



Work Programme

2024-2027

International Panel on Social Progress

Collective intelligence for action

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WHY?

Averting dystopian futures, promoting better societies

Social progress: a defining agenda, a broad outline, a potential coalition

According to the first IPSP Report¹, social progress can be affirmed as a key moral compass for action, and forms a substantial actionable agenda, but important obstacles and uncertainty surround its implementation.

A core list of values and principles defines an agenda for the pursuit of better societies (and also underlies the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations' Agenda 2030): well-being, equal dignity, freedom, choice, human rights, justice, inclusion, respect, integrity, courage, democracy, pluralism, solidarity, recognition, environmental values, rule of law, transparency, accountability, social relations, generosity, culture...

As indicated in the Report, a broad outline and a narrative for social progress exist. They encompass: creating an inclusive and responsible economy by taming markets and corporations through responsible regulatory systems and by fostering economic and social organizations with a broader purpose; bringing circularity into our value chains and modes of living; reducing social inequalities and empowering people through universal services and through pre- and redistribution;

1. *Rethinking Societies for the 21st Century, Report of the International Panel on Social Progress*, 3 volumes (Volume 1: *Socio-Economic Transformations*, 372 pages; Volume 2: *Political regulation, Governance, and Societal Transformations*, 248 pages; Volume 3: *Transformations in Values, Norms, and Cultures*, 350 pages), Cambridge University Press, 2018.

deepening democracy through participatory and deliberative mechanisms and better information ecosystems; enhancing global cooperation to preserve common goods; harnessing technology for positive impact and limiting its most disruptive consequences.

Planetary crises as embodied in COVID and climate emergencies have laid bare the weaknesses of prevailing development orthodoxies and signaled the possibility of a greater willingness among global audiences to be receptive to a social progress agenda and temper hyper-consumerist cultures.

Multiple actors, including those from civil society, contribute to this agenda in myriad ways and constitute a vibrant pool from which knowledge, experience, and momentum can be drawn.

However, although many efforts at forming alliances are underway, there is no unified/global coalition fighting the obstacles to social progress, especially at the transnational/international level. This struggle is within the domains of both knowledge and practice.

For the IPSP, this raises a key question: How can we help coalitions of actors to emerge and organize, how can we help nurture them, in order to implement the social progress agenda?

Overlapping challenges, opportunities, and aspirations

Humanity has reached a formidable high point of capacities but many economic, social and institutional achievements of the past decades are fragile, raising the prospect of abrupt disruptions. Five broad areas can be distinguished in which challenges but also opportunities and new aspirations appear.

The environment: the current development path is unsustainable but awareness is rising and attitudes toward nature are shifting.

- Climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution (plastic, pesticides),

and water stress are all worsening.

- Health impacts and risks through environmental degradation and zoonoses are growing.
- Nature (especially animal) rights gain traction and awareness about planetary boundaries is now widespread, leading to many initiatives at various scales.
- Global action on decarbonization, biodiversity, protected areas is insufficient but is underway.
- Parts of society, notably the younger generations, display a greater propensity to changing consumption patterns and adopting environmentally sustainable practices but economic institutions, regulatory frameworks, and certain political alliances constitute formidable impediments to progress.

Social cohesion: The UN's Agenda 2030 is on a path to dramatic failure on many SDGs, but there is a growing consensus over effective policies that could stop and reverse social fragmentation.

- Inequalities, across a spectrum of dimensions and scales, and poverty persist or have worsened, welfare and inclusive policies face resistance and rollback efforts but there is evidence of momentum on tax cooperation and financial transparency measures.
- Migrations reflect a wide range of aspirations and hardship across the world, contribute importantly to reducing inequalities, and depending on the cases and the origins or destinations, bring economic and cultural benefits to communities or tear them apart, through the departure of the workforce in origin countries or the exacerbation of tribalist instincts in destination countries.
- Declining levels of interpersonal trust and trust in institutions are being manifested all over the world. This trend, in some manifestations, appears amenable to political manipulation. Moreover, it is seriously compromising social cohesion and human solidarity as the collective sense of being left behind and unheard becomes more widespread.
- Investing in human development (education, health) through universal provision and an array of social cohesion policies are well proven solutions but their successful implementation requires international cooperation to avoid a race to the bottom.

Technology: the dynamics of technological innovation strongly influences societies and new mechanisms attuned to societal needs must be set up to ensure that technological developments advance social progress.

- New technologies offer breakthrough innovations in health care, eliminate tedious and hazardous tasks, provide unprecedented tools for coordination across the world, and develop clean energy and nature-based solutions.
- At the same time, digital technologies contribute to the current environmental, social and governance crises: disrupting democracy, raising polarization and mental health issues, impacting jobs and social cohesion, boosting the energy demand and the extraction of rare materials, and even inducing new forms of war.
- New technologies raise existential questions on what it is to be human - exploring taboo frontiers through synthetic biology, AI-augmented humans or “humanized” robots - as well as the role of humans in AI-generated decision-making and in future technological innovation.
- Technological innovation operates under a regulatory framework which is associated with the growing concentration of data, power and wealth and impedes the development of knowledge as a global public good.

Governance: democratic backsliding is a widespread observed phenomenon, but the governance crisis is much broader and affects all spheres of social life - at the same time, opportunities for deepening democratic deliberation are substantial.

- Global cooperation is breaking down, a new cold war between blocs is settling in, and a global civil society, or a global demos, which could voice demands for global public goods, is missing.
- Democratic backsliding is ongoing: authoritarianism, nationalism, hateful and intolerant threats to minorities and opponents, polarization, distrust in institutions and science are on the rise.
- Participatory mechanisms are however spreading and new possibilities for inclusive deliberation and decision mechanisms are emerging.

