

Below is the text that **Mia Seppo, ILO Assistant Director-General for Jobs and Social Protection** will use for her statement in the interactive discussion in the Ministerial scene-setter.

In case Mia Seppo will not make it on time **Shahra Razavi, Director of the ILO Universal Social Protection Department** will make the statement.

Thanks, Umberto

ILO Statement

We must accelerate our efforts to achieve universal social protection, as outlined in SDG Target 1.3. This is not only because social protection is a human right, but also because of its well-documented role in preventing poverty, reducing inequalities, contributing to climate change adaptation and mitigation, and enhancing social peace.

Today 52.4% of the global population is effectively covered by at least one social protection benefit. While this marks an improvement from 42.8% in 2015, significant disparities remain across countries and population groups. Most alarmingly, in the 20 countries most vulnerable to climate change, the population covered by at least one social protection benefit is below 9 per cent.

In low- and middle-income countries, the financing gap to achieve social protection floor for all is estimated at 3.3 per cent of their GDP annually or US\$1.4 trillion per year in absolute terms.

However, to progressively mobilize the necessary resources to close the coverage gap, countries need to set **realistic short-term targets** that will get us there.

The target that the ILO and the USP2030 global partnership propose is to prioritize public investments to **extend social protection coverage by at least two percentage points per year**. Our World Social Protection Database shows this rate of progress is realistic based on the trends we have seen over the past decade.