



International
Labour
Organization

► Global Social Protection Week



► A call to achieving SDG 1.3 and universal social protection in the context of the future of work



The participants to the Global Social Protection Week, held under the auspices of the ILO from 25 to 28 November 2019 in Geneva, acknowledged and emphasized that:

Social security is a human right and an investment with high returns in economic and social development:

- ▶ Well governed social protection systems prevent poverty, reduce inequality, social exclusion and economic insecurity, promote equal opportunities and gender and racial equality, contribute to the employability of workers and productivity of enterprises, and act as an enabler for transitioning from the informal to the formal economy;
- ▶ Social protection also acts as an automatic stabilizer and has a multiplier effect by making a critical contribution to fostering people's wellbeing, decent and productive employment, reducing economic insecurity, supporting entrepreneurship and sustainable enterprises, addressing income inequality, as well as boosting inclusive and sustainable growth;
- ▶ Equitable and sustainable universal social protection systems are more crucial than ever to reinforce the social contract and promote social justice, solidarity, cohesion, and peace;

55 per cent of the world population still does not have access to any form of social protection:

- ▶ Only ten years remain to achieve the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development including target 1.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ending poverty in all its forms everywhere by setting up and implementing nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including social protection floors;
- ▶ Social protection coverage gap is essentially linked with massive under-investments in social protection;
- ▶ Bridging the financing deficit is a matter of urgency to close the coverage gap through the establishment of social protection floors, which would require mobilizing an additional 527 billion USD per year, equivalent to 1.6 per cent of the GDP of developing countries on average;

Today, societies at large are faced with profound transformations, driven by technological innovations, demographic shifts, climate change, globalization, higher labour mobility as well as widespread informality and inequality:

- ▶ Social protection is a lubricant of change and investments made therein help navigate these transitions, liberate people from fear, break the vicious cycle of poverty and vulnerability, contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment and in so doing, contribute to the inevitable transformation of our societies and economies;
- ▶ The 2019 ILO Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work calls for adopting a human-centered approach to the future of work, which puts workers' rights and the needs, aspirations, and rights of all people at the heart of economic, social and environmental policies;
- ▶ It calls for universal, comprehensive, adapted and sustainable social protection systems that provide adequate levels of benefits for all, which are human-centered by essence;
- ▶ Social protection systems including floors need to adapt to the new world's realities to uphold their protective function and support the transformations of the economy and society.



Global Social Protection Week, 2019, Geneva, Switzerland.

Based on these observations, the Global Social Protection Week called for the following set of actions to guarantee universal, comprehensive, adapted and sustainable social protection systems that provide adequate levels of benefits for all:

Universal Social Protection (USP) is affordable and should become a national and global priority...

- ▶ Urge all actors to make USP a priority and accelerate efforts to achieve SDG target 1.3 by 2030 by strengthening the political will at both the national and international levels, to close the coverage gaps and corresponding financing gaps through national and global solidarity;
- ▶ Create at the national level the necessary fiscal space for social protection, through taxes and social security contributions, based on the principles of solidarity, equity and sustainability;

...but requires, however, increased investments based on national and international solidarity.

- ▶ Move away from a minimalist approach to solidarity to a broad-base solidarity across society between the rich and the poor, employers and workers, the healthy and the sick, the employed and the unemployed, between generations, between men and women, thereby strengthening social cohesion, and increasing the financial sustainability of social protection systems;
- ▶ Reinforce global and national efforts to ensure coherent and progressive tax systems, and mobilise the necessary resources for social protection, health and education, by broadening the tax base, considering innovative tax instruments, and ending tax evasion and tax havens;
- ▶ In order to complement national efforts in resource mobilisation, where necessary, increase official development aid for social protection and consider establishing, as quickly as possible, a global fund for social protection to set up, sustain and safeguard, national social protection systems;

Implementing USP requires inclusive social protection policies based on national dialogues...

- ▶ Make the human right to social security a reality for all by formulating, and implementing inclusive social protection policies that leave no one behind, in line with ILO's Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202) as well as SDG target 1.3 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- ▶ Duly involve workers' and employers' organizations and other stakeholders through effective social dialogue and wider multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder participation, including through institutionalized participatory processes, in assessing the situation of social protection and in designing, implementing, monitoring, evaluating and continuously improving national social protection policies, inclusive of all, in particular, persons operating in the informal economy;

...that are coherent and coordinated with other public policies to maximize their respective outcomes...