- Fraud, corruption and lobbying are widespread and undermine efficient governance at various levels (local, national, supranational).
- An economic and governance crisis in the media, the emergence of informational bubbles, and social media abuses distort the public debate and undermine democracy, but also offer new ways of connecting people with common interests, of collective action and of building a global citizenship.
- Even if authoritarian management and harmful human resource practices still prevail in business organizations, social innovations prove that horizontal, inclusive structures are better for all stakeholders and that corporate governance can be reformed.

Conflicts and violence: the most extreme form of societal disruption is the eruption of violence in all its forms. Peace and human security have always been the basic priorities of citizens and communities, but various powerful interests at play derail these aspirations in the absence of strong countervailing forces that would promote freedom, recognition, equality, and justice.

- Violent conflicts have been increasing in recent years, involving wars between states, imperial and colonial wars, civil wars, terrorism, organized crime, trafficking and criminal violence.
- Discrimination remains widespread and often induces violence against minorities by mobs or established policing institutions.
- Peace-keeping mechanisms and regime changes engineered by states, under UN mandates or other alliances, have been very problematic, and the UN security framework is unanimously considered broken.
- Peace and reconciliation initiatives led by civil society organizations have continually emerged in various crises, and contain promising innovations that deserve further study, generalization, and resources for implementation.

These environmental, social, technological and institutional developments take different forms in different parts of the world: environmental impacts are unequally spread, extreme poverty is found everywhere but is particularly salient in low-income countries, top incomes have different sources in different areas, access to technology is very unequal, welfare policies are very heterogeneous, authoritarianism and democracy compete across boundaries and domains, and conflicts rage in multiple forms from spontaneous protests to genocidal wars.

The interdependence web

The key fact on which the Panel bases its work is that the mechanisms underlying these challenges and opportunities are strongly interdependent. Recognizing such interdependence and building on it is essential to imagine adequate solutions to these challenges as well as to make the most of the emerging opportunities.

The ongoing crises feed one another: an environmental crisis in one place (a drought in the Middle East) can reverberate into a governance crisis in another place (migrations and rising populism in Europe); a conflict in one place (the war in Ukraine) can aggravate social problems in another (extreme poverty and hunger in Africa); a social crisis (inequalities, labor market shocks, poverty, feeling left behind) can destabilize institutions and governance (generating distrust, putting demagogues in power, feeding terrorism and criminal activities); ill-managed technological innovation (social media infected by trolls, labor-saving AI) undermines governance (raising polarization and distrust) and social cohesion (unemployment). A stronger awareness and a better understanding of these feedback loops and vicious circles are urgently needed.

Because of these interlinkages between the various domains, a steady path toward social progress cannot be charted without considering them all together. Environmental issues cannot be ignored in order to

restore social cohesion and inclusive governance; social cohesion cannot be put aside to protect democracy and the environment; without a reasonably good governance, the environmental, social and technology challenges will never be adequately addressed; and technology issues and opportunities will not be adequately handled in unequal and ill-governed economies and societies.

It is essential to develop analysis that fully takes account of the interlocking crises, the feedback mechanisms and the intersectoral solutions. This requires getting out of the “environmental” silo, the “social” silo, the “politics” silo, the “innovation” silo, the “development” silo. Such a comprehensive approach must be applied not only to high-level systemic analysis but also to more specific domain studies. For instance, filling development gaps must involve ecological transition issues and institution building; protected natural areas policies cannot be discussed without considering social impacts and global cooperation; promoting participatory democracy in politics and the economy must build on the consequences of better institutions for inequalities and ecological responsibility; pushing for responsible innovation requires overhauling industrial structures, corporate governance and the purpose of economic development.

HOW?

Fulfilling the social progress agenda

Reducing complexity, identifying priority actions

The key priority for the Panel is to push for studies, initiatives, reforms, and mobilizations that are directly relevant to pursuing the social progress agenda. The activities to be undertaken by the Panel follow a three-pronged strategy:

- Identify the key drivers and action points by which societal transformation may be initiated, with a special attention to mapping the power structures that undergird the current situation.
- Design recommendations for actors and policy initiatives that can achieve the desired transformations.
- Modify incentives to align the goals of powerful actors (such as governments, businesses and civil society) through adequate social progress coalitions.

The chart (on page 12) draws a roadmap for the Social Progress Agenda that the Panel wants to operationalize around five main components:

- Reforming the economic system, designing reforms and transformations that address the structural flaws of current institutions and regulations.
- Unleashing the potential for social change, by fostering social innovations and experimentation.



- Strengthening democracy and participation at all levels, in order to improve collective action and enhance the legitimacy of public decisions.
- Promoting global security and solidarity, to foster peaceful conflict resolution and enhance global cooperation for planetary well-being.
- Rethinking relations with nature, to promote sustainability, biodiversity, and well-being

The bottom of the graph affirms the ambition of the Panel to be resolutely non-partisan but undeniably political:

- In the knowledge action space, the goal is, to contribute to the creation and dissemination of knowledge about the challenges and opportunities of our time, to design adaptive solutions and to share actionable recommendations to spur productive public debates, and to raise the level of expertise of the actors of social progress;
- In the political action space, the goal is to facilitate the formation of large coalitions of actors for social progress (civil society organizations, private business, philanthropy, local, regional and national governments, international organizations, etc.) across caste, ethnicities, gender, geographies, political alliances and economic sectors globally, in particular channeling under-represented, vulnerable, and repressed voices, as well as to identify and support specific reforms and transformations.

Interventions in the knowledge action space

One key dimension of the work of the Panel is to address knowledge gaps regarding the interdependence between the main components of the social progress agenda and their coordinated implementation in societies. Such knowledge gaps are addressed via the production of IPSP Synthesis Reports on selected transversal themes (see next section).

Each IPSP Synthesis Report will provide answers to the following questions:

- What is known? Where do we stand and what are the trends?
- What is desirable? What do principles of justice suggest?
- What are the major obstacles and opportunities?
- What can be done (and by whom)?

Each IPSP Synthesis Report will also:

- Unmask false solutions, identify consensus and disagreements among actors
- Present scientific evidence, examples of inspiring initiatives and good practices
- Suggest recommendations, propose actionable insights, roadmaps and toolkits.

