



International Conference
Social Security for All
Challenges in Implementing Social Protection Floors
Berlin, September 25, 2012

With the autonomous Recommendation on the Social Protection Floor (SPF), which has been recently adopted at the 101th Session of the International Labor Conference in May 2012, the International Labor Organization (ILO) took a big step forward by complementing the existing ILO social security standards and providing a non-binding guideline to the member states on how to implement Social Protection Floors.

In the context of the international economic crisis a shared understanding developed between international policymakers that social protection is - besides being a human right - an economic necessity by serving as an automatic stabilizer in times of crisis. Contrary to the widespread belief that social protection is too expensive for poor or developing countries, first experiences in different developing countries with the implementation of a SPF proved that social security is both affordable and can foster development and growth. However, the actual challenge is to raise awareness among political stakeholders at the national and international level, to fight prejudices about the SPF concept and to provide technical and financial support for an implementation process on the national levels. It's time to act!!!

With this conference, FES and ILO want to pick up the political momentum which arises from the adoption of the autonomous Recommendation on the Social Protection Floor. Based on the expert conference we held last year, we want to discuss with a selected group of international political stakeholders, social policy and development experts and trade unionist the financial and technical challenges in implementing a nationally defined Social Protection Floor. Our objective is to support the UN and ILO activities, to facilitate new alliances between the involved actors such as national governments, NGOs, IMF, Trade Unions etc. in the implementation process of SPFs and create knowledge on how to tackle existing and possible obstacles on the way to improving social security worldwide.

Key questions during the conference will be:

- What can we expect from the adoption of the autonomous recommendation on the SPF for the implementation of Social Protection Floors on the national level?
- How far do national governments, trade unions and civil society organizations support the SPF initiative at the national level? How far does the lack of political will and reservations hamper implementation processes of SPF?
- What can we learn from best-practice examples implementing SPFs in developing and emerging countries?
- What are the financial and technical challenges and how can they be tackled?
- How can the necessary funding for technical support and consultations within the implementation processes of a SPF be assured?
- How can the creation of an interagency mechanism involving all relevant UN agencies, international finance institutions (IFI) and regional entities for the realization of the SPF at global, regional and national levels be achieved?

Programme

10.00 h Registration

10.30 h Welcome

Dr. Peter Struck, Chairman, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung

Sabine Baun, Director, International Labour Organization, Representation in Germany

Public Panel Discussion:

Time to Act: Improving social security worldwide by implementing the Social Protection Floor now

Speakers:

Sudha Pillai, Member of Social Protection Floor Advisory Group, former Member Secretary, Planning Commission; former Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India

Dr. Annette Niederfranke, State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

Michael Sommer, President, International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)

Susanne Hoffmann, Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia, International Labour Organization

Isabel Ortiz, Associate Director Policy and Strategy, UNICEF

Moderator: **Conny Czymoch** (moderation & media coaching)

12.30 h Lunch

13.30 h **Expert Workshop**

Introduction: **The Social Protection Floor: A concept to provide basic social guarantees for all and a stepping stone for more**

Presenter: **Christina Behrendt**, Social Security Department, ILO

14.00 h Session I: **Dealing with the financial and technical challenges in implementing a nationally defined Social Protection Floor** (*views from selected countries with experiences in implementing a Social Protection Floor*)

Presenters:

Helmut Schwarzer, Social Security Specialist at ILO, former State Secretary of Social Security at Ministério da Previdência Social, Brazil

Doãn Mậu Diệp, Vice Minister of Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Vietnam

Ivete Alane, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Women and Social Action, Mozambique (*tbc*)

Gala Díaz Langou, Social Protection Programme Coordinator, CIPPEC, Argentina

Discussant:

Peter Bakvis, International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)

15.30 h Tea/Coffee Break

16.00 h Session II: Looking Ahead: Initiatives and plans supporting the implementation of a Social Protection Floor in developing countries

Presenters:

Dr. Uta Böllhoff, Director-General for Multilateral and European Development Policy, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany

Elliott Harris, Assistant Director, Strategy, Policy and Review Dept., International Monetary Fund, Washington

Nicholas Taylor, DG Devco, European Commission, Brussels

Wouter van Ginneken, International Movement ATD Fourth World, Geneva

Clara Osei-Boateng, Coordinator of the African Labour Research Network, Ghana

Plenary Discussion

17.00 h Closing Session:

Karin Roth, Member of Parliament, Germany

17.30 h Reception

Languages: German/English (Simultaneous translation provided)