



Finn Church Aid (FCA)

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Chapeau

At the midpoint of the Agenda 2030, we are seriously off track in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Multiple and overlapping crises are causing growing instability and disruption in many regions. The UN Summit for the Future comes at the critical time to strengthen global commitment to human rights and to mobilize investments for achieving SDGs.

- We call for accelerating investment to fulfill Sustainable development Goals.
- A key to scaling sustainable financing for development is to address the “missing middle”, the lack of sustainable and growth-oriented and job-creating Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), especially in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).
- Youth and Future generations: Address the issues of TVET and teachers to achieve SDG4 as the education is in the core of all development and societal progress.
- Stronger inclusion of religious and traditional actors, women, and youth is needed in conflict prevention and peacebuilding processes.
- We call for governments philanthropic actors, and private sector for increased funding for conflict prevention and peacebuilding.
- Review and strengthen civil society involvement in UN structures and processes.
- Reform UN Security Council to better reflect and represent global populations.

Chapter I. Sustainable development and financing for development

A key to scaling sustainable financing for development is to address the “missing middle”, the lack of sustainable and growth-oriented and job-creating Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), especially in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

The “missing middle” needs to be addressed if sustainable, locally owned development is to happen. Private sector-oriented development finance instruments have grown considerably during past years, but only little funding reaches SMEs in Least Developed Countries (LDC). Unlocking development finance for SMEs has the potential to vast positive impact on economically disadvantages countries.

Proposed paragraph:

We stress the need for locally owned and increasingly locally financed development, the crucial role of the private sector and especially the Small and Medium-sized Enterprises for sustainable development. SMEs are at the center of creation of sustainable jobs and livelihoods yet in Least Developed Countries (LDC), SMEs remain often informal and in survival mode. We invite the developing and developed countries, as well as leading private sector companies, UN agencies such as UNCTAD and ITC, investors as well as global SME-stakeholders, to jointly consider measures how to nurture sustainable SME-ecosystems including incentivizing SME-sustainability and transparency ahead of the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development, scheduled for 2025.

Chapter II. International peace and security

Suggested paragraph:

We emphasize the United Nations' key mandate in working towards and maintaining global peace. We deplore the challenges of the UN and call on the strengthening of the UN's resources in maintaining peace. We emphasize the opportunities in inclusive peacebuilding and call for the strengthening the role of youth, women, and traditional and religious actors in peacebuilding. We urge the countries, philanthropic actors, and private sector to significantly increase the funding for conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

Chapter III. Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation

Innovation and technology are key components which need to support the Leaving No One Behind - agenda, and not to increase the gap between the developed and developing countries. The Pact for the Future needs to prioritize the LDC and fragile states contexts in the text and propose specific measures to address the concern.

Proposed paragraph:

We recognize that innovation and creativity will shape the future of our economy. Access to technology is a prerequisite for flourishing local job markets embracing opportunities vested in digital livelihoods also in the Least Developed Countries. We call for just mechanisms of technology transfer to developing countries and investments in sectors such as creative industries.

Chapter IV. Youth and future generations

Education is the single most important topic when considering providing youth and coming generations the future that we want. The Pact for the Future should focus especially on the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and fragile states that risk being left behind, and two themes that have been chronically overlooked in the international development agenda: teachers and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET). The role of teachers and livelihoods oriented TVET should be underlined especially in emergency and protracted crisis contexts.

Specific attention is needed for the situation of refugee children and youth. Durable solutions, resettlement pathways to third countries and inclusion into national systems are needed for refugees.

Proposed paragraphs:

We recognize that teachers and their adequate capacity is a prerequisite of quality education. Globally, 44 million additional teachers need to be trained and recruited to meet universal primary and secondary education targets by 2030. We commit to prioritize the availability of teachers, their role adequate compensation and wellbeing with a special focus on the Least Developed Countries.

We note with concern the discrepancy between the supply and demand of skilled workers, especially in Africa. Over 100 million young people are expected to enter the workforce by 2030 in Africa, yet the continent continues to suffer from high unemployment and simultaneous lack of skilled workers. We call on international partners to massively scale up job markets and climate friendly employment focused Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), and invest in international education policy frameworks, policy process, country education strategies.

Chapter V. Transforming global governance

Review and strengthen civil society involvement – The ability of civil society to participate in the deliberation of UN bodies and conferences needs to be increased and improved. The UN's engagement with civil society and existing arrangements are not sufficient. The consultative mechanisms in place at the Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly, the Security Council and other UN bodies and entities, including modalities of observer status and how to achieve and keep it, need to be reviewed.

Reform of the UN Security Council – there is an urgent need to reform UNSC to better reflect principles of representation and equity.