The IPSP approach departs from the “policy relevant, not policy prescriptive” mantra proclaimed by the IPCC, and is meant to facilitate the use of such reports by actors. The presence of proposals and recommendations will not smuggle in value judgments and will leave the users of the reports free to disregard the conclusions that are linked to normative assumptions they do not endorse. It will acknowledge that solutions often depend on the local contexts.

IPSP Synthesis Reports will include a summary that will recap in accessible terms the main takeaway messages as well as concrete steps for actions and the associated toolkit. For each report, a phase collecting comments as widely as possible from scholars and practitioners will help the authors revise their text and produce analyses and recommendations of high quality, relevance, and accessibility.

Each IPSP Synthesis Report will be accompanied by a wide array of background papers, journal articles or book chapters, more specific contributions or briefs, geographic narratives, prepared by IPSP

IPSP SYNTHESIS REPORTS

IPSP Synthesis Reports are written by teams displaying a relevant mix of expertise of disciplines and sectoral experience, i.e., gathering actors and stakeholders from various organizations and bodies representative of the diversity of populations as well as leading scholars representing the relevant disciplines and regions of the world. Author teams will be nominated by the Coordination Council on the basis of suggestions by the Advisory Board.

Each team consists of 10-15 authors able to tackle the multi-faceted and inter-connected nature of the challenges and opportunities related to the topic and are led by three coordinating lead authors (CLAs) with different sectoral experience and international backgrounds. The CLAs are identified by the Advisory Board. Consultations between the designated CLAs and the Coordination Council help compose the team of lead authors (LAs).

All CLAs and LAs are required to sign the IPSP Code of Ethics to

ensure compliance to the highest standards of intellectual freedom, diversity, respect, integrity, and honesty. The working language is English but language diversity is encouraged in the use of original sources/ contents and in the drafting of contributions by LAs.

The time horizon for completion of IPSP Synthesis Reports is 6-18 months in order to make timely contributions on high priority topics. Adequate funding for report-writing activities will be allocated. Such funding may cover fieldwork, data collection and analysis, assistance with research. In-presence meetings of authors will be used with moderation, making the best use of online collaborative tools (videoconferencing, online shared repositories, writing tools).

IPSP Synthesis Reports will be approved by the Coordination Council before being published on the International Platform for Social Progress and disseminated through the various communication formats and channels of the Panel.

authors and external contributors. Each author team will work as an editorial board for each transversal theme as they will invite, review, produce additional contents. All these publications will build up a concrete and specific picture of the systemic nature of IPSP analysis.

Interventions in the political action space

The Panel will intervene in the action space without any partisanship or political affiliation. The objective will be the promotion of the social progress agenda and of its various components and dimensions while applying an intersectional lens. The Panel will engage in two major efforts:

- Support for specific reforms, and legal, social or financial innovations, that would be consistent with the overall social progress agenda and would tick all the boxes of positive intersectional externalities. This support could be concretized by launching (or joining) global collective actions pushing for change. Two prerequisites will form the basis of the clear framework needed to guide the decision-making process: (a) prior and/or ad hoc IPSP work should provide strong theoretical justification and empirical evidence to support a specific measure or initiative, (b) the Coordination Council will have to approve any decision by a unanimous decision.
- Innovation in coalition-building to create a global momentum for the social progress agenda and/or some of its components. There is a shared conviction that only cross-sectoral efforts that will include benevolent leaders from government, business, philanthropy, civil society and academia, will have the potential both to impact the public arena and to lead to some concrete changes. This will imply building partnerships with leading organizations of the various sectors to move forward collectively and demonstrate that the proposed changes/reforms are supported by prominent people from the various communities.

Building fluid coalitions of actors for social progress

The social progress agenda is not associated with a specific, homogeneous set of actors. This reflects the complexity and the diversity of current social structures around the world. Pursuing social progress appears dependent on building cross-sectoral coalitions of the willing.

Some traditional actors mediating various social interests are receding, though not disappearing, and unequally across regions of the world: political parties, unions, traditional churches and related charities, democratic governments, charismatic thinkers.

In contrast, new actors are rising in numbers and force: transnational business, wealthy philanthropists, civil society and secular NGOs, new religious proselytes, dark money, authoritarian governments, criminal and terrorist international networks, social media influencers and manipulators.

The interdependent power dynamics among these actors are complex. The scales of operations of these various actors vary a lot, but scalability has increased with new technologies, although many movements formed through social media mobilization appear short-lived and with limited impact. Civil society, is under stress with the rise of authoritarianism, even in liberal democracies.

The Panel involves numerous researchers and teachers, who are well placed, not just as scholars but also as actors, to scrutinize the changing societal needs for education in a highly uncertain and fractious world, and for institutions that manage the creation and dissemination of science in a culturally and politically polarized context.

What coalitions of actors (of different types, geographical origins, missions, scales) can be impactful? What agendas and types of interventions can gather momentum? How do we prevent tensions between actors with imperfectly aligned agendas and divergent forms of action? These are the questions that the Panel will try to answer.

WHAT?

Producing innovative actionable insights

A strong, principled, and multi-actor process

The Panel intends to provide social progress promoters with innovative insights as well as actionable recommendations. It has opted for a work process that differs from standard research or think-tank analysis. The basic principles that characterize the work of the Panel include:

- A co-construction with practitioners and member-based organizations to make the work more relevant and more informed about issues of concrete implementation;
- A holistic view cognizant of the strong interdependence between the components of societal structures and emphasize interlinkages between sectoral challenges and opportunities;
- A mobilization of expertise with intersectoral and cross-disciplinary depth, in order to provide a comprehensive understanding of the issues and avoid biases deriving from specific approaches and narrow disciplinary expertise;
- A forward-looking and solutions-based approach that can relate to a large spectrum of actors, stakeholders, changemakers and policymakers;
- Strong work principles that will ensure freedom, diversity, respect, honesty and mutual learning in the collegial work.

