



United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation



United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation

Thursday, 12 September 2013

South-South in practice: Implementing Sustainable Social Protection Floors

UN headquarters, New York, Room 3, 3 – 5 p.m.

Background

Social protection is a powerful tool to combat poverty and invest in socioeconomic development. Many developing countries have already taken successful measures to build their nationally defined social protection floors or to introduce elements thereof. Following the adoption by the International Labour Conference of the Recommendation 202 on nationally defined social protection floors, efforts have been intensified by all parties to launch new and enhance social protection floors world-wide. The preliminary results of such initiatives show substantive impacts of social protection floors on poverty, vulnerability and inequality and in accelerating the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

The knowledge, expertise and experience that these countries have gained in their efforts at establishing and expanding social protection floors represent a valuable source for other countries that can be disseminated through South-South and Triangular mechanisms. Country experiences demonstrate that the various elements of social protection floors can be adapted to country-specific contexts and progressively scaled-up over time, consistent with the availability of sustainable financing and the necessary institutional arrangements. Even in low- and lower-middle-income countries, basic social protection floor measures are affordable and can be implemented gradually without worsening the outlook for debt or fiscal sustainability.

Since 2010, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) have collaborated in promoting social protection floors, including by compiling and sharing innovative successful social protection experiences and supporting developing countries in establishing and expanding their floors of social protection. As a result of the exchanges, promoted by the UNOSSC and the ILO countries such as Benin, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Togo received direct support from Brazil, China, India and Thailand. The interagency collaboration promoted as part of the UN CEB Social Protection Floor Initiative has led to substantive progress in countries such as Indonesia, Mozambique and Vietnam.

Objective

This event will showcase good practices of implementing sustainable social protection floors through South South and Triangular cooperation and interagency collaboration, drawing on the UNOSSC – ILO joint work, on the interagency collaboration in the Social Protection Floor initiative and on concrete country experiences. The participants will discuss and lessons learned from the ongoing processes and the possible way forward.

PROGRAMME

3:00 pm

WELCOME AND OPENING SESSION

CHAIR

Ms. Telma Viale

*Special Representative to the United Nations
and Director of the Office for the United Nations in New York, ILO*

SPEAKERS

H.E. Ambassador Regina Dunlop

Deputy Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations

Mr. Alejandro Bonilla García

Director, a.i. Social Protection Department, ILO

Mr. Yiping Zhou

Director, United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation

3:20 pm

IMPLEMENTING SUSTAINABLE SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOORS

PRESENTERS

Mr. Francisco Simplicio

*Assistant Director, Programme and Funds Management,
United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation*

Ms. Valérie Schmitt

Social Protection Specialist for Southern Asia, ILO

3:40 pm

SUSTAINABLE SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOORS – SUCCESSFUL SOUTHERN EXPERIENCES

MODERATOR

H.E. Mr. Tekeda Alemu (tbc)

Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations

PRESENTERS

Mr. Vathana Sann

*Deputy Secretary-General, Council for Agricultural and Rural
Development, Cambodia*

Ms Elsa Alfai

*Social Policy Advisor of the Minister of Women and Social Affairs of
Mozambique*

OPEN DISCUSSION

4:40 pm

CLOSING REMARKS: LESSONS LEARNED AND THE WAY FORWARD

Mr. Alejandro Bonilla García

Director, Social Protection Department, ILO

Contacts

United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)

Francisco Simplicio (francisco.simplicio@undp.org)

Chelsey Wickmark (Chelsey.Wickmark@undp.org)

ILO Office for the United Nations

Vinicius Pinheiro (pinheiro@ilo.org)

James Canonge (canonge@ilo.org)