

Domestic and International Financial Instruments for Universal Social Protection

Date: Monday, April 23, 8:00 am-9:30 am

Location: Conference Room 7, UNHQ

Agenda

08:00	Welcome and introduction Moderator Peter Bakvis, ITUC/GCSPF
08:05	What is the current situation of social protection financing? National and international efforts to finance Universal Social Protection, including floors Dr. Vinicius Pinheiro, Deputy Director of the International Labour Organization, Office for the UN (ILO)
08:15	Challenges and innovations in sustainably financing universal social protection NN, Permanent Mission of Mongolia
08:25	The Addis Tax Initiative and financing social protection Deputy Minister of Development Jens Frølich Holte, Government of Norway
08:35	Protecting social protection floor spending in times of economic crises Dr Barry Herman, GCSPF
08:45	How can FfD encourage initiatives to foster and protect sustainable financing for Universal Social Protection around the world? Stephan Reichert, German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Financing for Development Unit
08:55	Questions and comments from the audience: How might the United Nations Financing for Development Forum encourage initiatives to institute, foster, deepen or protect Social Protection Floor financing around the world?
09:20	Wrap-up and closing of the side event

Organizers

- International Labour Organization (ILO)
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway (MFA)
- Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany (BMZ)
- Permanent Mission of Mongolia (tbc)
- Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors (GCSPF)
- NGO Committee on Financing for Development (NGOsonFfD)
- Action by Churches Together Alliance (ACT)

Background

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) on financing for development agreed to a new “social compact” (para. 12) featuring a commitment to social protection, including floors, in order to ensure successful implementation of SDG 1.3. Following up on this commitment, the agreed conclusions and recommendations of the FfD Follow-up Forum 2017 called for expanded peer learning and experience-sharing among countries and regions, and encouraged “support for capacity building to help countries... design and implement nationally appropriate social protection systems....” IATF was invited “to prepare an inventory of domestic and international financial instruments and funding modalities” in its next report, which will be discussed at the 2018 session of FfD Follow-up Forum (E/FFDF/2017/3, para 7).

Abstract

The international commitment is explicit and ambitious: “Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable.” (SDG 1, Target 1.3) There can be no doubt: social protection has been recognized as a key instrument to end poverty and to give people access to opportunities for a self-determined life.

However, the gap between the commitment and the current situation is extremely wide. The ILO World Social Protection Report 2017-2019 shows that only 29% of the world’s population is covered by adequate social protection.

One important challenge for extending and improving social protection is affordability.

This event will take stock of the latest developments in financing Universal Social Protection, including Floors, and discuss the responses to the following questions:

- What is the current situation of social protection financing worldwide?
- How can governments ensure adequate national fiscal resources to sustainably finance universal social protection (SDG 1.3)?
- How can social protection spending be protected in times of economic crisis?
- How might the United Nations Financing for Development Forum encourage initiatives to institute, foster, deepen and protect financing for universal social protection around the world?

Representatives from Governments, the ILO and the Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors are going to share their experiences, insights and proposals.