A focus on key drivers and action points

The five main components of the Social Progress Agenda provide priorities for the work of the Panel. For 2024-2025, the Panel has chosen to concentrate its activities on initiating work on a selection among 14 transversal themes. Its work will flag the connections between those themes to underline the interdependence of opportunities and solutions across the domains of the social progress agenda. Additional topics that fall in line with the broad priorities and will be taken up later on, along with new topics that will emerge from the future unfolding of innovations, opportunities, crises, and calls for action.²

The proposed systemic transformation will identify the key action points and drivers to better societies. It will help navigate through the complex array of processes and actors in society that make societal change occur. It will provide future coalitions for social progress with a clear indication of how power structures need to be reformed or transformed in order to build a positive and impactful collective momentum. It will not reduce the importance, nor the variety of worldviews and of intermediate goals but will stress that these can be compatible with pursuing the main goals of a social progress agenda.

Two overarching themes

Mapping the systemic conditions for transformation to better societies

Many actors have expressed the need to articulate their topic-specific, regional or global actions through a systemic approach to societal transformations and a mapping of the prevailing power structures as well as the processes and factors of change. There is a growing sense

that the piecemeal or sectoral implementation of good public policies, inspiring civil society initiatives and positive individual/community behaviors, do not suffice to counter the negative social, environmental and governance externalities produced by the current power structures and by the predominant forms of economic organizations. The clear identification of the interdependent causal relations in the current situation is key to developing a design, a sequencing, and an implementation of actions that would transform the dynamics at play.

Measuring What We Value: Beyond GDP, profit and anthropocentrism

Governments pursue GDP growth and corporations maximize profit, with disastrous consequences for the quality of life, human flourishing and the natural environment. A new nexus is emerging around social well-being and cohesion, agency and stakeholder value, and ecological footprint and planetary health. It needs to be associated with new norms and indicators, policies, implementation strategies as well as more inclusive governance toward a democratic economy. Since the what in 'what we value' is subjective, it is essential to apply an intersectional lens in determining the 'we' in order to negotiate new social contracts, address inequalities, and work towards greater social cohesion.

2. In a second phase, the selection of topics may involve participatory mechanisms involving a larger set of stakeholders through public consultations (calls for bottom-up collaborative projects, representative panels, opinion polls and surveys, etc.).

Reforming the economic system: the way forward

Entrepreneurship and social purpose

An important driving force of entrepreneurship is purpose. Free enterprise cannot be justified as just being good for business; it can be justified only as being good for society. Finding ways to foster the development of social purpose in corporations is essential to transform the dynamics of economic organization and inclusive economic participation to spur sustained social change. This work will be attentive to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) as potential engines of economic transformation.

Living wages

A mix of public policies and corporate human resource management practices thus determines how workers are paid, especially among the least skilled workforce. How should responsibility be shared between public and private actors? The aim will be to examine how the strategies of public and private actors can be combined in order to guarantee the goal of providing living wages to all workers and how living or decent wages can be practically determined. This work will include the situation in countries with large Informal sectors where workers Including women and youth do not earn regular and livable wages.

Steering technological change - democratically (generative AI, quantum, biomedicine)

Societies need to ensure that technology develops as a means to support human activities (rather than replacing them, and seeking to increase profit) starting with increasing our capacities to address global priority challenges. The orientation of technological innovation has public good effects that require defining fair and inclusive mechanisms to represent different social interests.

Unleashing the potential of social change

Inspirations, social progress and behavioral change

Individual and collective behavior change is a powerful driver of change in many areas of society (health, food and nutrition, education, social inclusion, etc.). Relying on existing knowledge and studying successful examples, a better understanding of how various types of interventions can inspire behaviors promoting social progress would provide important insights for public policies as well as for interventions designed by civil society and private organizations.

Emancipatory Nation States

Domestic State interventions must be reformed to make greater room for emancipation, for collaboration with non-state actors (including civil society and the private sector), and for participatory governance to address the rising challenges of identity, belonging and nativism. Exploration 1: the rise of an emancipatory State needs to accompany the development of State capacities in low-income to high income developing countries. Exploration 2: since policy making is no longer the sole domain of traditional state actors, a more robust model must be developed for understanding and mapping the relationships between state and non-state actors and the dynamics of collaboration or competition within the realm of policy reform and implementation.

Cities and Social Progress

Large cities are a unique type of community with a sufficient economic base for impactful social, environmental, and technological innovations, and a human scale enabling greater and more inclusive participation and beneficiaries, including under-represented constituents. What could be expected from greater coordination among them across the world? How will the urban-rural relation evolve? How can the benefits be accessed or allocated equitably, including migrant and transient populations.

Governance, democracy and participation

Efficient barriers against backsliding on democratic institutions and norms

Defining an ideal democracy is one thing, erecting protections against backsliding is another. What types of democratic regimes and institutions are more vulnerable, and how do various countries fare in this respect? For what reasons? What are the best ways to prevent these evolutions and counter the current trend towards more authoritarian, nationalist regimes?

Information as a public good in the age of social media and artificial intelligence

The availability of reliable information is key to the quality of living, quality of public deliberation and the smooth functioning of democracy. This is a public good, but it is not treated as such in most countries, under the pressure of profit and power for the benefit of private entities and/or authoritarian governments. Likewise, internet is based on a “neutrality” principle but is in fact largely governed by profit. Developing a strategy with civil society and other relevant actors to promote the informational public good and tackle the development of AI is urgent.

Rethinking our relation to nature

Getting out of the extractive paradigm

The ecological transition requires reconceptualizing our attitude toward “nature” and recognizing that we are part of a community of life - and a similar change in attitudes is needed in economic relations (toward labor in particular) and in geopolitics (toward vulnerable countries). How can this vision of a “common good” and a “common fate” be promoted and implemented?

