

Coalition for a Social Protection Floor

BACKGROUND OF THE COALITION

In March 2012, 14 NGOs from all over the world participated in a workshop in Geneva, Switzerland on “The ILO’s social protection floor – lobbying for a strong recommendation”. The aim of this workshop - organized by the Geneva Office of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) - was to bring together NGOs from the global South and North to discuss strategies for supporting a strong ILO Recommendation.

As a result of this workshop a Joint Statement of NGOs was written to support the adoption of a strong, autonomous ILO Recommendation on the Social Protection Floor. In the end, this Joint Statement was supported and signed by 59 NGOs from different parts of the world. The statement is available in three languages; English, French and Spanish. It was presented at the relevant negotiating committee at the International Labour Conference (ILC) in Geneva in June 2012 by the International Movement ATD Fourth World. The following organizations - lobbied intensively during this time : International Disability Alliance, HelpAge International, the International Council on Social Welfare, the International Movement ATD Fourth World, and Solidar. The Joint Statement containing concrete amendments for the text of the ILO Recommendation influenced the final text of the official Recommendation.

Many NGOs involved in this process want to keep this momentum for future joint activities. Each NGO has its own focus, geographically and/or with regards to content. What they have in common is the wish to achieve real social protection based on human rights for all people in all parts of the world. They therefore decided to form a joint *Coalition for a Social Protection Floor*.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

i.) Purposes and aims

The *Coalition for a Social Protection Floor* has four major aims:

- to seek to influence international debates on a social protection floor and raise awareness of the ILO Recommendation, based on the joint statement presented to the 101st International Labour Conference (particularly relating to the post-2015 MDGs agenda);
- to create a platform for learning experiences among civil society organisations worldwide, including contributing to the development of tools;
- to collaborate with national and regional social protection platforms and/or coalitions, where these exist, particularly those whose efforts seek to promote uptake of SPF objectives; and,
- to advocate for the formation of inclusive coalitions, where these do not exist, aimed at promoting the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of social protection floors.

ii.) Principles

The Coalition is committed to:

- * a philosophy of inclusiveness, availability, non-discrimination and mutual respect;
- * a collective output; and,
- * solidarity in negotiating positions.

The Coalition further encourages active involvement of all its members, and will be independent of governments and transparent in the way it does business.

iii) Structure and Membership

Membership is open to NGOs that are representatives of their constituencies and that agree to the Coalition's principles and aims.

The Coalition will operate within a **worldwide network structure** without formal headquarter, secretariat and sponsorship department. The Coalition will communicate with ILO, the UN Inter Agency Board on the SPF and other relevant organizations as well as contribute to international and regional forums.

NGOs interested in becoming a member of the Coalition need to contact the focal point. The focal point shall inform the core group about their interest and by signing a short letter of membership become member of the Coalition. A template for such a letter, to include adherence to the principles and aims of the Coalition, shall be drafted by the core group.

NGOs wishing to withdraw their membership for any reason may do so at any time by sending a letter to the focal point, effective immediately from the sending date.

Membership does not constitute an endorsement of any other member organization, or of their individual activities or positions, or of any positions other than those agreed and expressed by the Coalition as a whole regarding a social protection floor.

iv) Core group of NGOs

A number of **core NGOs** of the Coalition shall prepare and ensure the planning and implementation of the Coalition's activity. Each core NGO must commit at least a minimum of personal time and capacity to the Coalition's work. Each NGO of the 60 initiators is welcome to become part of the core team.

A balanced regional representation in the core group is highly supported. The balanced "social protection domains" representation in the Core Group could include, for example, persons living in poverty, with disabilities, older persons, women working for women's rights, youth and children, etc. It would also be important to have a balanced representation according to field of work and expertise.

Each NGO will be allowed to leave the core group at any time if its working circumstances no longer allow an intense involvement in planning and implementation of

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the Coalition's activities. On the other hand, a minimum number of at least five to seven organizations in the core group should be guaranteed. New member organizations, other than the 60 initiators, are also welcome to commit part of their working time and capacity to the core group. Members of the first to be established core group shall decide on the involvement of other "new" NGOs in the core group on an individual basis.

v) Decisions

In order to ensure the Coalition's aims, fundamental **decisions**¹ must be taken by the entire membership. In order to take a fundamental decision, an information about the concerning issue shall be sent by email by the focal point to the entire membership. If no member is sending an email raising concern, the decision is adopted after ten days; calculated from the sending date.

vi) Communication, information flow and focal point

The communication within the core group and within the entire Coalition will be ensured by one organization. This allows a transparent and effective way of information flows. This organization shall be the focal point for the Coalition, including the core group.

The Coalition aims to create a website which will contain not only information on the Coalition itself but also on the projects of its members in respect to a social protection floor. Each member organization has to ensure itself that such information is sent to the content-manager of the website in an appropriate manner.

¹ What are fundamental decisions? Fundamental decisions include for example the decision about a launch of a campaign or the call for signatory of a joint statement in the name of the Coalition. The Core Team of the Coalition may decide in which case a decision of all NGOs from the Coalition might be necessary.