

Joint Statement on behalf of Belgium, Germany, Portugal and Spain

High-level Policy and Financing Dialogue on the Global Accelerator on Jobs and
Social Protection for Just Transitions
2023 ECOSOC Financing for Development Forum
18 April 2023

CONTEXT

1. **The world is facing multiple crises; climate and nature, health, increase in cost-of-living and rising poverty and inequality.**
2. **The past three years have dealt a severe blow to our prospects to achieve the SDGs. Once again, the most vulnerable are the most affected.** They are least protected against the decrease of in real wages, rising food prices and growing unemployment, job precarity and informalization of work. Women and young people, especially in lower- and middle-income countries, are disproportionately affected in their health and food security. This is unacceptable.
3. At the same time, we have learned how important it is to have access to well-functioning social protection systems that are able to absorb shocks and thus protect individuals and populations. **There is a clear need to invest in sustainable and agile social protection systems and scale up our joint efforts to secure social protection for all.**

IMPORTANCE OF DECISIVE ACTION THROUGH THE ACCELERATOR +
WELCOME OF PROGRESS SO FAR.

4. **In these crucial times, decisive action is required. A quick and effective roll-out of the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions is needed more than ever. Four billion people are waiting.** The world needs to extend social protection coverage, while providing decent jobs, primarily in the green, blue, digital and care economies.
5. **To fill the global financing gap in social protection, will require dedicating the maximum available domestic and international resources to promote the realization of the universal right to social protection for all.** This means joining efforts in strengthening the capacity to formalise work and collect taxes, as well as fighting tax evasion, fraud in contributions and other irregularities. These measures should contribute to effectively redistributing resources and combating inequality and discrimination in the short and long term.

6. A lot has happened since the Global Accelerator was launched in New York two years ago. The progress, notably on the implementation strategy, the design and the broad consultations, is commendable. We are particularly satisfied that the broader UN family is on board. The fact that this meeting is taking place under the auspices of ECOSOC, with the participation of ILO, UNICEF, UNDP and WFP, illustrates this well. **Only through this spirit of partnership and cooperation will we be able to make the change that is needed at the scale that is needed.**
7. **We are also pleased that the World Bank is present at this meeting. While the Global Accelerator started as a UN initiative, we need to ensure close coordination with development banks and bilateral donors as the main providers of external financing for social protection.** We call on development banks and UN agencies to make tangible progress on harmonization and strategic collaboration, in order to increase the effectiveness of multilateral support for country-led strategies and policies for extending social protection and creating decent jobs, in line with ILO's international labour standards.
8. **We call on all development partners to join this initiative and to commit to greater effectiveness of global cooperation on social protection and job creation,** in line with the agreements of the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda.

NEED FOR ACTION ON THE GROUND

9. **The time to shift gears and to truly “accelerate” is now. That means bringing the Global Accelerator into practice throughout the world.**
 - **We stand ready to work with partners, based on their strategies for extending social protection and decent work. We invite them to articulate their commitments and plans in the context of the Global Accelerator.**
 - **We are also looking forward to the country roadmaps that are in development, which will give a strong signal on the integrated collaboration of UN entities as part of the Global Accelerator.**

- **In this context we emphasize the need for specific attention on groups that are excluded from social protection systems or are unable to benefit from the systems that have been set up to protect them in potential pathfinder countries.**
- **With respect to job creation, we urge all to ensure the added value of the Global accelerator with respect to existing initiatives. This means maximizing the employment intensity of investments and realigning existing investments, projects, and programs to ensure that they prioritize universal social protection, decent job creation and just transitions.**

CONFIRMATION OF OUR COMMITMENT

- 10. We will be sure to increase our efforts to make the Global Accelerator a success and are hoping for a launch as soon as possible, especially in light of upcoming events like the SDG Summit in September, the Summit of the Future and others.**