

**SOUTH AFRICAN STATEMENT**

**THE RIGHT TO SOCIAL SECURITY INTERSESSIONAL PANEL:**

**THE RIGHT TO SOCIAL SECURITY AT THE HEART OF THE NEW SOCIAL CONTRACT**

**1 NOVEMBER 2021**

Chairperson,

My delegation thanks the panellists’ for their insightful presentations.

As the world struggles to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, there is a broad consensus that reverting to the pre-crisis situation is not good enough if the world is to be put on a sustainable track towards the future. Building back better requires the structural transformation of economies and societies with the right to social security at the heart of the new social contract.

Many States have recognized the importance of increasing the reach and coverage of their social protection systems. Fulfilling the right to social security entails providing income security and support for all people across their life cycle, with particular attention paid to the most vulnerable and marginalized.

Social protection must be gender-responsive and consider women’s unequal burden of unpaid care work. Social protection policies should aim at correcting this imbalance, guaranteeing childcare as a social protection measure and social pensions that allow for an adequate standard of living for women.

Chairperson

A vibrant social contract guarantees the conditions for people to live a decent life, leaving no one behind and enabling all to participate in society, as foreseen in the 2030 Agenda. Fundamentally each goal is dependent on Social Protection, with Social Security falling under Goal 1 as a transversal means of implementation thereby anchoring the universality, indivisibility and interdependence and interrelatedness of all human rights.

To make social protection a reality for all, States need to recalibrate and recommit to basic human rights of food, health care, water and sanitation, education, and decent work to progressively achieve universal and comprehensive social protection systems that leave no one behind.

I thank you