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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Joint written statement submitted by Soroptimist International, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status, Sikh Human Rights Group*

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[26 May 2025]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



No Climate Justice Without Economic Justice: Supporting the Vision of A/HRC/59/51

Progress is a joint endeavour, a task shared by all parties involved. Therefore, the campaign to harass and demolish international cooperation and solidarity as well as multilateralism must be denounced and fought with the same tools that the campaign seeks to eradicate. That is, cooperation and multilateral dialogue to solve current and future crises.

We therefore thank the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, Olivier De Schutter, for clearly highlighting, in his report A/HRC/59/51, the profound injustices faced by people living in poverty in the face of the climate crisis, and for proposing concrete responses such as the creation of a global fund for social protection. His call reminds us of the urgency of acting decisively and in international solidarity to ensure that no one is left unprotected from the impacts of an increasingly unstable planet.

Furthermore, we feel it is particularly relevant to highlight the double standards that persist in the global response to climate change. That is, the communities and countries most negatively affected by climate change are those that have the least resources to cope with it and have contributed the least to it. This existential risk of anthropogenic origin cannot be satisfactorily confronted without the study and recognition of the causes that have created it, i.e. structural inequalities, greenhouse gas emissions from a historical perspective, as well as the unequal global financial architecture.

We welcome the emphasis on social protection measures as adaptation strategies in the face of climate change. We recall the importance that predictable and rights-based tools (such as cash transfers, food security programmes and community care systems) greatly increase resilience to economic and environmental shocks.

To translate the vision outlined in the report into action, we encourage:

- Materialise the Global Fund for Social Protection, thereby ensuring sustainable and predictable support for low-income countries without including conditionalities that could undermine their sovereignty or inclusiveness.
- Align climate finance with human rights and prioritise social protection mechanisms focused on the poorest and most vulnerable, especially in rural communities, displaced people, and informal and care workers.
- Include social protection mechanisms in the nationally determined contributions (NDCs) under the UNFCCC, reflecting the commitments signed at COP28 on social protection.
- Strengthen the role of different communities and faiths; for example, Gurdwaras and similar institutions have long-standing traditions of solidarity and social resilience, complementing public systems. They should therefore be recognised as valuable partners in the implementation of NDCs.

Finally, we propose to support the A/HRC/59/51 report with a clear vision and will that recognises that climate justice can only be achieved if it is accompanied by measures to remedy structural economic injustices, as these continue to disadvantage countries in the global south by making it difficult for them to invest in resilient social protection systems.

In kind, we draw attention to the urgency of making progress on the following points.

Establishment of predictable, non-conditional climate finance mechanisms that do not replace existing commitments or simply rename existing funds.

Implementing debt reduction, restructuring or cancellation strategies that allow for the creation of fiscal space for the most affected countries. In this way, they will be able to strengthen their social protection systems, safe from possible reprisals from financial markets or credit rating agencies.

Move towards a truly democratic global financial architecture, in which the countries of the global south will have an equal voice and vote in decision-making, including in setting the rules governing social and climate finance.