Ecological rule of law

Environmental global and local public goods require innovative regulation mechanisms that are currently largely missing, or dependent on volatile national political jockeying. Moreover, existing regulations are the target of lobbying by corporations and often fail to be thoroughly implemented, and could be mobilized and extended for the defense of the environment.

Promoting human security and global solidarity

Global solidarity and global citizenship

Global safety nets have the potential to foster the emergence of a global citizen, but require mechanisms that transcend or bypass nation states. Linking the creation of new global solidarity mechanisms with a global momentum around the ecological transition may be politically necessary to achieve a successful transition—and an important opportunity for social progress.

Peace and human security

How do we reduce conflict, violence and human rights violations without a new world governance? Should this involve innovative solutions at the global level or initiatives at more local levels? Should this revolve around background factors (e.g., reducing inequalities and environmental disruptions) or innovative institutions (peace-building and policing agents of a new type)? This work will focus on finding effective means of interventions under the guiding principles of survival (health, peace, tolerance), daily life (quality of living which encompasses information and planetary safeguards), as well as dignity, equity, and solidarity, regardless of race, creed, ethnicity, religion, geography, gender, generation, and dis/ability.

IPSP CODE OF ETHICS

- 1. Objectivity and integrity:** authors, contributors, and reviewers shall uphold the highest standards of objectivity and intellectual impartiality in their research and reporting, avoiding any bias that may compromise the integrity of the analysis.
- 2. Rigorous Research:** authors shall conduct thorough and rigorous research, utilizing sound methodologies and evidence-based approaches to ensure the accuracy and reliability of their findings.
- 3. Transparency:** authors, contributors, and reviewers shall be transparent about their sources, methodologies, and potential conflicts of interest, ensuring that readers can assess the credibility of the information presented. They shall also be transparent about the normative assumptions and notions of social progress underlying their recommendations.
- 4. Inclusivity:** authors, contributors, and reviewers shall strive for inclusivity in their work, recognizing the diversity of perspectives and experiences in social progress and endeavoring to address a broad range of societal concerns.
- 5. Respect for Human Dignity:** authors, contributors, and reviewers shall uphold the principles of human rights and dignity, treating all individuals and groups with respect, sensitivity, and consideration in their analysis and language.
- 6. Interdisciplinary Collaboration:** authors shall engage in interdisciplinary collaboration, drawing on insights from various fields to provide a comprehensive understanding of social progress issues.
- 7. Intellectual Property Rights:** authors shall uphold the rights of fellow authors and contributors, respecting the principles of intellectual property and acknowledging the work of others through proper citations and references. Authors should also adhere to copyright regulations and licensing agreements in the publication process to ensure the ethical and legal use of others' work.

8. Ethical Use of Data: authors, contributors, and reviewers shall use data responsibly, respecting privacy and confidentiality, and adhering to ethical standards in data collection, analysis, and reporting, as established and enforced by the researchers' respective organizations and/or national/regional regulatory bodies.

9. Timeliness and Accountability: authors shall deliver their reports in a timely manner and take responsibility for the accuracy and implications of their work, being open to constructive feedback and corrections.

10. Stakeholder Engagement: authors shall seek input from relevant stakeholders, including affected communities, experts, and policymakers, to ensure a well-rounded and contextualized analysis.

11. Public Communication: authors, contributors, and reviewers shall communicate their findings clearly and effectively to a diverse audience, making efforts to avoid jargon and promote public understanding of complex social progress issues.

The Code of Ethics is designed to ensure compliance of all contributors associated with the International Panel on Social Progress. It will be enforced by the IPSP Coordination Council.

FOR WHOM? Reaching actors across the spectrum

The Panel will reach out to the largest audience possible through the development of an innovative International Platform for Social Progress and the implementation of a multi-level / multi-target / multi-media communication strategy.

An open platform for the best practices and the most inspiring initiatives

One of the main goals of the International Platform for Social Progress is to showcase the most innovative and inspiring initiatives on the key dimensions of social progress. The database of the initiatives flagged by the decentralized expert community will provide a valuable material for the entire community of practitioners, policy-makers and scholars. They will benefit from an enlarged and diversified pool of cases and examples, with the possibility to obtain new empirical evidence, to draw sharper conclusions as well as to develop new impactful projects and programs.

The platform will be user-friendly for contributors (to upload their proposed material) and for users (to locate the topics and the type of material they are looking for).

Registration on the platform will be open to all: individuals, entrepreneurs, communities, grass-root organizations, networks, funders, philanthropists, policymakers, etc. Each contributor will fill in a simple registration form (one per initiative). It would include:

- The name(s) of the project holder(s),

- Their organization(s)/affiliation(s),
- Domain(s),
- Discipline(s),
- Area(s)/country(ies),
- Project type(s),
- A description in text/video that would comprise five key elements:
 - (a) what is the problem you address?
 - (b) what is the approach and how is it innovative?
 - (c) why is it successful and how is this success measured?
 - (d) to what extent could this successful initiative be replicated in other contexts?
 - (e) how do you take into account and deal with the externalities your initiative generates?
- Links to relevant online resources or documents.

There will be three main options to collect material:

- Invited contributors i.e. entrepreneurs, communities, grass-root organizations, networks, scholars, funders, philanthropists, policy-makers upload their material, and edit them projects develop/evolve/terminate.
- Collaborations with existing sectoral/thematic/regional existing online databases and repositories to develop an API that will transfer the relevant data.³
- Human/AI-assisted recuperation and adaptation of existing data with individual contacting of targeted contributors.

Each uploaded initiative will get an ID, a timestamp, and a quotable DOI, acting as a window to signal activity and to enhance visibility. Contributors will be given an encrypted access token which will enable anonymous authentication, enabling ePR compliance (no cookies).

3. Cross-visibility will be ensured to make these collaborations mutually beneficial.

The IT system will be open-source and GDPR compliant.

