bridge the gap between empowerment & sustainability.

We are more than 5,000 volunteers, professionals and experts who believe that independent procedures are inconclusive in facing challenges; The highlight of the gap between empowerment and sustainability to achieve desired environmental goals: Rebuilding green, resilient and long-lasting prosperity; Ensuring a comprehensive recovery that addresses inequality; And adopting consumption and production induces sustainable future from one generation to the next.

We value the commitments of the national voluntary reviews and the inputs of the Secretary-General's report undertaken by the member states of the United Nations.

SGBF in alliance with Major Groups and Other Stakeholders presenting consultation to the ECOSOC High-Level Segment, understanding the voice of non-governmental organizations to fully praised about climate change and the scarcity of natural resources to address the gaps and placing women and youth issues at the center of attention to achieve citizen well-being.

Our ambition remains to achieve a sustainable economic, social and environmental balance in line with the slogan "The future we want, the United Nations we need" on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, the response to the present we want and be able to, and to what future we need if current trends continue.

Our priorities for the future we want, the global citizens we are by addressing the green and responsible actions:

- Supporting global green economy realignment;
- Commitment to Value-Chain Approach to food, construction and textiles
- Solidarity of regional and urban cities;
- Supporting places severely affected by current crises;
- Emphasis on continuous quality education

A way moving forward proposing the expectations and policy recommendations:

We call on the international community to set up an applicable framework and fair "performance indicators" mechanisms for education, health and environment in a way that supports building the capacities of civil society:

- Catalysing science-based policy action on Sustainable Consumption and Production:
- Ensure full, equal and meaningful participation, representation and leadership;
- Economic empowerment, access to finance, decent work, equal pay, and social security;
- Disclosure of the impact on climate change and uneven natural disasters;
- Realization of prevention in health, with an emphasis on universal health coverage;
- Addressing hunger and malnutrition in cities, rural, slums and remote areas.
- Investing in Artificial Intelligence in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

316. Sense International, India**Initiatives for Inclusion of Persons with Deafblindness from India**

Being the first and only national NGO supporting development of comprehensive services for persons with Deafblindness throughout India, we are bringing hope in the lives of more than 80,000 persons with deafblindness and their families. There is no data available regarding the size of the deafblind population due to lack of a comprehensive study to determine the true incidence. Estimates from community based projects, indicate that about 0.04% of the population would be living with deafblindness in India. This highly vulnerable group is neglected most of the times including in crises situations like ongoing pandemic that has disproportionately affected Persons with deafblindness as well. The need to ensure a deafblind-inclusive response in all response and recovery plans has been highlighted by us through numerous statements and recommendations, including the global ones launched by Commonwealth Network of Youth and Children with disability in consultation with Sense International India. National Human Rights Commission of India also issued advisory to all the states, taking into consideration these recommendations.

At the 13th session of the Conference of States Parties to the CRPD, we organised a side event highlighting initiatives of Sense International India in partnership with organisations working in South East Asia region. Discussing their initiatives for deafblind mainstreaming in the 2030 Agenda, the event presented how they have contributed to development of inclusive policies and capacity-building initiatives, with particular attention to the empowerment of persons with deafblindness in the region. 59th session of the Commission for Social Development was also an important opportunity for us to highlight the problems persons with deafblindness experience in accessing technology and what they want for technology in the future. Our side event provided an opportunity to present their thoughts through a panel discussion, sharing their concerns and experiences. It will further encourage efforts to make accessible technology and influence the local authorities who are often responsible for funding the provision of technology for persons with deafblindness, to try to ensure that they are not excluded from future developments. To ensure Deafblind Youth leaders and their support persons from India have the opportunity to engage with government representatives, youth delegates and policymakers, we organised an event on the side-lines of the Economic and Social Council Youth Forum. The event provided an opportunity for youth with deafblindness to share issues of relevance in context of implementation of the 2030 Agenda and also on the sustainable development goals under review in the High-level Political Forum in 2021.

317. Settlement Services International Incorporated

Settlement Services International supports newcomers and other Australians to achieve their full potential. Settlement Services International works with all people who have experienced vulnerability, including refugees, people seeking asylum and culturally and linguistically diverse communities, to build capacity and enable them to overcome inequality.

Settlement Services International is committed to influencing and developing policy, advocacy, capacity building and developing strong partnerships nationally and internationally. The organisation is aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), working towards building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Settlement Services International is committed to promoting social and economic dimensions of sustainable development through the delivery of programs, effective partnerships and working to strengthen the capacity of the sector globally. As a partner of the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network, Settlement Services International supports the work of locally-led initiatives across the Asia Pacific region to amplify the voices of refugees and migrants.

COVID-19 has had large implications on the most vulnerable groups including, migrants and refugees, women, persons with disabilities and older persons. As a community organisation providing refugee settlement and other social services, including economic inclusion and disability services, Settlement Services International is experiencing the impacts of COVID-19 on communities and working to respond through advocacy and service delivery.

Settlement Services International in 2020 reached out to newcomers and communities in Australia through consultations to understand what they perceive as the challenges and listened to their hopes for recovery. A pulse survey was also conducted to collate data on COVID-19 impacts on people seeking asylum; with 62% of individuals interviewed indicating they had gone without meals, 76% could not pay rent/mortgages and 52% had to forgo their medication. Overall, inequalities have increased in Australia, with devastating effects on refugees and migrants. Increased inequalities have also had an impact on implementing other SDGs, including SDG 1 on no poverty and SDG 5 on achieving gender equality.

Findings from research conducted by Settlement Services International have informed the organisation's advocacy efforts, actions and goals in working towards the principle of "ensuring that no one is left behind" during the COVID-19 pandemic. In partnership with other organisations and civil society, we called on the government to "build back better" in promoting resilient recovery from the pandemic and to resume refugee resettlement as it remains a life-saving solution.

We recommend working in partnership with whole-of-society in order to respond to identified needs. Settlement Services International is committed to activating its resources to reduce inequality and to continue advocating for increased solutions in working towards the 2030 Agenda.

318. Shuchona Foundation

The outbreak of COVID-19 is having an enormous global impact on the progress of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). One of the most at-risk populations during this pandemic are persons with disabilities, those with mental health care needs, and climate-vulnerable communities. To achieve the SDGs, we are focusing on prevention, while working on overall preparedness and a shift in action in addressing ongoing crises and future ones.

Shuchona Foundation is a not-for-profit advocacy, research, and capacity-building organization specializing in neurodevelopmental disorders and mental health. It aims to develop innovative, low-cost sustainable programs that can be implemented within the existing national development infrastructure.

At the beginning of the pandemic, Shuchona Foundation developed video content to promote mental health and well-being. We also assisted in coordination between Government organizations and donors to ensure the distribution of relief materials to over 3500 families of persons with disabilities in different parts of Bangladesh.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health has ensured the inclusion of priority mental health services addressing crises like a pandemic, into the National Mental Health Strategic Plan 2020-2030. As an integral part of achieving SDG 3.4, Shuchona Foundation has been working with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of Bangladesh to develop the plan that is currently under approval.

The Foundation has been developing a comprehensive school mental health program for students in collaboration with the Ministry of Education. In our role as technical experts, we assisted in developing the mental health orientation guidelines and training manual.

During the pandemic, Shuchona Foundation used the platform of the Climate Vulnerable Forum to address the needs of the climate-vulnerable population to ensure their resiliency, safety, and overall wellbeing. We worked on international policy responses for the marginalised population including those with disabilities and in need of mental health care within the climate conversation.

The Foundation supported the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief of the country to develop disaster responses fully inclusive of persons with disabilities in achieving SDG 13. A pool of responders were trained on Crisis Preparedness and Management for Mental Health to provide mental health support in the time following a disaster.

We recommend developing transformative pathways embedded in different policies and actions on the following aspects:

- Capacity-building of staff needs to be implemented across health, social and educational sectors to address mental health.
- Employment opportunities for persons with disabilities should be prioritized to make educational facilities and vocational programs more inclusive, encourage employers about hiring them, and make workplaces safe for them.

- Accountability to uphold existing commitments towards climate change initiatives should be the utmost priority.

319. Sikh Human Rights Group

COVID-19 has led to considerable disruption in communities and development agendas. It has devastated communities and pushed poverty further and weakened resilience. Recovery will be a hard challenge. Communities need to be empowered and trusted to lift a lot of the weight to recovery with assistance from State and international institutions. One of the obstacles is the universalist approach to development, ecology and environment.

Consequently, we will address the international community on matters pertaining to SDG 13 (climate action) and SDG 17 (partnerships in depth).

We firmly believe that there is a tendency amongst the international environmental protection community and/or prominent environmental protection organisations and agencies, towards universalising ethical values and attempting to form environmental protection Conventions, Treaties, Regulations and Agreements based on a false assumption that there is one universal set of collective values. This type of so-called universalism is the idea that one universal ideology of ethics can justifiably permeate all International Agreements and is therefore directly applicable to all civilisations and cultures around the world. That this universalistic outlook is the key to solving all of the environmental issues that currently persist around the globe.

However, what the above model fails to include is the fact that different people, cultures, civilisations and countries have different approaches, which also change over time, to political, economic, social policies based on historical and cultural influences that determine their governance and/or their individual approaches towards tackling environmental issues.

Modern environmental thinking is not the first time that human beings have thought about their relationship with the environment. Therefore, we need to stop assuming that environmental threats have suddenly dawned on us and that humanity has lived in a state of blissful ignorance until the sudden advancement of modern technology, lifestyles and environmental science.

Almost all cultures, civilizations and community belief systems have some concepts, rules and taboos that can inform us about the human relationship with the environment. However, what has occurred through dominance of colonial legacies is that many environmental organisations and agencies marginalize the wisdoms that cultures and beliefs carry about human relationships with nature and which were embedded in traditions, customs, festivals and outlooks. Therefore, in pursuit of imposing a universal rule of law and colonial mentality as a philosophical basis to the political doctrine underpinning our global societies, dominant culture has displaced and disenfranchised peoples' own value systems that have served the close coexistence between nature and human societies since the dawn of humankind.

Therefore, we respectfully submit that it is only when people rediscover the reverence for nature, biodiversity, and other life forms in their own way, through their own customs, beliefs and cultures that our global societies will act with greater passion for the protection of our environment and move away from what is currently found under the prevailing utilitarian, legalistic and rationalistic approach. This submission is further supported by the fact that none of the biodiversity related targets with a 2020 timeline have been met.

320. Sister to Sister One in the Spirit Inc

This is written to address COVID-19 and the tremendous, negative impact it has had on the world. A global pandemic which has presented challenges with lasting effects to attaining the Sustainable Development Goals. Our work as an NGO is to empower women, and with the effects of the pandemic, we are committed to help them through the devastating impact it has had on their lives. It has compounded the level of poverty because many women have suffered a loss of employment; through which has resulted in higher unemployment rates. As this pandemic has soared throughout the nation, people find themselves struggling financially. They have been fearful of the ominous threats of eviction. Throughout this infectious disease crisis, which can be draining on an individual, there have been many whose health have been adversely affected. Their mental status has declined. They've been haunted by the symptoms of depression which has negatively impacted their ability to perform menial tasks. The overwhelming pressures of schools being closed, and mothers forced to home school their children, has made a major contribution to those who are suffering mental decline. The purview of a state of depression brings about many concerns to the surface. A person's mental illness can cause them to undergo many life-altering experiences and challenges, including increased stress levels. One of the challenges to consider would be the effect that a parent's depression has on their children after a year of being on a mandatory lockdown. Another challenge would include the inability to interact socially with other beings. Unfortunately, the impact of a pandemic, such as the COVID-19, can severely affect a person's mental well-being if they're suffering with bouts of depression.

Operating under the purview of our NGO organization, promoting sustainable resiliency among the depressed, to build an inclusive, effective path to recovery and/or to support the health and well-being of the individual, it is important that we must move toward eliminating the stigma that is attached to depression. Those who are stigmatized because of depression, can often times find themselves in a state of denial. Although some may not realize they're in a depressive state. Furthermore, an effective path to recovery can be implemented through devising a plan to make personal contact with anyone who has been affected by the pandemic to make certain they're socially connected. That, in itself, can be instrumental in driving the economy, as those persons are gradually ushered back into the workplace. Promoting a healthy lifestyle, by getting a substantial amount of rest, exercising regularly and meditation, during this COVID-19 pandemic could prove to be essential in helping depressed people to move forward in this crisis.

321. Sisters of Mercy of the Americas

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with its emphasis on “leaving no one behind,” is a vital roadmap for recovery from the pandemic, and a guide to resilience to future crises. Country responses will have to deviate far from “business as usual,” leveraging this moment to adopt more equitable and sustainable ways forward. This is the core message of ‘Hope in a Time of Pandemic - Responding to COVID-19 through a Mercy Lens,’ a publication that contains experiences and analysis from the Mercy World. The report links grassroots experiences with theological reflection and human rights analysis, revealing systemic inequalities in social, economic, political and environmental areas. It reveals the interconnectedness of people and planet and highlights stories of extraordinary kindness and resilience.

The report invites collaboration and recommends actions to individuals, civil society partners and governments for more just and inclusive responses to the pandemic. These recommendations (in line with existing commitments under the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement and relevant international human rights law) cover the issues of physical and mental health, social protection, human mobility, livelihoods, homelessness, political institutions, food and water, the environment, and gender-based violence.

The pandemic has highlighted the urgency of addressing inequalities that leave women, girls, migrants and other marginalized people to constantly bear the brunt of crises. As the effects of climate change continue to accelerate, the 2030 Agenda must be central to building systems to protect our communities from future shocks. In order to protect people’s rights and build more resilient societies, governments must implement recovery policies that uphold the values of dignity and solidarity, remedy the inequalities that have been amplified by the pandemic, redistribute resources and direct us towards a more sustainable economy. Governments need to show leadership and political will by investing in sustainable development, not only in times of crisis, but also to be better prepared for future disasters.

While deeply painful, the COVID-19 pandemic has been an opportunity for us to embrace new ways of working together to shift power, improve accountability, build social connections and strengthen trust in order to be more responsive to the needs of the people we serve. We remain committed to pursuing solutions based on existing good practices that highlight the power and expertise of people at the grassroots and support women’s leadership. We will continue to share models and strategies that support capacity building and resilience, and will unite with other stakeholders to design and implement a new, transformative social contract that places people and the planet at the center and lays the foundation for just and sustainable societies.

322. Smile Foundation

Smile Foundation, established in 2002, is an Indian NGO with a national presence, which directly benefits over 1.5 million children and their families every year, through 400 welfare projects in education, healthcare, livelihood and women's empowerment, in over 2000 villages and slums across 25 states of India. It aims to catalyze sustainable change in the lives of focused group with a life cycle approach of development, engage civil society globally and in India for collectively working towards a Civic Driven Change process, adopt highest standards of governance, use technology and innovation to achieve scale and impact in serving poor and establish a sound track record to emerge as a globally acclaimed development organization.

Smile contributed towards Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 through its various projects for nutrition support and education of children, employability training, sensitizing communities for gender equality, women empowerment, maternal and child healthcare, safe motherhood counselling, healthcare services and improved health-seeking behavior.

Smile Foundation, with its welfare interventions focused on children and their families, responds to the call of humanity in times of critical conditions of India. The world today is facing an unprecedented challenge in the form of COVID-19. Smile Foundation with the help of its NGO partners has been involved in distribution of dry ration and essential kits to the underprivileged and vulnerable families, Tele-counselling, Tele-Medicine Consultation, Mobile Telemedicine, COVID Sample Collection MMU services across India.

COVID-19 have had severe impact on education of children. Thus in order to minimise the gap in access to education specifically digital education, Smile Foundation has provided tablets for online learning to girl scholars under the Swabhiman programme and have introduced blended learning model in cluding tab lab model, m-education for school students. With focus of employment shifting to healthcare, e-commerce and logistics, Smile Foundation has been training the Youth in these field through its STeP programme. Smile has also been providing entrepreneurship training to women to make them self-sustainable in this hour of crisis.

However, all these efforts have been faced with challenges due to COVID-19 such as on ground implementation of services and activities due to restricted movement and lockdown, high risk of project staff being infected, donor acquisition, reduced probability of business turn up due to corporate funds being diverted to other COVID-19 activities, beneficiary drop out due to large scale migration etc. However, Smile Foundation as an organisation has tried innovative methods and practices to mitigate the risks and challenges in order to reach the maximum number of beneficiaries and meet their needs.

323. S. M. Sehgal Foundation (India)

The COVID-19 pandemic surfaced grave inequalities especially across the developing world. This statement brings to light demonstrable evidence of work done by S M Sehgal Foundation in India through the pandemic, learnings of which can be used to devise strategies to ensure that 'no one is left behind'. The foundation, through its three pronged strategy works on making rural communities food and water secure while also ensuring local participation of communities in the development work to ensure sustainability. To tackle the impact of the pandemic, focus was shifted on the knowledge, attitude and practice dimensions to ensure that communities are equipped to handle local outbreaks. In a diverse country like India, contextually relevant strategies became ever more important which also gave rise to the importance, data and evidence has for better preparedness to handle such calamities. Amidst this, digital inequality emerged as a critical factor for large populations and vulnerable groups being unable to cope with the sudden lockdowns and inaccessibility to basic facilities. The gravest impact was visible on children who did not have access to digital devices and therefore, were severed off from the digital transition of their curriculum.

In this backdrop, the transform lives program of the foundation came handy. The program aims to make adolescents living in villages digitally literate by imparting basic digital literacy skills along with life skills education to build confidence and enhance decision-making ability. When the pandemic struck and the consequent lockdown was brought into force, these children were able to cope with their studies by joining online classes along with browsing the internet to bridge the gaps of in-class learning. Such an impact was able to address the digital learning gap that would have emerged otherwise. Additionally, a digitally literate adolescent at home also meant parents and other adults in the household having access to basic information about the pandemic, resources to access if anyone falls ill and other related information. These adolescents also worked as a cohort that could train fellow peers and served as champions of change within their communities.

Transform lives program is one such intervention that helped build community resilience and was able to equip the communities through building capacities of a small group. To further the mandate that no one is left behind, it is imperative that inequalities and vulnerabilities are adjudged on the basis of data and context and interventions are designed accordingly. A data-driven approach to development can be sustainable given it addresses the embedded needs and inherent inequalities.

324. Social Development International (SDI)

This written statement considers the inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda by addressing the urgent issue in Cameroon and the rest of the world during and after the COVID-19, namely, educational equity. In the statement, problems and needs of students in Cameroon would be identified and discussed; solutions and policy recommendations for policymakers, schools, and students would be explored.

Overview of the Issue

Due to the spread of COVID-19, more than 31.000 schools with an overall number of 6 million students in Cameroon were closed. Therefore, digital learning proves to be critical. In low-resourced areas like Cameroon, the methods for the preparations of students should be carefully considered. In order to better implement the Global Training Academy, Social Development International's research team has conducted a report outlining the challenges of digital education and paid special attention to the development of radio stations and the possible solutions for promoting educational equity throughout the nation.

Recommendations

Firstly, educational radio content can be expressed through storytelling. Many studies have been conducted and found the effectiveness of the use of storytelling as a teaching methodology). Specifically, students are able to have enhanced experiences with gaining knowledge because descriptive oral language can help children to have a more comprehensive understanding. That is to say, storytelling will make the learning process easier for children if we use storytelling in educational radio.

Secondly, it is worth considering how to make education radio individualized. In the learner-centered environment, content should digitally be constructed and customized to meet learners' needs, including their dynamic and changing roles from novice to expert. In the future, educational radio developers could consider how to integrate learning and strategies to help learners become more self-directed. Developers also should try to assign some pre-assessments and ongoing assessments of students' background knowledge in certain accessible areas, so developers can adjust educational radio content accordingly.

Lastly, concerning the solutions to the educational problems, it is crucial to have joint efforts in dealing with this question. From the perspective of the government and school, it is important to increase the fundraising, implement targeted capital investment in the education domain for equipment, teachers' training, and improve the local conditions to make them appropriate for electricity and internet connection. One of the recommendations to be claimed is implementing step-by-step integration of digital software from urban to rural areas once the regions' capacity will be enough to receive those innovations.

325. Society for Economic Empowerment and Entrepreneurship Development

The Society for Economic Empowerment and Entrepreneurship Development welcome the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), most especially we acknowledge the theme for the current discussion as “Building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development” which is directed to sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

It is evident that the COVID-19 pandemic created unprecedented disruption on businesses and institutions both locally and globally including heavy responsibilities on nations’ economy which were greatly impacted adversely. It further exacerbated the vulnerability of small businesses, since they are highly dependent on short-term cash flows to fund operating expenses. Governments around the world focused mainly on protecting people’s health and the economy through stimulus and relief packages, at the expense of given much consideration to entrepreneurship, this has given much concern to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The impact of the pandemic with the view of realization of the 17 SDGs, we at the Society for Economic Empowerment and Entrepreneurship Development found it expedient, and call for a style of leadership that must be entrepreneurial, visionary, ethical, and focuses on long-term goals without compromising values and principles to effectively manage resources as means of achieving the SDGs. This leadership should be motivated by a vision of entrepreneurship in order to achieve the goals in the midst of competitive businesses, environmental factors and involve all stakeholders in the governance process. The effects of this kind of leadership coupled with coordination and participation of all concerned would potentially lead to improvements in nations’ economy create efficiency and resilience, social cohesion, environmental responsibility and economic growth. These remain the central basic indicators to building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. Moreover, entrepreneurship and leadership are found central and interconnects to promoting economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and combating the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Entrepreneurship being a key driver towards the structural economic transformation envisioned in the global goals, has the potential to create millions of jobs; generate innovations in fields such as market analysis, risk analysis, feasibility analysis, social and environment, human resources and commercial and technical feasibility. It is directed at enhancing markets, skills and expand business and establishing increasing jobs, protect the environment and assist local communities into sustainability and resiliency.

Therefore, we join the HLPF to persistent evolve measures by organs of the United Nations to compel national governments to consider the current challenge with view for an effective leadership and entrepreneurship that can attain sustainable development and combat the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic. This is necessary, as evidently canvassed from the fact from the UN estimate that the pandemic could almost double the number of people suffering acute hunger, pushing it to more than a quarter of a billion as of the year 2020.

326. Society to Support Children Suffering from Cancer (MAHAK)

Beyond a health crisis for all people around the world, COVID-19 pandemic has proved to be a crisis with devastating consequences for children suffering from cancer.

Accordingly, agile decision-making with sustainable results was required to keep them safe from Coronavirus while maintaining their treatment without interruption. On the first days, their access to treatment services has been disrupted by COVID-19 especially for children who had to refer to hospital from other cities.

In such situation which the treatment children are affected by their family's circumstances; MAHAK as an organization which is concerned about achieving the Sustainable Development Goal 3 -Good Health and Wellbeing- according to its mission, devised painstaking plans and took measures to manage the situation in an agile manner.

During the past 30 years, MAHAK has never let any variable hinder the treatment process of its children so, we focused on optimizing the situation for cancer-stricken children and their families by distributing personal protective equipment and teaching them about how to protect themselves, providing them with required medications and dispatched them by national express courier service. In addition, we utilized digital platforms to provide 24/7 psychological services for families.

Moreover, remote work packages were defined and all the non-medical staff that had to work onsite was moved to another building separate from the hospital to avoid any interaction between them and medical staff and children.

Another measure taken by MAHAK to keep its donors safe was shutting down its fundraising offices and mass-publicized its online donation channels in addition to renewing its website with donors profiles for making faster and easier donations.

Looking ahead, we will continue to focus on the wellbeing of children and their families around Iran, continue to support them and manage any new challenges with continuous love and support of our supporters. During the past 30 years we have strived to continue the service provision process to cancer-stricken children all over our country during all circumstances of war, peace, famine and finally embargos and the COVID-19. We have created partnerships with donors who live outside of our country to provide the required medications for our children with the supervision of pediatric oncologists and through legal channels. We have always clung to the notion of health for all and provided a secure and serene situation for cancer-stricken children and their families so that they will have no concern other than passing their treatment process.

327. Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem (OSMTH)

The Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem (OSMTH) supports the Sustainable Development Goals and the well-being of all peoples through sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. OSMTH believes that well-being will be achieved through creating an inclusive and effective path for promotion of the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

OSMTH identifies eight key policy areas that will promote a sustainable and resilient recovery. They are:

- Availability of clean water
- Affordable food prices
- Affordable energy costs
- Respect for property ownership rights
- Affordable land prices
- Access to support services
- Freedom of mobility
- Tolerance among religions and people

A speedy recovery can be encouraged through the themes and focus areas of the 2021 High Level Political Forum, specifically the emphasis on Sustainable Development Goals:

SDG 1 - No Poverty

SDG 2 - No Hunger

SDG 3 - Good Health and Well-Being

SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth

SDG 10 - Reduced Inequalities

SDG 12 - Responsible Consumption and Production

SDG 13 - Climate Action

SDG 16 - Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

SDG 17 - Partnerships In Depth

Emphasis on these SDGs aligns with the eight key policy areas identified by OSMTH.

