

Conference on Social Impact of the Economic Crisis in Eastern Europe, Turkey and Central Asia

Almaty, Kazakhstan
7-8 December 2009

Agenda

7 December 2009

8.30 Registration of Participants

9.00 – 09.30 Opening session with key note speeches delivered by the Prime Minister of Kazakhstan H. E. Karim Massimov and Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Director of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and CIS Ms. Kori Udovički

Morning session – Ministerial Panel with regional Workers' and Employers' representatives

9.45 – 11.00 Ministerial panel debate on impacts of the global crisis on national labour market developments and experience from national employment promotion measures.
Chair: Ms. Abdykalikova, Minister of Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of Kazakhstan
Moderator: Mr. Gurnov, Russian journalist
Participants:
Mr. Asatryan, Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Issues of the Republic of Armenia
Mr. Topilin, Deputy Minister of Health and Social Development of the Russian Federation
Mr. Sanginov, Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of Tajikistan
Mr. Taganov, Deputy Minister of Economy and Development of the Republic of Turkmenistan
Mr. Ivankevych, Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Policy of the Republic of Ukraine
Mr. Shmakov, President of ITUC/PERS
Regional representative of the International Organization of Employers

11.00 – 11.30 Press conference of Ministers/Deputy Ministers of Labour and Social Affairs

Coffee break

11.30 – 12.45 Ministerial panel debate on impacts of the global crisis on the well-being of the population and experience from national social protection measures. Questions and answers
Chair: Ms. Kalimbetova, Vice Prime Minister of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan or Ms. Ryskulova, Minister of Labour, Employment and Migration of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan

Moderator: Mr. Gurnov, Russian journalist

Participants:

Mr. Mammadov, Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Protection of Population of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Mr. Korol, Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of Belarus

Mr. Giorgobiani, Deputy Minister of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of the Republic of Georgia

Mr. Sainciuc, Deputy Minister of Labour, Social Protection and Family of the Republic of Moldova

Mr. Aydemir, Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Security of the Republic of Turkey

Regional representative of the International Organization of Employers

Regional representative of the International Trade Union Confederation

13.00 – 13.30 Ministerial Declaration, followed by family photo

13.30 – 14.30 Lunch

Afternoon session – Technical Panel

Each technical session would start with a presentation of the main findings and policy recommendations from the thematic background report prepared for the event by a UN technical specialist. This would be followed by brief interventions by discussants on a panel consisting of experts from IFI's, Regional Development Banks and involved UN agencies. The Chair would then open up the session to the floor for discussion and questions and answers.

14.30 – 18.00 Employment Promotion

Chair: Mr. Topilin, Deputy Minister of Health and Social Development of the Russian Federation (to be confirmed)

Co-chair: Ms. Ulshoefer, Regional Director, ILO

14.45 – 15.00 Presentation of main findings and policy recommendations by Ms. Nesporova, Deputy Regional Director, ILO

15.00 – 15.30 Panel discussion

Panelists:

Mr. Bond, Director, Office of the Chief Economist, EBRD

Ms. Eshmambetova, Director of the Technical Cooperation Unit, UNECE

Prof. Libanova, Director, Institute for Demography and Social Studies, National Academy of Sciences, Ukraine

15.30 – 15.50 Coffee break

15.50 – 16.00 Update on the economic situation in the region presented by the IMF

16.00 – 18.00 General Discussion

Points for discussion:

- Pre-crisis challenges and impacts of the crisis on the labour markets of Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Turkey

- Review and outcomes of adopted national measures aimed at preservation of current jobs, promotion of new employment generation and measures assisting jobseekers in re-employment
- The ILO Global Jobs Pact and its implications for the region.
- Recommendations for changes in institutional settings and policies to address the employment challenges and accelerate the labour markets' recovery and sustainable development in participating countries.

18.00 Reception hosted by UN / Government of Kazakhstan

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Morning session – Technical Panel (cont.)

9.00 – 12.00 Social Protection

Chair: Mr. Aydemir, Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Security of the Republic of Turkey (to be confirmed)

Co-chair: Mr. Allen, Regional Director, UNICEF

9.15 – 9.30 Presentation of main findings and policy recommendations by Mr. Alexander, Senior Adviser, Economic and Social Policy, UNICEF

9.30 – 10.00 Panel discussion

Panelists:

Dr Svetlana Misikhina, Deputy Director, Scientific Research Finance Institute, Russian Federation,

Mr. Scholz, Senior Social Security Specialist, ILO

A World Bank representative

10.00 – 10.20 Coffee break

10.20 – 10.35 Presentation on social budgets' perspectives by Mr. Horvath, Practice Leader, Poverty Reduction Practice, UNDP

10.35 – 12.00 General discussion

Points for discussion:

- Pre-crisis challenges and impacts of the crisis on the well-being of the population in countries of Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Turkey.
- On-going reforms of national social protection systems and how reforms can be accelerated during the crisis to make social protection measures more effective in reducing and preventing poverty.
- Longer-term strategies for social investments.

12.00 – 13.00 Lunch

Afternoon session – Technical Panel (cont.)

13.00 – 16.00 Food Security and Agricultural Development

Chair: Mr. Orasyev, Deputy Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Co-chair: Ms. Kadlecikova, Regional Director, FAO

13.15 – 13.30 Presentation of main findings and policy recommendations by Prof. Meyers, Consultant, FAO

13.30 – 14.10 Panel discussion

Panelists:

Mr. Avertisyan, First Deputy Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Armenia

Ms. Hill, Deputy Country Director, WFP

Prof. Swinnen, Consultant, FAO

Ms. Ulah, Senior Economist, UNFEM

14.10 – 15.40 General discussion

Points for discussion:

- Conceptual basis of food security in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Turkey.
- Policies to improve food security in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Turkey.
- The role of agricultural and rural development in food security.

15.40 – 16.00 Coffee break

16.00 – 17.00 Panel of Regional Directors of UN Agencies and International Financial Institutions on future partnerships with national stakeholders in support of speedy recovery and sustainable development

Chair: Ms. Udovički, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Director of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and CIS

Panelists: Mr. Allen, Regional Director, UNICEF
Mr. Belka, Regional Director, IMF
Ms. Kadlecikova, Regional Director, FAO
Ms. Ulshoefer, Regional Director, ILO
Regional Director of the World Bank (to be confirmed)

Closing session

17.00 – 18.00 Closing speeches