- ▶ Ensure that the national social protection policy is part of a comprehensive and coherent set of policy responses by establishing effective coordination mechanisms between social protection and other public policies, including those on economic development, employment, enterprise development and corporate social responsibility, taxation, health, welfare and care, education, gender equality, nutrition, agriculture, migrations as well as policies designed to mitigate climate change and formalize the economy;
- ▶ Recognize that such policy coordination results in their cross-fertilization and boosts their respective outcomes reinforcing how social protection acts as a catalyst for achieving the other SDGs, notably, [SDGs 3.8, 5.4, 8.5, 10.4 and 16.6](#);

...and developed based on strong partnerships to tackle challenges...

- ▶ Acknowledge that social protection brings together numerous ministries, social partners and civil society, and international institutions and therefore requires strong partnerships to build a joint vision with shared priorities anchored in the principles recognized by international standards, and to translate this shared vision in coordinated and coherent action;
- ▶ Support the Call for Action formulated by the Global Partnership on Universal Social Protection (USP2030);

...which lead to comprehensive, sustainable and rights-based social protection systems...

- ▶ Build sustainable, comprehensive and rights based social protection systems comprised of contributory and non-contributory schemes that guarantee social protection floors for all throughout the life-cycle and progressively ensure access to higher levels of benefits, particularly by extending social insurance schemes to all persons with contributory capacity including those in the informal economy;
- ▶ Stress the importance of ratifying and duly implementing international human rights and social security instruments;

...adapted to address life-cycle risks, including for those left totally or partially unprotected...

- ▶ Adapt social protection systems to respond to the new and rapidly changing realities and major transformations in national economies and societies, as a means to address a broader range of risks throughout people's life course, protecting children and youth, women and men, persons with disabilities, workers in all forms of employment, including new forms of employment, as well as older persons, paying particular attention to those in vulnerable situations;
- ▶ Adopt mechanisms and schemes that are innovative and more responsive and flexible, in particular with regard to contribution collection, entitlement conditions and delivery and which promote effective portability of social security entitlements within and across borders;

...including by extending protection and formalizing actors of the informal economy...

- ▶ Emphasize that only innovative and adapted solutions based on social dialogue and responsive to the diverse needs of the multiple actors operating in the informal economy can effectively ensure universal social protection and facilitate their transition to the formal economy;
- ▶ Promote the extension of social protection to workers in the informal economy through a mix of contributory and non-contributory schemes and linked to a coherent and comprehensive set of public policies (skills, employment, enterprise development) to facilitate the formalization of workers and enterprises;

...developing inclusive approaches for populations living in rural areas...

- ▶ Bring forth sustainable, coordinated and equitable policy solutions to overcome bottlenecks in extending social protection to rural populations and fostering rural development, taking into account specific needs and vulnerabilities arising across the life cycle as well as due to shocks;

...for migrant workers...

- ▶ Adapt social protection policies and systems in both countries of origin and destination to migration trends and patterns with a view to addressing the specific needs of migrants and their families as well as asylum seekers and refugees, in line with obligations under international instruments;
- ▶ Make full use of unilateral measures and bilateral and multilateral social security agreements, and incorporate social protection provisions into bilateral labour agreements, in order to protect current and returning migrants;

...for persons with disabilities...

- ▶ Make social protection systems inclusive of persons with disabilities in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and based on a human rights-based approach;
- ▶ Contribute to the empowerment, inclusion and agency of persons with disabilities including by taking into account disability-related costs through a twin-track approach that ensures that the social protection system guarantees both effective access to mainstream schemes as well as to the necessary disability-specific benefits;

...and of those operating in the digital economy...

- ▶ Ensure effective access to adequate social protection for workers in all types of employment, including those operating on digital platforms within and across borders, anchored in effective legal frameworks that recognize the continued relevance of the employment relationship and guarantee the portability of rights, and sustainable and equitable financing mechanisms;

...while remaining faithful to the principles established by international social security instruments...

- ▶ Reaffirm the continued relevance of international social security legal instruments to translate the right to social security into national law and serve as guidance for the assessment and development of national social protection systems;
- ▶ Remain faithful to the principles enshrined therein, notably the overarching and primary responsibility of the State to ensure, in consultation with the social partners and representatives of persons protected, the proper functioning and sustainability of comprehensive social protection systems based on social solidarity and to pursue the objectives of universal coverage and due provision of adequate and predictable benefits;
- ▶ Take all necessary and appropriate measures to enshrine internationally recognized standards and principles, in particular, for designing comprehensive and predictable legal frameworks;

...and unleashing the potential of effective national dialogue and participatory approaches.