Economic empowerment of all, coupled with the inalienable and unencumbered right to earn a decent standard of living and pursue well-being, will help all peoples achieve a sustainable and resilient recovery in a post-COVID-19 pandemic world. It is vital that governments allow for self-sustainability through access to clean and safe resources at affordable prices, freedom of mobility, and the ability to buy, own, and inherit assets.

In partnership with civil society organizations worldwide and with the private sector re-open and return to a freer way of life, there is an opportunity to mitigate against future risks posed by pandemics. The lessons that have been learned can now be applied. Therefore, we call on all governments, in partnership with the private sector and civil society organizations worldwide, to facilitate the exchange of scientific and medical information on the prevention and treatment of

infectious diseases. In doing so, OSMTH believes that all societies can foster, and will benefit from, a culture of openness and accessibility.

In light of both a fast-aging population in many regions – where the elderly suffer tragic circumstances as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic – and a rapidly changing economy – where, apart from a select few, many suffered – we firmly believe that the world faces extreme vulnerability, but also, immense opportunity. Now is the time to re-assert a culture of openness, free thought and belief, merit, and social connections so that we can support a diverse 21st century economy that fosters sustainability, resilience, and perhaps most importantly, opportunity, for all.

In keeping with the principle of "ensuring that no one is left behind", OSMTH advocates for the inclusion in these efforts not only of settled populations, but also of refugees and the internally displaced, particularly in the Middle East and North Africa Region.

HLPF 2021 is a very noble endeavor and we, as a NGO, welcome the opportunity to support its efforts to assure a sustainable and resilient recovery.

328. Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust

Unprecedented Times, Transformational Possibilities: Leaving No One Behind

The possibility of achieving all sustainable goals under the UN's 2030 Agenda has been put back many years by the profoundly disruptive effects of COVID-19 pandemic. Yet, the Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust has risen to this challenge and responded by providing free advanced healthcare, free food, free education, and other vital humanitarian needs to the affected communities, all whilst living up to its fundamental philosophy of "Love All, Serve All".

The inadequacy of global health systems and the gaps in structural inequalities are all laid bare by this pandemic, leading to an increase in food insecurity and an overall decrease in people's physical and mental health well-being. This is a catastrophic situation, a perfect storm that must be addressed urgently by the world community. We echo the words of the Secretary-General of the UN that "we have ignored inequality for too long, putting the poor at greater risk during the pandemic".

It is a truism that in all our apparent diversity, we are all bound by the oneness of humanity. In ensuring that no one is left behind, and in the spirit of our stated values of love, peace and compassion, our response in assisting the most vulnerable has been the following:

- 1) Our super-speciality hospital set up a dedicated quarantine centre and a free fully equipped 125 bed COVID-19 hospital.
- 2) Our sophisticated "Central Research Instruments Facility" developed a rapid COVID-19 test kit "SAIC-19 Ag Kit", at a cost of US\$150,000 which was approved and scientifically validated by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) as being satisfactory for use.
- 3) We donated a cumulative amount of US\$1.5 million equally to the Indian Central and State governments for their respective emergency COVID-19 related activities. Additionally, we donated US\$300,000 worth of essential medical and PPE supplies to 14 quarantine centres in our district.
- 4) The e-learning platform (Vidya Vahini), free for teachers to provide effective on-line content, is provided to Government of India for general use by teachers all over India.
- 5) During the initial "lockdown" and the subsequent mass movement of "migrant labour" crisis in India, we provided free food for an equivalent of 1 Million people.
- 6) Upon UNICEF's request, our volunteers are being trained to sensitize communities on COVID-appropriate behaviour through digital and social media.

Our humanitarian activities have been highly effective and successfully implemented, and we believe that this "blueprint" can be emulated regionally and globally by others.

We applaud the work of WHO in rolling out COVID-19 Global Vaccine Access program in developing countries. However with "vaccine nationalism" creating peaceful, just and inclusive societies becomes an uphill battle.

Unprecedented and catastrophic events call for unprecedented responses. Partnerships, we believe, are the glue that holds SDGs together, and we call upon the global community of civil society,

NGOs, Governments and private sector to join hands for the common good, and be guided by human values and ethics in ensuring that we “build back better” post COVID-19.

329. Stevenson Holistic Care Foundation

The object of this statement is to stimulate a global review by nations on the implementation of Bio-rights model of environmental conservation for sustainable development in a manner that it will actually increase resilience and adaptive capacity among vulnerable groups towards adapting effectively to climate risks especially in developing countries.

From the hindsight of our on-going post-evaluation work on the piloted Bio-rights projects in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria (between 2012 and 2016), there is need for a reviewed global mechanism of monitoring implementations of Bio-rights initiatives in order to uphold best practices which are recipes to promoting sustainability. As a financial mechanism linking poverty alleviation and environmental conservation through incentive tools structured to stir extrinsic and intrinsic motivations for participation of local people in conservation activities while embracing alternative livelihoods supported by the project, a larger proportion of the project fund (>70%) is to be allocated to the livelihood component as a recommended standard. But the Bio-rights as implemented in some communities of the Niger Delta region of Nigeria had less than 40% of project fund invested in this component compared to overheads. Without sustainable alternative livelihoods provided for these rural poor whose traditional livelihoods are heavily dependent on wetlands, sustainability of resource conservation (through 'wise-use') and by extension adaptive capacity of the people remain largely in doubt despite enormous financial resources committed by funders.

Due to paltry funds committed to setting up alternative livelihood activities like aquaculture, poultry and plantain farming for these rural people (especially women), they are finding it extremely difficult to make a living from these investments over these years. They have been struggling to survive. More so, adverse effects of recent lockdowns and economic paralysis occasioned by COVID-19 pandemic have worsened their situations, a lot have plunged back into deeper poverty resulting to resumed anthropogenic pressure on the wetlands being protected. Survival, business viability and income sustainability were elements significantly down-played in these investments due to the defect in the implementation framework.

We expect a revisit of the project areas and revamping of the revolving fund schemes to fit purpose of supporting actions that will increase adaptation of local people to changing climate while alleviating poverty.

We therefore recommend that;

In terms of policy and actions, standard implementation framework of Bio-rights initiatives of environmental conservation in developing countries should be adhered to forthwith. More of the project funds should be allocated to alternative livelihood components than project overheads.

There is need to reset existing mechanisms in order to strengthen monitoring of globally-funded projects of this nature (geared towards improving resilience and adaptive capacity of the vulnerable to changing climate) especially in developing nations. This will not only ensure effective fund allocation to project components for good results but guide utilization of funds converted to community-owned revolving loan schemes for set purpose.

330. Stichting Soham Baba Mission

We, the people of the Soham Babajee Missions, have established the Eco-Temple Village “Billamangal Dhaam”, an integrated cultural landscape around a 2300 year old Banyan Tree in West Bengal, India, wherein horticulture, agriculture, scientific education, capacity building workshops and living in nature are practised predominantly. In our Eco-Village, we provide food, clothes and medicines to hundreds of thousands of people every year.

We strongly believe that our Eco-Temple Village project is a perfect model where the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals are implemented.

Our views to cope with the crucial pandemic of Corona virus, for today and tomorrow:

- 1) We need to strengthen the immune system, especially, the individual immune metabolic response.
- 2) To combat with all the coming mutations of the Corona virus, empowering the individual immune system, spending more time in Nature and maintaining utmost hygiene standards are the most important principles to follow. They seem simple, yet they are the expressions of a bigger philosophy that will show the path to a sustainable and resilient global recovery of the crucial pandemic situation of COVID19; the measurement: how to reconnect with Mother Nature.
- 3) The best way to overcome the Corona virus pandemic is to plant more trees and flowers in our cities, villages and communities on a global scale.
- 4) The reason is that every human being needs to be in the Nature. Because the most important concern with COVID-19 is the insufficiency of the oxygen saturation level in the blood. Therefore, we will be saved by living amidst nature and greenery.
- 5) The laws of the human body do not differ so much from the laws of nature. The Yogis in their caves in the Himalayas envisioned and embodied the way of sustainable living and circular economy thousands of years ago.
- 6) Hygiene is equally important. There needs to be a focus on capacity building and hygiene awareness campaigns in developing and least developed countries. Simple things like washing hands with soap, coughing in the elbow, social distancing continues to be a challenge even in developed countries because people lack the discipline or do not have the requisite awareness and knowledge.
- 7) The policy makers, Dignitaries of Governments and the United Nations should focus their efforts in the key areas of capacity building, education and policy making to create Circular Economy to fight against the crucial pandemic.
- 8) We need to include the spiritual World Leaders. It will lead our life towards another dimension of the global consciousness.

9) Only when every individual, each Country, the UN, the Private Sector, Civil Society and the Governments will work together as a whole, with a clear focus and intention, we will be able to change the World.

331. Stiftelsen Stockholm International Water Institute

Water is at the heart of sustainable development and resilience-building - it is necessary for nature, people, and the economy to function and thrive. As such, water provides a holistic roadmap to inform global COVID-19 recovery and resilience efforts. Addressing the water implications - co-benefits and tradeoffs - across all 17 SDG goals is critical to ensuring that the recovery from COVID-19 and other future pandemics is sustainable, resilient, and equitable.

COVID-19 exposed the continued neglect of our water infrastructure, magnifying long-standing social and environmental stressors as well as economic inequities. While SDG 6 is not one of the SDGs under review at this year's HLPF, progress on SDG 6 is inextricably linked to the successful implementation of all the SDGs. The COVID-19 pandemic clearly demonstrates the importance of ensuring water and sanitation for all for public health and resilience at the individual and societal levels.

Water governance in the 21st century must address our 21st century environmental, economic, and health challenges. During the 2021 HLPF, global leaders, innovators, and changemakers can activate this shift in three ways:

1. Safeguard access to WASH for COVID-19 relief: food security, health, and well-being are not possible without adequate and equitable access to water, sanitation, and hygiene. Water, sanitation, and hygiene are essential tools to limit the spread of COVID-19. In order to limit the spread of infection, access to WASH needs to be improved, especially for poor and marginalized groups and communities. In the longer term, reliable, equitable, and affordable access to WASH must strengthen resilience against future pandemics and help lift people out of poverty.
2. Protect nature and water resources for people and the planet: COVID-19 highlights that our current relationship with nature and natural resources is not a sustainable one. The focus of COVID-19 recovery efforts must be on establishing a new pact with nature that ensures the sustainable use of natural resources, including water resources, that meet people's needs and those of the planet.
3. Integrate holistic approaches to sustainable development: accelerated action is needed to reach all SDGs and other global agendas such as the Paris Agreement. We will not achieve our global goals if we continue working in siloed approaches and isolated sectors. Cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approaches need to become the new norm for sustainable development.

We are at an inflection point. In this decisive decade, we must all make a concerted effort to build a better, hardier, and more resilient society. The global community's immediate task will prioritize human well-being, economic security, and planetary health. We call on all leaders and stakeholders to pivot toward more resilient services, solutions, and sectors. This is an enormous task that requires us to imagine change at the systems level, one that looks at all SDGs as they truly are -- holistically and deeply interlinked with one another.

332. Stroke Association SupportNetwork - Ghana

A year ago now, many countries around the world reported their first case of corona virus (Covid-19). Thankfully at the time, in Ghana as an example, the government competently rolled out a series of containment measures to stop the spread of the disease in communities across the country. As the COVID-19 devastated the economic, social and environmental infrastructures around the world, it at the same time exposed massive inequalities in living standards, health and education, particularly in Lower and Middle Income Countries (LMIC). For example, in Ghana, the pandemic revealed huge health inequalities, prompting government to pledge to build a district hospital in every region of the country as part of its Agenda 111 (construction of hospitals in all 16 regions of Ghana). We have also seen our economy, like many around the world, devastated, affecting the lives and livelihoods of individuals as corporations failed due to an unprecedented economic downturn. A year on, and many countries are still reeling from the economic, social and environmental effects of the pandemic. Even with the advent of the new vaccines now available, there is a need for governments everywhere to plan for sustainable and resilient recovery from the pandemic so as to chart a path that promotes sustainable development.

A plan to achieve sustainable and resilient recovery from COVID-19 and which promotes economic, social and environmental development should focus on the areas of inequalities revealed by the pandemic:

1. Health
2. Economic
3. Social/Environmental (Issues of poverty)

On health, governments need to have a long-term investment plan to ensure everyone in the populations have full access to all aspects of health care that includes primary, secondary and tertiary health care. Ensuring that governments prioritized the establishment of Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) in communities where access to rehabilitation services and support for persons living with Stroke (NCDs) and Disability are major challenge.

On the economy, governments need to implement an investment programme that encourages small businesses and the informal economy to thrive with much focus on empowering and supporting small holder farmers (focus on agriculture to prevent hunger).

On social deprivation in an environment of “ have and have nots”, governments need to develop and implement social support systems to address the poverty trap of vulnerable people (women and children) in society. Such as empowerment and livelihood support programmes for the most affected groups, i.e. aged, persons living with NCDs and disability, women, and children.

333. Structural Analysis of Cultural Systems

As our organisation's work focuses on indigenous cultures, we would like to point out some aspects that are relevant with regard to the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected indigenous peoples to different degrees, depending on their contextual and living conditions. Even though the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) grants indigenous peoples the “right to the lands (..) that they possess by reason of traditional ownership” (Article 26), it is only the exception that indigenous peoples still live in their homelands. Rather, most indigenous peoples have been evicted from their lands and live in different areas today. As a consequence, they cannot practice their traditional ways of life, including their millennia-old hunting and gathering techniques. Traditional cultural knowledge can no longer be preserved and passed on to the next generations. Instead, indigenous peoples are directly confronted with the industrial culture and forced to adapt to it in order to survive.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the living conditions of many indigenous peoples have worsened severely. One example is the Batwa people of Uganda. Having been evicted from their forests since the 1990s, they survived mainly on begging and feeding themselves from garbage. Only occasionally, some Batwa were allowed to access their forest for a few hours for hunting and gathering to prevent them from starving. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the Batwa were confined to the shanties where they had been forced to stay, and even forbidden to go out to search for food from garbage.

Only a minority of indigenous peoples still live in their own lands, where they are safe from the impact of globalisation and less exposed to the COVID-19 pandemic. Realising their rights to return to their homelands and to revitalise their culture means not only to protect their traditional knowledge, but actually to prevent the extinction of indigenous lives and their cultures. Therefore, governments should be urged to immediately apply the rights that indigenous peoples have been granted by the UNDRIP, thus ensuring the principle that no one is left behind.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had negative impacts on the implementation of most of the SDGs under review in the 2021 HLPF, with indigenous peoples proving to be most vulnerable. Yet, we should take a lesson from those few indigenous peoples who during this pandemic, and also beyond, were protected by decentralisation, which also grants the maintenance of cultural diversity. With regard to resilience and sustainability, it can be recommended that policies and measures, in order to be efficient, should take a different view on partnership and inclusiveness. Rather than including indigenous peoples into globalisation, we should consider accepting and respecting indigenous cultures. In contrast to the industrial civilisation, indigenous peoples still know how to live in, with and from nature without destroying it. This knowledge is of inestimable value. If we want to stop the global warming and the destruction of our planet, we must be willing to learn from indigenous peoples.

334. Sulabh International

In the light of SGD 6 and the COVID-19 crisis, Sulabh International has been running sustained health and hygiene public campaigns to raise awareness about COVID-19 pandemic, as well providing critical WASH and housekeeping services in COVID-19 hospitals. Sulabh mission and vision is to empower citizens by giving them access to clean drinking water, clean sanitation facilities and promoting menstrual hygiene management. Sulabh strongly believes that securing equitable access to clean water, sanitation coupled with safe disposal of solid and liquid waste is critical in promoting good health and hygiene of all, and is imperative in achieving other vital SDGs. Sulabh with all its partners intends to work on a three part environmental transition — brown (water, sanitation and environmental health), grey (air and water pollution) and green (climate change). It is already supporting participatory and bottom up adaptive solutions in the state of West Bengal to respond to local water contamination and climate risks. Strengthening WASH infrastructure and services will enhance the dignity and human rights of all citizens, especially the poor and vulnerable sections of the society. We are also pleased to inform that Sulabh had been recognised by UN-HABITAT as one of their official COVID-19 campaign partners.

In line with the above objectives, Sulabh engages at the policy level discussions in its capacity as the national co-ordinator of WASH sub-group constituted by the Government of India. Sulabh has been advocating and piloting successful livelihood programmes and working with various stakeholder in creating gender responsive public provisioning during COVID-19 pandemic. Building on organisation's national network, Sulabh International will endeavour to establish linkages with all the schemes and entitlements of social protection and supporting marginalised sections of the society affected by the pandemic. Alongside, Sulabh is continuously engaging with all stakeholders including state governments in India. Its multipronged approach is about giving voice and agency to the voiceless, vulnerable and marginalised populations. Sulabh will further strengthen its advocacy programmes deliver on the above objectives.

There is a demand to skill up people in the sanitation sector. As a sector that is in the heart of the Sustainable Development Goals, sanitation requires a range of skills from civil and water engineers, masons, planners and communication specialists and grass roots workers (SDG 8). Sulabh as a major sanitation implementing agency, has trained thousands of workers in each district in India and overseas in skills related to sanitation and thus played a pivotal role in the skilling process of workers engaged in the sanitation sector in the last 50 years. Sulabh also puts thrust in procuring locally resourced materials and employs local masons and engineers. It trains them in the process of implementing its projects. The organisation has built more than 1.5 million household toilets and over 9500 public toilets. Sulabh is increasingly looking at strengthening skills across sanitation verticals like construction, plumbing, advocacy workers, menstrual hygiene workers. This in turn will create more skilled workforce.

The genesis of the Sulabh movement has been to reduce inequalities of gender and caste. Since 1970, the organisation under the leadership of its founder Dr Bindeshwar Pathak, used toilet as tool for social cohesion and addressing inequalities. Sulabh has worked for the human rights of manual scavengers, who clean dry latrines, come from the lowest stratum of India's caste-based system and are mostly women. Sulabh's actions aimed at rehabilitating manual scavengers,

restoring their dignity by providing alternative employment presents an inspiring example of promoting peace, tolerance and women's economic empowerment.

In India, even today thousands of women continue to be engaged in this inhuman occupation of cleaning dry latrines with bare hands, and it is estimated that 75 percent of manual scavengers are women. The lack of alternative livelihood is still a challenge, and they are likely to face more discrimination owing to their gender and low caste status. The pandemic has heightened their distress. Sulabh has, over the years, taken long standing initiatives for the social inclusion of manual scavengers and has been conducting job-oriented vocational training courses as a way to rehabilitate and empower them in two towns: Alwar and Tonk in Rajasthan. The model has been successful; Sulabh has received the Gandhi Peace Prize for 2016 for its efforts and one woman, Usha Chaumar, who became the symbol of Sulabh's campaign for the emancipation of manual scavenger was awarded Padma Shri in 2020— one of the highest civilian awards bestowed by the Government of India.

In line with the SDG 10 goal, Sulabh will endeavour to address inequalities in society by continuing to address the issues of manual scavengers.

335. Sulabh International Centre for Action Sociology

Sulabh International Centre for Action Sociology has through years providing social service to the forsaken and deprived sections of society so as to bring them into mainstream of society and nurture their potential. It provides service in various fields for social empowerment through skill development, sanitation, education and energy conservation so as to reduce inequality (SDG 10) in the society and to enable the deprived sections of the society to get decent work and economic growth (SDG 8). The stringent health containment measures due to the COVID-19 pandemic have brought a large share of economic activity to a halt and forced closure of institutions imparting skill training and education. Our efforts of on-line education and skill training are not enough and effective. The economic slow-down induced by the pandemic has further reduced the employment opportunities for the deprived section creating further inequality in the society. The longer the vulnerable section of the society remains in abject poverty, the deeper would be the permanent scars of malnutrition, exposure to serious disease and effects of missed educational and skill development opportunities persists leading to more and longer inequality in the society.

The crisis created by COVID-19 pandemic has never been experienced by the world before in terms of its political, economic and social impacts. A large number of people will slide down into extreme poverty. The developing countries will have a larger share of the new poor and government's capacity to provide them income support is limited. The lost months of schooling and skill development training has adversely affected their human capital development and earning potential. The hard-earned gains over decades of efforts are being lost. The most vulnerable section of the society is disproportionately impacted due to pandemic induced economic slow-down. The focus of these affected poor would be on survival rather than on education and skill development for stable economic growth in the future. The continuing efforts of Sulabh International Centre for Action Sociology in education and skill development training of the marginalized section of the society and to integrate them in the mainstream of the society are pushed back by a couple of years due to pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to an unprecedented economic crisis worldwide. The economic disruption has led to loss of livelihood to millions of people and forced them into extreme poverty. The economic recovery of the nations is of prime importance as only then the enabled society would be in a position to help the deprived section. The world financial institutions need to sustainably respond to COVID-19 induced economic crisis, pursuing more inclusive and resilient economic recovery towards Sustainable Development Goals. Fresh policies are needed to mitigate poverty and financial assistance needs to reach the poor quickly to effectively protect them from longer lasting impacts. The economic activity of the nations must not be held hostage to stringent pandemic containment measures, so that the vulnerable section of the society have a fair share of economic recovery benefits and they do not fall below poverty line irreversibly.

336. SWASTI

This isn't our first pandemic and is unfortunately unlikely to be the last. If there is one thing that our communities aspire for today, it is everyday wellbeing. Wellbeing and more importantly, everyday wellbeing is a luxury for most, and for the most marginalized, an impossible dream. On the other hand, everyday wellbeing is critical for resilience, for all to fight pandemics like COVID-19, to survive and thrive in the face of challenges.

Approximately 50-60 million people in the last decade have been pushed to the brink of poverty due to health-related expenditures in India. The COVID-19 pandemic has pushed people further into poverty. Those with high burden diseases - comorbidities - remain most at risk and many of them in India are unaware of their health status.

Unprecedented loss of paid work has led to mass migrant movement, death in transit out of hunger, dehydration and exhaustion as well as manifold increase of risk of COVID-19. The hoarding of supplies has led to stock outs widening inequity and leaving the poor worst hit. Rising plastic waste due to the pandemic has nearly choked our sanitation. Domestic abuse and violence has seen an increasing instance and thankfully, more reporting but the nature of the pandemic and its response has meant limited interventions. Access to Sexual, Reproductive Health and Rights has been severely limited. We are witnessing the reversal of progress made towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

There is an urgent need to innovate - expanding TeleCare, Community Based Testing, Screening, Treatment support, Essential Supplies, Mental Health Support etc. and to collaborate - across sectors, realities and seemingly disparate systems - integrating response to COVID-19.

The cracks in the systems are at all levels - macro, meso and micro and investments are required towards building resilience of every individual, every family, every community along with community systems strengthening for health systems strengthening to ensure no one is left behind.

If this is the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development, let us make this an opportunity to truly build back better - making everyday well-being a reality for everyone; leaving no one behind.

Our call to action is simple and three pronged.

1. Intentional design that puts communities at the centre, ensures sustainable solutions that work. It helps address harmful social norms, leads sensible and informed prevention approaches and enables social participation. Democratizing wellbeing is the need of the hour and is a proven game changer in breaking intergenerational cycles of poverty-ill health - violence and abuse.
2. Invest in agile systems- What has brought us till here will not take us where we want to be - where no one is left behind. Our systems need change towards being more responsive, people owned and equitable. This is possible with strengthening community systems to not just respond but create long term impacts and build resilience.

3. Enable winning partnerships - Communities are our partners and should not be type casted as beneficiaries. And these partnerships need to expand holistically across sectors. The mantra is to Collaborate, Collaborate, Collaborate.

337. The American Pakistan Foundation

As part of the American Pakistan Foundation's focus on community empowerment and our involvement in international development exchanges in Pakistan, we recognize that efforts to ensure that no one is left behind have been adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in Pakistan. We applaud the Government of Pakistan's prioritization of the eligibility of health care workers, the elderly, and those with comorbidities as part of the vaccine rollout. However, systemic socioeconomic inequality and permitting the private sector to import and distribute vaccines means that distribution, availability, and access to the vaccine will leave the most vulnerable at the greatest disadvantage.

