



## L20 Amritsar Statement No. I

### Universalisation of Social Security and Portability of Social Security Fund

**March 20, 2023:** L20 engagement group's Inception Meeting held in Amritsar, India on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023, under the chairmanship of Sri Hiranmay Pandya, the president of BMS (Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh), as a part of India's presidency of Group of 20 (G20), attended by **Leaders of National Trade Union Centres and Experts on Labour and Labour Economics from various G20 countries and invitee countries call for the Universalisation of Social Security to be achieved by 2030 and G20-wide Social Security Arrangement, including portability of social accounts and benefits.**

After the two days' in-depth deliberations, the participants of the L20 meeting impress upon the G20 nations that the universalisation of social security benefiting up to the last worker in the member countries is an important step to be taken in the labour sector. The fruits of development have to be shared by all. It is of grave concern that the fast-changing nature of the world of work, as pointed out by the participants, pushes more workers to vulnerability and social protection has become an increasing need in the world of work.

The L20 Inception Meeting noted with concern that at least 4 billion people around the world are yet to be covered by any form of social security, and therefore vulnerable to economic, social, and environmental shocks. **The state of social security in the G20 economies which are home to 63 per cent of the global population, has gaps in social security financing in these countries viz., between universal coverage and actual coverage, and between countries of the Global North and those of the Global South.** To bridge these disparities, it is critical to ensure the financial sustainability of social security through alternative mechanisms. G20 countries can share their experiences and guide the grouping in creating sustainable financing for social security, utilising lessons they have learnt from their own social protection schemes. **ILO Convention 102 on Social Security, especially its insurance model, is a good guiding principle for the G20 member nations to go about ensuring social security.**

Social security is important for all nations of G20 and beyond since social protection is core to decent work. The L 20 participants impress upon G20 countries that they should recognise that social protection and wage protection are essential human rights for protecting against future risks that the workforce and their families face in a complex world. Wide variations in social protection among G20 countries, especially in the informal sector, have to be addressed as an immediate concern. Identifying

gaps and standardisation of funding arrangements, finance resources, the spectrum of benefits, the effectiveness of the enforcement system etc., requires immediate attention.

Migration of labour globally and within the G20 nations is on the increase. In view of the same, the portability of social security funds between and among G20 nations and a commonly agreed mechanism for such portability is a low-hanging fruit that can be achieved at the earliest, with due deliberations with trade union centres. **There already exists a model for arrangement among the G20 nations on the portability of social security funds as emerged in the BRICS deliberations on the subject. G20 countries should begin deliberations on the Portability of Social Security, as a part of the process of Universalisation of Social Security for the global workforce.**

A healthy employer-employee relationship, right from the plant level up to the national level, is essential for productivity and decent work that will contribute directly to the economy. It is perfectly possible that the governments, employer organisations and National Trade Union Centres can sit together and find out amicable and harmonious courses to address newly emerging challenges. The L20 inception meeting reiterates the G20 ideal that the whole world is one family and the role of workers is to unite the world to secure a bright future for the entire world.

In view of the above, **the L20 Inception Meet calls upon the G20 nations to urgently chalk out a package plan of vigorous policy and implementation initiatives to achieve targeted universalisation of Social Security covering the last worker by the year 2030, the target year set by UN for SDG goals.** This is important in view that the G20 is the premier forum for international economic cooperation and that it plays an important role in shaping and strengthening global architecture and governance on all major international economic issues.

During the two-day deliberations, the participants from 20 nations thrashed out issues concerning the workforce of the world today, such as the **Universalisation of Social Security and Women as the Centre of the Future of Work, as the main themes.** The participants also discussed **International Migration of Labour and Portability of Social Security Funds; Social Protection for Informal Workers; Skill Training and Skill Upgradation and Role and Responsibilities of the Employers, Employees and the Government; Changing World of Work and New Employment Opportunities in the G20 Countries; and Promoting Sustainable Decent Work.**

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