



To all Governments and organisations
committed to realizing the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda

April 2019

Invitation to Join the Global Partnership for Universal Social Protection to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (USP2030)

To date, countries in many parts of the world have made significant progress in the extension of social protection, yet 55 per cent of the global population is still excluded from social protection. Urgent efforts are needed to ensure that the human right to social protection becomes a reality for all, and to achieve the goals set by the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

In recognition of the essential role of universal social protection as a powerful accelerator for realizing the 2030 Agenda, the *Global Partnership for Universal Social Protection to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (USP2030)* was launched during the UN General Assembly in September 2016. Striving for a world where anyone who needs social protection can access it at any time, USP2030 aims to support countries in designing and implementing universal and sustainable social protection systems as an important step towards achieving the 2030 Agenda, in particular SDG target 1.3.¹ For this, USP2030 engages in advocacy, knowledge development and joint support to countries, including for the strengthening of social protection policies, programmes and integrated administration systems, expanding fiscal space for universal social protection, addressing bottlenecks and adequately integrating universal social protection into national development strategies.

Universal social protection refers to a nationally defined system of policies and programmes that provide equitable access to all people and protect them throughout their lives against poverty and risks to their livelihoods and well-being. This protection can be provided through a range of mechanisms, including in cash or in-kind benefits, contributory or non-contributory schemes, and programmes to enhance human capital, productive assets, and access to jobs. Universal social protection reduces poverty and inequality; it promotes social cohesion; it facilitates human development and access to decent working and living conditions.

In February 2019, at the High Level International Conference *Together to Achieve Universal Social Protection by 2030*, USP2030 launched a *Call to Action* that encourages all countries to live up to their commitment to develop nationally owned social protection systems for all, including floors, as articulated in the Sustainable Development Goals. At present, USP2030 brings together the World Bank and the ILO with the African Union, FAO, the European Commission, the Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors (GCSPF), HelpAge International, IDB, ITUC, OECD, Save the Children, UNDP-IPC, UNICEF, along with Belgian, Finnish, French and German cooperation. Others continue to join as the partnership is constantly expanding. We thank all partners and countries that actively

¹ SDG target 1.3: “Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable”.

participated in the Conference. At the closing session, Indonesia, Paraguay, and South Africa, along with the International Social Security Association (ISSA), officially joined the Partnership.

With this letter, we would like to extend an invitation to join the *Global Partnership for Universal Social Protection to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (USP2030)*.

By joining USP2030, countries and organizations can:

- participate in and draw upon a global network of key actors with cutting-edge expertise around universal social protection and target 1.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as needed;
- exchange country experiences in formulating and implementing social protection policies, and monitoring progress towards achieving universal social protection;
- engage in a global forum for knowledge building and sharing, bringing together all relevant stakeholders;
- bring country and constituency perspectives to bear in shaping the global social protection agenda and maintain a strong voice for country ownership, responsibility and participation.

In case your government or organisation shares the objectives of USP2030 and is interested in joining USP2030, we invite the relevant ministry or head of your organisation to send a formal letter for the consideration of the interim steering committee of USP2030 (PDF to secretariat@usp2030.org). This letter should confirm your interest in joining and your commitment to the objectives of USP2030. The secretariat will then inform you in writing about your USP2030 membership.

More details are provided in the attached documents, as well as on the following website: www.usp2030.org. The USP2030 secretariat (secretariat@usp2030.org) is available to provide you with more information.

On behalf of the USP2030 partners

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