One of the significant challenges in serving all communities is the enormous disparity of wealth in Pakistan. Pakistanis with influential personal connections and access to money already have better healthcare and will maintain that standard even during a global pandemic, using their financial resources and connections to get vaccinated. Those without a history of consistent or high-quality healthcare will likely not have the proper documentation of their comorbidities that would qualify them for priority vaccinations.

Another factor complicating vaccine access is that Pakistan is one of the only countries in the world to allow the private sale of vaccines without a price ceiling. Vaccines like Sputnik V from Russia, are only available to those who are willing and able to pay the high cost. The private sale of vaccines exacerbates entrenched inequalities that increase public health risks rather than mitigating them. Economically vulnerable groups, such as women or the rural poor, already have the odds stacked against them and will bear the brunt of a distribution policy that ignores their circumstances.

The Government of Pakistan should strongly consider prioritizing the purchase of vaccines from private companies and distributing them free to its citizens. Furthermore, vaccination sites must be public and must be accessible in order to leave no one behind. Transportation to and from certain communities to vaccination sites should be provided. Steps are also needed to accommodate the discrepancies in medical documentation between socioeconomic stratas of society.

A new virus has laid bare old systems of inequality and injustice yet it need not exacerbate them. In a shared spirit of commitment to the sustainable development goals, we call on the member countries of ECOSOC and the Government of Pakistan in particular to ensure their response to the COVID-19 pandemic is appropriately centered on the needs of the most vulnerable

338. The Born Free Foundation Limited

With less than ten years to deliver on the 2030 promise embedded in the sustainable development goals, along with the challenge of COVID-19 recovery and the need to prevent future pandemics, transformative changes to our relationship with nature are paramount.

The intensifying pressures on biodiversity, and the profound consequences of our destructive relationship with nature for public health and well-being, as well as economic security, have highlighted the critical need to prioritise the environmental dimensions of sustainable development as key to achieving the social and economic pillars of the 2030 Agenda.

While the UN warns that ‘humanity stands at a crossroad’, and despite growing momentum boosted by the United Nations Summit on Biodiversity and the ongoing development of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity, the global response has thus far been insufficient. Besides, building a path to recovery will not be enough – we must now boldly walk that path by putting nature at the forefront of social and economic development models and processes.

Governments, supported by relevant stakeholders, must urgently implement the following actions to transition towards a more sustainable, resilient, equitable and humane future:

1. Halt and reverse the global declines in wildlife, by actively conserving and restoring land and sea ecosystems, and curb wild animal exploitation (SDGs 14, 15):

- Conserve existing biodiversity, reverse ecosystem degradation, and enhance ecological connectivity (SDG 15);
- End illegal trade and curb legal commercial trade in all wild species, for all purposes and for all time, in order to reduce risks to public health (SDG 3), social cohesion (SDG 10), economic stability (SDG 8), law and order (SDG 16). This includes scaling up efforts to tackle wildlife crime (SDG 15), closing down markets trading in live animals, and reducing commercial demand for live animals for food and other purposes (SDG 12), including from specimens that have been bred in captivity, while supporting local communities that rely on the use of wild species in their transition to sustainable livelihoods (SDG 2).

2. Recognise and weave the wide range of biodiversity values into national and local planning (SDGs 9, 11), poverty reduction strategies (SDG 1), and mainstream its protection across all sectors of society:

- Integrate biodiversity into fiscal, budgetary and financial instruments, in particular by aligning financial flows towards safe, humane and ecologically sustainable practices, decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation, and by eliminating, phasing out or reforming harmful incentives, including subsidies harmful to biodiversity, in all economic sectors (SDGs 2, 8);
- Deploy and scale-up innovative financing approaches to support nature conservation and recovery (SDGs 8, 15).

3. Leverage holistic and collaborative approaches including the One Health and One Welfare approaches (SDG 17):

- Adopt One Welfare, which offers strategic opportunities to address the common drivers of biodiversity loss, climate change (SDG 13), negative health and well-being outcomes and increased risk to human and animal health (SDG 3);
- Do not leave non-humans behind, and recognise animal welfare as a key component to sustainable development, starting with its role in preventing the emergence of further zoonoses.

339. The Brooke

Resilience is a crosscutting theme across many of the Sustainable Development Goals and has become even more important in the effort to build back better after COVID-19.

Brooke works to build resilience within rural and urban communities who are dependent on working livestock for their livelihoods, this is central to Brooke's strategic plans. Research from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) shows that livestock support the livelihoods and food security of over 1.2 billion people, contributing to the attainment of SDGs 1 and 2. Further investment in rural agriculture and livestock would sustainably support the development of both crop management and animal health in these communities. It would also help support economic growth in this critical sector for low and middle-income countries, according to research conducted by the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

Brooke works in partnership with other organisations for the production and distribution of climate resilient crops to livestock-owning communities. Climate resilience is a challenge faced by all countries around the world but the impact of climate change disproportionately affects low and middle-income countries. Governments must prioritise investment in resilience-building initiatives and ensure the inclusion of low-income rural communities through the prioritisation of the leave no one behind principle.

Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards are a set of international guidelines and standards for design, implementation, and evaluation of livestock interventions to help people affected by humanitarian crises. Brooke has successfully incorporated provisions for livestock in disaster risk reduction plans created by regional government institutions in Central America using Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards. The National System for the Prevention, Mitigation and Attention of Disasters, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources and the Ministry of Agriculture in Nicaragua are implementing this training after realising that communities whose working livestock are included in government disaster risk-reduction plans have a faster pace of recovery after climate shocks.

In order to support sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, promote economic resilience and support social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, governments should:

- 1) Prioritise investment supporting low income rural and urban communities to support economic resilience. This entails supporting access to markets and supporting ecological approaches to agriculture through a One Health approach.
- 2) Invest in climate resilience, mitigation and adaptation while facilitating shared learning on climate resilience, agriculture and investing in this as a growth area.
- 3) Support and develop social protection schemes for rural communities who depend on livestock for their livelihoods, including insurance schemes for when farmers lose their crop or animals to disease or when livestock are lost in climate related shocks.

4) Ensure the consideration and inclusion of working livestock in disaster risk and reduction plans through Livestock in Emergency Guidelines training and implementation through the interconnected national and regional ministries that work on climate resilience.

340. The Center for Water Security and Cooperation

Water security remains the most pressing need for many people around the world. In the context of the 2030 Agenda, there is no other priority that deserves as concerted and comprehensive an effort. The COVID-19 pandemic, and the ability of clean masks and clean hands to prevent its spread, has highlighted the continuing need for well-built and well-maintained physical water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure. While the physical infrastructure is important, the legal and policy infrastructure is just as important. For water security to be achieved, development must be sustainable and equitable. For this to be possible, we need to invest in the structures and the systems that govern, protect, and empower the people. We must invest in water security and WASH law.

For many countries, the basic structures already exist. But just as with physical infrastructure, each country's legal infrastructure must be monitored, maintained, and rehabilitated. Where the legal infrastructure is insufficient or in need of repair, we must build and strengthen it. Ensuring access requires countries to steward their water resources to achieve water security, extend access to water and sanitation at the household level, ensure water services protect human health and the environment, and prevent the denial of access when there is an inability to pay. The physical infrastructure may bring the water, but the law guarantees access.

Law gives infrastructure purpose. Without law, water resources could be depleted without any consideration for intergenerational equity, the environment, or the people. Without law, infrastructure could deliver water that is unsafe for drinking, cooking and bathing. Without law, vulnerable and marginalized people could be denied access. The law defines the purpose of infrastructure: to provide equitable access to clean, safe water for current and future needs.

The COVID-19 pandemic has reminded us of the many threats to humanity's survival, but it has also showed us more readily that concerted action now is critical. Many countries implemented changes to WASH in response to the pandemic. But we cannot wait for changes to be driven by crisis. Water remains the first need of all people globally. Without water people cannot survive. Clean water drives economies, it drives food production, it drives health and limits disease, it generates power, it demarcates borders, it drives development. The law is a necessary part of that effort; water security requires strong law.

Our physical infrastructure cannot guarantee access without the law. Now is our moment to prioritize water, to prioritize the law infrastructure of water, and to ensure a water secure future. We must demand this for each other and for ourselves.

341. The Cherie Blair Foundation for Women

This statement of the Cherie Blair Foundation for Women focuses on impact of the COVID-19 on women entrepreneurs in low and middle income countries; implications of these challenges on SDGs and recommendations.

1) Impact of COVID-19 on women entrepreneurs

The Cherie Blair Foundation for Women's 2021 report "Women Entrepreneurs: Surviving the Pandemic and Beyond" highlights the shocking impact of the COVID-19 on women entrepreneurs. The report based on consultation with 125 women entrepreneurs from 32 low and middle income countries show that most (83.80%) women entrepreneurs surveyed reported that the pandemic has had a negative impact on their businesses. Nearly four in ten women (38.5%) responded that their business may have to close as a result. Over a third of these women (34.4%) reported they would struggle to afford basic necessities, like food if their business closed down.

For women entrepreneurs, the pandemic has meant reduced incomes, temporary and permanent business closures, missed business opportunities and reduced access to often already limited finance and capital. Feminized sectors – retail, hospitality, tourism - have been overrepresented in sectors most vulnerable to the detrimental impacts of COVID-19. The increasing amount of unpaid care work is also disproportionately carried by women.

2) Implications of these challenges on SDGs

Women's entrepreneurship is a core driver of women's economic empowerment and critical to the achievement of multiple SDGs, including SDG1 (ending poverty), SDG5 (gender equality), SDG 8 (inclusive economic growth) and SDG 10 (reducing inequalities).

Women entrepreneurs' tremendous, untapped potential could be the much-needed fuel for progressing SDGs. Women entrepreneurs develop communities by creating the 'ripple effect' – creating an example of women's leadership for those around them, upskilling their community through offering new job opportunities for other women and also putting the money they make back into their families. According to the Cherie Blair Foundation's research with the Boston Consulting Group in 2019 up to \$5 trillion could be added to the global economy if we closed the gender gap in entrepreneurship.

3) Recommendations

The SDG agenda cannot be achieved without the participation of women entrepreneurs and will be sped up with their involvement, We urge the ECOSOC members to:

- Prioritise building more gender-intentional and just economies with gender transformative policies and fiscal packages that will address deeply-ingrained inequalities and protect women owned businesses.
- To take immediate action to i) support sectors critical to women entrepreneurs, such as hospitality, retail, social care, tourism; ii) ensure that public procurement processes are equally

accessible for women entrepreneurs; iii) to provide tailored support to women-owned businesses; and iv) to ensure the availability of access to finance for women entrepreneurs.

- To collect gender disaggregated national-level data on unpaid care and domestic work. This data should be used to devise relevant, gender sensitive policies in consultation with local women's rights organisation.

- Recognise women entrepreneurs' role as critical agents driving many SDGs and give them platform and integrate their concerns in the post-pandemic recovery policies.

342. The Institute for Conscious Global Change, Inc.

The global crisis, COVID-19, has highlighted the large-scale inequity. Sight is always a precursor to change, and this crisis has allowed us to “see” that if the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is to be achieved and in the very short timeframe of only nine years, countries must accelerate the process of implementation. The Institute for Conscious Global Change (ICGC), taking into account the mandates of the Agenda, and focused on SDG 17: Means of Implementation to show “how” the 2030 Agenda might be implemented in an integrated and comprehensive manner. ICGC’s Millennium Earth Project (MEP) which uses Geographic Information Systems (GIS), GeoDesign and related outlines the “how” for successful achievement of the SDGs. The document was accepted as part of the documents of the 71st session of the United Nations General Assembly.

ICGC went a step further and in 2019, just before the pandemic hit, conducted a dissertation research pilot in conjunction with Antioch University in the informal settlement of Manyatta, Kisumu, Kenya. The aim was to show “how” when the government leads, in this case the County Ministry of Planning and the City Planning Office, and with stakeholder engagement, capacity building, knowledge and technology transfer can occur. In this collaborative bottom-up and top-down partnership everyone is invested and committed to achieving social, economic and environmental sustainability.

This pilot conducted in Manyatta included a 500 Household survey, all georeferenced, a Key Informant Interview of 11 key decision makers which included the chiefs (the National representatives) and ward administrators (the county representatives), a Focus Group Discussion of thirteen members, and a Participatory Situational Analysis/GeoDesign discussion group. These data gathering participatory exercises were meant to get the feedback from the residents in their own language, Luo, and interviewed by research assistants, all brilliant young adults from their own ethnic group to solicit their responses about life in the settlement and how it could be improved. A research tool called Problem Tree Analysis allowed them to tease out the core problem (s), the cause of the problem (s) and the effects affecting the community. The core problem (s) identified were poor sanitation and poor waste management. This made SDG 6 the entry point for discussion about how water and sanitation which directly affect education, the economic life and environmental wellbeing of over 30,000 citizens in Manyatta. Loss of income, reduced school and work attendance and death due to water-borne diseases are the consequences of acute environmental challenges. The citizens felt the first step was to plan the community.

This plan is now integrated into the larger comprehensive development plan undertaken by the County. The implementation of these plans are now more crucial than ever given the advent of COVID-19 which is overwhelming the community as it struggles to stay safe given the water and sanitation challenges it faces. The residents now also have sight and the basis for action, and the beginnings of participation in governance and the activation of SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions.

343. The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

In the last 15 years of the World Economic Forum's annual Global Risks Reports, diseases and pandemics appeared enough times to suggest they were a major concern. Over the past year as this disaster has evolved, we are now seeing an increasing focus on what the world will be like on the other side. Chartered accountants create trusted information and insight, which inform our understanding of the world and the resulting decisions that shape our lives. Comprehending and making sense of risk, uncertainty, and opportunity and helping craft a way forward through the storm is what we do. Have we reached a defining moment for the accountancy profession to rise to the challenge and become part of the solution? As whole new vistas of risk rapidly open up, the profession is at a pivot point. As a profession of problem solvers, we cannot lose sight of the bigger picture. We must learn from how society has responded to the pandemic and continues to respond to the changing climate, but also think about how to build on that.

The accountancy profession is working as "business-first responders" keeping the economy going in its direst moment; helping channel the oxygen of cash into businesses and nurturing their organizations and those they advise through this pandemic, necessary for holding things together. We can also be part of the rebuild; helping to operationalize the post-corona virus recovery. Collectively we need to question if the institutions of government, of civil society, of business and markets, of accountancy and finance, are fit for purpose. Do we have the courage to learn from this crisis and then adapt and evolve to meet this greater evolving crisis and develop new industries and products? Can we become change agents challenging the status quo in our organizations and with our clients, charting a route to the new world?

What began as a virus jumping species as a result of deforestation, intensive agriculture, climate change, wildlife trafficking and wet markets, rapidly became a human health crisis. And then it became a global economic crisis. It has highlighted institutional fault lines: getting cash into the business community has been challenging and the fragility of charities' funding at the moment they are needed most has been exposed. Thinly capitalized businesses have and will continue to fail as they lack any resilience. We now have an opportunity to ensure that the choices we all make create a pathway to that better tomorrow rather than back to where we left off. We have a vision of what that looks like in the Sustainable Development Goals, which through the 17 outcomes they describe, offer a framework for the rebuild. ICAEW have already integrated the SDGs into our strategy. We also have an opportunity to change the way we make those choices to one that is collaborative and inclusive as well as issue-driven.

344. The Lady Fatemah (A.S.) Charitable Trust

As parts of the world are emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic, we have a unique opportunity to create an inclusive, resilient and sustainable recovery that encompasses the economic, environmental and social dimensions to engender more equitable societies.

At the Lady Fatemah Trust, our work focusses on mothers as they are the actors that nature has selected to give and nurture life, and through mothers we empower whole communities in the world's poorest places to transform their life chances and quality of life opportunities. With local partnerships across three continents, we improve physical and mental health, access to fair education and create sustainable incomes.

Women have been those most likely to lose an income and employment and have taken on the burden of care. For girls in school, their return will be crucial to underpin future generations gender equality. SDG 5 underpins the goals at review in the 2021 HLPF, in particular we would like to highlight links with SDG 3 on good health and well-being, and 8 on decent work and economic growth. Through our work throughout the pandemic we have seen that we must prioritise:

SDG 3 Promote well-being for all at all ages - our work starts with providing mothers excellent healthcare and seeks to eliminate any unnecessary suffering and deaths in childbirth. In providing safe spaces for education and learning, and nutritious meals we ensure accessibility (through e-learning platforms where necessary) effectiveness and inclusiveness (to all disability).

Our model, which places women at the heart of community-led interventions, recognises that poverty is gendered and the global pandemic has disproportionately affected women and “turned the clock back” on reaching SDG 5, achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls. Loss of incomes, lockdowns with additional childcare and home schooling burdens have increased emotional burdens on mothers and through our emotional wellbeing and mental health resilience programs we seek to build community support for all.

Achieving SDG 8 (decent work for all) is more important than ever. Globally, more women than men work in the informal economy. The pandemic shut this vital system down overnight - further excluding those already lacking basic security and employment rights. We believe there is an opportunity to ensure that economic growth is fair and inclusive for all and recognises that shifting the global burden of care is essential for ensuring sustained economic growth. We have an opportunity to look at ways we can change the system that reduces gender equality in line with economic growth. We need to encourage governments and companies to re-address how unpaid care is valued in society and start tracking and understanding how care and the economy intersect. COVID-19 has shone a light on this - lets take this opportunity and build a stronger, fairer economy for all.

We believe that these actions are essential for sustainable, resilient recovery that places gender equality at its heart so that no one is left behind, due to barriers of ability, gender or health.

345. The Next Century Foundation

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals include aspirations to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. In this regard, and particularly in light of the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Next Century Foundation (NCF) is increasingly concerned about the present state of the Lebanese Republic.

The Next Century Foundation seconds UNSCR 2539 in calling for “the swift formation of a new Government that can respond to the needs and aspirations of the Lebanese population”. This is all the more urgent in light of the pandemic. With this in mind, the Next Century Foundation stresses the need to implement bicameral governance, as outlined in the Taif Agreement of 1989. The Taif Agreement calls for a system of governance in which the Upper House is elected on a confessional basis, whereas a Lower House is elected on a non-confessional basis.

The Next Century Foundation recommends that an Upper House be established and the powers of this Upper House be confined to:

- 1) Acting as a final court of appeal in the judicial system, if and only if the independent judiciary refers a case to the Upper House.
- 2) Exercising the power to delay legislation for a maximum period of two years.
- 3) Acting as a second channel to initiate legislation for approval in the Lower House.
- 4) Endorsing the appointment of ambassadors.
- 5) Casting the deciding vote on legislation for constitutional amendment or electoral law amendment if a mere majority is reached in the Lower House on issues that would otherwise require a two-thirds majority.

The NCF applauds the use of proportional representation during the 2018 parliamentary elections in the Lebanese Republic. The NCF encourages further progress toward optimal democracy in Lebanon, and recommends that a new electoral law be implemented which introduces a system of proportional representation to elect the Lower House within a single national constituency.

The NCF recommends that the Upper House initially retains 128 seats, using the same confessional breakdown that currently exists in the Chamber of Deputies. Twenty years after the first election, the number of seats in the Upper House could be halved to 64 and the confessional breakdown reassessed by national census. Each confession could (as far as possible) be proportionately represented in the Upper House depending on census outcome, though each of the 19 confessions recognised in the constitution of the Lebanese Republic should be represented in the Upper House to avoid marginalising minorities.

The NCF also recommends changes to the current electoral law, Law no. 44. Though Article 9 of Law no. 44 established the Supervisory Commission for Elections to monitor candidate financing, the NCF strongly recommends the passage of stricter laws providing greater transparency regarding the finances of political parties. The NCF argues that lowering the voting age to 18 and establishing a consistent electoral process for each election will be critical in overcoming the crisis recognised in UNSCR 2539.

346. The Sant Nirankari Mandal, Delhi

The COVID-19 pandemic is said to be the biggest event of our life time, bigger than 9/11, as if 9/11 happened in every city on earth at the same time. Whatever the political or social motivations behind the historic 11 September 2001 breaking news episode (9/11), it was committed as a "Religious act, God's work". Such perverse beliefs are the genesis of religious terrorism obtaining in the whole world. In his revealing article, "Unite Against Violent Extremism", H.H. Ban Ki-moon, former Secretary General of the United Nations. wrote, "Violent Extremism is a direct assault on the United Nations Charter and a grave threat to international peace and security." The people indulging in hatred and violence do not truly come in the domain of religion and their chaotic conduct would not be approved by the prophets whose honour they are so anxious to maintain.

For promoting sustainable development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals, the fundamental outcome from the United Nation's Rio Conference held on 12 February 2013 for sustainable development, was the fact that we are heading towards a set of economic, social and environmental crisis and the only way to change things is to rethink development keeping in mind the patent message, "People are important but equally important is the planet on which the prosperity of the people depends".

A Spiritual Issue:

Population explosion, magnified power of technology and psychological attitudes becoming a way of living on earth – all these factors combined, we are behaving as if the planet is a business in liquidation. International conflicts and religious terrorism occupy the attention of world leaders. Global warming and environmental distress provoke anxiety over the future of our planet.

There is a collusion between our civilisation and the earth. Mother nature presents such a powerful evidence-look at the devastating hurricanes, tsunamis earthquakes, floods, fire and now the soul-gripping COVID-19 pandemic taking the entire mankind in the grip of mortal fear. The whole world is closed for renovation.

Leading scientists in the world are openly giving a call that we probably have short time left in which to make a dramatic change in the pattern that now represents business as usual. Yes, we can fulfil the task but we will first have to change attitudes and awareness and recognize it as a "Spiritual Issue", a challenge that goes to the core of who we are as human beings. The higher human values that spring from the awareness of the spiritual basis of our being must be reawakened if the crisis of the pandemic is to be resolved.

The year 2020 is marked as the year of the COVID-19 pandemic, with all activities at a standstill, the entire world confined to homes, worship houses looking deserted and congregations suspended. In such a situation, the anchorage of Almighty God becomes all the more important. With due concern, the United Nations took initiative to highlight the global value added response to the COVID-19 pandemic, done by the civil society organizations.

Sant Nirankari Mandal, an all embracing worldwide religious, socio-spiritual and charitable organization, preaching the concept of One Formless God and spreading God knowledge globally has been very active in identifying and meeting the needs arising from COVID-19. Sant Nirankari Mission has identified itself with “Human Dignity through Spirituality” as the core of its global goal. All the Bhawans (Places of Worship) of Sant Nirankari Mandal across India and overseas are placed at the disposal of Government for use of COVID-19 related needs, vaccination centres and blood donation camps. An encompassing report mentioning the multiple contributions made by the Sant Nirankari Mandal, in cash and kind was sent to the United Nations in July 2020. Hundreds of thousands of volunteers of the Mandal worked round the clock serving victims of the pandemic throughout.

It is natural for circumstances to change. Sometimes, situations are favourable and at other times, not so much. We have a tendency to live in extremes. Sometimes we get a reason to be happy and get extremely happy, when something does not seem right, we are easily disappointed. In such situations, we can only make progress if we have a stable mind, with clarity of thoughts.

Visualizing this natural phenomenon in wider sense, the year 2020 was particularly unsettling and disturbing, in that the ravages of COVID-19 in the form of curfews, confinements and lock-downs, not only disrupted our daily routines, but also painfully restricted our free movement. In the beginning the effects of the pandemic appeared to be limited, but over the time it indiscriminately touched our families and friends. Fortunately, even in those testing times, the saintly-souls managed to maintain their composure and unremitting faith with the grace of Formless God (Nirankar).

Sustainable and Resilient Recovery from COVID-19 Pandemic that Promotes the Economic, Social and Environmental Dimensions Of Sustainable Development

We cannot avoid bad situations like COVID-19, and we may be shaken by worst happenings. But then, we can acquire stability for facing such grim situations. Living with the awareness of Almighty God and treating Him as our life's anchor, we will be less affected by dreadful occurrences. We find our composure in the Lord who is our saviour and anchor of our Soul. God Knowledge put to practical use shapes our life and helps navigating the ups and downs of life and staying equipped in difficult times.

With the intensity of the second phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, it looks like, the dinosaur of COVID-19 will devour the mankind, we are in death even while we are in the midst of life. We are becoming increasingly unstable. There is turmoil everywhere. No stable family unit, employment is not stable, the political landscape is not stable. Nothing is stable except God. In order to attain permanent security and stability in life, we need to strengthen our link with God, the eternal source of stability. Once we truly live our life like that, then we are able to handle any adverse situation in the best possible manner. So, strengthening of our link with divine is inherently important. All pervading God is a shield against annihilating corona virus.

