



Joint Statement
Status of the Human Capital Plan for Africa
World Bank and IMF Annual Meetings
Marrakech, Morocco
October 11, 2023

In April 2019 the World Bank launched the Africa Human Capital Plan (AHCP) to assist African countries invest more in their people and improve results of social sector projects, including those in education, health, nutrition, and social protection. The objective of the plan is to enable Africa’s young people to grow up with optimal health and equipped with the right skills and resilience to compete in the digitizing global economy.

Africa’s ambitious development plans, including “Agenda 2063” depends on the human capital of the continent. There needs to be a more targeted approach to address youth, women and vulnerable populations and ensure existing structural barriers are resolved for a meaningful engagement. This will broaden the base for meaningful participation of CSOs and Communities which will maximize strategic buy-in and awareness around AHCP.

We acknowledge the importance of the AHCP in facilitating Africa’s development and have witnessed the progress made based on the Year 3 Progress Report. However, we want to see specific interventions in health, including Primary Health Care (PHC), Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and Pandemic Prevention Preparedness and Response (PPPR). We further urge the WB to commit to advancing commitments of the United Nations High Level Meeting (UN HLM) Political Declarations on UHC, TB and PPPR in the implementation of AHCP.

The Evolution processes the World Bank has undertaken provides an opportunity for the Bank to refocus on its priorities and strategies to achieve a ‘liveable planet’ for all and make ambitious commitments. The International Development Association (IDA) 20 Mid-term Review and the IDA 21 replenishment are important moments to ensure PHC, UHC and PPPR are prioritized and resourced. We believe such a targeted approach will increase outcomes of AHCP and contribute towards improvement the pillars (*Survival, Expected years of learning-adjusted school and Health*) of the Human Capital Index (HCI) score of 0.4, compared to the global average of 0.57.

Ambitions of the AHCP can only be achieved through bold leadership and even stronger political commitment. As Parliamentarians and CSOs, we will continue to advocate for increased leadership at national and regional level, and will engage further to facilitate conversations among Parliamentary, CSOs and Community networks.