The database and its taxonomy will first be built in English. Important preliminary work will be done on the taxonomy and its granularity: typology of projects, of activities, of themes/issues, tags for cross-sectoral initiatives. In a second phase, the repository will be available in several other languages (Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, French, Hindi, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian, Swahili). Adequate software will help transform speech in video into text, translate available texts, and index the contents in the proposed languages.

The database will feature two levels of verification.

- Level 1: Bot & spam filtering to be implemented thanks to heavy duty reactive cloud infrastructure. Automatic agents will implement rules which will guard the data against bots and spam.
- Level 2: Validation check by IPSP secretariat leading to publication on the platform. The Secretariat will simply verify that the contents are relevant, properly tagged for classification, and not contradict the IPSP Charter (no discrimination, no heinous contents, etc.).

Qualitative feedback by IPSP reviewers to flag the most innovative and inspiring initiatives based on a common set of assessment criteria. The database will tap the distributed expertise of a large pool of IPSP “expert” reviewers. Based on their recognized areas of competence, reviewers will receive the initiatives matching their profiles on an individualized IPSP email account and will be invited by the Secretariat to select the most innovative and inspiring initiatives and, if they fit, to comment on the initiatives. The decentralized expertise will create a dynamic forum and not another generic and unexploitable global repository of cases.

The benefit in return for contributors will come in the form of:

- Emails about initiatives/actors matching their profile (self-defined during registration)

- Comments by IPSP reviewers on their projects, and resources/ contacts of interest related to their activities
- Direct interaction with other contributors through authenticated access (no individual email address will be publicly accessible)
- Visibility gains when flagged by IPSP: (a) being featured prominently on the website, (b) receive assistance to upgrade presentations, (c) being invited to present at IPSP events, etc.
- Placing calls for collaborations on topics of interest to mobilize complementary expertise.

From the end-user perspective, the platform will offer the following advantages:

- The social progress directory will be searchable with full text, structured indexes, and maps. It will combine content topicality, expert assessment and user-friendliness.
- As entries in the platform will be linked according to the tags their contributors have selected, users reading the description of one initiative will find links to related entries.
- When a sufficient number of entries will be similar or cross-related, introductory pages summarizing the common features and the specificities of these entries will be produced. These pages will eventually help form a web encyclopedia of social progress.

A hub to spur collaborations between actors across domains, areas, and issues

The platform will also feature a database of actors in order to provide an indexed, intersectoral and international database of changemaking project holders, organizations, networks and communities (with links and contacts). Actors who will have registered one or more initiatives will have an entry automatically created and will be proposed to

add further information on the database (see for example questions (c) and (d) below). Other actors will register their organizations and their area of action through a simple registration form. It will include the following items⁴:

- The name of the organization,
- Field(s) of action,
- Area(s)/country(ies),
- A description in text/video that would comprise four key elements:
 - (a) what is/are is the problem(s) you address?
 - (b) what are your key innovative activities?
 - (c) are you partnering with other local/transnational actors in your field?
 - (d) are you interested in collaborating with other actors (same/different regions, similar/related topics)?
- Links to relevant online resources or documents

Based on indications by the IPSP community and complementary research (possibly with AI assistance), organizations will be contacted and invited to join the database. For new organizations willing to be included in the database, the verification process may involve third-party validation.

The flagging process will be used to help identify the most active organizations, networks and communities, notably those that are new, smaller, less visible or more remote than other well-identified and recognized actors. Here too the database and the flagged organizations will provide a valuable material for IPSP teams as they will develop their work on priority themes.

4. Some actors could indicate to the Secretariat the part of the material that they would like to see unpublished and/or restricted to IPSP use only.

The platform will help matchmaking organizations with similar and/or complementary agendas. Registered actors will receive notification of possible matches for collaborations/ collaborative actions with relevant organizations. They will be invited to feedback the secretariat if such collaboration becomes effective.

Funders —be they international organizations, research agencies, policymaking agencies, universities, foundations, philanthropists— will have the possibility to survey the existing (and most inspiring) social progress actors and initiatives in different domains or areas, to provide support to some of them and/or to supplement their activities by launching complementary funding calls.

Thanks to the features described above, the platform will provide a mobilization tool to facilitate the emergence of coalitions of actors. The platform will help connect actors (and empower those who may have less international visibility/recognition) into the proactive construction of agile international initiatives to address social progress at various relevant scales.

An accessible and reliable information portal about social progress

With an attractive graphic design, a rich iconography and simple and intuitive navigation modalities, the platform will become the digital portal to access all IPSP activities and more generally will become the online reference about social progress.

From its home page, it will give access to the two expertized databases on projects and on actors and to expertized databases and to all indexed resources and material posted by the IPSP secretariat and community: IPSP publications (reports, briefs, notes, knowledge graphs), IPSP data stories, webinars, MOOCs, podcasts, blogs, as well as a rich array of links to relevant reports and publications from other sources and other useful material (especially free online resources). It will showcase fact-

based relevant knowledge and will enhance the accessibility and visibility of these contents. It will supplement all relevant contents with carefully selected materials, references, links and contacts to raise awareness and competence about social progress initiatives.

The portal will offer a free online resource base about social progress for a larger public eager to learn more about the most inspiring initiatives and about their actors.

Specific access modes will be featured for various target audiences: scholars, civil society actors, corporations, policymakers, teachers/ students, etc. For the media, it will promote direct access to the most useful sources, publications, and experts in order to contribute to an informed debate on social progress and to strengthen journalistic knowledge and competence for strong independent coverage.

The online portal will host an open space mechanism in which contributors and users will exchange interests and ideas. Users will be able to ask questions to the IPSP community. The Secretariat will channel these questions to the corresponding contributors and reviewers to gather and disseminate appropriate knowledge and expertise. This consultation mechanism could be used during the preparation of IPSP reports in order to elicit comments and suggestions, as is customary in report-making processes of the IPCC.