During the COVID-19 pandemic period, Sant Nirankari Mandal organized its 73rd (5, 6 and 7 December, 2020) Virtual Annual Global Sant Samagam in Delhi and 52nd Maharashtra State Samagam (26-28 February 2021) Virtual Sant Samagam with Special Souvenir on

“COMPOSURE”. Besides, Her Holiness Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj, the Spiritual Head of Sant Nirankari Mission gave spiritual guidance periodically to provide stability to the public on the key subjects like:

Composure:

- 1) Stability of mind by knowing and maintaining regular link with God where Fatherhood of God and Universal Brotherhood is spontaneous and simultaneous.
- 2) Practical Spirituality – Adopting God-knowledge in our daily life. It is prominent personality trait of an enlightened person.
- 3) Divine Knowledge and wisdom for saintly behavior.
- 4) Tolerance and magnanimity. It keeps a man tolerant and magnanimous, when God-knowledge dwells in our heart.
- 5) Devotion and Faith. It unfolds the spirit of - “Work is worship”.
- 6) Loving Devotion – Devotion performed with complete faith and love.
- 7) Rising above desires and ego – The mind should be kept above ego and limited to needs over greed.
- 8) Learning virtues from every particle of universe. There is hidden truth in every particle of the universe to be imbibed.
- 9) Know One, Believe in One and Become One. When we know One Formless God and Believe in Him we become one. Universal oneness is spontaneous by-product of knowing Fatherhood of God.

The COVID-19 period is testing time for everyone in this world where composure is required to handle the new changes that came to our lives with the pandemic. Strengthening divine link is the only way out.

Holding aloft the banner, “Equality through Spirituality”, the Mandal holds the firm opinion that every kind of discrimination and inequality, including socio-economic and gender, can better be sorted out through spirituality.

347. The Smile of the Child

The Smile of the Child is Greece's national operator of the 116000 and 116111 European lines, for missing children and child assistance. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to be a serious challenge. Lessons for the future and similar crisis situations can be drawn from recent experience, bearing in mind the overall objective of securing physical and mental health and safety for all.

The concern of parents over health consequences of COVID-19 for their children and themselves and over the psychological impact of home isolation has triggered an increase of the calls to the Help and Emergency Lines. The pandemic has also changed the reason why children themselves call the Lines, worried about their future and the future of their loved ones, asking for guidance regarding safety, sharing their emotions after having been cut off from school, friends and grandparents. Reports on abuse and violence increased slightly in number, but not to the extent of statistically confirming that COVID-19 lock-down exacerbated the family violence phenomenon.

This leads to important conclusions.

The actions number registered in call centres since the COVID-19 outbreak cannot justify the establishment of special emergency line services. Creating new contact points and Lines is ineffective, also for other reasons: it would add confusion, inflate overhead cost and require time to become operational, given the need to build public notoriety, confidence, know-how and routine efficiency in call centres.

Instead, one should enhance investment in existing and already well-known instruments, through capacity building and PR. Capacity building mainly consists of educating call centre staff for the specific and new pandemic situation (content of response); PR mainly refers to communication efforts to make the availability of advice and specifically pandemic oriented psychological support better known to the wider public of children, parents and others.

We distinguish four vectors requiring attention.

The delicate nature of COVID-19 related calls underscores the need for professional rather than volunteer staffing of call centres, as well as a 24/7 operational availability.

Like staff involved in direct response to COVID-19, also Staff at call centres need to be professionally trained to the particular circumstances.

Emergency Lines must anticipate the risk of own personnel getting contaminated, taking measures to secure service continuation in all events, with back-up solutions.

Chat services are increasingly popular with children and youngsters, gradually crowding out traditional telephone calls to Emergency and Helplines. This trend is visible since years and is not specifically related to COVID-19. Operating chat services in delicate pandemic circumstances has different and more complex legal implications, therefore requiring special training, adapted narratives and legal coverage for chat line operators.

348. The Society for Upliftment of Masses

For achieving SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) following issues should get priority attention. The analysis is in Indian context.

According to a recent Report by NITI Aayog, poverty rate in India has declined from 37.2 per cent in 2004-2005 to 21.92 per cent in 2011-2012. However, India continues to combat high levels of malnutrition, stunting and anaemia. National Family Health Survey-4, carried out during 2015-16 points out that almost half of the pregnant women aged between 15 and 49 years are anaemic and more than one-third of women have a low Body Mass Index. National Family Health Survey-5, carried out during 2019-2020 and recently released for 22 States, reveals that situation is getting worse for several states. For example, in Gujarat, one of the progressive States of India, percentage of women age 15-49 years who are anaemic has increased from 56.5 in 2015-2016 to 69% in 2019-2020. Similarly, percentage of children age 6-59 months who are anaemic has increased from 62.6 in 2015-2016 to 79.7% in 2019-2020. Stunting and wasting in children under 5 continue unabated.

Besides poverty, the growing popularity of Junk Food, with high levels of sugar, fat and salt, has also become a major cause of malnutrition. As per fourth National Family Health Survey, almost 40% Indians are obese and overweight.

Rural India is fast catching up with junk food culture. Our younger population is eating more fast food and less of fruits and vegetables.

The COVID-19 pandemic has further undermined the food security and nutritional situation in the country.

Government of India is seized of the problem and has initiated National Nutrition Mission in 2017. Various state governments, besides being beneficiaries of national programmes, have also introduced their own programmes to combat malnutrition.

We suggest that following steps be taken by all stakeholders to tackle this menace effectively:

- Effective monitoring tools need to be devised to ensure that the benefits of Nutrition programmes reach the remotest corners of the country.
- Vigorous campaigns need to be undertaken to promote traditional home-made food, which uses natural ingredients.
- Junk food is glamorized through attractive but misleading ads. Such ads should be banned.
- School teachers can make a difference by inculcating pride in home-made food among children.
- College students may set up Nutrition Clubs and take up some direct community work.
- Elected representatives from village level upwards, as also common masses be involved with a basket full of activities like 'healthy cooking contest', 'count calories in your food' etc.
- Quiz contests on issues like 'Had a meal of a burger, French fries and a coke? Was this a 'Happy Meal' or an 'Unhappy Meal'? 'How much sugar is hidden in your bottle of soft drink?' 'How much trans-fat in which fried or bakery product?' 'How much salt in your chips?' 'How many chemicals and preservatives in your Ready to Eat Meal?' etc.

- Inculcate healthy cooking habits in youth-girls and boys alike.

349. The Task Force for Global Health Inc

The Task Force for Global Health, founded in 1984 to advance health equity, works with partners in more than 150 countries to eliminate diseases, ensure access to vaccines and essential medicines, and strengthen health systems. Our expertise includes neglected tropical diseases and other infectious diseases; vaccine planning, safety, distribution, workforce and access; and, health systems strengthening. Our COVID-19 activities include working with 50 countries to immunize their citizens, providing vaccine safety guidelines; advising on digital contact tracing; training epidemiologists on disease surveillance and response; distributing essential protection and treatment to hard-hit communities; using existing health programs to ensure protection for vulnerable groups; and leveraging our existing supply chains for ongoing response and to help countries deliver vaccines.

Public health underpins and contributes to the global community's ability to reach Sustainable Development Goals. Two areas require urgent attention to address the COVID-19 pandemic and protect against the impact of future pandemics: 1). Immediate investment in sustainable national capacity to alleviate inequities in COVID-19 immunizations; 2). Sustained, long-term investment in public health systems at the national level, including National Public Health Institutes (NPHIs) and Field Epidemiology Training Programs (FETPs).

- 1) Immediate investment in national capacity to alleviate inequities in COVID-19 immunizations: The Partnership for Influenza Vaccine Introduction (PIVI)'s CoVIP program is supporting the U.S. CDC's Global Immunization and Influenza Division, working with 50 countries to develop national capacities for planning, rapid implementation and evaluation of COVID-19 vaccination programs. The initiative, including technical assistance and funding support, strengthens all immunization programs. It can be a global model for leveraging existing national capacities to strengthen preparedness for the long term.
- 2) Sustained, long-term investment in public health systems at the national level, including National Public Health Institutes (NPHIs) and Field Epidemiology Training Programs (FETPs): The COVID-19 pandemic illustrates the adverse outcomes in nations – both high- and low-resource, that lacked sufficient essential public health function capacity. It is urgent that countries create or strengthen National Public Health Institutes (NPHIs). Over 100 countries have established NPHIs, including Germany's Robert Koch Institute, Bangladesh's Institute of Epidemiology Disease Control & Research, Zambia's National Public Health Institute, and the U.S. CDC. Their functions include disease surveillance, detection, and monitoring and outbreak investigation and control.

Likewise, it is urgent that countries increase capacity in field epidemiology - integral to disease outbreak identification and prevention. Field epidemiologists are on the front line of disease detection activities; a strong cadre is needed in every country to ensure rapid response and long-term resiliency. The Training Programs in Epidemiology and Public Health Interventions Network (TEPHINET), a global professional network of field epidemiology training programs, comprises 75 member FETPs providing training to more than 100 countries. In collaboration with TEPHINET and partners, the U.S. CDC and World Health Organization (WHO) launched the

Strategic Leadership Group to implement the Global Field Epidemiology Roadmap. Implementation of this Roadmap will ensure the national expertise needed to respond to COVID-19 and future pandemics.

350. Tinker Institute on International Law and Organizations

Our organization is dedicated to research and teaching on international law and organizations, and support the development of international environmental law and policy and human rights. We participated in the preparatory meetings for the creation of the SDGs and have been present in each meeting of the HLPF and in other UN initiatives and conferences over several decades.

We wish to comment on the intersectionality of the rights of older persons with the rights and goals throughout the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, particularly SDG 1, 2, 3, 8 and 16 this year. These and others like SDG 4, 5, 6, 7, 11 and the rest support, uplift, and empower vulnerable populations, including older persons.

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic spotlighted the life -- and death -- of countless older persons over 60. Fatalities from COVID-19 of persons over age 80 were more than 5 times the global average, according to the WHO. Many needed hospitalization and intensive care that was not available. Confinement in care homes or long-term care facilities in some countries, or isolation at home during the prolonged lockdowns necessitated by public health measures to contain the spread of COVID-19 further exacerbated the dire risks and inequalities facing older persons. We applaud and endorse the Secretary-General's Policy Brief on the Impact of COVID-19 on Older Persons of May 2020 and the 146 Member States that supported it.

Even without COVID-19, all too often older persons live in extreme poverty, experience hunger, and lack appropriate health services. Special attention to these needs under SDG 1 (poverty), SDG 2 (hunger), and SDG 3 (health and well-being) is needed, recognizing the ability of many older persons to contribute knowledge and experience to finding solutions to the needs of others through work under SDG 8. Yet ageism in the workplace is a denial of the right to decent work and economic growth, especially for independent older women (SDG 5). In addition, older persons' rights to full participation in society and access to public information (SDG 16) as well as education (SDG 4) must be protected and enabled.

One of the foundational promises of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable and its Sustainable Development Goals is to "Leave No One Behind." For older persons, ageism and its intersection with gender inequality are devastating. Discrimination against older persons or denial of their agency and autonomy impedes progress on all of the SDGs.

We urge member-states to report in future VNRs for the High Level Political Forum on their actions under each of the SDGs to address the rights, dignity and needs of older persons. With data disaggregated for different age groups of older persons and efforts by member states to consult and involve older persons in decision-making, SDGs implementation would be advanced.

351. Tony-May Foundation

Tonymay Foundation is an organization committed towards the care, awareness and advocacy for People living with Sickle Cell Disorder in Nigeria. The main objective of this statement is to advocate for a global inclusive policy for people living with Sickle Cell Disorder in terms of their health, social and economic well-being. We observed that whenever it comes to the provision of healthcare for people living with Non- Communicable Diseases, Sickle Cell Disease is often excluded from the global discourse.

Sickle Cell Disorder is a genetic disorder that affects millions of people throughout the World. It is one of the most common genetic disorders in the world . According to the World Health Organization, it is estimated that over 300,000 babies are born annually with the condition. The inherited blood disorder is considered to be the underlying cause of 1 in 12 newborn deaths yet, very little attention is paid to reduce the global burden of the disease. June 19 which is the World Sickle Cell Day is not commemorated globally like other diseases.

Sickle Cell Disorder predominantly affects people whose in sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, Mediterranean Countries and some parts of America. Majority of people living with this health condition come from low income countries where there is poor access to health care and patients pay out of pocket for their treatment. In Nigeria, an average person living with Sickle Cell Disorder may spend up to N15,000,000 before the age of 30. This is because most Sickle cell treatments that are available are very unaffordable. This not only forces his or her family into poverty but leads to needless deaths.

The COVID-19 pandemic made access to health care very difficult for people living with Sickle cell Disorder as the focus shifted from chronic illnesses to people infected with the virus. A lot of people living with sickle cell disease had to resort to self-care at home even in emergency conditions.

We therefore urge leaders of Governments as well as local and international agencies such as the United Nations and the World Health Organizations (WHO) to make concerted efforts towards creating policies that would improve the health and well-being of People living with Sickle Cell Disorder. We also use this medium to urge pharmaceutical companies to innovate quality and affordable medicines for People with Sickle cell disease so that the burden would be significantly reduced. The right to life is an inalienable right that no one should be deprived of irrespective of the circumstances of his or her birth. We therefore need to build an inclusive society where everyone can live and thrive. By doing this, we would taking a step towards promoting good health and wellbeing while "leaving no one behind".

352. Touch A Heart Social and Economic Rights Initiative

Sustainable and resilient recovery from COVID-19 pandemic can only be achieved if mechanism to prevent and control intimate partners violence (IPV) is put in place and operational. IPV became prevalent during the pandemic period due to loss of income, loss of jobs and lack of food in household. These brought about strain in relationships and undue stress on the available resources for family welfare. The mental health of bread winners was affected thereby making them very temperamental, thus leading to IPV. In order to curb this menace, there is the need for increased awareness creation on IPV using existing legislation, such as, Violence against Persons Prohibition Act (2015) in Nigeria. The VAPP Act is key to ensuring an inclusive path for achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development on gender and inclusion (SDG 5). economic empowerment which brings about end to poverty (SDG 1) and no hunger (SDG 2) can be achieved in peaceful environment. Thus, the need to accelerate awareness creation on ending all forms of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) including IPV and Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG).

The Nigerian government has put in place the Nigeria Economic Sustainability Plan (NESP) with the mantra- "produce what you eat and eat what you produce" thereby conserving forex which can be used to provide other infrastructures for economic recovery and sustainable development. This plan by Nigeria government seeks to achieve this mantra by retaining or creating jobs using labour intensive methods in key areas like agriculture and housing. If achieved, it will aid economic recovery and build a resilient economy which in the long run, help to prevent violence and support SDG 1, 2 and 5. This plan can be achieved by forming Agro-allied based Cooperative Societies taken gender into consideration. Cooperative Societies have helped to build the capacities of members in pooling resources together for common good of all. Integration of information and communications technology (ICT) into agriculture, agro-allied businesses and the operations of the cooperatives is the way to revolutionize economic diversification and promote sustainability as ICT is the future of development. This initiative will facilitate the achievement of economic empowerment and eventual emancipation for the populace as well as aid sustainable development which will help eliminate IPV. The NESP strategies supports the call for acceleration of action which will reduce the risk of future crises as it has provided for transformative, social and environmental solutions to boost sustainable development.

"Prevent GBV, IPV and VAWG using agro-business cooperative societies and there would be advancement in economic recovery."

353. Training for Women Network

Women's mental health has been dramatically impacted by COVID-19, via the pressures of unpaid care work and job loss. Such trends are evidenced globally, although this statement focuses specifically on Northern Ireland.

Women play a vital role the society but only with the emergence of COVID-19 is the significance of this beginning to be acknowledged. Traditionally, care work (both paid and unpaid) has been underpaid and undervalued and attributed to those of lower status in society, namely women, contributing to disempowerment and negative influences on mental health. This trend has proceeded throughout the pandemic, with professional care workers subjected to inadequate personal protective equipment, relatively low wages, and a societal failure to acknowledge the pressures of unpaid care work.

With the closure of schools and childcare facilities, women have faced the challenge of balancing childcare and work, causing a detrimental impact on their mental health. Interviews with women found that managing caring responsibilities and children's online learning dominated women's agendas throughout the day, leaving them to complete work-related tasks once the children were in bed. Unquestionably, the struggle is even more challenging for single parents. Alongside this, many women provide care to vulnerable relatives and have suffered the stress of possibly transmitting COVID-19 whilst carrying out caring duties, taking a further toll on women's mental health.

Seventy percent of workers ineligible for statutory sick pay are women, meaning they will simply lose their income if they do not come to work. If required to self-isolate, women ineligible for statutory sick pay are left without financial support, further hampering their mental health. Many women gravitate toward jobs in retail due to the offering of part-time hours, attractive for women with additional responsibilities. However, with the collapse of various retailers, hundreds of women have been made redundant, adding further stress to an already trying time. As a result of the pandemic, thousands of women need urgent financial and emotional support, many of whom have never required such assistance before.

Access to affordable childcare is essential for full recovery as it will enable mothers to return to work. Additionally, accessible childcare will allow women who have lost their jobs to take time to re-train and re-apply for work. Support with childcare will take immense pressure off mothers, removing a burden and positively impacting their mental health. Moreover, enabling women to join or re-join the workforce will complement the Sustainable Development Goal of Gender Equality and improve gender equity.

Providing women with training will enable them to feel a sense of achievement and empowerment, essential for an improvement in mental health following COVID-19. Funding for women's training courses is essential in eradicating stereotypical assumptions of women. Provision of training encapsulates the goal of gender equality and appreciates the diverse roles of women.

For sustainable and resilient recovery from the pandemic, policymakers must have an inclusive outlook and abandon previously gender-blind approaches. COVID-19 has had a disproportionate

effect on women and future policy must acknowledge and attempt to amend certain trends emerging from the pandemic.

354. Triglav Circle

The United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, Stockholm, 1972 made no distinction between Nature and the Environment. In subsequent Earth summits, however, 'Nature' has been a virtual non-entity. The General Assembly adopted the World Charter for Nature in 1982 and promptly abandoned it. Nature reappears in the General Assembly since 2009 in modest annual resolutions on Harmony with Nature. Encapsulated in the clause "harmony with nature," it also remains a sub-item of Sustainable Development. In the Sustainable Development Goals, no mention of Nature is articulated beyond a reference in Target 12.8 which calls for "life styles in harmony with nature." Yet nature should be the main focus of any examination of the SDG's and recovery from COVID-19.

The Foreword of the UN Secretary General to the United Nations Environment Program Report, Making Peace with Nature is an emphatic call to the world to address holistically the human-nature relationship. Only 'Peace with nature' can insure that people live in better health and dignity on a healthy planet.

Why and how to do this:

In Sanskrit, a proverb says "Nature protects if it is protected." We cannot live apart from nature and its ecosystems. When ecosystems are hurt, the health and well-being of life is threatened. It is indisputable that more than 60 percent of human sicknesses are zoonoses: viral spillovers from animals to humans causing illnesses, such as, COVID-19, AIDS, SARS, and MERS. Many factors lead to zoonotic spillovers. Recently, scientists trace them to the environmental impact of agriculture, deforestation, changing and decreasing wildlife habitats with land use.

Particular initiatives would be very helpful:

- Health to be explicitly connected with the other issues included in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- More emphasis placed on the question of biodiversity. It is no less important for the future of humankind than the sources of energy or climate change.
- The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment should be repeated.
- Recognition that in nature everything is interconnected and that a more holistic approach to goals and targets is needed.

"Nature deficit disorder" affecting particularly city dwellers and the young is now a well-known problem that education must address. Alienation from nature is embedded in the sensibility of modernity. A critical perspective must move beyond the selective sensibility applied to present relations with nature. That's why pre-modern worldviews are very relevant. In the outlook of indigenous people there still is recognition that nature sustains them and that they are sustaining nature. This reciprocity has been lost in modernity. The philosopher, Jacques Derrida said "we are inevitably living together on the planet; the real challenge is how we live together well on the planet". He means a new kind of connectedness, the wholeness and sacredness of nature as a product of living together in a sustainable way on the planet. Living together well means more ecologically, less anthropocentrically. Perhaps that does not bring complete harmony with nature but it is a lesser and achievable utopia.

355. Trust for Youth Child Leadership (TYCL)

Trust for Youth Child Leadership is a youth-led transnational organization committed to taking action for the Sustainable Development Goals by providing safe, inclusive, and participatory spaces for children, youth, and their communities in India and the United States of America. Youth remain significant contributors to their communities and the global economy despite being one of the most vulnerable groups to the impacts of COVID-19 related mental health challenges. Unfortunately, access and opportunities are not equally distributed and there is an urgent call to action to support quality mental health services for all youth, especially those from marginalized communities.

COVID-19 presents multidimensional consequences in youth lives, particularly to mental well-being that could negatively affect their life trajectories. This burden is notably heavier on youth from middle- and low-income countries. Trust for Youth and Child Leadership initiated the Youth Helpline in 2014 to respond to the world's highest youth suicide rate in Puducherry, India, by addressing socioeconomic and psychosocial determinants of youth suicidality. The program provides mobile mental health clinics that promote positive mental health among youth and their communities in rural areas. The helpline provides career guidance, job-seeking assistance, educational loan support, entrepreneurial support, and fellowships. Curative efforts consist of counselling services and treatment referrals. Every year, this program serves 50,000 youth in India.

The pandemic has aggravated mental health consequences and suicidality among youth in India and across the globe. Mental health problems exhibit the interconnectedness of the Sustainable Development Goals. Without tackling the mental health issues in youth, other Sustainable Development Goals become unattainable. The importance of prevention and treatment for youth mental health conditions is an emphasis of Goal 3.4.2 to reduce premature mortality by one-third by 2030. Such efforts are crucial as youth suicide is the second leading cause of death among young people globally.

No middle- or low-income country in the world has a mental health action plan, including India, despite having the highest youth population in the world. Prolific policies are needed to create a social paradigm shift in youth mental health. This requires multi-stakeholder engagement, especially involving youth. Youth-engaged policymaking can increase youth resilience, capacity, and a sense of community, which encourages collective recovery from the pandemic. Youth mental health action plans need to be developed at a national and global level with youth participation from diverse communities to address socioeconomic determinants of suicidality. Coverage of the action plans should focus on promotional, preventive, and curative mental health programs to educate all stakeholders. Investing in youth well-being must ultimately advance supportive communities and just systems. Policies also need to encourage innovations and multi-sectoral collaborations in providing, financing, and sustaining healthcare services for youth. Health budgets must contain specific allocations to youth mental health programs. Failure to develop such policies risks impairing a large cohort of future human capital and hindering the world's economic growth. This statement calls for action to enact national mental health action plans with specific budget allocations for youth in India and other middle- and low-income countries.

356. Udayan Care

Globally, the war is on to fight COVID-19. It has impacted every aspect of life. Hugely infectious is COVID-19, but more infectious is zeal to protect, persevere and preserve to keep vulnerable children and communities safe. Along with the Corona Warriors of all kinds, our members, volunteers, staff and above all, donors, have responded to the urgency so that all beneficiaries in our programmes are taken care of, in terms of food, education, technology and safety.

To simplify the endless COVID-19 advisories for frontline workers in child care institutions, we developed an advisory made easy, for care staff at children's homes. Available in English and Hindi, our standard operation procedure (SOP) has found followers all across India's child protection system.

Ignited by our volunteers and staff and hugely supported by our donors, the newly created Udayan Care Emergency Response Fund (UCERF) stood us in great stead.

The 250 children in care and protection living in our 17 children's homes (UdayanGhars) stayed safe and healthy because of our real heroes, the caregivers and frontline workers, those who have cared for the children 24 x 7, by pivoting their services and reaching all the homes through online counselling, creativity, upskilling, connecting and learning, while keeping children safe in the confines of the homes.

Combating hurdles, Udayan Shalini Fellowship Programme distributed smartphones, laptops, tablets and data recharge, to enable girls from underserved communities in learning, staying in school and staying connected and continued capacity building and soft skills trainings. UCERF catered to these more than 5000 young girls and their families spread across 21 chapters in 13 states, saving many of them from child marriage as well as mitigating their risk to getting trafficked.

Our 20 technology and vocational training centres catering to more than 2000 youth on a monthly basis, also benefitted through online classes despite the teaching centres being shut down. Many of their families were supported through direct food support and counselling.

