



LAUREATES & LEADERS
- FOR CHILDREN -

LAUREATES AND LEADERS FOR CHILDREN FAIR SHARE SUMMIT 2020

9TH - 10TH SEPTEMBER 2020

THE FAIR SHARE FOR CHILDREN CALL TO ACTION

We, the Laureates and Leaders for Children, call for urgent and accountable action by governments to prevent a devastating crisis for our children as a result of COVID-19. We cannot afford to lose a generation for the lack of political will to allocate a fair share for children in the global economic response to the pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic is a cataclysm in the lives of millions of children. The health, education and economic crises caused by COVID-19 will damage years of progress in child labour, trafficking, and slavery across the world. This is entrenched by the inequality of the world's response to date, which has seen trillions announced for the richest parts of the world and very little for the hardest-to-reach children.

Our collective response to this crisis now will dictate the present and future world we build for our children.

Building upon the previous two summits in 2016 and 2018, we reaffirm that if children are not safeguarded everywhere, then our global response to this crisis and beyond will have failed everywhere.

We, the Laureates and Leaders for Children, make a warning statement that the world needs to either act now or risk the first increase in child labour, trafficking, and child slavery in decades, as:

- 10.9 million children are at risk of dropping out of school.
- An additional 130 million people could face acute food insecurity; 1.2 million additional deaths of children under five due to undernutrition could occur in just six months.

- 71-100 million people could enter extreme poverty, which will result in the first increase in child labour in two decades since, in certain countries, a 0.7% increase in child labour is expected for every 1% increase in poverty.

We, the Laureates and Leaders for Children call for urgent action by:

- reiterating our demand that the world must urgently provide its 20% most marginalised with a 20% fair share of COVID-19 relief. Donor governments must immediately contribute US\$1 trillion in COVID-19 support for children and their families in low- and lower-middle-income countries to arrest the imminent rise in child labour and trafficking; protect children from violence, including growing online child sexual abuse; provide high quality and inclusive universal education, and curb child hunger and mortality.
- demanding immediate and accelerated action to end all forms of child labour by 2025, and eliminate modern slavery and trafficking, including strengthening social protection, implementing existing laws, and creating due diligence legislation to cover all tiers in the global supply chain in businesses. Businesses must ensure and invest in compliance measures to eliminate and prevent child labour, trafficking, and slavery from global supply chains.
- urging all donor countries, private lenders, and multilateral institutions to cancel all existing debt of low-income countries to enable the extension of public services and social protections for the most marginalised children and their families.
- supporting the immediate creation of a multidimensional Global Social Protection Fund for low- and lower-middle-income countries to reduce poverty, inequality, social exclusion and social insecurity that have been exacerbated especially for the vulnerable children and their families, due to the pandemic.
- demanding action to deliver the UN Resolution on “International cooperation to ensure global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to face COVID-19” and urge UN member states to declare COVID vaccines as a global common good.

We, the Laureates and Leaders for Children, resolve to empower children and young people everywhere to exercise their rights as the inheritors and creators of a free and equal world. We will continue to champion the youth-led 100 Million campaign to support and empower youth activism.

As Nobel Laureates and World Leaders, this is our individual and collective will for a just, compassionate, and child-friendly world where every child can be free, safe, healthy, educated, and empowered.

We will deliver our demands to every head of state and government and the United Nations General Assembly. We call on civil society to defend the rights of children around the world.

We, the Laureates and Leaders for Children, conclude this Fair Share for Children Summit 2020 with the resolve to seize this moment in order to overcome inequality everywhere, share and build power for children and young people, and create a new compassionate story for our future.

Derived from the Third Laureates and Leaders for Children Summit
9 - 10 September 2020