

Committee on the Application of Standards

**Draft outcome of the discussion by the
Committee on the Application of Standards
of the General Survey on the Social
Protection Floors Recommendation**

Introduction

1. The Committee welcomed the opportunity, in its examination of the General Survey on the Social Protection Floors Recommendation (No. 202), 2012, to discuss its core and topical issue in the context of the ILO's centenary.
2. It recalled that the extension of social protection systems to all in need is at the core of the ILO's mandate and a primary concern of the Organization, as reflected in its Constitution and reaffirmed in the 1944 Declaration of Philadelphia. As such, social protection constitutes one of the four strategic objectives of the Decent Work Agenda.
3. The Committee recalled that social protection is a powerful tool against poverty, inequality, and social exclusion and key in furthering human dignity, social justice and social cohesion. Investments in social protection floors stimulate economic growth and stability and the performance of national economies.
4. Moreover, the Committee noted that social protection floors address some of the major development objectives established by the 2030 Agenda to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and notably that of ending poverty in all its forms everywhere.

Needs of member States and reality on the ground

5. Looking at the implementation of the Recommendation in member States and at progress made in achieving universal social protection, the Committee observed that significant gaps and disparities in access to essential health care and basic income security guarantees throughout the life cycle remained.
6. Considerable progress has been achieved in many parts of the world as regards the establishment of social protection floors and of schemes and benefits providing higher levels of protection. This resulted in improvements in coverage, both in terms of persons and of contingencies, and in increased effectiveness of social security systems. It recognized that the most effective and efficient combination of contributory and non-contributory benefits and schemes were implemented through approaches tailored to national circumstances. The Committee recalled the need for effective schemes and benefits to be anchored in law, based on social solidarity and on the other principles set out in the Recommendation. In this connexion, it observed that national social protection floors policies, setting out tangible, measurable and time-bound objectives played an important role in extension strategies.
7. The Committee noted, in particular, the innovative measures taken by certain countries to overcome some of the obstacles they face in achieving universal social protection. In this regard, it noted the particular challenges related to protecting those in the informal economy and those in non-standard forms of employment. It further observed that the expansion of new forms of work have brought new opportunities but also new challenges, including in terms of access to, adequacy and sustainability of social protection systems. In this context and in accordance with the Recommendation, it stressed the need for national social protection floors policies and systems to be conceived so as to promote productive economic activity and the growth of formal employment as well as education, vocational training, productive skills and employability. In the designing and the implementation of effective social protection floors, it was also important to combine preventive promotional and active measures, benefits and

social services. In this respect, the role of public services is fundamental. In addition, Committee considered that the new technological, demographic and environmental contexts raised additional opportunities and challenges for social protection systems globally which needed to be given careful consideration.

8. The Committee also observed that the large social protection deficits were closely related to the lack of sufficient funding. The Committee further noted that financing mechanisms based on solidarity were at the heart of social security and pre-requisites for achieving universal social protection floors. They needed to be accompanied by measures that enhance income generation, entrepreneurship and sustainable enterprises to reduce poverty and inequality in a sustainable manner. Social protection must be considered an investment in the human potential.

Common commitments

9. The Committee noted the shared commitment among the tripartite constituents to strengthen efforts towards the achievement of universal social protection floors, through a diversity of means and approaches, based notably on equality, non-discrimination, social solidarity and promotion of productive economic activity. It is the primary and overall responsibility of the state to deliver social protection.
10. The Committee further noted the commitment among tripartite constituents to move upwards in extending social protection to ensure that social protection floors do not become a ceiling but a stepping stone towards sustainable social security systems guaranteeing effective levels of protection, to as many people as possible.
11. The Committee welcomed the common commitment among the tripartite constituents for the formulation of comprehensive social protection policies, coordinated and coherent with other social policies notably education and health, as well as with economic, education and vocational training, and employment policies. It further noted the commitment on the need for an integrated and holistic approach to social protection, in the context of economic and social development.

12. It also noted the strong commitment to strengthen effective social dialogue and participatory processes as fundamental elements of policy formulation and implementation on -and as pre-requisites for the good governance, the sustainability and the effectiveness- of social protection floors systems.

ILO means of action

1. Standards-related action

13. The Committee considered that the full promotion of the Recommendation played a significant role in enhancing its application and furthering social protection in member States and urged the ILO to enhance its promotion activities to this objective.

2. Development cooperation and technical assistance

14. The Committee underlined the high value of ILO technical assistance in the effective implementation of the Recommendation and called upon the ILO to continue providing support to constituents, in the establishment of comprehensive social protection systems, including social protection floors, and in the formulation and implementation of related policies and strategies. The Committee also highlighted the importance of supporting national dialogue processes, including the participation of social partners. It also underlined that ILO should provide assistance to member States in developing tools for data collection and analysis to measure progress and gaps.

15. The Committee called upon the ILO to continue its efforts aimed at reinforcing the capacities of tripartite constituents and national administrations. The Committee also encouraged the ILO to foster the exchange of good practices in the implementation of the Recommendation between and among member States.

16. The Committee also stressed the importance of increasing coherence between international development partners in the field of social protection and called upon the ILO to continue playing a prominent role in this respect.

17. The Committee requested the Office to take into account the General Survey on Social Protection Floors, the discussion that followed and the outcome of its discussion, in relevant ILO work.
