

12 November 2022

H.E. Joko Widodo
President, Republic of Indonesia
Chair, Group of Twenty (G20)

Dear Chair Widodo and G20 leaders:

The 17th G20 Heads of State and Government Summit takes place at a critical juncture. The world faces not one, but a multitude of combined, compounding crises: the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, mounting sovereign debt, soaring food costs, increasingly frequent climate-related catastrophes, and the global repercussions of the war in Ukraine.

One month ago, in advance of the 2022 Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank Group, a coalition of 140 organizations from around the world sent a letter calling on the IMF Board of Governors and Executive Board to take action to confront this global poly-crisis through a major new issuance of at least \$650 billion worth of Special Drawing Rights (SDR).

The signers — including economic justice, faith-based, labor, business, public health, and environmental groups — expressed our profound concern at the dire state of the global economy, and urged prompt action toward a new SDR issuance, which would provide a measure of immediate relief to nearly all low- and middle-income countries without the creation of additional debt, and at zero cost to IMF member governments. “We can’t afford to wait any longer to take action,” the letter reads. “The urgent and compounding crises around the world call for an urgent and proportionate response. SDRs are a crucial part of that response.”

The G20 nations play an indispensable role in shaping global economic governance. As such, we write to you today to share our October 2022 letter (attached), to reaffirm the urgency of a new SDR allocation, and to call on the G20 to place the issue of a new SDR issuance on the agenda for the Heads of State and Government Summit and express support for such an issuance in its leaders’ declaration.

Thank you for your attention to this crucial matter.

Signed,

Action Corps
Africa Faith and Justice Network (AFJN)
Arab Watch Coalition
Bretton Woods Project

Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR)
Christian Aid
debtWATCH Ind.
European Network on Debt and Development (Eurodad)
Fossil Free South Africa
Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP) Africa
International Chamber of Commerce
International Trade Union Confederation
Oxfam International
Red Latinoamericana por Justicia Económica y Social (Latindadd)

IMF Board of Governors
IMF Executive Board
700 19th Street NW
Washington, DC 20431

Dear members of the IMF Board of Governors and Executive Board:

We, the undersigned organizations, call for a major new general issuance of at least \$650 billion worth of debt-free Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The great majority of the world's countries are struggling amid multiple historic, overlapping, and generally worsening crises. The world's wealthiest countries must act quickly to assist them by voting for a major new issuance of SDRs. As Pakistan's central bank governor recently [wrote](#), if rich countries do not act soon, "Poor countries will not easily forget how they were let down by a system that was meant to increase their living standards and protect them in an emergency."

Even as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to kill thousands of people each week, and to infect millions more, low- and middle-income countries — many of which lack sufficient COVID vaccines — now face food, energy, and cost-of-living crises driven by the war in Ukraine, corporate profiteering, and price-gouging. Climate disasters, and a rapidly warming planet, worsen these crises and create new ones, while looming debt crises threaten many countries — [driven in part](#) by interest rate hikes by the U.S. Federal Reserve and by other central banks in advanced economies that are making it much more expensive for borrowing countries to pay back their debts.

The enormity of these overlapping crises may be unprecedented in human history. The World Food Programme estimates that the number of people facing acute food insecurity has risen from 135 million to 345 million since 2019; in 2021 2.3 billion people in the world faced moderate or severe food insecurity according to a United Nations report. The IMF has downgraded its projections for global economic growth, with 2022 growth expected to slow to 3.2 percent, down from 6.1 percent last year. The UN Development Programme estimated that by July of this year, the rising cost of living had pushed an additional 71 million people into poverty. Mass anger triggered in part by these crises has fueled instability in many countries, even leading to the toppling of governments; more countries are likely to be rocked by political instability as daily life becomes more difficult.

SDRs have already proven to be an effective tool in responding to global challenges like these. Last year's allocation [was an important lifeline](#) to many low- and middle-income countries facing major economic challenges, and whose populations are more exposed to multiple vulnerabilities. Over 100 low- and middle-income countries used SDRs [in the first year](#) after the

August 2021 allocation; 42 of which exchanged most of their SDRs for hard currency, around \$16 billion worth, and 69 of which included SDRs totaling over \$80 billion in their government budgets or for other fiscal purposes.