The platform (initiatives, actors, and resources) will be cross-linked thanks to the shared taxonomy. For example, the cross-referencing will point to the organizations that promote the featured initiatives or produced the published resources, and to organizations working in the domain. Pages of resources will link to the initiatives in the same domain. Practitioners, scholars, changemakers, and IPSP authors will use this new, comprehensive, detailed, and updated array of material in the process of writing reports and notes, enhancing international/intersectoral comparisons in research, policymaking or grassroots action.

A strong communication strategy

Two rules will govern the communication strategy:

- The Panel will communicate on its ability to reduce the complexity of the transformation of societies with clear messages on the direction of social progress, the articulation of its components and the coordination of its implementation.
- The Panel will build trust, prominence, and significance through the high quality of its contents, its periodic regularity, the identification of recognized voices in the IPSP community on specific issues, its ability to encapsulate the complex reality of social progress in an accessible and consistent rhetorical messaging and call for action.

The communication strategy will rely on a diversity of channels and tools, with a strong digital presence that will be ensured by a continuous stream of information, feedback, reporting on social innovations, experiments and initiatives. In the first phase, the digital dissemination will benefit from the reach of the network of networks, associations and organizations that the Panel is currently constituting. The multiplier effect of the cohorts of experts, contributors and followers will help engage with a large and diversified audience.

The Panel will implement the following actions:

- Establish a media/content factory: platform, video channel, blogs, MOOCs,
- Focus the presence on key social media applications selected for their capacity to interact with targeted audiences (media, academia, young people, students, under-represented social groups, artistic communities, etc.)
- Develop leading press organs (Syndicated services, link with Project Syndicate)
- Investigate options such as a Decision Accelerator Lab and/or an Idea+Story Lab

A diversity of formats

Beyond its periodic production of synthesis reports, the Panel will support the production of diversified outputs, notably briefs and notes, data stories/interpretations, online seminars, knowledge graphs. It will also encourage its authors to produce additional related works such as scientific publications (including special issues of journals), dissemination articles, blog posts, videos, interviews, lectures, etc.

The Panel will support various hybrid formats of knowledge sharing and transfer (online lecture series, dissemination and outreach events, etc.) but also will focus on the implementation stage by actors and doers (through webinars, online chats, training sessions, workshops, etc.).

Reaching out to the various target audiences of the Panel (scholars, private corporations, NGOs, media, think tanks, governments, civil servants, teachers/ students, general public) will require differentiated formats (text, audio, video, maps, data) with the appropriate lengths and adequate modes of expression (scientific, expert, actionable, ludic, accessible).

In addition to producing and publicizing these outputs, the Panel may decide to commission or directly support the production of other formats such as documentaries, interviews, clips, etc. and gather them into specific and/or periodic series.

A continuum of interactions, events, and fora

The Panel will support participatory dialogue events with relevant partners to share and debate knowledge, experience and solutions with interested actors, stakeholders and changemakers. Most events will be hybrid to maximize attendance as well as to reduce the ecological footprint of these activities. The format of “flipped conferences”

PLATFORM DEVELOPMENT, 2024-2025

The International Platform for Social Progress will be developed based on the recent experience of several large online international portals (see below).

The technical development of the **database** is already done. The Paris Institute for Advanced Study and the RFIEA Foundation have been collaborating since 2020 to design a cloud-based, EPR and GDPR compliant database structure. Fully operational, the database structure has been tested on a large scale to ensure stability and responsiveness with multiple operative systems and simultaneous requests. The authenticated access and individual email accounts with project folders and automatic email generations have been successfully introduced.

The technical development of the **web portal** remains to be designed. The framing of the portal, the navigation modalities, the multilingual options, the management of multimedia contents will be discussed and tested. Several development solutions exist and professional expertise will be mobilized to identify the best, scalable and cost-effective solution.

The technical infrastructure and its affordances must be complemented with common language and rules (that will be collegially decided by the stakeholders), communication systems, work routines and cognitive authority systems (secretariat, advisory board, reviewers).

Interesting examples are the World Pandemic Research Network (wprn.org), the Food Socioscope (thesocioscope.org), the Communication Initiative Network (comminit.com), the Governance Lab initiatives (thelivinglib.org and smartercrowdsourcing.org/), the Global Solutions Initiative (global-solutions-initiative.org), the Knowledge Network on Climate Assemblies (knoca.eu) developed by some Advisory Board members as well as the Actions for SDGs Global Map (act4sdgs.org), the UN Partnership Accelerator (partnershipaccelerator.org), the Climate Works repository (climateworks.org), and the ISH database (idhsustainabletrade.com).

(where background material and video presentations are available and disseminated before the event) will be implemented to concentrate on the Q&A and to spur practical and concrete exchanges among participants.

IPSP events will be held on each continent to ensure that civic, social, economic, policy and scholarly communities are reached. The individuals and institutions partnering with IPSP will provide a strong basis for organizing decentralized events. IPSP authors, reviewers and contributors —through their home institutions and their professional networks or project funding— may also wish to help co-fund their actions while benefiting from the overall IPSP infrastructure.

When relevant, the Secretariat will provide support to help organize such events, notably by reaching out to possible speakers from the IPSP community (Honorary Committee, Advisory Board, Experts' Network, Contributors' Network, etc.).

The Panel will organize from October 2025 onwards an annual World Social Progress Forum. To be held every year on a different continent, keynotes, workshops, presentations, poster sessions will stimulate the exchange of ideas and of experiences among participants. Social Progress Awards will be attributed to recognize outstanding and inspirational achievements.

The Social Progress Forum will be organized in association with the World Social Progress Day⁵ will be launched in October 2026. The World Social Progress Day would provide the opportunity to release an annual Declaration calling for a set of concrete changes that would be specified every year. The Declaration will be addressed to international organizations, national governments, and business leaders.

5. As the month of October is already packed with "World/International Days", the Panel will launch its own event on October 28th.

WHO?

A global collective intelligence network

The high ambition of the Panel is to offer a unique contribution to further the social progress agenda in the years to come. It requires the strengthening of its operational structure, to develop a strong and efficient organization as well as to ensure adequate multi-year funding.