In the midst of the pandemic, Aftercare Outreach Programme was launched to directly support over 50 CareLeavers financially for their education, skilling and job readiness as well as online workshops. Over 100 CareLeavers from 25 countries came together in a series of virtual meetings to develop their Declaration of Demand during COVID-19 and Beyond, already a widely used tool. The 1st International CareLeavers Convention, 2020, held from October to December, virtually, bringing CareLeavers from over 83 countries, articulating the takeaways from the convention and setting up Global CareLeavers Community.

Several papers were published along with special issues on COVID-19 and impact on Alternative Care, in our journal ICB.

357. Odisha

Sustainable and resilient recovery of India from the COVID-19 with focus on rural population and migrant workers

The pandemic and the economic crisis due to COVID-19 are likely to push tens of millions of people to poverty and their undermined efforts to improve human well-being throughout the world. We will have to take all the measures necessary to tread a better and safer path for the future.

When India announced lockdown throughout the nation in March 2020, migrant workers had a difficult time to adhere to lockdown measures. With only a few days of savings to take them through this period of economic inactivity, many faced a difficult option: rely on the authorities for their basic sustenance (especially food and shelter) or travel back home while risking contracting the virus.

Food security is closely related to household resources, disposable income and socio-economic status. The government should work in close collaboration to help ensure that the most vulnerable populations remain fed and healthy. They deserve to have new sites and forms of livelihood without the need to migrate to cities. They also deserve systems of health and education that are designed as feeders to distant centres.

Some ongoing and essential solutions:

Developing countries, like India will need additional resources to overcome the challenges posed by the pandemic. Cooperation for bilateral development and international financial institutions, such as International Monetary Fund (IMF) and multilateral development banks, should play a vital role in filling the gaps. Private finances for infrastructure and green and resistant cities should increase.

Lessons and interwoven solutions from the pandemic:

Over the last 20 years, various crises — financial, climate, health and labour migration— have exposed interdependence across sectors and borders. To reduce risk and better manage future complex crises, we must recognize these links. This requires building the right partnerships and constituencies such as those on health, labour, inequality and nature. In addition, the recovery process should leverage commitments and action for the upcoming decade catalyzed by the Paris Agreement, Convention on Biological Diversity and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Conclusion:

If we are going to truly build back in a manner that responds to the climate and biodiversity crises and advances the Sustainable Development Goals, we need to collect the evidence and build public and political support at an even faster pace.

The COVID-19 crisis offers a unique opportunity to engage people in thinking about what kind of growth we want, and the importance of making human, societal and planetary well-being central to all our policies and institutions.

358. Uganda Youth Development Link

With approximately 69% of its population below 25 years, Uganda has one of the most youthful populations in the world. Many challenges faced by its children and young people are especially prevalent in low-income settings, and made more acute by the absence of a social welfare system. Challenges include limited education; hunger, poverty and lack of income-generation opportunities; labour exploitation and hazardous work environments; commercial sexual exploitation; community and intimate partner violence; transactional sex; alcohol, drug and substance misuse; unwanted pregnancy; and HIV and STI infection. In this way, young people face patterns of inequality that are deeply embedded in social and economic disparities which both predispose them to, and greatly exacerbate, the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on their lives and livelihoods. Owing to social and structural constraints, adolescent girls and young women are particularly exposed to these challenges, including disproportionately high HIV and STI infection rates as compared to their male counterparts.

The COVID-19 pandemic has worsened significant barriers in accessing essential Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) information and services that respond to young people's specific needs; with regional disparities. Youth-friendly Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) services in central and Elgon regions are not only limited but also discriminative to young key populations. An increase in unsafe abortions among young people has heightened morbidity and mortality. Young girls also suffer vast effects of poor menstrual hygiene management, often leading to absenteeism and ultimately school drop-out.

Sexual debut for girls in the region is 11 years while teenage pregnancy is at 43%. Child, early and forced marriages; together with rape, defilement and Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) have since the lockdown exacerbated health indicators. With respect to HIV/AIDS, prevalence among adolescent girls is high (9.1%) relative to the national prevalence of 7.3%.

Comprehensive sexuality education-CSE is marred by institutional and contextual obstacles.

The above speaks to the poor systemic management of SRHR of young people which is compounded by:

- Lack of inclusion of young people's priorities in the district work plans.
- Information on young people aged 10-24 affected by HIV, and other SRHR challenges is barely used in the district planning forum.
- Low levels of advocacy skills among young people to advocate for their rights.
- Low involvement of young people in the decision-making organs of the district.
- SRHR Information gap in the core leadership of the districts during decision-making.
- Bad cultural norms and practices

Uganda Youth Development Link (UYDEL) works to improve the socio-economic status of disadvantaged children and youth through evidence-based interventions and advocacy. UYDEL developed an emergency COVID-19 response intervention through which it provided food relief, personal protective equipment, and psychosocial support to 600 beneficiaries. 109 of them also received a cash transfer to support the re-establishment of livelihood activities. A baseline survey of beneficiaries was conducted in January 2020. While early feedback from beneficiaries has

emphasized how valuable this support, NGOs like UYDEL, describe feeling ill-prepared to know how to respond, or how build resilience in their beneficiaries in order to mitigate the negative impacts of shocks such as COVID-19.

359. UNESCO Etxea (UNESCO Centre Basque Country)

The UNESCO centre in the Basque Country works in partnership with AMUGE (Basque Country Gypsy Women's Association), the Basque Youth Council (EGK), the World Rural Forum (WRF), the “Mujeres en la Diversidad” women’s association and GEHITU (Basque Country Gay, Lesbian, Trans, Bisexual and Intersex Association), within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in order to reflect and influence the needs and proposals of groups and individuals whose rights are undermined.

Given the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’s premise of “leaving no one behind”, we consider it essential to focus specifically on those people who, at present, are not at the centre. People who experience inequalities first-hand and who are subject to discrimination, stereotyping and prejudice on the basis of gender, origin, age, economic status and other factors.

Through this partnership, we have focused on five vulnerable groups in the Basque Country: gypsy women, young people, day labourers, migrant women and the LGBT+ community, with a view to investigating these communities’ and groups’ contexts, in order to then affect public policy by presenting a report with the key conclusions and proposals. Here are some of the most pertinent points:

- When investigating inequality and vulnerability, it is essential to work on the basis of a broad and multidimensional understanding of the vulnerable groups, including awareness of the concept of intersectionality, which is defined as “the interaction of multiple identities and experiences of exclusion and subordination” (UN Women, 2018).
- One of the main tools with which to transform society is inclusive and equitable education that includes a focus on human rights and contributes to achieving all the other objectives.
- At this time of crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, existing inequalities, such as the digital divide, have become even more apparent. The serious consequences have affected all people, but especially those who were already experiencing social, economic and environmental vulnerability.
- At times like this, reflection and consideration of how to produce change is fundamental. In this regard, we believe the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially in their decade of action, represent a shared roadmap with which to coordinate ourselves and create partnerships at every level.

In conclusion, we firmly assert the need to address the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’s processes, including the diversity in contemporary societies and, in particular, facilitating the political participation of people and groups whose rights are undermined. Therefore, we also conclude that the effective and transformative implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development depends on it being consistent with the general commitment to human rights.

360. Union Internationale des Transport Publics

Urban mobility plays a vital role in helping cities prosper and ensuring that all urban citizens have access to basic human services, so that no one is left behind. This can only happen by stepping up collaboration among stakeholders and putting people first. We must restore trust in public transport and prioritise investments for public transport in voluntary national reviews and recovery plans.

Tackling the COVID-19 crisis means moving towards a more sustainable livelihood. The Union Internationale des Transport Publics is strongly advocating for all cities to build back better by prioritising public transport as a vital pillar for resilient social, economic and environmental change.

If we are to have a sustainable and resilient recovery from the pandemic, we must continue in our efforts to deliver Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11.2 and expand public transport. These investments will connect all people and communities to economic and social opportunities, and will create millions of decent, sustainable jobs while significantly cutting emissions.

It will not just support post-pandemic recovery for the next decade, but it will also determine a better future for many generations to come. There can be no poverty, reduced inequalities, or good health and well-being, decent work and economic growth, without public transport. So, we must continue to forge ahead with the next Decade of Action, pledge to mobilize investments, strengthen institutions while enhancing national implementation to achieve Goal 11.2 by 2030.

With the COVID-19 pandemic continuing to impact lives and livelihoods, this has become all the more important. With less than 10 years left to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we must continue to regularly follow up and review progress on all the Goals, in particular target 11.2. They remain the to-do list for people and planet and are the blueprint for success.

We all have a role to play to make this happen and international collaboration is critical in driving forward the transformation of the transport sector. When we boldly engage our collective multi-stakeholder knowhow, vision and leadership, we multiply the positive impact of change.

The Union Internationale des Transport Publics stands ready to help strengthen the institutional capacity of local, subnational and national authorities so that our cities can flourish so we can take advantage of this window of opportunity for change. We believe that citizens, cities and the planet will be better off with more public transport. It improves our lives in so many ways and is the shot in the arm for our economies to fully rebound now and build us back better.

361. United Nations Association of Russia

While being a crisis the COVID-19 pandemic is a unique opportunity for the world to find and introduce bold and innovative solutions that will strengthen the response and recovery, while accelerating progress across the entire 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) and the Paris Agreement. In these regards and within its Program "The Russian Regions and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals" (before 2015 "The Russian Regions and the United Nations Millennium Development Goals") our Organization has been cooperating with the Russian Regions representatives so to promote the search and implementation of the response measures to the pandemic which meet the 2030 Agenda. We would like to share some achievements of the Russian Regions in this direction as a contribution to the building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and as an address to potential partners for establishing new cooperation in promoting sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. In this statement we will present the activities and results of three latest participants of our Program "The Russian Regions and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals", namely Moscow, the Republic of Tatarstan and the Sverdlovsk Region.

Moscow

Moscow is among the top three urban agglomerations in the COVID-19 innovation rating. The rating is compiled by the StartupBlink international analytical center, which specializes in research on innovative ecosystems in different countries and cities around the world. Since the beginning of the pandemic, the Russian capital has presented 46 innovative solutions that have helped Muscovites survive and adapt to the changed environment.

Among them are the online schools "Foxford" and "Teach . Ru" ("Uchim . Ru"), the self-isolation index and the Yandex service for the delivery of tests for COVID-19, telemedicine platforms, digital passes with QR codes and diagnostic systems.

In the list of innovative solutions of Moscow scientists are also artificial intelligence used to recognize covid pneumonia, and the Sputnik V vaccine, which has shown high efficiency.

The international experience received and cooperation established during 2020-2021, both at bilateral events and at international venues, such as the Mayors' Meetings within the framework of the Summit of Cities against COVID-19, are invaluable for implementation of the above mentioned sustainable solutions. We call for continuation of the international cooperation development.

The Republic of Tatarstan

Since March 2020, a set of measures aimed at ensuring the sanitary and epidemiological well-being of the population has been implemented throughout the Republic of Tatarstan. One of the main measures in the plan to ensure the sustainable development of the region's economy in the context of the pandemic was the support of the population and the provision of essential goods. The entire system of medical care in the Republic of Tatarstan was completely reformatted in a short time. This includes the construction of the Republican Clinical Infectious Diseases Hospital

in record time (within 100 days), the repair and construction of infectious diseases departments in large cities, the creation of a Virtual clinical and expert Center, and the allocation of billions of rubles for the retrofitting of medical institutions and payments to medical workers.

During the lockdown period, pensioners, schoolchildren, representatives of socially vulnerable segments of the population received food packages that were brought to them by volunteers within the framework of the republican movement "Yardam yanashe! Help is near!". By the efforts of 5.5 thousand volunteers, about 55 thousand food packages were delivered, more than 46 thousand hot meals were distributed. Enterprises of the republic, including those with foreign capital, showed high social responsibility and carried out charitable actions: they supplied protective equipment to employees at their own expense, computer equipment for remote training to children, transferred their products to medical institutions, provided transportation and food for doctors.

The implementation of protective measures continues in 2021: in public places, in all organizations there are sanitizers and masks, parents receive money to support minor children.

The welfare of the population is a priority for the government of the republic, the results of the year of the pandemic in Tatarstan are invaluable experience, and one of the best practices among the regions of Russia. One of the key elements of such achievements is a strong cooperation between government, business and non-governmental sectors, which we call for all around the globe so to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

The Sverdlovsk Region

The Sverdlovsk Region has been actively working on the implementation of programs and projects aimed at achieving the 2030 Agenda, and 2020 was no exception. The Sverdlovsk Region provided serious support to the health care system, the allocated funds were used to re-equip the bed fund, purchase personal protective equipment, medical equipment and medicines. There is also an increased focus on the health and well-being of the region's residents.

The business community also responded to the call to mobilize the industry and provided huge assistance. For example, the production of medical masks increased 40 times within the period of March-December 2020. Industrialists and entrepreneurs of the Sverdlovsk region assisted in the purchase of expensive medicines, medical equipment, as well as ambulances (St. Catherine's Fund).

The regional government provided systematic support to socially-oriented non-profit organizations. Volunteers, representatives of NGOs (St. Catherine's Foundation) provided charitable assistance to the sick and elderly during the pandemic.

During the pandemic, a package of federal and regional support measures had an impact on maintaining the stability of the region's economy and the work of enterprises. Despite the pandemic, the region's external trade turnover increased by 2.3% compared to the previous year. In 2020, the Government fully fulfilled all its obligations to the residents of the Sverdlovsk region, including social protection. Combining the efforts of the Government of the Sverdlovsk region with business and non-profit organizations with the support of UN organizations will help

overcome the crisis caused by the pandemic and ensure the sustainable development of the region for the period up to 2030.

Within the United Nations Association of Russia Program "The Russian Regions and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals" we cooperate with a number of Russian regions, beside three mentioned above they are Irkutsk Region, Sakha (Yakutia), Yugra, Karachay-Cherkess Republic, Astrakhan Region, Kamchatka Territory, Perm Region, Tambov Region, Krasnodar Territory, Krasnoyarsk Territory, Moscow Region, Kursk Region and Omsk Region. All these regions also have remarkable achievements in recovery from the pandemic, which meet the 2030 Agenda.

It is our great pleasure to contribute to the cooperation development between the government and non-governmental sector through our Program "The Russian Regions and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals", which we have been implementing since 2009 with the support of the Russian Foreign Ministry. The principal goal of the Program is to popularize the United Nations ideas in Russian regions and convey the meaning, significance and, most importantly, direct benefit for regional development of the 2030 Agenda, on one hand, and to create mechanisms of the real participation of Russian regions in global management based on the United Nations system and increase their collaboration with the United Nations agencies through the global dimension of regional initiatives, on the other hand.

The core of the Program is the periodical issuing of the Report "Russian Regions and the UN Sustainable Development Goals", and its presentation at the UN platforms and at the meetings between the regions' heads and the UN Secretary-General.

362. United States Sustainable Development Corporation

The historical underinvestment in the Southern Black Belt, located in the southeastern region of the United States has left generations of families languishing in persistent poverty and their communities crippled by underdevelopment. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated some of the most dire conditions and highlighted the need for immediate remedy to longstanding inequality within rural communities.

In order to address regional inequity, the United States developed state-level (federal), regional commissions to serve as catalyst for economic advancement in distressed areas. Beginning in 1965, the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) addressed underdevelopment in the Appalachian region of the United States. More recently, the Delta Regional Authority (DRA) was established to make investment in the Delta region of the country which includes parts of Mississippi, Arkansas and Louisiana. While the DRA and the ARC both work in part of the southern United States, there is no entity that encompasses the region in its entirety.

In 2008, the US Congress created the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission to make similar investment in counties that were not already covered by the aforementioned commissions. While other commissions have received significant investment and continue to experience funding increases, this commission has yet to be activated by the appointment of a federal co-chair. It also has yet to receive any programmatic funding to address the needs of the region. COVID-19 has provided a clear look into the challenges of the rural Black Belt South. The need for more concerted institutional investments has only become more pronounced in the last year.

When considering the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the pandemic has had an adverse affect in several key goals that would benefit from federal investment.

These goals include:

- Goal 1 No Poverty,
- Goal 3 Good Health and Well Being,
- Goal 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth,
- Goal 10 Reduced Inequalities, and
- Goal 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities.

In August 2020 an article entitled, “Death by structural poverty’: US south struggles against Covid-19”, was published by The Guardian. It revealed that longstanding structural barriers that contribute to generational poverty and lack of access to health care within the region have been exacerbated during the pandemic. It found that issues of unemployment, the lack of medical insurance or health facilities and insured employment have inhibited the ability of people within the rural South to successfully protect their health against COVID-19.

As the world relies more heavily on virtual communication and technology in the age of the pandemic, rural communities have struggled with the lack of broad band services. The widened digital divide has rendered basic needs such as virtual learning and health inaccessible for many. The already fractured local food system that made many communities reliant on food pantries is an even greater challenge in rural communities.

The need for a national development strategy such as that which was employed in the Appalachian region in 1965, would greatly benefit the southeastern United States. The COVID-19 pandemic provides a unique opportunity to assess the needs of the region and provide opportunities to redress the historic disinvestment of one of its poorest regions.

363. Unnayan Onneshan

The COVID-19 pandemic has posed unprecedented challenges on life and livelihoods and heightened the pre-existing cracks in the socio-economic structures of developing and least developed countries. Despite taking fiscal and monetary measures to curb the fallouts of the pandemic, the pre-existing systemic faults in public goods provision have contributed to further polarisation and differentiation of the society. Because of less resilience capacity, least developed countries are severely impacted by the decline in remittances as well as heavy dependence on a single export or industry (such as garments and tourism). Again, developing and least developed countries are less able to provide large economic stimulus due to limited fiscal space. In this context, international community must play active and effective role.

The Role of the International Community

First, developed countries must help in financing the developing economies urgently to curb the limited fiscal space in these countries. To help, rich countries could transfer unused special drawing rights (SDRs) to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) special funds for Low Income Countries, such as the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust (PRGT) and the Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust (CCRT), or for development finance. Second, similar arrangements can be made for the World Bank. A World Bank version of the IMF's CCRT could ensure uninterrupted debt servicing while providing relief to countries in need. Third, as many developing countries are being forced to adjust by cutting social and environmental programmes, international financial institutions should come forward by lowering lending costs and other demands. Fourth, ensuring adequate access to vaccine for the developing countries is an urgent task. Not only ensuring the right to produce vaccines, these countries also need requisite technical knowledge and information. Fifth, a renewed urgent focus on people-centered and inclusive cooperation is necessary through, for instance, promoting better healthcare systems and more effective public health emergency preparedness in developing countries. Sixth, environmental sustainability must be the core of the economic and physical integration efforts. In this respect, building resilience to climate change is important, that can be steered by channeling climate finance from developed to climate vulnerable developing countries. Seventh, in order to meet the development needs in the midst of a pandemic, international community should promote cooperation on tax, domestic resource mobilisation and greater financial stability and resilience. Eighth, international community should prioritise making trade and value chains more resilient and sustainable, as well as creating new opportunities in developing and least developed countries. Ninth, there is an urgency to strengthen the collaboration among governments, bilateral and multilateral donors as well as development banks, philanthropic organizations and the private sector to fight the pandemic.

364. USAfrica News, Inc.

Impact of COVID-19 on Poverty Levels in Africa

Governments worldwide announced measures to curb the spread of COVID-19, including social distancing and isolation of those who tested positive for the virus. However, strict containment policies can damage developing countries as many low-income families depend on regular labor for income. Therefore, being under lockdown places them at risk of falling into severe poverty.

According to the World Bank, Many African governments' fast and aggressive attempts to control the disease have come at a substantial financial cost. This will cost the countries 25 years of reduced GDP. The areas are now expected to be three to five percentage points lower, predicted at 3% in 2020, and more Africans will sink into poverty as witnessed in the previous years.

Families and individuals are struggling incalculably due to these sweeping economic shifts due to disruption to essential services. Businesses have closed, markets have been disrupted, and jobs have been lost due to the lockdowns. The financial losses, as a result, have been enormous.

Before COVID-19, only two out of every ten poor Africans lived in cities. After COVID-19, three in ten, indicating a rise in the urban population. Many of these people have reduced work opportunities that cannot be done remotely. Despite previous announcements that informal markets and street vendors will be closed, some of their activities could have continued. Many opinions have come up, especially on health and hunger issues, even as improvised areas show low work mobility.

Due to the magnitude of the problem and why wits known about it, various solutions have been suggested and implemented to save lives and livelihoods. We propose two short-terms and three medium-term options. Policymakers can help the new poor by using non-official but still valuable data. Irregularities and inadequate fund management have also marred the government's effort to alleviate the plight of the poor in African countries. Cash payments by the federal government, for example, can only hit a fraction of the poor because Nigeria lacks a comprehensive national information management system, rendering electronic payments difficult. As a result, many people who have signed up for the National Social Register have not received the funds promised by the government. The government could investigate providing prepaid debit cards to the poor as an immediate solution. African governments must ensure that such programs are successfully executed by filling structural gaps and ensuring that distribution reaches the most deserving citizens.

Countries should also invest heavily in observatories to track how the shock affects families and provide assistance. In the short term, policymakers should consider creating universal databases since even localized or complex community targeting would benefit from using one. The other is to make sub-regional economic development more attractive. Since many African countries are too small to accomplish this trade-off at a fair cost on their own, we believe that sub-regional if not regional resilience will be prioritized. While physical separation can help reduce the spread of the COVID-19, it can be costly for low-wage workers who depend on casual labor to meet their daily requirements. Due to such limits, people from low-income environments are likely to continue working despite restraint rules.

365. US Committee for Human Rights in North Korea

The US Committee for Human Rights in North Korea wishes to highlight opportunities for sustainable and resilient recovery in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea after the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly relevant to the good health and well-being of North Korean women and children in line with Sustainable Development Goal 3.

The good health and well-being of North Korean women and children are critical under the COVID-19 pandemic and after. North Korean women and children are one of the most vulnerable populations. Both face a lack of healthcare and proper nutrition. Women lack adequate reproductive care and face sexual and gender-based violence as human trafficking victims and as prisoners. Their food insecurity may have been exacerbated by COVID-19-related restrictions. As such, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the international community should prioritize North Korean women and children in their efforts to conduct sustainable development and achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In particular, women and children in detention are often victims of trafficking. Prior to and during their detention, they often lack access to medical care and proper nutrition. The provision of medicine, healthcare services, food and micronutrients should focus on such vulnerable groups.

We respectfully urge both the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the People's Republic of China to accept visits by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and representatives of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Their visits would be opportunities to assess the impact of COVID-19 on aspects focused on human security in general, including the nutritional and health insecurity of vulnerable groups in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Such visits could serve as a precursor to conceptualizing and designing a comprehensive, sustainable, and inclusive approach to implementing the Sustainable Development Goals in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. We also urge the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to include human rights non-governmental organizations and humanitarian aid organizations in these visits, perhaps beginning with civil society organizations in United Nations consultative status. This would facilitate a more comprehensive dialogue, cognizant of both the human security needs of the people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and a United Nations Human Rights up Front approach, with the aim of achieving the 2030 Agenda in the country.

366. VAAGDHARA

Significance of Sustainable Agriculture Practices in Tribal Communities for a Resilient Recovery from COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected many aspects of our social and economic life resulting in the breakdown of food and livelihood security of millions in the country. Every section of the society faced several challenges due to its outbreak. People from the rural areas could not escape its hard impact as well. The small and marginal farmers who contribute to about 80% of total population of farmers in the country, were the most affected section of the society. Such tribal farmers couldn't practice farming owing to small landholdings and lack of resources, rather migrate to nearby cities to ensure their livelihood and food security. A quick response was witnessed where the Government provided stimulus packages while Civil Society Organisations, Philanthropists and Individuals various relief measures. But the need of the hour is to enable the communities for making them resilient towards such pandemics and other unforeseen difficult situations. The communities must be enabled to earn living income for their necessity of food, water, housing, education, healthcare and other essential aspects; more than just food and nutrition security assuring a decent living standard of these communities.

Government has been prioritizing various strategies to bring sustainable as well as resilient recovery from COVID-19 and promote economic, social and environmental dimensions among the community. Besides, the Government also needs to strengthen its system of health care, education, electricity and water to increase physical resilience. To make a resilient recovery from pandemic, promotion of sustainable agriculture practices among small landholding farmers, especially tribal farmers, could be proven consequential. The traditional practices and the culture of the tribal communities have been considered significant in attaining several SDGs. Their lifestyle, based on the circular economy promoting restorative and regenerative processes help in growing nutritious and climate resilient crops. Such practices also help them in reducing their dependency on the markets and make them self-reliant which is taking them forward towards Swaraj – the self-governance. Believing this philosophy, the tribal communities of the tri-junction area were among the communities which were least affected due to pandemic.