While we support reforming how SDRs are allocated to better target vulnerable countries, including advancing a much-needed IMF quota reform, without the SDRs from last year's issuance, many countries would likely be faring much worse today, and would be even less equipped to respond to the new crises that have emerged in 2022. In Africa, 47 of 54 countries used the newly allocated SDRs in some way, and many countries used SDRs to directly respond to the pandemic by purchasing vaccines, for economic recovery purposes, by supporting social programs, or other means. Even those developing countries that did not use their SDRs to pay off debts or purchase vaccines [benefited](#) from the added security of strengthened foreign reserves.

But as important as these SDRs were, they failed to match the scale of the needs of developing countries even then; and the situation is significantly worse now.

A major new allocation of SDRs is the most direct and efficient response to assist countries around the world in responding to these new crises, and to shocks yet to come. A new allocation of at least \$650 billion would immediately make hundreds of billions of dollars available to nearly all low- and middle-income IMF member countries without debt or conditions and only requires political will on the part of the Fund's board; particularly those members, like the U.S., Japan, China, Germany, and France, that have the largest voting shares at the IMF.

A new issuance would also help wealthier countries and the entire global economy by boosting demand for imports, thereby helping to create [new export jobs](#) among trading partners. Allowing vulnerable developing countries to succumb to hunger, debt, and cost-of-living crises, on the other hand, would dramatically increase the risk of social conflict and deeply undermine global security. Ensuring global economic stability requires collective action. Supporting a new issuance of SDRs would be an easy way to assert global leadership, prove responsive to the needs of the developing world, prevent political unrest, and help support an equitable global economic recovery from this moment of dire need.

SDRs are a simple and effective way to deliver essential economic support to the great majority of countries around the world, at once. They do not cost the IMF member governments anything; nor do they contribute to inflation.

The [International Chamber of Commerce](#); the [UN Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance](#); the [UN Economic Commission for Africa](#); [UN Secretary-General António Guterres](#); the [African Union](#); [dozens of members of both chambers of the U.S. Congress](#); [leading economists](#); and many more, have called for a new major SDR allocation to help provide relief and support an equitable global economic recovery.

The global crises confronting humanity extend well beyond COVID-19 and some, most notably the climate crisis — with its effects on food production and availability of water, and attendant disasters, including droughts, floods, wildfires, worsened hurricanes, landslides, and other calamities — pose an existential threat to human survival. We can't afford to wait any longer to take action. The urgent and compounding crises around the world call for an urgent and proportionate response. SDRs are a crucial part of that response.

Signed,

AbibiNsroma Foundation, Ghana

ACEP, Portugal

Action Corps, United States

ActionAid USA, United States

Adrian Dominican Sisters, United States

AFL-CIO, United States

Africa Development Interchange Network (ADIN), Cameroon

Africa Faith and Justice Network, United States

Al Hayat Center - RASED, Jordan

American Friends Service Committee, United States

Amid Vision, Tunisia

Apostolic Ministerial International Network, Ghana

Arab Watch Coalition, Middle East and North Africa

Association For Promotion Sustainable Development, India

Association Jeunes Pour Jeunes (AJJ), Morocco

Association La Siesta Pour La Protection De L'Environnement, Morocco

Association Tunisienne de Droit du Développement, Tunisia

ATED, Morocco

ATGL, Tunisia

Bangladesh Institute of Human Rights (BIHR), Bangladesh

Benedictines for Peace, United States

Bretton Woods Project, United Kingdom

Caribbean Policy Development Centre, Barbados

Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR), United States

Center for Economic and Social Rights, Global

Center for Financial Accountability, India

Centre for Citizens Conserving Environment & Management (CECIC), Uganda

Centre for Human Rights and Development, Mongolia

Centre for Muslim Youth In Peace And Development, Ghana

Centro de Derechos Económicos y Sociales — CDES, Andino - Amazónico

Centro de Documentación en Derechos Humanos "Segundo Montes Mozo S.J." (CSMM),
Ecuador

Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS), Argentina
Centro de Investigacion Sobre Inversión y Comercio (CEICOM), El Salvador
Chicago Area Peace Action, United States
Children and Women Organization, Iraq
CNCD-11.11.11, Belgium
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces, United States
Croatian Platform for International Citizen Solidarity (CROSOL), Croatia
Debt Justice UK, United Kingdom
debtWATCH Indonesia, Indonesia
Demand Progress Education Fund, United States
Development Alliance NGO, Mongolia
Diverse Voices and Action (DIVA) for Equality, Fiji
Dominican Sisters of Hope, United States
EDER (Environnement, Développement et Énergies Renouvelables), Guinea
Equidad de Género: Ciudadanía, Trabajo y Familia, Mexico
European Network on Debt and Development (Eurodad), Europe
Focus of Disabled Persons, Kenya
Forum Solidaridad Perú, Peru
FOSDEH, Honduras
Fossil Free South Africa, South Africa
Freedom Forward, United States
Friends Committee on National Legislation, United States
Friends of the Disabled Association, Lebanon
Friends of the Earth US, United States
Friends with Environment in Development, Uganda
Fundación SES, Argentina
GCAP Africa, Kenya
Gender Action, United States
Gender-Based Violence as a Public Health Issue, Nigeria
Generation Against Marginalisation, Tunisia
Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP), Global
Global Justice Now, United Kingdom
Global Policy Forum, Global
Good Health Community Programmes, Kenya
Green Advocates International (Liberia), Liberia
Green Armenia, Armenia
Grupo Nacional De Presupuesto Publico, Peru
Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti, United States
Institute of Analysis and Advocacy, Ukraine
Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Loreto Generalate, Global

Instituto Popular de Capacitación (IPC), Colombia
International Chamber of Commerce, Global
International Crisis Group, Global
International Trade Union Confederation, Global
International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific (IWRAP Asia Pacific), Malaysia
Jamaa Resource Initiatives, Kenya
Jobs With Justice, United States
Jubilee Scotland, Scotland, United Kingdom
JUBILEO 2000, RED ECUADOR, Ecuador
Just Foreign Policy (JFP), United States
Justice Is Global, United States
JusticeMakers Bangladesh, Bangladesh
Latin America Working Group (LAWG), United States
Latinoamérica Sustentable, Ecuador
MADRE, United States
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, United States
Medical Mission Sisters, Justice Office, United States
Mennonite Central Committee U.S., United States
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, United States
National Campaign for Sustainable Development Nepal, Nepal
National Society of Conservationists - Friends of the Earth Hungary, Hungary
NGO ASRAD, Mali
NGO Forum on ADB, Asia
Northwest Coalition for Responsible Investment, United States
Oxfam International, International
Oyu Tolgoi Watch, Mongolia
Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum, Pakistan
Partners In Health, Global
Pax Christi USA, United States
Phenix Center for Economic and Informatics Studies, Jordan
PHM-K, Kenya
Plateforme Française Dette et Développement, France
Reacción Climática, Bolivia
Recourse, The Netherlands
Red de Justicia Fiscal de América Latina y El Caribe, Regional
Red Latinoamericana por Justicia Económica y Social (LATINDADD), Latin America
Red Mexicana de Acción frente al Libre Comercio (RMALC), México
RENICC, Nicaragua
Rivers without Boundaries Coalition, Mongolia
RootsAction.org, United States

Rural Area Development Programme (RADP), Nepal
School Sisters of Notre Dame CP JPIC Office, United States
Sisters of Charity Federation, United States
Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth Office of Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation, United States
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Congregational Leadership, United States
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Western Province Leadership, United States
Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill, United States
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas - Justice Team, United States
Sisters of Saint Joseph of Chestnut Hill Philadelphia, PA, United States
Sisters of St. Francis, Clinton, Iowa, United States
Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, LA, United States
Sisters of St. Joseph-TOSF Social Justice Committee, United States
Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus Mary, Canada
South Feminist Futures, Zimbabwe
Stop TB USA, United States
Studies and Economic Media Center, Yemen
The Society for Children Orphaned By AIDS Inc. (SOCOBA), United States
Third World Network, Global
Unitarian Universalist Association, United States
United Church of Christ, Justice and Local Church Ministries, United States
UP Center, Mongolia
WECF International, The Netherlands
Wedyan Association For Society Development, Yemen
Wemos, Netherlands
Women Empowerment Against Poverty of Nepal (WEAPoN), Nepal
Women's Budget Group, United Kingdom
World Economy, Ecology and Development (WEED), Germany
Yemeni Observatory for Human Rights, Yemen