- ▶ Promote inclusive national dialogue and tripartism as essential elements conducive to social justice and social cohesion and at the heart of well governed, accountable and sustainable social protection systems;
- ▶ Support dialogue and participatory processes that help balance the economic effects and the social objectives of national social security systems, thereby maintaining a social consensus for economic and social progress, strengthening ownership and political willingness to act, particularly in addressing the challenges associated to the future of work;
- ▶ Emphasize that employer's and workers' organizations play an essential role in promoting and protecting rights-based social protection systems, including floors, to ensure that no one is left behind;
- ▶ Stress that employer's and workers' social security contributions are vital to ensuring the sustainability of social protection systems and the need for compliance with national laws in this respect;
- ▶ Call on the ILO to use its unique convening power and international experience to facilitate the engagement of all social partners through developing comprehensive long-term capacity building approaches that respond to constituents' needs at country level;

Realizing the full potential of extending social health protection to all.

- ▶ Strengthen efforts, in line with the 2019 UN Political Declaration on Universal Health Coverage, with a view to reaching SDG target 3.8 including through financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services, and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all;
- ▶ Develop strong legal frameworks, participatory governance, as well as increased mobilization of domestic public funding for health and integrate social health protection schemes so as to overcome fragmentation, provide adequate benefits and adapt delivery processes;

Developing sustainable and adequate pension systems.

- ▶ Address the challenges of non-inclusive economic growth, ageing populations, informality and the changing world of work through coherent labour, economic, fiscal and social policies to ensure pension systems in line with international social security standards and core principles of universality of coverage, adequacy and predictability of benefits, financial sustainability, social solidarity and collective financing;

Adopting a gender responsive approach.

- ▶ Design and implement social protection systems in a gender-responsive way as an essential means for achieving SDGs 1 and 5, and as a means to eliminate coverage gaps, address gender inequalities exacerbated by multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, and empower women and girls, as well as to contribute to the sustainability and productivity of the workforce by securing decent working conditions;

Designing integrated care strategies.

- ▶ Coordinate social protection policies with policies that improve access to quality care services and more equitable distribution of care work, and women's access to decent work as a means to improving women's productivity and income, and reducing poverty and exclusion;
- ▶ Promote rights and protection for both carers and care-seeking individuals and families, incorporating mechanisms that deliver gender-sensitive benefits;

Securing climate resilient and responsive social protection systems.

- ▶ Design financially sustainable climate-resilient social protection systems responsive to the needs of persons affected by climate-related shocks and disasters, and by the adverse effects of policies designed to mitigate climate change;
- ▶ Recognize the role of social protection in tackling climate change and ensuring a just transition towards greener economies and societies, and encouraging governments and social partners to work together to this effect;

Enabling social protection systems to respond to disasters and crises.

- ▶ Emphasize the need to develop policies and systems, in the context of the humanitarian-development nexus, to ensure continuous and sustainable access to the human right to social security for populations exposed to disasters, crisis and conflict situations;
- ▶ Fully exploit the potential of social dialogue and multi-stakeholder partnerships to prioritize the pooling of resources to support the design, maintenance, and resilience of shock-sensitive social protection systems in vulnerable countries;

Supporting lifelong learning and labour market transitions.

- ▶ Further reinforce social protection policies that contribute to strengthening people's capabilities so that they can benefit from the opportunities of a changing world of work through effective measures that support people through transitions they will face throughout their working lives, including lifelong learning and quality education for all;

Harnessing new technologies.

- ▶ Harness the opportunities for extending social protection to all offered by new technologies, to reduce costs and fraud while increasing accessibility through the improvement in the planning, administration, and delivery of social protection systems;
- ▶ In parallel, ensure data protection and privacy and sound management, including through effective political and legal regulatory frameworks and enforcement mechanisms, and by reinforcing relevant expertise and capacities;

Building awareness and creating a culture for social protection.

- ▶ Recognize the need to build and strengthen a culture of social protection among society to ensure the design and implementation of adequate social protection policies which will strengthen the sustainability and accountability of the social contract, make effective the human right to social protection, and lead to robust consensus so as to encourage policy reform and results.

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