VAAGDHARA has been working with the tribal communities for years. Regular discussions with them at various platforms were significant in bringing out various recommendations for making tribal farmers resilient like the need of improving soil health and nutrition as well as increasing availability of ground water. In addition, they must be enabled to produce, use and conserve the quality seeds which will reduce their dependency on government and multinational companies as well as increase their earnings.

A greater focus on utilizing green energy, climate sensitive agriculture and strengthened mechanisms to earn living income is required to help achieve food and livelihood security, long term economic and social development, promoting resilient recovery from COVID-19 and ultimately building an effective path for the achievements of SDGs by 2030.

367. Via Vitae - Associação Portuguesa a Favor da População Sénior

Only platform in Portugal defending old people's interests, includes in its objectives the promotion of ageing with dignity during their whole life cycle, which should be active and should participate in society whenever possible, combining an inter-generational dimension as to foster a society for all ages, thus being an element of social cohesion.

The difficult pandemic period that has affected our lives with the persistence of COVID-19 and its variants for more than one year's time, has drawn our attention and shown some existing missing conditions, which must be adjusted in the future, whereas for their normal operations, as well as to prevent any future crises. Old people have suffered physically and morally, whether in homes or living in their own houses, where old people were submitted to complete isolation for one year's time. It is well known that the emotional side and the lack of their contact direct with their families are essential for a healthy ageing. Elderly have lived completely isolated without any possibility of affection from their family members, which resulted in serious psychological consequences.

Many of them were badly treated, discriminated or simply ignored, irrespective of the Human Rights respect. One must also take care of the elderly, old women and men, some from the baby boom, who have contributed to society, sometimes as workers, guiding youngsters, taking care of their small-children or their parents.

We wish to look into the future where not only the economy prevails, requiring concrete measures to ensure values and dignity in people's living capacity. We wish to protect the elderly, who during the COVID-19 pandemic suffered discrimination and isolation with physical and psychological repercussions, requesting policy recommendations and commitments for improved measures to ensure a sustainable recovery of old people in dignity, well-being and respect of Human Rights. This means that old people should enjoy equality of treatment and no discrimination whatever their age in healthcare treatments or during their stay in hospitals, no imposed isolation cut-off from the outside world or from family members causing negative effects for their future life, adequate services support both in qualified human resources and necessary equipment, digital access facilities although not abolishing paper supporting documents and hearing of a consultative forum at local level concerning issues that might affect their daily life.

Here are some general suggestions and policy making measures to ensure some recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic crises at national, regional or local levels, liable to contribute to sustainable development to be included for the elderly in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

368. Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund, Inc.

Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund, rebranded as Women First International Fund in 2019, invests in grassroots initiatives driven by women and girls in developing economies. The flexibility of our three-stage partnership model over six years, in which we fund women-led groups who have received little or no previous funding, enables us to invest heavily in the groups who will benefit most. With a longer commitment to grantees, we were positioned to regroup and direct emergency funding to meet their immediate and pressing challenges with the onset of COVID-19. Our efforts to adapt to the pandemic while meeting our commitments to our grantees reinforced for us:

That no technology has proven more valuable to people everywhere than internet connectivity and access to digital financial services during the last 13 months, as they facilitated transmitting and receiving government relief measures, moving into remote work settings, joining remote classrooms, and enabling the long-term sustainability of micro, small and medium enterprises. Yet, 3.7 billion people remain offline; 197 million fewer women than men own a phone; 1.7 billion people are still unbanked; and the gender gap in bank account ownership remains at 9% in developing countries, where it has been for over a decade. In many cases, existing financial and digital inclusion measures were inefficient or inadequate to address financing needs of most marginalized and vulnerable communities, especially those in the last-mile and Micro Small and Medium Enterprises. Digital and financial inclusion, as key drivers for economic growth and poverty eradication, must be given priority focus.

That women's economic empowerment is crucial to addressing the fallout from the pandemic. Without investing in and partnering with grassroots organizations, lasting systemic changes cannot happen. Community-based organizations are best-positioned to support women in businesses and advocate for the policy and financial sector improvements required to create a conducive and equitable environment for women in business to thrive. Far too often, they are overlooked and underfunded. Our grantee, Community Women's Enterprise Network (CWEN), a women-led community-based organization in Uganda serves as a business resource for women entrepreneurs across all sectors, focusing especially on high potential low-income entrepreneurs. CWEN is working towards an ambitious vision - to set up centralized infrastructure for women entrepreneurs, including certified production, processing, packaging, and food lab, under one roof, offering expert solutions to women in the value addition chain. Our grantee, Her Initiative in Tanzania, is a young women-led organization that provides training, mentorship, and linkages to empower young women to generate their own income and be financially resilient. In its first year of funding from Women First, Her Initiative has already directly enabled 45 new young women-owned businesses, successfully linked more than 200 young women with capital and loans and has reached over 5,000 young women to provide knowledge and awareness on generating income. On behalf of our grantees, we call for greater investment in women-led organizations, especially those working at the community and district level, and in the necessary digital and financial infrastructure to make it accessible to them and their communities.

369. Voice of Change International

The recent pandemic, which has devastated communities at all levels around the world, brings to light numerous environmental, social, and economic implications. As governments and non-state actors begin to consider pathways toward economic recovery, issues regarding inclusive development and sustainability must be considered.

Here, the Voice of Change International (VOCI) provides research and insights on building a more resilient and inclusive societies after the pandemic.

According to the UN Secretary-General António Guterres, the world is facing an unprecedented test and this is the moment of truth. The recovery from the COVID-19 crisis must lead to a different economy. Everything we do during and after this crisis must be with a strong focus on building more equal, inclusive and sustainable economies and societies that are more resilient in the face of pandemics, climate change, and the many other global challenges we face.

A central dimension of building back better is the need for a people-centred recovery that focuses on well-being, improves inclusiveness and reduces inequality. To improve public support, recovery policies need to be measured on more than just economic growth and total job creation. Emphasizing other elements that improve well-being, such as income, job quality, housing and health is important to achieve the goal.

Inclusive and sustainable development is crucial to reduce poverty in all its dimensions. Many people are excluded from mainstream development because of their gender, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, disability or poverty. No one can be left behind. Everyone has to be given a chance to participate in and benefit from development. Creating the conditions for inclusive and sustainable growth must include all three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. The international community should adopt strategies including:

- 1) Adopting Digital transformation through promoting financial technology solutions to help secure a sustainable and inclusive recovery from the pandemic. We need to ensure that socially marginalized and vulnerable groups, including the poor, women, elderly, and rural communities have the connectivity to join the digital economy.
- 2) Promote International Cooperation and Solidarity: Countries must work together to overcome challenges that easily gets transferred into other countries, and to help each other build back better.
- 3) Call for bold and concerted actions to address the impacts on sustainable development. There is a need to call for bold and concerted actions to address the impacts on sustainable development of the COVID-19 pandemic and policies to address economic instability, begin economic recovery and minimize the negative effects on livelihoods, develop gender-sensitive targeted measures for poverty eradication, social protection, policies, encourage donors and other stakeholders to support countries for effective and efficient implementation of policies, programs to help achieve the sustainable development goals.
- 4) Recognizing the role of Civil Society Organizations, in building back resilient and sustainable society, providing them with support and capacity building to help achieve the sustainable development goals.

In conclusion, despite the devastating effects of the pandemic on nations, there is the need to work together, take stock and concrete solutions to help accelerate development, achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and build back better.

370. Win the War! Against Violence

Referencing the priority theme of the 2021 ECOSOC High-level Segment, which is also the theme of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, It is our NGO's belief that the best action to take to achieve a "Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development" is simply creating, maintaining, and advancing "Peace" and more "Peace."

Peace is not only the absence of violence but the absence of the threat of violence too especially if the threat of violence is immediate and viable no matter where it is.

Advancement in any of the seventeen UN Sustainable Development Goals should first start with goal sixteen, "Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions." We think in the future, "Peace" should be UN Sustainable Development Goal number one and should be listed by itself. Peace is a whole lot harder without justice and strong institutions, but peace is always possible. We believe violence, bullying, and abuse (VBA) is the "Head of the Snake" for all human and manmade problems. To tackle any human problem, including recovery from COVID-19, "Peace" must be step one, priority one, action one.

How should peace be achieved? Every situation is different, but each has thousands of successful paths for peace. And these paths are subject to change at any time as well, so they may continue to be successful. Our good principles of humanity: peace, life, love, freedom, and equality, though, never change. But one principle cannot be sacrificed for another. All of the principles are equal at all times, including in method, practice, or application. A person must be moral to become moral.

371. Women@TheTable

Women at the Table proposes a holistic approach to harness the technology needed to help inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and to solve the tech exclusion problem from its roots.

We call for dynamic steps to include an intersectional variety and equal numbers of women and girls in the creation, design, and coding of the technology we need. Beyond encouraging more investment and better strategies for women and girls to gain skills: we want diverse women proactively involved in all tech and AI processes, shaping the technology that affects every part of our lives.

We propose vigorous participation of women and girls, from settlements to cities, from rural environments to primary, secondary schools and universities, better informing design and implementation decisions of government officers and companies, engineers and management teams miles away from the societies they are trying to serve and problems they are trying to address.

There is not only room for, but urgent need for, women and girls' expert frontline experience and input, participation and co-creation, at each and every stage of tech and AI development and deployment.

We call for Affirmative Action for Algorithms conceived to correct for bias from the moment of conception. Algorithms that solve the problems needed on the ground with problem definition and solution design sourced from the frontline, and the adoption of guidelines that establish fairness, accountability, transparency for algorithmic decision making in both the public and private sectors, opening up and debiasing the algorithmic Black Box.

You do not need a math degree to have lived and understood the systemic fixes that need to be escalated in society, to include more, and to serve better. By combining knowledge on the ground from the feminist frontline with more diverse, inclusive teams composed of computer, data and machine learning scientists, an even larger alliance can be created for actively correcting for systemic gender and race inequalities. This is a better avenue than taking old systems and old assumptions, optimizing them for efficiency and digitizing them with old biases at scale, only then correcting for bias after harm has been caused.

Our proposal is reasonable to pilot: open the room and seat women and girls at your crisis tables where you decide the next interventions, including tech interventions, to solve the current national and global crises exacerbated by COVID-19.

Given the pace at which AI and other Algorithmic Decision-Making systems are being deployed we need to seed the future we want with inclusion, multidisciplinary, and gender, race and class diversity. We must seize the urgent now of long term COVID-19 response firmly in the context of the equally urgent need to create more democratic, new systems so that all can thrive.

372. Women and Development Association in Alexandria

The Efforts of the State and Civil Society Organizations Towards the Outbreak of the Corona Epidemic

Egypt is ranked first among the list of 42 Arab countries most contributing to the fight against COVID-19, and it is ranked ninth in the world in a list of 42 countries, as the Prime Minister issued Decree No. 17 of the year 2020 limiting the sale of some products necessary to confront the virus, and the President also allocated 100 billion Egyptian Pounds as part of the state's plan to deal with possible repercussions of the virus, in addition to the exemption of medical equipment, supplies and medicines from the legally prescribed purchase fee. The Ministry of Health has also allocated phone numbers (105 - 2795821) for complaints and inquiries, and it has also provided ventilators and allocated 150 million Egyptian Pounds for the purchase of medical devices.

It has also increased quarantine at the airport, and medical staffs have been trained to deal with the crisis and a number of hospitals were provided to receive cases. All sporting events or events that lead to gatherings have been suspended. Schools have also been suspended, air traffic has been suspended at all airports, all tourist facilities have been disinfected, and employees have been given the opportunity to work from home.

The government has also provided social benefits, postponed payment of loans due on the affected sectors, along with tax exemptions, and a fund to support the irregular and temporary employment that reached 2.5 million workers was established by the Ministry of Manpower.

The Ministry of Education supported distance education and provided study materials on the Knowledge Bank website. All archaeological museums, funeral halls, and mosques and churches in the state were closed. The Ministry of Social Solidarity has also provided a new mechanism for pension disbursement. Besides, within the framework of the government's partnership with civil society organizations, many associations have been established in all governorates. For example, in the governorate of Alexandria, the Red Crescent Society, the Women and Development Association, and "Khalik Eigaby" (Be Positive) Association have worked in coordination with the Ministry of Solidarity in the distribution of subsidies, whether from the government or associations, and collaborated with the Ministry of Health by distributing disinfectants to citizens, providing food for irregular workers and distributing them in coordination with the Ministry of Local Development guarded by the police at night. It has also sanitized railway stations and government institutions, printed and distributed awareness leaflets, and conducted awareness meetings of "small groups" in the associations' headquarters.

The Women and Development Association, have provided free legal support to women, along with psychological support for battered women and women recovering from the epidemic, and worked on the economic empowerment of women, by teaching them home-made craftsmanship, food processing, sewing and leather.

373. Women's Board Educational Cooperation Society

The COVID-19 pandemic attacked the world badly and to date many nations are still struggling to get back on their feet. The pandemic caused a huge economic and social disruption, loss of job, extreme poverty, academic decline, food insecurity and disaster in public health. In Nigeria, the imposed nationwide lockdown directly reduced economic output and household incomes especially for those who depend on daily income.

Our projects offering Hospitality skills in different parts of the nation, are committed towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and we have been able to continue this even in these difficult times. The beneficiaries are mostly from poor backgrounds who are mainly faced with no skills to enable them to obtain employment.

The Hospitality skills we offer is a route to resilient recovery from the pandemic; as it offers our beneficiaries and their families a means of fighting poverty which relates to SDGs 1 and 8. However, being a not-for-profit with no support from the government, we had a number of challenges which could have deterred our activities if not for the support we received from foreign donors and other well-meaning persons.

In order to continue providing the skills, we had to resort to the power of digital technologies. Theory classes continued online and when it became possible to gather following COVID-19 protocols, practical classes resumed. This was made possible because the schools provided data for the students and staff.

However, many public institutions including secondary schools were not able to continue learning as they do not have such resources and the government was not able to render them this assistance. This has resulted in loss of school time and academic work is far behind. The examinations are postponed and at present, there are students who have completed their secondary education and cannot proceed with their higher education.

The Hospitality industry was adversely affected as many hotels and restaurants were put out of operations and some staff lost their jobs. Fortunately, our students were able to survive as they harnessed their entrepreneurial skills and started up small businesses such as cooking and delivery of food, snacks and yogurt to support their families.

This year's theme in the face of the pandemic should help nations to prepare better and provide strategies to achieve the SDGs. We hereby recommend a recovery strategy with a major focus on the well-being of people. Efforts must be channeled towards not leaving anyone behind as a result of the pandemic by providing a social protection net for everyone.

374. Women Graduates - USA, Inc.

Women Graduates-USA, a membership organization, focuses on national issues impacting globally particularly Sustainable Development Goals 3, 4, 5, 10, 16, and 17. Key priorities and programming advocate for Women's Global Health, Education, Violence Against Women including Human Trafficking, Migrants and Refugees and Peace and Security for the UN 2030 Agenda.

Healthcare, a fundamental human right, is necessary for humane societies locally and globally. Despite exacerbated disparities and dire urgencies of COVID-19, the United States has not prioritized or increased its responsibility to build capacity or established policies allocating additional critically needed resources for effective comprehensive healthcare. We urge immediate action nationally and globally to support the 1978 Alma Ata Declaration for health and re-invest in universal healthcare.

Our call to action exposes the socioeconomic determinants of health and barriers to access in the following fundamental respects: capacity building, funding, leadership diversity inclusion and development of healthcare professionals particularly maternal, mental and preventative; collaboration and resources to strengthen action by the World Health Organization, United Nations agencies, governments, private entities and academia for equitable sustainable strategic planning; engaging generational expertise and women leaders to drive legislation, influence policy and improve high decision making.

Women Graduates-USA's multi-dimensional intentional action for strategic architecture and implementation promotes health and wellbeing to ameliorate the harmful consequences of hitherto neglected societal healthcare, particularly for the vulnerable and under-served. Our Global Women's Health 2020 Resolution urges all sectors to prioritize universal healthcare, education and funding as an immediate critical priority, and to build partnerships to advance sustainable economic development and guarantee health equity for all.

Integrating solutions for climate change, human security and development that provide for "peace, justice and strong institutions" calls for the United Nations and its member states to develop and implement integrative strategies to meet the challenges of natural and armed conflict disasters. This requires equal inclusion of women, greater use of scientific information and atrocity prevention measures.

Because of life experiences of direct caring for others, women are more likely to bring humane responses to disasters, rather than the traditional male model of "power over." Today, scientific data-gathering (yet often not sex-aggregated and poorly funded) has increased exponentially but the understanding and use of such data is too often lacking in the citadels of power, necessitating awareness-raising and education about both gender equality and predictive scientific information. Civilians bear the brunt of harm in situations of armed conflict and women and children suffer the most, both initially and long-term. The use of gender-based violence as a weapon of war must be instituted as unlawful and those committing such atrocities must be brought to justice.

Comprehensive immigration policies are lacking in countries faced with an inflow of migrants seeking refuge from violence, hunger or unstable economies in their home countries. Proper oversight of point-of-entry countries is needed through implementation of humane processing systems for migrants, asylum seekers and refugees. Systems or policies that honor the human rights of all migrants require establishing accountability measures for point-of-entry countries to uphold.

375. Women's Health and Education Center

COVID – 19: One War That Must Be Fought Together

Throughout the coronavirus crisis, one overriding message from the Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC) has been that the work of the UN – political, peacekeeping, development, human rights and humanitarian, must go on even under difficult or unusual conditions.

WHEC calls on world leaders to come together and offer an urgent and coordinated response to this global crisis. The three-part action plan includes:

1. Tackling the health emergency;
2. Placing focus on the social impact and the economic response and recovery;
3. Prioritizing the responsibility to “recover better.”

Richer States need to assist low-income States with realizing human rights. The pandemic is reminding us of the importance of multilateralism and international cooperation to face the challenges facing the world today.

The world is only as strong as the weakest health system.

WHEC's Action Plan and Recommendations to achieve 2030 Agenda are:

- 1) **Strengthen national capacities for science-based decision making across all countries.** When scientific advice is solicited, it is important to make such advice public in an open and transparent way.
- 2) **Enhance public trust in science.** Public trust in science is essential for science-based policies to succeed, in the case of COVID-19, all individuals must trust the scientific guidance if they are to alter their behavior and lower rates of transmission.
- 3) **Share knowledge and data to promote collaborative research.** Academic research is traditionally published in journals only accessible on payment, which limits access in various ways.
- 4) **Ensure Universal Access to Solutions.** The need for vaccine availability globally is a priority. But past experience shows that fair and equitable access is not given. One of the most important functions of science-policy-society interface at the global level is ensuring universal access to such global public goods. The WHEC Global Health Line's (WGHL's) **LINK Access Project**, and its networking facilitate wider access to these innovations for adoption across countries. It is serving in 227 countries and territories, and it is available in six official languages of the UN to 14 to 15 million subscribers every year, since 2015.
- 5) **Act with greater urgency on global scientific assessments.** International collaborations across scientists and experts are a powerful way of bringing evidence and scientific consensus to the attention of policymakers to inform actions. Such preparedness should be guided by science.
- 6) **The Way Forward – A Call for Stronger International Cooperation.** This pandemic is a crisis and a human tragedy, it is also an opportunity to recognize and address the deeper

shortcomings of our current science-policy advisory systems, and their interface with society at all levels.

- 7) **UN Document E/CN.9/2021/NGO/16**, title: Strengthening global partnership (SDG17) through food security and public health; published by 54th Commission on Population and Development;

WHEC is one such partner to facilitate in the sharing of scientific knowledge and technology solutions. Its advocacy and educational programs focus mainly on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1, 3, 4, 5, 10, 16 and 17.

Join the movement to achieve 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development!

376. Women's Health in Women's Hands

Leaving No One Behind: Racialized Women and the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Purpose

The objective of this statement is to highlight how racialized women have been systematically left out of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and how this exclusion directly impacts the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and potential for recovery.

Overview

Women's Health in Women's Hands (WHIWH) has been working with racialized women for the last 25 years. The Centre provides primary healthcare to racialized women from the African, Black, Caribbean, Latin American and South Asian communities in Toronto and surrounding municipalities. Our framework bridges policy, research, service delivery and advocacy as a continuum to support the health and wellbeing of racialized immigrant, refugee and non-status women.

WHIWH serves more than 4500 racialized women annually; leading the COVID-19 response as a front-line service provider of essential medical and social services. We have noted high loss of employment, food and housing insecurities and mental health challenges driven by social marginalization and exclusion in Canadian society. COVID-19 utilized the same fault lines that underscore HIV and other pandemics. As we discuss the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we need to take into consideration how to deal with the inequities that continue to impact racialized women epidemic after epidemic.

Policy Recommendations

1. Countries should implement race-based data disaggregation strategies to unpack the differential impacts of any pandemic/epidemic. As COVID-19 raged in Canada, it was noted on the ground the high impacts on racialized populations across the country. In the city of Toronto, data was disaggregated based on race/ethnicity where evidence was available in contrast to federal level government.
2. Countries should develop mechanisms and investment in social contracting to deal with existing health inequities which continues to impact racialized women differentially. Immigrant, refugee and non-status women should have access to health care services regardless of immigration status.
3. Elimination of systemic racism, specifically anti-Black racism needs to be made a priority. Countries need to develop and implement long-term strategies and support capacity building across systems to eradicate racism within the healthcare system and all other systems.
4. Countries should recognize and identify the multiple intersecting dimensions of stigma and discrimination based on race, gender, sexual orientation and other marginalized identities and their impact on the health and mental wellbeing of racialized women.

5. Countries need to strengthen access to health services for everyone in their jurisdiction. Racialized communities maintain difficulty accessing basic health services. Access to COVID-19 vaccines is especially challenging for neighborhoods that are predominantly racialized and/or non-insured. Barriers such as language, mistrust of systems, poverty, lack of tailored information, online platforms that women cannot afford and other exclusionary practices compound women's ability to deal with COVID -19 pandemic.
6. Countries should resource community-led, trusted responses for 2030. Community Based Organizations have always been at the forefront of responses related to emerging issues in their communities. When COVID-19 emerged, they were the vanguard to mobilize, educate, prevent, and support the initial and follow-up impact of the pandemic.

377. Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO) Limited

Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing is a membership-based organization whose institutional members represent over two million informal workers. Together we have called on all governments to accelerate investments in worker protections in economic recovery plans. Without these investments, Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8 on decent work and economic growth will not be realised. For the two billion people who work informally SDG 8 is also their most direct route to the achievement of SDG 1.

The COVID-19 lockdowns revealed the critical role that informal workers play in society, providing services such as collecting recyclables and caring for families, or producing goods for local markets and contributing to food security. When informal workers were forced to stop working it became clear how important these workers are.

We call upon the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs to support the following priorities:

Invest in policies to connect workers to social assistance, inclusive social insurance, and health and child care.

Governments must protect spending on social protections.

Governments must aim for universal social protection, making it easy to access for informal workers. This includes lowering administrative barriers and making services affordable and available.

Governments must expand cash transfers to support women workers with care responsibilities, and provide free, quality child care.

Global financial institutions must support governments in these actions by ending harmful fiscal consolidation measures.

Ensure that social protection policies and labour protections work together to protect workers from poverty.

Social protection alone cannot make up for the inequalities produced by unfair and punitive policies which worsen conditions of work. Global institutions must stop promoting the so-called “flexibilization” of labour markets and start implementing basic protections for both wage employed and self-employed workers.

All workers have the right to collective bargaining and to participate in policy discussions that affect them. All work, including informal work, must be covered by labour and social protections.

Governments and multilateral institutions must ensure that global brands bear responsibility for worker welfare and end practices that profit from exploitative working conditions, particularly for women who work from home as dependent contractors.

Recognize the critical role informal worker organizations have played in the COVID-19 relief effort and must play in recovery.

Informal worker organizations were vital in the COVID-19 relief effort. From sharing life-saving health information, to mobilizing donations and delivering food rations, masks and hand sanitizer.

Governments must include informal workers in decision-making platforms and provide support to informal worker organizations which were critical in providing relief and vital services when governments fell short.

378. Women's Ordination Conference

As the world begins to emerge from the restrictions and struggles caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, it is crucial for full recovery and effective achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 that women play an equal, if not dominant, role in the rebuilding efforts. Women have borne the brunt of the effects of this pandemic: suffering disproportionately economically, taking on additional domestic and child care duties, providing much of the nursing and nurturing while also being subject to increased levels of domestic violence. No strategies should be conceived without full and equal participation of women at all levels of decision-making.

Ironically, this has been plainly explicated by the Vatican in its recent document, “Women in the COVID-19 Crisis: Disproportionately Affected and Protagonists of Regeneration.” While bluntly excluding women from any role in decision-making or equal participation in its own administration, either global or local, the Vatican can still maintain that the rest of the world needs to “pay close attention to the experience and struggles of women so they can fully participate.” This document is prescient in stating that “the leadership and contributions of women are indispensable...to regenerate a more inclusive and sustainable economy and society” – yet is blind to its own lack of input from women. While urging others to “identify and remove structural barriers to inclusion”, the Vatican has, perhaps, the highest and sturdiest walls preventing any participation from women in meaningful leadership. The document urges its ministers to preach sermons countering violence against women, yet models an oppressive mentality of treating men as worthy of participation where women are not. And, (double irony) the Church will not allow women to preach about anything, even violence against women.

Women’s Ordination Conference is the largest organization that is working for full equality of women in the Roman Catholic Church. Women's Ordination Conference maintains that the Economic and Social Council goals for sustainable development will founder while the Holy See exerts influence in the Commission on the Status of Women because it models the subjugation and silencing of women. Far from practicing what either the United Nations or its own document on COVID-19 recommends, the Holy See unequivocally and systematically excludes women from decision-making. The prestige and diplomatic and cultural influence enjoyed by the Roman Catholic Church around the world makes it a formidable justification for women’s suppression. But, in order to build back from the COVID-19 crisis effectively, women’s contributions must be not only sought but amplified; the process must be inclusive, valuing the participation of women and marginalized genders for transformative change in every sphere.

The best way to ensure achievement of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development is to hold all members of the United Nations community to the same standard of dismantling any barriers to gender equality and promoting full participation of women in order to provide an inclusive and effective path to resilient recovery.

379. Women's Spirit (Ruach Nashit) – Financial Independence for Women Survivors of Violence

Women's Spirit, Special Advisor to the United Nations by the Economic and Social Council since 2019, works to promote the Economic Independence of women survivors of abuse in Israel, and strives for social justice and gender equality. We focus on rewriting the story of women survivors of abuse, and are the only NGO in Israel providing those women with solutions that are adapted to their individual needs. Women's Spirit provides solutions focused on employment and financial empowerment. Our target population comes from all economic, social and racial backgrounds and includes every sector of Israeli society. In addition to our work with individual women, We promote changes in laws, policies, and structural barriers.

During COVID-19, Women's Spirit did not close its doors and our work even increased. We have accommodated our services and activities according to the limitations on movement and the directives issued by the Ministry of Health, and worked through online communication. At times like this, we consider our work as especially critical. For our participants, keeping in touch was vital, as they needed our guidance and support. We provided basic needs such as food baskets and laptops, despite our usual policy of "teaching people to fish rather than giving them fish".

Women's Spirit takes an active part in a Coalition of Civil Society Organizations which works to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Israel. Our work promotes, specifically, the implementation of three of the Sustainable Development Goals:

Eliminating Poverty (SDG 1)

Women's Spirit provides emotional backing, employment skills, and financial literacy, to rebuild women's lives. The activities of Women's Spirit enable women survivors of violence to become economically independent, and therefore more likely to leave and stay out of the cycles of violence and poverty. Many of the women that Women's Spirit support are single parents whose former partners do not pay child support so they depend on funds from the Israeli social insurance. During the pandemic, funds had been cut for single parents when they started to receive unemployment payments by the government, as Israel does not allow "double payments". Within the framework of the Coalition for Ensuring child support, we demanded no cuts in allotments to single mothers who have been fired or put on "leave" due to COVID-19.

Achieving Gender Equality (SDG 5)

Women's Spirit's entire activity is based on a feminist perspective and a commitment to gender justice.

Creating Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG 8)

Financial independence is an inseparable part of a woman's wellbeing; a woman cannot protect herself from reoccurring violence and regain control of her life if she is not financially independent. Women's Spirit offers a tailor-made long-term program, which helps women to permanently leave the vicious cycle of violence and rebuild their lives by improving their occupational and financial status.

Women's Spirit works to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by working with individual women, civil society, the business community, policymakers, and governmental bodies.

380. Women's Voices Now Inc.

As an organization supporting the advancement of women's and girls' rights, Women's Voices Now is concerned by the COVID-19 pandemic's aggravation of socio-economic problems affecting women, and consequent reversal of recent progress. We recommend that the High-Level Segment review the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the lens of SDG 5 (Gender Equality), and consider film as a tool for their fulfillment.

The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2020 notes that, due to COVID-19, violence against women and girls is increasing, progress to end child marriage and female genital mutilation could be undone, and women are spending still more time than men in unpaid work. Gender parity in positions of power is critical to recovery from the pandemic, but has not been achieved.

Moreover, interlinkages between SDG 5 and SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), highlight that addressing the aforementioned issues is crucial to fulfilling the overall 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Women's Voices Now therefore recommends that, in recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, particular attention should be paid to the needs of women and girls. Moreover, we recommend that this be achieved by utilizing the power of film. Film is uniquely able to influence popular opinion, by normalizing positive representations of women to reduce gender-based stereotypes, raising awareness and generating empathy. It can thus help enact a global culture shift, in which communities and institutions believe in the need for gender equality and adapt their behaviors and actions to support its advancement. This approach is acknowledged in the Agreed Conclusions following the 65th Commission on the Status of Women, which:

“recognizes that negative social norms and gender stereotypes can be reinforced by the media, advertising and film industries, and stresses the important role the media can play, while ensuring the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in media, in the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.”

To uphold the principle of “ensuring that no one is left behind”, we also recommend further efforts to bring the global population online, thus giving greater access to social change film and capitalizing on its potential as a far-reaching agent of change. The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2020 states that, of the population of least developed countries, “only 19 per cent use the Internet [...] Key reasons for this large gap are the cost of using the Internet and the lack of necessary skills.” Women's Voices Now therefore supports a focus on this issue during the next decade of action.

381. Women's World Summit Foundation

Supplementary Income for All (SIFA): Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development)

The world needs new strategies. A different kind of redistribution of wealth is needed if we wish to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal 1 (No Poverty) and move from charity to a rights-based approach.

Brief introduction of the SIFA Plan (a collaborative project in progress)

The Plan proposes a supplementary economy for all people that is financed by a digital currency backed by marketable sustainable goods and services. Originally conceived by Dutch social activist and artist, Pieter Kooistra, who explained it in two books, with one financed by the Dutch Government. The Plan was endorsed by economist and 1969 Nobel Prizewinner, Jan Tinbergen. Implementation will allow the present world economic system to evolve gradually towards an inclusive sustainable global economy for the benefit of all, including Nature.

When this Plan is fully implemented, each person would initially receive a supplementary income which would probably be the current equivalent of around US\$ 500 per year. This amount will be recalculated yearly and grows as the supplementary economy expands and which can be spent only on goods and services that harm neither people nor planet.

Where does the money come from?

In the past, a country's currency was considered "hard" to the degree it was covered by gold reserves. Today, a country's currency is considered "hard" to the degree it is covered by the combined "marketable goods and services." In today's world both rich and poor limit currency production for opposing reasons. Those who have the potential to produce extra goods and services lack the markets, while those who have a need for those goods and services do not have the money to purchase them. If over-capacity can be connected to the lack of goods and services elsewhere, the digital currency can then be created for a supplementary economy and be shared equally among all participants, after operational costs have been deducted.

In theory, this proposed supplementary economy would be able to grow sustainably by about five to ten percent per year if the whole world were combined into one market and production matched people's needs.

What is required

An account for each participant in the SIFA Plan (potentially worldwide), within

1. a globally linked electronic communication system connected to
2. a corresponding SIFA Administrative Agency with banking facilities to enable exchange into national currencies, and
3. development workers trained in monitoring supply and demand, guiding decision-making processes regarding what can be purchased within the supplementary economy.

382. World Animal Net, Inc.

COVID-19 has brought into focus how current practices present risks not only to our health, but to economic wellbeing as well. COVID-19 has halted and possibly reversed progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and we cannot afford to risk another pandemic like it.

Preparedness is not enough. It is critical that sustainable and resilient recovery plans work to prevent future pandemics. This can be done by recognizing the intrinsic relationship between humans, animals and the environment and adopting a One Health/One Welfare approach.

As an organizer of the Animal Issues Thematic Cluster, a coalition under the Non-Governmental Organization Major Group demonstrating how the care, protection, and conservation of animals contributes to sustainable development, we propose action in three areas aligned with the 2020 UN Environment report “Preventing the Next Pandemic”. These actions will reduce the risk of future pandemics and contribute to the implementation of many Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

1) Reorient food systems to ensure that all people have access to sustainable and healthy foods, which are higher in plant-based foods and lower in animal products. This transition requires shifting subsidy and tax architectures, increasing consumer awareness, implementing labelling schemes and creating standards for public procurement. Taking this action lowers zoonotic risk by reducing the number of animals produced for food and contributes to SDGs 2,3,6,8,10,12,13,14, and 15.

2) Transition to more sustainable, safe and humane production systems. Intensive farming systems house thousands of genetically-similar, stressed animals in cramped conditions and use large amounts of prophylactic antimicrobials, creating the perfect storm for rapid disease evolution and transmission. Transitioning from this type of farming requires producers to stop using caged systems, lower stocking densities, focus on robust breeds, and take a health- and welfare-oriented approach to animal husbandry. It requires the transition to agro-ecological practices and regenerative agriculture. Taking these actions lowers zoonotic risk by increasing animal health and welfare and contributes to SDGs 2,3,10,12,14 and 15.

3) End the exploitation of wildlife. Overexploitation of wildlife is a key driver of biodiversity loss and puts humans in close contact with wild animals throughout the supply chain. Phasing out farming of wild animals, ending long-distance transport, implementing a just transition enabling those involved in the commercial wildlife trade to access safe and dignified work, stopping the sale of live animals at markets, creating a strong regulatory framework and taking steps toward the end of the commercial trade altogether, while respecting Indigenous Peoples and customary uses, are important steps. Taking these actions will reduce human exposure risks from wildlife and contribute to SDGs 3,4,8,12,15, and 16.

These policies will reduce the risk of future pandemics, contribute to the SDGs, and lay the foundations for a resilient recovery, but they require investment and new and innovative partnerships. It is clear that business-as-usual is no longer an option. By reorienting our interactions and relationships with animals we safeguard our future while creating a world in which

“humanity lives in harmony with nature and in which wildlife and all other living species are protected.”

383. World Association for Christian Communication

In response to the call for “Various measures and policy recommendations on building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”, WACC would like to bring the following to the attention of the 2021 ECOSOC High-Level Segment. 1. Communication and information poverty exacerbate peoples’ and communities’ sense of powerlessness and their inability to make themselves heard. As such, communication and information poverty are critical deficits for millions of people on every continent whose access to communication is restricted or impeded, who are underrepresented or misrepresented in the media, who may have low levels of media literacy, and whose right to information and knowledge is obstructed by governments or corporations. Under the impact of a pandemic such as COVID-19, such omissions and failings are even more manifest. 2. As digital technologies become increasingly central in today’s societies, international experts on freedom of expression have begun to focus on the relationship between information and communication poverty, democratic accountability, and today’s digital communication ecosystems. These developments have gone hand in hand with the growing trend of shrinking space for civil society, a phenomenon that curtails and undermines key communication and human rights such as the Right to Freedom of Expression, the Right to Free Assembly, and the Right to Free Association. 3. The issues highlighted in recent UN reports are directly related to people’s ability to participate meaningfully in the shaping of sustainable development agendas in their communities. In many developing countries, significant parts of the population are denied the right to communicate (both in legacy and digital communication platforms) because of status, location, identity, or gender. Public communication remains largely in the hands of the privileged and the public agenda reflects this disparity. 4. We advocate “Communication for All”. Goal: Expand and strengthen public civic spaces through equitable and affordable access to communication technologies and platforms, media pluralism, and media diversity. • Target 1.1 By 2030, ensure the existence of spaces and resources for men and women, in particular the poor and vulnerable, to engage in transparent, informed, and democratic public dialogue and debate. • Target 1.2 By 2030, ensure the existence of regimes where creative ideas and knowledge are encouraged, can be communicated widely and freely to advance social justice and sustainable development. • Target 1.3 By 2030, ensure protection for the dignity and security of people in relation to communication processes, especially concerning data privacy and freedom from surveillance. • Target 1.4 By 2030, ensure communication spaces for diverse cultures, cultural forms and identities at the individual and social levels. 5. WACC calls for the development of civil society coalitions at the national level to promote concrete changes to communication and information legislation and policies related to issues such as access to information, Internet governance, media regulation, and digital inclusion. This is vital if civil society is to play a crucial part in the struggle for more open, inclusive, and democratic media ecosystems.

384. World Family Organization

The World Family Organization welcomes the 2021 ECOSOC High-level Segment and the HLPF, where participants will be able to explore various aspects of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the various measures and types of international cooperation that can control the pandemic and its impacts and put the world back on track to achieve the SDGs by 2030, within the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development, considering the integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature of the Sustainable Development Goals.

We also welcome the inclusion of children and youth as priorities on the Draft Ministerial Declaration on the high-level segment, recognizing that developing the human capital required to build sustainable, equitable and resilient societies must begin with investing in all children, adolescents and youth, safeguarding their rights and ensuring that from early childhood they grow up in a safe environment, free from all forms of violence, including neglect, abuse and exploitation, and through the elimination of all harmful practices. Recognizing that children and youth are critical agents of change and torchbearers of the 2030 Agenda for current and future generations, engaging and supporting the participation of children, adolescents and young people and their families are imperative to accelerate the actions towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

We further welcome the reinforcement of policies and actions to respond to COVID-19 to return on track to realize the SDGs by 2030, guided by the principle to leave no one behind. And the commitment to involve and empower local authorities to ensure local ownership of SDGs, in particular by citizens, and to best translate national development priorities into local realities shows the progress made towards the local implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals.

Among the Goals to be discussed at the HLPF in 2021 the World Family Organization welcomes the focus on the Sustainable Development Goals 1 on no poverty, Goal 2 on zero hunger and Goal 3 on good health and well-being.

The recognition of the family as a dynamic unit engaged in an intertwined process of individual and group development underscores the need for the governments to encourage cohesion of the family, to ensure its place at the core of society and to strengthen it as part of an integrated and comprehensive approach to sustainable development.

The achievement of strong families is, however, largely dependent on other institutions in society. The structure of a country's economy will influence the extent to which members of a family are able to enter and participate in the labor market, to derive livelihood from decent work opportunities, to earn a living wage and have benefits which enable them to have acceptable standards of living and to have access to quality health care, quality education and decent employment.

To include families in the development processes it is imperative for governments and stakeholders to strengthen the family through the support and effective implementation of the key international, national and local commitments as proposed in the Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

To accelerate the Decade of Actions for the SDGs implementation and a more efficacious response to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the inclusion of family-friendly economic, social and environmental policies at national and local levels should highlight in a very strong way the following actions:

Ensuring income and basic social security - Ensure sufficient minimum income and adequate standard of living for all families, especially those in extreme economic or social need, through a variety of social protection schemes, including livelihood protection, universal pensions, social and micro-insurance schemes, conditional cash transfers and income support.

Enhancing education and training opportunities - Provide social protection measures such as conditional cash transfers to enhance poor families access to education services.

Increasing access to health care services - Increase coverage of primary health care to ensure all family members have access to adequate and affordable health care and expand financing of health care and the provision of insurance schemes to people living in poor families or those who are vulnerable to poverty.

Targeting vulnerable families - Identify and target those families who are the most vulnerable and the least likely to have alternative sources of support and ensure eligibility requirements for social protection services and benefits to those families with special needs, especially those who are just above the minimum level of income.

Empowering the family by supporting its caregiving functions - Provide direct support to family caregivers in the form of economic and non-economic measures, such as personal income tax relief and subsidies for the care of children, older persons and persons with disabilities and put in place context-specific mechanisms and policies to facilitate the balancing of work and family responsibilities.

Reinforce family solidarity - Ensure that interventions to support families recognize generational interdependence and promote intergenerational interaction and healthy intra-family relationships.

Integrating a family perspective into the policy basis for social services - Ensure national commitment to maintain the centrality of the family in national development policies and programmes.

A lot of hope was raised for 2020, marking the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, including the 75th anniversary of the Social Commission and the 25th anniversary of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development. No one could have predicted that these anniversaries would coincide with COVID-19 Pandemic, putting the whole planet at risk, at an “unprecedented scale demanding an unprecedented response,” according to the UN Secretary-General. It is not just a health crisis, but an economic and development crisis of yet undetermined proportions. The poorest countries and the poorest families are the most severely affected, especially homeless people crowded in refugee camps and homeless shelters with few or no medical facilities or adequate information about the coronavirus crisis.

The World Family Organization through its National and Local Focal Points structures in 187 countries is giving continued support to families, as COVID-19 crisis has brought additional social and economic challenges to them. The human impact has been severe, with higher unemployment and higher prices for essential household goods leading families to not have enough to meet their basic needs.

In that effort the World Family Organization is delivering new programs and strengthening the existing ones to provide to most vulnerable families access to vital services as emergency health assistance, channeling funds for emergency cash support, providing food and sanitary packages to the most vulnerable families and strengthening local communities capabilities to deliver the proper information about the coronavirus pandemic and the measures to be learned and implemented as a preventive tool, as the social distance, use of masks and frequently hands washing.

Moreover, the World Family Organization is fully supporting the WHO orientations and advocated policies about the COVID-19 Pandemic by transmitting and making it understandable to local authorities, helping them to formulate the appropriated and coordinated actions at local level and how to transmit to the local citizens the appropriate messages for prevention.

For the World Family Organization, family welfare and solidarity are closely linked issues. Crisis like the COVID-19 Pandemic has the power to disintegrate families and generate social chaos. At the same time, the family is a powerful force for stability and social integration even when faced with poverty and pandemics. We must recognize and preserve this powerful force!

The World Family Organization resources and programmes are devoted to strengthening the family unit, and we believe that a much greater proportion of international support should also be devoted to that end since the Family is essential to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development leaving no one behind... Leaving No Family Behind.

The World Family Organization congratulate the ECOSOC HLPF, for giving the opportunity to the NGO's in Consultative Status to ECOSOC and other Civil Society Organizations to present their work to this very important theme of the 2021 session.

385. World For World Organization

WFWO highlighted the importance and emphasize of the catalytic role that the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on sustainable development 2021, convened under the auspices of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, has a central role in overseeing as a key function of ECOSOC the follow-up and review and to enable effective action towards of the implementation and achievements of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) at the global level. Under the theme "Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development".

We appeal to all participants at the HLPF Forum 2021, in witnessing the ongoing global economic crisis; COVID-19 pandemic will have both immediate and long-term economic consequences for people across the globe. Strong social protection systems are essential for mitigating the effects and preventing many people from falling into poverty, we need more effective public actions to address real constraints and opportunities faced by poor women and men should be concrete action by all. The lessons we learned in the field directly concern by WFWO is focusing on SDGs is poor people and sustained economic growth, for which poor women and men act as both agents and beneficiaries.

We stress all participants to reaffirm their commitments to effectively implementing the 2030 Agenda, for all people everywhere, ensuring that no one is left behind. We call for solidarity globally to achieve our common targets. This is a crucial issue for the affirmation of human dignity in the current context of international relations. Strong cooperation is needed among governments, the United Nations, international and civil society organizations.

Our recommendations that COVID-19 and its impact need for a coordinated global response to the crisis and international solidarity, with the 2030 Agenda as our first target.

We call for accelerated actions to achieve the SDGs as part of recovering better from the pandemic, reaffirming the ten accelerated action area from SDG political declaration.

We need reaffirmation and commitment to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs and the realization of the decade of action and delivery with accelerated actions and transformative pathways, reaffirmation of the 2030 Agenda principles especially leaving no one behind, while protecting the planet.

We recognize that a strengthening of the means of implementation and a revitalized global partnership for sustainable development is required to achieve the ambitious 2030 Agenda. These partnerships will be important to mobilize, share knowledge, expertise, financial resources, of the achievement of the SDGs in all countries.

386. World Jewish Congress

The World Jewish Congress, representing Jewish communities and organizations around the world, has, since its founding in 1936, considered the protection of all minorities as an imperative and shares with the United Nations the goal of “promoting the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of [...] race, ethnicity, origin, religion...”, which is only possible when minorities feel safe.

However, minorities cannot feel safe when hate speech spreads uncontrollably, since they are its primary target. Today's technology allows for instant dissemination of hate speech, disinformation and conspiracy myths on a much larger scale than ever before, often resulting in violent attacks on Jews, but also on other groups such as refugees, Muslims and people of Asian descent.

The outbreak of COVID-19 has exacerbated these phenomena. During a time of increased nationalism, extremism, urgent economic and environmental concerns, compounded by fears of the pandemic, radicals are exploiting divisive issues and deepening already growing rifts in society by spreading hate, inciting to violence and undermining fundamental human rights.

The United Nations, as the main intergovernmental body working to uphold human rights around the world, should thus mainstream the fight against antisemitism throughout all its bodies and agencies.

Campaigns such as #ThinkBefore Sharing, implemented by the World Jewish Congress jointly with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the European Commission and Twitter, supporting the use of fact-based knowledge to reduce disinformation and debunk conspiracy myths, must be encouraged to promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies.

Further, we welcome self-regulation by internet and social media companies, recognizing their influence in eliminating hate speech from their platforms and offering reliable sources of information. One example of this is our cooperation with Facebook, which now invites users with queries about the Holocaust to visit aboutholocaust.org, a website developed by the World Jewish Congress and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to provide historically accurate data intended to promote Holocaust literacy worldwide.

Additionally, we urge governments to implement strong legislation against hate speech and antisemitism, ensuring that content communicated via the internet is monitored and regulated effectively. We also call upon the governments of all United Nations' member states to modify existing curricula to ensure that educational institutions foster critical thinking and digital literacy.

Finally, we urge all member states to adopt and implement the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's Working Definition of Antisemitism and name special envoys on combating antisemitism to better coordinate government policies and promote the exchange of best practices internationally.

387. World Protection for Dogs and Cats In The Meat Trade

Statement objective is to highlight the risk to human health and well-being when eating or working with dog and cat meat. Also, demonstrate that traditional live cooking and torture methods sometimes used when processing dog and cat meat is not decent work or responsible production.

Overview of Issues

SDG 3 Health and Well-being. Millions of dogs and cats are eaten across China, Viet Nam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Philippines, Nagaland in India. World Animal Health and United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisations do not recognize dogs and cats as food, hence no regulation and limited health data. Dog meat was shown to carry Vibrio Cholera Bacterium, causing the 2007 outbreak in Viet Nam. Higher levels of human rabies linked to areas where more people work with and eat dog meat. World Health Organisation report minks and civet cats transmit COVID-19. In the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, a cat was diagnosed with COVID-19.

SDG 8 Decent Work. SDG 12 Responsible Production and Consumption. Many dogs and cats are boiled alive, blow-torched alive, steamed alive, using ancient systemic processes. Workers claim they do this to protect themselves from disease. Using 2000-year-old torture methods leaves workers behind. Inflicting torture is not decent work nor responsible production. Consumers holding outdated cruel beliefs about animals are left behind. Demand for tortured meat is not responsible consumption. Some believe dogs and cats were bad people in past lives, and consuming tortured flesh benefits their health. Links to SDG 4 Quality Education, which cannot be achieved while ancient superstitions harming animals are perpetuated to yet another generation. Graphic evidence shows ancient cult still taught to children.

Policy recommendations as a way forward

To achieve sustainable, resilient recovery after COVID-19, unregulated dog and cat meat operations should shut down to promote economic, social, environmental dimensions of sustainable development. Decent work, responsible production and consumption, good health and well-being cannot exist alongside the dog and cat meat trade. Civil society, peace, justice and quality education fails when animals are openly tortured in markets and restaurants, and cruel sub-culture prevails.

SDG 16 Peace Justice and Strong Institutions. Effective governments must respect and take the Terrestrial Animal Health Code very seriously set by World Animal Health Organization. Serious policies are needed to: penalize ancient animal torture traditions; teach children compassion to animals; train and protect meat workers from COVID-19 and other diseases; regulate animal husbandry; penalize torture and abuse.

SDG 17 Partnerships. It is essential to build on current progress by forming partnerships. Chinese Ministry of Agriculture declared dogs companion animals unfit for human health, stating civilization evolves. Health data from China should be shared with other Members. Some progress in Viet Nam and Cambodia. China's dog meat ban is yet to be ratified, but when it is, we

recommend they and other Members share policies and penalties already produced by the Taiwan Province of China. Governments should form partnerships with animal charities to assist stray dog crisis compassionately.

388. World Roma Federation Inc.

The World Roma Federation's mission is to bring about measures and implement objectives within the European social structure to prompt incremental change. Its focus is centered on social disparities while promoting programs and projects designed on their Sustainable Development Goals, as well as promote public awareness on matters that not only affect the Roma community but non-Roma communities, as well. Our current focus is on COVID-19 and its impact on the Roma communities throughout the Balkan Region, Europe, and Eurasia, along with the methods we have designed and implemented to ensure that "No One Is Left Behind"

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the World Roma Federation had to limit its humanitarian efforts because of restrictions in place and lack of funding acquired through fundraising events, and or online campaigns. During the past year, the World Roma Federation team has had the opportunity to visit multiple Roma settlements in the Balkan region and eastern Europe from this mission the following data was collected:

Aside from the standard social issues of inequality, segregation, and discrimination, COVID-19 impacted operations in the Roma settlements in;

Sustainable Development Goal 2 Zero Hunger - We were able to provide some Food donations to a few settlements, the lack of the ability to host fundraising activities that funded our programs prevented us from doing more. Starvation and lack of nutrition have increased within the communities. According to our latest analysis, over 80% of Roma children are going to bed hungry.

Solution: Mobile Food Pantry which visits these settlements and provides them with an assortment of food items. Unfortunately, COVID-19 has restricted this program significantly.

As part of our sustainable development goals Program, we are promoting self-sustainability in the camps. Our core objective is for the construction of a Smart Village Project. The benefits of this program are centered on autonomy. Residents will learn both farming and agriculture.

Expansive structural competencies and training will enable entrepreneurship as residents will be able to work and sell goods in bakeries and kitchens where possible.

Sustainable Development Goal 3 - Good Health and Well-Being - The mortality rate of the Roma has increased exponentially since the COVID-19 virus. The Roma due to cultural dissidence and distrust does not accept non-Roma medicine.

Solution: Mobile Wellness Clinic; Clinicians will be able to provide onsite medical treatment and vaccinations to these camps. The best parameters are that the wellness centers are mobile enabling a more apt response time limiting both the spread of the virus, further contamination, and reducing further exposure.

Sustainable Development Goal 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities - The Roma, even before the global pandemic was destitute and living in poverty. They live in makeshift homes in landfills and squalor in the Balkan regions as discovered by our representatives.

As a solution, the World Roma Federation has developed a Temporary Housing Program. The program is centered on extracting destitute and squalor-ridden Roma peoples and placing them in container homes.

The container homes reduce the Roma carbon footprint, regional deforestation, and corrosion.

389. World Society of Victimology

The World Society of Victimology is committed to continuing its partnerships to build inclusive and effective ways to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable . Though the Economic and Social Council's High Level Segment will discuss several sustainable development goals, this statement focuses on SDG 16.

Target 16.1: Restrictive measures in response to the coronavirus pandemic have had sweeping impacts on people's lives in unintended ways. Lock-downs have exacerbated the risk of gender-based violence and domestic/family violence against women and children. Conversely, violence perpetrated against women and children in public places appears to have declined in some places. The data, however, might indicate changes in victims' reporting behaviours, and/or changes in perpetrators' behaviours. Many crime victims were also unable to access victim support services, and demands on general health services meant these were not readily available to victims. Assistance programmes must provide a combination of in-person, online, phone and video conferencing services. These services must be adequately resourced to ensure they are accessible and available to all victims; and they should be monitored and evaluated to determine their efficacy and effectiveness.

Target 16.2: The pandemic has magnified the dreadful economic and abhorrent social conditions relative to the exploitation of and trafficking of human beings. Tackling poverty, providing decent work and promoting economic growth, and reducing inequality are necessary to reduce vulnerability and prevent these atrocious crimes against humanity.

Target 16.3: The protection of crime victims' rights is paramount as crime victims are forced to navigate the shifting legal realities during the pandemic. To preserve their legitimacy, justice systems must be inclusive of victims as genuine participants. Furthermore, Member States must honour their commitment to address the victims' needs, including the protection of victims from revictimization in criminal justice.

Target 16.4: Victims are entitled to have their stolen property returned in a timely manner. As crime has a ripple effect, this entitlement extends to communities whose stolen assets are recovered. Austerity measures that are likely necessary as Member States grapple with the economic crisis caused by the pandemic will make funding victim assistance a greater challenge, so alternative funding sources should be utilised. Money confiscated from organised crime gangs and money derived from the sale of criminal assets should be quarantined and used to fund victim assistance, including compensation for victims of organised crime.

Target 16.5 The World Society of Victimology has joined others to draw attention to the needs and rights of victims of corruption. These victims' voices should be heard; 'fit for justice' systems should respect their rights; and stable funding for needs-matched victim assistance is crucial.

All crime victims matter.

390. World Woman's Christian Temperance Union Inc.

Since 1874, our organization's mission has been to protect women and children at home and in the workplace. For the last 147 years, we have helped establish women's right to vote, opposed the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs, human trafficking, and violence against women and children.

However, with the COVID-19 pandemic requiring families to "stay at home" for longer periods of time, many women and children (as well as about one third of men) have been placed in danger. In a number of countries, including France, Cyprus, and Singapore, reports of domestic violence (DV) increased more than 30% during lockdown. Alcohol consumption, possibly triggered by COVID-19-associated unemployment, financial difficulties, and social isolation are also worrying. In the United States, national alcohol sales increased by 54% in 2020, compared to the year before.

This year, the 2021 ECOSOC High-level Political Forum will revolve around the theme of, "Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: Building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development." Drinking weakens the immune system, which may predispose individual to COVID-19 and threaten 'SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being'. Wages and/or job opportunities wasted on alcohol may deprive a child of the necessary food or education that he/she needs, threatening 'SDG 2: Ending Hunger' and 'SDG 4: Ensuring Quality Education.' Lastly, alcohol use is undeniably associated with violent crimes in our homes and societies, posing a threat to 'SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being' and 'SDG 10: Reduce Inequalities'.

During the COVID-19 outbreak, a number of high-income countries loosened restrictions on online/off-premise alcohol-purchasing regulations, declaring that the alcohol industry is essential for the economy. However, we declare that a relaxation of alcohol control measures will lead to increased alcohol-attributable problems and economic loss in the long-term. In order to promote sustainable and resilient recovery, alcohol restrictions and monitoring mechanisms should be tightened, possibly as follows: (1) close monitoring of changes in alcohol sales, by socioeconomic status/region/gender/and age, (2) tightening of restrictions on online/off-premise alcohol regulations to prevent high-risk drinking during lockdowns, (3) close monitoring of victims (especially children and vulnerable populations) who have a history of emergency visits and hospitalizations for domestic abuse, and (4) encouragement of research on the effects of increased social media use, alcohol use, and online interactions during the COVID-19 pandemic on individuals' health and wellbeing.

391. Yakutia - Our Opinion

We are committed to sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

It depends on effectiveness of government policies in each country.

The pandemic has exposed and exacerbated the problems especially in developing post-communist countries. In countries such as the Russian Federation, problem of social inequality and exclusion of population from management of state affairs has intensified.

Russian state system is subordinated to selfish interests of corrupt officials and oligarchs, and not to people - source of power according to the Constitution.

This led to the fact that during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Russian Federation government rejected the global practice of direct payments to people. In contrast, in the United States payment for individuals was \$1,200. But if priorities of Russian authorities was given to people, individuals could receive 20,000 roubles as direct payments. Much budgetary resources could be spent on solving urgent problems but not for enriching corrupt officials and oligarchs.

Total corruption, lawlessness, poverty and hopelessness forced Russians to take to the streets and demand to claim their rights. However, instead of dialogue with the people, Russian authorities began to suppress peaceful protests of citizens. Officials and security officials staged a real terror against civil society. Population of the Russian Federation is deprived of basic democratic rights such as the right to peaceful assembly, freedom of opinion and their free expression.

COVID-19 laws have become a tool for suppressing protests and limiting human rights. Under the pretext of fighting the pandemic, all mass events and single pickets were banned in Russia.

Article 20.6.1 of the Code of Administrative Offenses provides for punishment for violation of self-isolation. The protest is viewed by the authorities "as a threat to the sanitary and epidemiological well-being". In January-February 2021, protests were held in more than 185 Russian cities in support of opposition politician Alexei Navalny, against corruption and political persecution. These protests resulted in unprecedented harassment and violations. According to human rights activists, in Moscow three times as many people have been placed under administrative arrest as in the 15 previous years. More than 11 thousand people were detained in the Russian Federation. More than 9 thousand cases of administrative offenses and 90 criminal cases were initiated. Unarmed civilians were beaten and tortured in paddy wagons, police departments and special detention centers. The police and representatives of the Russian special services beat people on the head with truncheons, threw them on the floor of the paddy wagons, kicked them, forced them to sit and lie in the snow, and used stun guns. Such arbitrariness and lawlessness should not occur in a democratic rule-of-law state that is UN member.

Unfortunately, instead of developing government measures to address the problems associated with COVID-19, the Russian authorities decided to use the pandemic to intensify the repression against civil society. Therefore, for a sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, the authorities of the Russian Federation and other similar countries need, first of all, to end terror against their own people and repression against civil society.

392. Yayasan Pendidikan Indonesia

When many parties in the discourse even asked what can we do to succeed the SDGs, which was a global action plan agreed upon by world leaders on 25 September 2015, including HE Vice President Yusuf Kalla of Indonesia, which its goals listed by the United Nations.

Alzaytun Indonesia a boarding School in Indramayu, West Java, interpreted the SDGs as an integrated effort to realize a campus without poverty and hunger, an economic campus that grows evenly, a campus that cares about health, a campus that cares about the environment, a campus that cares about education, a networked campus, and a campus that is culturally responsive to the acceleration of the goals of Sustainable Development, even years before the SDGs announced by the United Nations above. Especially in associated with climate change mitigation, action was started in 1999 by planting 800.000 trees, which now became a beautiful campus forest.

22 years later, after the COVID-19 outbreak hit the world, including Indonesia, Alzaytun was also affected because of the off-campus interactions of employees, teachers, and students returning from vacation. However, out of the hundreds of people who tested positive were quickly recovered and none had died.

The supporting factors of all, are due to a clean environment, availability of nutritious food intake, availability of medical personnel, and adherence to WHO health protocols. Meanwhile, all agricultural business activities, education, worship runs as usual not bothered by the pandemic.

Remarkably, The Grand Chancellor made this difficult era because of COVID-19, as a metamorphosis era, by increasing stakeholder togetherness, penetrate green economic activities to blue economic, by building fishing boats in large numbers at the Campus owned shipyard and abroad, to maximizes the potential of the ocean.

All sustainable development activities at Alzaytun, have been carried out with guidelines recommended by the United Nations, where all are carried out independently, without relying on government financial assistance.

The sources of funding comes from the participation of community members, agricultural and other businesses, as well as from business to business cooperation with Mandiri Bank.

Finally, when everyone teetering by the pandemic, Alzaytun is able to add thousands of hectares of assets in Java, Batam and Lampung - Sumatra, at the same time the campus residents are safe from COVID-19.

393. Youth Bridge Foundation

Building Youth Centered Partnerships: Improving Access to Justice and Information of Youth in Ghana

Under "normal" conditions, Access to Justice for vulnerable groups like youth, women and persons with disability is limited and outrightly unavailable in some instances. COVID-19 has exposed already existing inequalities and brought to bear the marginalized face of the pandemic. It has also highlighted new challenges and concerns for youth, and persons with disability's ability to promptly and efficiently access justice; an important pillar to achieving SDG 16.

Youth Bridge Foundation in its broader youth development programming, advocates for inclusion of youth and young persons with disabilities and responsiveness to their rights by those tasked to uphold such rights; in conformity with SDG16; an important pillar in the global development agenda to promote a just, equitable, tolerant and socially inclusive world where the needs of the most vulnerable are met.

At the peak of the pandemic (April 2020), UNESCO indicated that over 188 countries around the world closed schools nationwide, affecting over 1.5 billion learners and representing more than 91 percent of total enrolled learners. Ghana like the rest of the world felt this adverse impact on human capital as well as the economic and social wellbeing of its citizens. Government responded through its Education Ministry by initiating remote learning opportunities at the Basic, Secondary and Tertiary levels using a combination of online and/or television broadcast. Additionally, periodic media engagements were rolled out to update the citizenry on the pandemic.

Even though these interventions were laudable and timely; in terms of access to quality services and information, towards achieving SDG 10 and 16, applying a marginalized lens exposes the existing and/or widened inequalities especially in lower-middle income countries.

Only 36% residents of lower middle-income countries, have access to the Internet, a situation that worsened during the pandemic. With the absence of sign language interpretation on remote learning and information platforms as well as government's media engagements, young hearing-impaired individuals had little to no access to educational and public information; thus, suffer exclusion.

In the spirit of promoting inclusiveness and improving access to justice, in tandem with SDG16, Civil Society Organizations can engage and form youth-centered partnership modules to design grassroots solutions to identified inequalities. Developing the youth human capital of Ghana is a requisite to empowering youth to participate in decision-making processes at all levels and to demand their rights in compliance with the Juvenile Justice Act 2003 (Act 653), Article 17 of the Constitution of Ghana and Sections 6 and 7 of the Disability Act of Ghana.

394. Youth of European Nationalities

Youth of European Nationalities (YEN) is the biggest European youth organisation protecting and promoting the rights of national, ethnic and linguistic minorities. YEN is run and led by young people, for young people. As YEN, we have observed increasing obstacles to: SDGs: 1; 3; 8; 10; 16 - due to COVID-19, particularly for minorities, marginalised and vulnerable groups/communities. Especially young people belonging to minorities are hit even harder because of their socio-cultural status.

Recognitions

As YEN we observe:

- 1- That the SDGs in general do not consider at large ethnic, cultural, and linguistic diversity nor the importance to include and highlight equity and minority rights;
- 2- That representation, good socio-economic circumstances, education, and the expression in culture and language are factors that are taken for granted by the majority. In contrast, many minorities are still denied those rights.
- 3- That poor socio-economic factors and linguistic bias deepen inequality of minorities. Many minority communities become even more isolated, with limited access to employment, information and online education.
- 4- That the economic crunch will be felt by vulnerable groups as well as minority youth long after this health crisis recedes.
- 5- That access to accurate and reliable information on health-related issues and governmental decisions was, and in some countries still remains, limited, exclusive, even discriminatory when offered in one official language.
- 6- That respecting human rights while managing the pandemic is a concern for many European states. The pandemic should not be used as an excuse to trade off human rights and privacy in the name of public safety;
- 7- That democratic values and fair representation are being attacked by emergency laws. Furthermore, governments are scapegoating minorities, leading to discriminatory measures. This is harmful to the development of peaceful and inclusive societies;

YEN is concerned that support in economic, cultural and social domains is distributed to minority youth last, or even not distributed at all. This pushes minority youth further to the margins of society.

Recommendations

In light of the SDGs 1, 3, 8, 10, and 16, YEN:

- Urges the SDGs to be more inclusive of ethnic, cultural, and linguistic diversity;
- Endorses the consideration and implementation of equity and minority rights throughout all measures to achieve the SDGs;
- Highlights the importance of social, economic, political, educational, cultural and linguistic inclusion of minorities as this crisis is deepening inequalities with long lasting effects;

- Promotes conscious measures and policy-processes that are not based on xenophobia, racism or discrimination;
- Encourages that additional care is given to vulnerable groups and minority youth in the economic recovery processes;
- Stresses the importance of inclusion and participation of young people in discussions and decision making processes, including young people from minorities;
- Underlines that the diverse, multilayered and complex factors contributing to inequality have been amplified by the COVID-19-pandemic, these pre-existing factors should be taken into account, to guarantee the implementation of the general principle of the SDGs “ensuring that no one is left behind”, in order to secure a sustainable and resilient recovery.

395. Zomi Innkuan USA Inc.

Are we there yet? A long way ahead!

We, all Zomi Community around the world takes this privilege of presenting the current news on how we have been going through the global pandemic and the current issue of political unrest that has an enormous impact on our Sustainable Development Goals in Zogam (The land of Zomi) in Myanmar and all other parts of the world including the United States. The purpose of this paper is mainly focused on our native Zomi in our homeland.

As COVID-19's first case of Myanmar was found in March 2020 in Tedim, the capital of Zogam, the first victim and his relatives as well as the whole village, and later the whole Zogam has greatly suffered from the first strike of the global pandemic and its consequences. Nevertheless, with the help of Zomi Innkuan USA, Inc, and all Zomi Community around the world had contributed enormous aids for the victim communities around in Zogam. We felt uncomfortable with the way the authority had treated the patients as they all had to live with unnecessary outcomes during those periods. The biggest challenge that the local indigenous had faced during a prolonged pandemic would have been the capacity of local clinics and emergency transport during the pandemic and crisis. In addition, lack of electricity for cooking has continually become the biggest issue and cause for increasing of CO2 in the hills.

The second factor that hit hard to all youth and the children in the hills as there is no reliable internet capacity which is the foundation of modern online learning and gathering in the community around the hills. Our concern for those children who are left behind has greatly increased during the pandemic and in the future. If this issue continues in the next decade, our children in those hills are likely to be left far behind our SDGs. The remedy for those painful experiences demands costly financial aids and great efforts. It cannot be done by NGOs and the private sector alone, there has to be a bigger volume of helping hands if we desire our Sustainable Development continue in those areas. We found that basic infrastructure and education for all must be inclusive that no child should be left behind.

Lastly not least, the current military coup in Myanmar has worsened the current pandemic as all business sectors are closed and even government departments, all financial sectors could not operate in the midst of two crises. We will continue to help the victims by all means, but with the only limited resources we possessed and intellectual assistance to move forward as helping hands to rebuild our Zomi people who are in suffering in the process of two crises.

In conclusion, it is also a challenge for us to rebuild our identity and destiny in our homeland. Not just the pandemic, but the bloodshed manner around the country cannot be underestimated if we keep focusing on our SDGs in coming years.

396. Zonta International

Zonta International, a global organization of more than 28,000 members in 63 countries, envisions a world in which women's rights are recognized as human rights and every woman is able to achieve her full potential, a world where women have access to all resources and are represented in decision-making positions on an equal basis with men, a world where no woman lives in fear of violence. This is the vision Zonta members have been working toward for more than 100 years.

Since 2015, Zonta International has made Sustainable Development Goal 5 the guidepost of its global service and advocacy work – seeking to realize gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls both as goals in their own right, as well as a prerequisite to achieving the other 16 goals laid out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Despite some progress over the last decades, today that vision of gender equality seems further away than ever. COVID-19 and its impacts on health, education and the economy have had devastating consequences for women and girls and threaten the fragile progress already made in the fight for gender equality. While SDG 5 remains the bedrock of Zonta International's service and advocacy efforts, each of the goals under review in the 2021 HLPF has unique implications for women and girls.

Prior to COVID-19, SDG 1 to end poverty by 2030 was already off track and SDG 8 to promote economic growth and full and productive employment and decent work for all was being hampered by slowing economic growth globally. The economic impacts of COVID-19 in turn have been devastating. Upwards of 71 million more people were pushed into poverty in 2020 as a result of COVID-19. While these economic impacts are significant for everyone, they are felt more harshly by women, who generally earn less, save less, hold less secure jobs and are more likely to work in the informal sector.

With more than 1.52 billion students out of school at the height of the pandemic and increased healthcare burdens put on families, women have been forced to take on greater care demands at home, while also facing potential cuts and layoffs in the workplace. Women also have less access to social protections and lead most single-parent households. The situation is even more dire in developing economies, where 70% of women are employed in the informal sector with few protections against dismissal or paid sick leave.

Widespread income loss and economic insecurity among families are also likely to increase rates of child marriage. As schools closed, girls not in school became at greater risk of child marriage. If they are away from school too long, they may never return.

SDG 3 to ensure healthy lives and well-being for all saw some progress over the last decade as infant and maternal mortality rates declined; however, health care disruptions due to COVID-19 threaten to reverse decades of progress in this area for women and girls in particular. When resources and priorities, including sexual and reproductive health services, are reallocated during times of crisis, women's health is negatively impacted.

Women and girls have unique health needs, but they are already less likely to have access to health services and adequate insurance, especially in rural and marginalized communities. As a result, there has been an alarming increase in the number of teenage pregnancies, as resources have been shifted from routine reproductive health services to respond to COVID-19. These early pregnancies increase the risk of obstetric fistula and other pregnancy and childbirth injuries that threaten the lives of mothers and babies.

Violence against women and girls has also increased exponentially during the COVID-19 pandemic, threatening their health and well-being. Globally, 243 million women and girls aged 15-49 have been subjected to sexual or physical violence by an intimate partner in 2020. That number surged as social and economic stresses combined with measures to restrict movement and outside contact. In countries with reporting systems in place, increases of more than 25% in cases of domestic violence were reported.

SDG 13 calls for the global community to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. While 2020 saw a 6% drop in greenhouse gas emissions globally, it still fell short of the 7.6% needed. The world continues to use resources unsustainably, and climate change continues to exacerbate the frequency and severity of natural disasters. Climate change also disproportionately affects women and girls, from natural disasters to food security, access to clean water, health and migration. Studies have found that greater female representation in national parliaments leads countries to adopt more stringent climate change policies, which are greatly needed if our efforts to curb the effects of climate change are to be successful.

The COVID-19 pandemic will have a lasting impact for many years to come, and a sustainable recovery will require changes in laws and policies to ensure an equitable recovery for women and men. The SDGs must not be lost in the global response to COVID-19. We can see the potential to lose ground in our efforts to achieve gender equality reflected in the lack of female faces amongst politicians, health experts and economists leading the charge against COVID-19. It is vital that women have a seat at the table and that their efforts are included in recovery initiatives and long-term solutions across all sectors of society. Zonta International calls on Member States and the United Nations to address the long-term impacts of COVID-19 by:

- Ensuring women and girls' full and equal participation and decision-making in leadership positions where they can influence and change policies and laws to ensure an equitable and sustainable recovery that benefits women and men, girls and boys.
- Addressing barriers to girls' education, including strong cultural norms that favor boys' education and delegate household obligations to girls, inadequate sanitation facilities in schools, unsafe school environments, gender-based violence and child marriage.
- Ensuring girls' access to quality education at all levels, improving retention rates, supporting interventions that encourage girls to enroll in school and make the transition from primary to secondary school, and addressing the unique needs of young married girls to allow them to return to school and complete their education.
- Ensuring equal representation in decision-making bodies at all levels of government, as well as in the private sector, where decisions about employment, working conditions and advancement to upper management are made.

- Addressing cultural norms so that women, given the opportunity, can engage in paid work, be empowered economically, and contribute to the well-being of their families, communities and society as a whole.
- Guaranteeing adequate and equal remuneration for women's work and equal access to social services and protection policies.
- Abolishing laws that restrict the types of jobs that women can do or that allow husbands to object to their wives working.
- Including women and prioritizing women's health and responses to gender-based violence in disaster preparedness and response plans.
- Acknowledging and including women's voices about the harmful impacts of climate change, as well as listening to and learning from their attempts to mitigate and adapt to those impacts.
- Developing policies and frameworks to address climate change that recognize its gendered impacts and integrating gender equality into all approaches to mitigate the effects of climate change.
- Recognizing the importance of women as decision-makers, educators, caregivers, community leaders and experts across sectors and utilizing their unique perspectives and expertise to develop successful, long-term strategies to address climate change.
- Implementing the Beijing Platform for Action, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child so that women and girls are protected from discrimination and violence.
- Ensuring that violence against women and girls is criminalized and appropriately punished and that excuses on the grounds of culture, tradition, religion or so-called "honor" are not regarded as a justification for any form of violence against women.
- Developing, adequately funding and implementing national-level plans to end child marriage.
- Providing training and support to all those who interact with and assist victims of violence, including police officers, medical personnel and judges, so they can better recognize, understand and respond to all forms of violence against women.
- Dedicating specific resources to essential services for women and their families escaping violent situations.
- Including community leaders, and men and boys, in efforts to eradicate violence against women and girls.

Governments, the United Nations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector must come together and work in partnership to ensure a sustainable and resilient global response to COVID-19. That recovery must be inclusive and must reflect the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. No one can be left behind.