

Workshop on Policy Options for Effective and Sustainable Social Protection Floors

South South News Boardroom

1 Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, 885 Second Avenue, 48th Floor, New York

12 September 2013, 9.30 am – 1 pm

Background

The importance of extending social protection has been recognized at the UN and G20 as a fundamental measure for fostering inclusive growth and promoting sustainable development. In the UNCSA (Rio +20) governments stressed *“the need to provide social protection to all members of society, fostering growth, resilience, social justice and cohesion, including those who are not employed in the formal economy.”*¹ Along the same lines, G20 Leaders called for *“investing in nationally determined social protection floors in each of our countries”*² and asked international organizations to *“identify policy options with low-income countries on how to develop effective sustainable protection floors.”*³

Recent evidence attests the fiscal affordability of social protection floor measures that can be implemented within a relatively modest percentage of national income, even in severely resource-constrained countries. Country experience shows that effective nationally determined social protection floors, which can gradually expand, are not only affordable but can, in the long run, pay for themselves by enhancing the productiveness of the labour force, the resilience of society and the stability of the political process.

Since July 2012, UN agencies, international financial institutions, bilateral organizations, social partners and major NGOs have worked together in the context of the Social Protection Interagency Cooperation Board (SPIAC-B) to coordinate global and national actions on social protection. The experience accumulated by the international organizations constitutes a valuable source of knowledge that can be used in supporting low income countries to extend social protection coverage.

Objective / Structure

This workshop will bring together experts from international organizations and national policy makers to share knowledge about sustainability and effectiveness of social protection floors, discuss lessons learned from the international experience and recommend further actions to be considered by the international community to support developing countries in extending the coverage of their social protection systems. The workshop will be structured in two sessions. The first session will provide an overview of the latest developments on international cooperation on social protection and fiscal sustainability. The second session will focus on the concrete cases of Cambodia and Mozambique.

Participants

International organizations, academics, think tanks, UN delegates, national policy makers, social partners and NGO representatives.

¹ The future we want: the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development ([UNGA A/RES/66/288, July 2012](#))

² [G20 Leaders Cannes Declaration, November 2011](#), paragraph 4.

³ Idem

Draft agenda

9:30 – Welcome Coffee

Moderator: Vinicius Pinheiro, Deputy Director of the ILO Office to the UN

9:45 – Opening Remarks

- Alejandro Bonilla, ILO Director of Social Protection Department, a.i.
- Alexandra Yuster, Associate Director, Division of Strategy and Planning, Chief, Social Inclusion, Policy and Budgeting UNICEF

10:00 – 11:20 Session 1: International Experience on Fiscal Space and Social Protection Sustainability

- **Social Protection, Growth and Employment: Lessons from developing countries**
Claudia Vinay, UNDP
- **Financing Options for Strengthening Social Protection in Africa**
Jennifer Yabonski, UNICEF
- **Supporting the Implementation of Sustainable Social Protection Floors in Southeast Asia**
Valérie Schmitt, Social Protection Specialist for Southern Asia, ILO
- **Extending Social Protection Coverage: Lessons learned from the Rapid Social Response Program**
Hideki Mori, Manager, Rapid Social Response Program, World Bank.
- **The IMF's Role in Helping Protect the Most Vulnerable**
Axel Bertuch-Samuel, Special Representative of the IMF to the UN

Discussion

11:20 – 12:40 Session 2: The Cases of Mozambique and Cambodia

- **Towards a Mozambican Social Protection Floor**
Mr Nuno Cunha, Social Protection Specialist for Mozambique, ILO
Mr Victor Duarte Lledo, IMF Resident Representative for Mozambique (until July 2013)

Comments: Ms Elsa Alfai, Social Policy Advisor of the Minister of Women and Social Affairs of Mozambique

- **Effective Social Protection Floor in Cambodia**
Mr. Vathana Sann, *Deputy Secretary-General, Council for Agricultural and Rural Development of Cambodia*

Discussion

12:40 - 13:00 Wrap up and conclusions