

Joint Declaration

**the Minister
for Foreign Trade and Development
Cooperation of the Netherlands**

and

**the Federal Minister
for Economic Cooperation and
Development of the Federal Republic of
Germany**

and

**the Minister
for Development Cooperation and Major
Cities Policy
of the Kingdom of Belgium**

and

**the Minister
for Development Cooperation and
Humanitarian Affairs
of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg**

regarding

Living Wage and Living Income

1. June 2023

1. We, the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of the Netherlands and the Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development of the Federal Republic of Germany, met virtually, on 27th of January 2021. On 21st June 2022, we met again in person, to welcome the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation to join this declaration. On the 1st of June 2023, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg has officially joined the signatories of the declaration.

2. We met at a time with great challenges to sustainable world trade, with rising inequalities and enormous disparities of opportunity, wealth and power within global supply chains; when eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge and central prerequisite for sustainable development.
3. We also met at a time of immense opportunities. The opportunities we take and choices we make will determine the effectiveness of interventions towards a sustainable world economy to secure the future.
4. We believe that acting in collaborative partnership and joint action by European member countries will strengthen driving forces for the eradication of poverty, contributing to shared prosperity and sustainable development, and improve well-being in the world, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular SDG 1, SDG 8 and SDG 12, as well as the National Action Plans for Business and Human Rights.
5. In this context, we, the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of the Netherlands and the Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development of the Federal Republic of Germany, have forged a partnership for a sustainable, inclusive and balanced global economy, and thereby announce today the following actions:
6. We **foster the dialogue** between governments from consumer countries and governments from producer countries in the context of **realizing sustainable supply chains**. We promote the importance of an **adequate minimum wage**, which is sufficient to cover costs of living. At the same time, we continue to support higher productivity as one basis for higher wages for workers in our partner countries, e.g. via better education and qualification. We also support the ILO in developing indicators and methodologies on the needs of workers and their families in sourcing countries, leading towards **benchmarks for costs of living**. These benchmarks could form a normative basis in future supply chain projects for living wage and living income in economically less developed countries.
7. We realize that a living wage for workers and their families in global supply chains as well as living incomes for producers and entrepreneurs and their families are essential to eradicate absolute poverty, and thereby child- and forced labor. **Making our global supply chains sustainable** is one crucial part in reaching this global goal. We, the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of the Netherlands, the Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Minister for Development Cooperation and Major Cities of Belgium and the Minister for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, stand for the importance of living wages and living

incomes to eliminate absolute poverty. In particular, we believe this common goal can be achieved by (i) **supporting social dialogue** and **empowerment** of workers and producers in **development cooperation**, and (ii) advocating **responsible business conduct**. We will advocate this policy in relevant multilateral and European fora.

8. We advocate to include living wages and living incomes in **EU policy** concerning sustainable value chains and in future reviews of National Actions Plans for Business and Human Rights in the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium and Luxembourg.

Signed on 1st June 2023



Liesje Schreinemacher

Minister
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