Structure

The International Panel for Social Progress is a non-profit association registered in France in 2017 and with the United Nations in 2023. As it aims at becoming a permanent organization, the Panel has applied to obtain the consultative status of a non-governmental organization recognized by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

Based on the perspectives of funding and development, the Panel will consolidate its legal status to ensure its full scientific and operational independence. Such independence is instrumental for the credibility of the whole endeavor, for establishing collaborations and partnerships with a large and diverse set of organizations as well as obtaining funding from various sources.

Organization

All IPSP organs comprise scholars and actors from civil society organizations, business leaders, international organizations with a balanced distribution across genders, experience, geography, disciplines and themes.

The Honorary Committee

It is composed of 20 high-level personalities who will give moral and political traction to the Panel activities. The first list of personalities has been approved by the Advisory Board and the Committee was constituted early 2024.

The Advisory Board

It is composed of 64 high-level/high-impact personalities with relevant competence and experience. It meets once a year to discuss thematic proposals and projects, to determine priority activities, and to identify potential team leaders for the approved activities (reports, briefs, events). Task forces are formed to help guide the work of the Panel on transversal issues.

The Coordination Council

As a sub-group of the Advisory Board, the Coordination Council meets every month to supervise the activities of the Panel. Since 2023, it has been composed of twelve members who represent a mix of personalities involved in the first IPSP and new actors: Merike Blofield (political scientist, Finland), Olivier Bouin (international relations, France), Pedro Conçeição (development and innovation policy, Portugal), Marc Fleurbaey (welfare economics, France), Ravi Kanbur (development economics, USA/India), Takyiwaa Manuh (development practitioner, Ghana), Elisa Reis (sociologist, Brazil), Marie-Laure Salles (governance, France/Switzerland), Dennis Snower (macroeconomist, Germany), Margo Thomas (inclusive growth, Guyana/United States of America), Ingrid Volkmer (digital communication, Australia), Hossain Zillur Rahman (power and participation, Bangladesh).

The Executive Bureau will rotate among the members of the Coordination Council to ensure diversity, collegiality, and momentum.

Once the final legal structure has been put in place, bye-laws will be written to define the respective tasks of the governing and consultative bodies, the co-optation and/or election procedures of its members, the mandates, and the responsibilities of the chairs.

The IPSP Networks

The Experts' Network will be composed of 1,000 high-level specialists with different backgrounds, experiences, gender, generation, and geographical locations, identified by the various bodies of the Panel, co-opted by the Coordination Council, and mobilized by the Secretariat.

The Contributors' Network will be composed of all those who will be partnering with the Panel such as the leaders of the projects published on the platform, the organizers of dissemination/outreach initiatives, helpers, ambassadors, journalists, students, etc.

The Secretariat

The Secretariat will be in charge of the overall functioning of the Panel. It will be responsible for the management of the research and dissemination activities, the organization of events, the development of the online platform, communication and social media, fundraising, human resources, and financial reporting. It is estimated that a permanent team composed of 12-14 people will be needed: coordination/administration (4), project collaborations (3), digital platform (3), dissemination and impact (3).

Funding

As the Panel wants to remain fully independent, funding is being sought from a wide range of academic institutions, international foundations, international organizations, and philanthropists. The careful selection of institutional funders as well as the diversification of funding sources ensures that the Panel operates and develops its activities without interference.

A funding plan has been prepared for the 2024-2027 period to meet the progressive budget needs of the Panel (from €M1.5 to €M2.5 at the end of the period) that are required to be meaningful and impactful. The resources will allow for a stable and permanent secretariat and will fund research and dissemination initiatives as well as digital tools. Funding for report-writing activities will be allocated to the team leaders who will be identified by the Advisory Board. Relevant additional funding will be provided for dissemination and participatory dialogue events.

The unique embeddedness of the scientific work with stakeholders through a strong co-design and co-implementation procedure will help mobilize the needed resources. The Panel welcomes funding contributions for:

- General support of the Panel infrastructure
- Thematic activities of the Panel
- Main/specific events
- IT development, communication, outreach

It is expected to obtain this financial support from a variety of sources and/or contributions. All levels of contributions are welcome as the Panel is an inclusive collection intelligence for action initiative. The Panel may wish to formalize alliances with:

- International organizations
- National, regional or local authorities
- Universities and research organizations
- Leading international foundations

Financial support will be formalized via bilateral conventions with “The International Panel on Social Progress”. For the launch of the second cycle of IPSP, the association is currently supported administratively by a French scientific co-operation foundation which has more than 15 years of experience in managing international multi-partner initiatives.

All financial contributions will be recognized with appropriate logo and mention on the IPSP website as well as sponsored publications and events. Independently audited financial reporting will be provided annually and will be available to each financial partner based on a solid analytical accounting system. All financial reporting will be approved by the IPSP Coordination Council.

WHEN?

A new cycle (2024-2027) for a permanent initiative

After a one-year preparatory phase, the International Panel on Social Progress starts its new cycle with its first activities in the spring of 2024. It plans numerous activities over the next four years with the objective of setting up a permanent and stable organization during that period.

Beyond the key events mentioned in the box, there will be a constant flow of IPSP activities either organized at the regional level or focused on important specific issues. Among a wide array of formats, these activities will often take the form of scientific events, implementation workshops, and dissemination conferences.

The Panel members will take part in many events organized by IPSP partners such as leading international organizations, civil societies organizations, international foundations, university networks, national, regional or local governments, business organizations, media, etc.

CALENDAR OF KEY ACTIONS

Spring 2024

Start of the IPSP activities

Autumn 2024

Meeting of the International Advisory Board

Winter 2024

Launch of the International Platform for Social Progress

October 2025

1st World Social Progress Forum, attribution of Social Progress Awards

October 2026

2nd World Social Progress Forum, launch of the Social Progress Day

October 2027

3rd World Social Progress Forum
“The Solutions Conference”

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