

Global Social Protection Week

Achieving SDG 1.3 and Universal Social Protection (USP2030) in the Context of the Future of Work

Stream 1

Adapting social protection to a changing world

Technical session 2.1

Social protection and climate change

Wednesday, 27 November 2019

10:45am – 12:00pm

BACKGROUND

Climate change is one of the main drivers of change in the world of today, critically affecting incomes, jobs and the health of millions of people around the planet. On the one hand, the direct effects of climate change, including rising temperatures and sea levels, changing precipitation patterns and extreme weather events, have negative impacts on populations, particularly the working poor, informal economy workers and vulnerable communities. The financial consequences of climate change events put additional pressure on governments' budgets and can jeopardize the efforts made in progressively building public infrastructure (for example roads, schools and clinics). By increasing the demand for financial support and access to health care, climate change related events can also put at risk the financial sustainability of social protection systems. On the other hand, policy response measures developed to mitigate climate change can also have, at least temporarily, a negative impact on certain groups of workers. While the ecological transition is expected to generate economic opportunities and create up to 24 million green jobs by 2030 (ILO, 2018)¹, green policies will inevitably inflict job and income losses on workers in less sustainable industries.

The ILO has been producing knowledge and raising awareness on the role of social protection for tackling climate change with the support of France (AFD and DAEI)² and in line with the ILO Guidelines for a just transition.³ Since the adoption of the Paris Agreement, countries have been expressing their climate commitments by submitting their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) to the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Social protection offers many options for countries to pursue their climate plans and action while simultaneously providing adequate social and health protection to populations affected by climate change impacts and green policies. At the same time, social protection systems and public funding on social assistance and infrastructures need to be protected against the devastating effects of climate related risks.

This session will bring together governments, social partners, international organizations and development partners to discuss the role of social protection in a changing climate context and

¹ ILO. 2018. *World Employment and Social Outlook 2018: Greening with jobs* (Geneva).

² French Development Agency and Délégation aux affaires européennes et internationales, respectively.

³ ILO. 2015. *Guidelines for a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all* (Geneva).

options that exist to finance climate-resilient and climate-responsive social protection systems. The discussion will revolve around the main challenges posed by climate change, around social protection policy options, and country experiences in tackling climate-related shocks and facilitating just transition efforts.

OBJECTIVES

Organized in the context of the Global Social Protection Week as part of ILO Centenary celebrations, this technical session has the following objectives:

- To discuss the urgent challenges posed by climate change to workers and their communities and national social protection systems.
- To recognize the role of social protection in tackling climate change and for ensuring a just transition towards greener economies and societies.
- To discuss country experiences and potential international collaboration for increasing ambition in climate action through social protection.

FORMAT

This technical session will consist of a moderated discussion, where the moderator will ask one or two rounds of questions to the panel members. The panel members will not be required to deliver any power point presentation.

Questions will focus on:

- Building climate-responsive social protection through the adaptation of existing social protection systems addressing new climate-related risks of affected populations.
- Using social protection as a set of measures to facilitate economic transition towards green economies (“just transition”).
- Building climate-resilient social protection systems to ensure financial sustainability to cope with climate-related events.

MODERATOR AND PANELLISTS

Moderator: **Moustapha Kamal Gueye**, Unit Head, GREEN JOBS, ILO

- **Mouna Osman Aden**, Minister of Social Affairs, Djibouti
- **Pablo Páramo Montero**, Councillor of Labour, Migrations and Social Security, Permanent Mission of Spain to the United Nations in Geneva
- **Ahmma Charisma Lobrin-Satumba**, Executive Director, Institute for Labor Studies, Department of Labor and Employment, Philippines
- **José Roland Moya**, Director General, Employers' Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP)
- **Montserrat Mir Roca**, Senior Advisor for the Just Transition Centre and Former ETUC Confederal Secretary
- **Nadine Poupart**, Social Protection Coordinator - Project Manager, Agence Française de Développement (AFD)
- **Fulai Sheng**, Senior Economist, Economy Division, United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment)