



Economic and Social Council, Annual Economic and Social Council forum of financing for development follow-up

Statement

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- *Check against delivery* -

Excellencies,

Dear Colleagues,

The recent crises have brought to the fore the inequalities and vulnerabilities that exist in our societies. They have exposed gaps in our social protection systems, and the need for us to create jobs that are sustainable, inclusive, and provide decent wages and working conditions. It has also highlighted the importance of a just transition to a low-carbon economy, where no one is left behind.

At the same time, the COVID-19 pandemic revealed that when policies and political will are aligned, we are able to provide effective responses. For example, at the height of the pandemic, more than 3,000 social protection measures were put in place globally to protect incomes, jobs and livelihoods despite sharp declines in tax revenues and other sources of finance. However, in

the majority of cases, these programmes were temporary, which means the lessons from the crisis will not be heeded if rolled back.

As we heard at this Forum, many governments are struggling to balance investments in development priorities alongside weakened public finances, rising debt and uncertain prospects for tax revenues. Therefore, efforts are needed to better target investments in productive sectors that create decent jobs and in effect, expand fiscal space for investing in social protection. To assist governments, the ILO and UNDP have developed a practical [guidance to ensure decent work perspectives are mainstreamed in Integrated National Financing Frameworks](#).

We are encouraged that the resolution before this Forum recommits to strengthen social protection systems. The Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions can support such a development trajectory.

Earlier this week the ILO, UNDP and UNICEF organized a High-level Policy and Financing Dialogue where governments, UN partner agencies, IFIs and ILO social partners shared their plans for boosting investments in social protection and job creation through the Global Accelerator. We are encouraged by the number of statements of support, including from Pathfinder countries that are currently developing implementation roadmaps as well as from development partners. Consistent with the call made in the resolution before this Forum, member States are encouraged to support the implementation of the Global Accelerator.

The ILO will play its part in collaboration with UN partners, and it will also continue supporting the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the SDGs.

Thank you.