

**First Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 4th International Conference on
Financing for Development**

24/07/2024, Addis Ababa

Thank you, Madam Moderator.

Despite the crucial and equal importance of many cross-cutting issues: human rights, gender equality, biodiversity protection and the fight against climate change, to name but a few. My intervention will focus on solutions and opportunities to bridge the financing gap for universal social protection as a development partner.

Social protection has been among the top priorities of the Belgian Development cooperation for the past years, with examples like our close work with ILO on the Social Protection Flagship; our support to the recently launched Team Europe Initiative Social Protection and the support provided to the Global Accelerator for jobs and social protection.

As a mid-sized donor, Belgium prioritizes catalytic actions for transformative change. Not silver bullets, but enablers. This includes advocating for and providing "quality flexibility funding" as well as operational development effectiveness – ensuring every euro or dollar spent has maximum impact. It is not only about what we do, but also how we do it.

It is about intersectionality and connecting the dots. About collaboration and cooperation. Development partners, including banks and UN agencies, must overcome competitive barriers and work as a system to avoid duplication of efforts. We are hopeful that the ongoing discussions

on the Pact for the Future will contribute to this and provide a mandate for further collaboration on the area of social protection.

And it is about measuring success the right way. Not by what is pledged, but by tangible results on the ground. The role of the UN Resident Coordinators as a one stop intermediary at country level can be a game changer according to us to include support to social protection system front and centre in the activities of the UN development system and UN country teams on the ground, not the least the cooperation frameworks.

The Global Accelerator is for Belgium the kind of initiative under which all of the above comes together. And why we are proud to support it through the Joint SDG Fund window for the Global Accelerator on Social Protection. This initiative offers high potential to showcase effective approaches and impact.

Finally, Belgium would like to endorse the remarks made by the Permanent Representative of Morocco on the need for synergies between the FFD4 and the World Social Summit processes.