

## Global Social Protection Week

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

### Stream 5

Social protection in the context of the future of work

#### Technical session 5.2

Achieving social justice in a globalized world: Social protection for workers on digital platforms

Thursday, 28 November 2019

10:45am – 12:00pm

#### BACKGROUND

Digitalization is transforming societies and economies worldwide at an unprecedented scale and pace. In the wake of automation and digitalization, “new” forms of employment have been emerging in various occupations and sectors, such as the digital platform economy. While some emerging work and employment arrangements may provide greater flexibility for workers and employers, social protection coverage for workers on digital platforms is limited.<sup>1</sup> Where such coverage exists, it is often provided through the workers’ previous or additional jobs, or indirectly through their spouses or other family members. This also raises questions about digital platforms freeriding on the traditional economy with regard to the financing of social security.<sup>2</sup>

The emergence of new forms of employment requires that existing social protection systems adapt to the specific situation and needs of workers in new forms of employment, as to realize the human right to social security for all. At a time of transformative change in the world of work, driven by technological innovations, demographic shifts, environmental and climate change and globalization, as well as persistent inequalities, the demand for adequate and comprehensive social protection systems remains as relevant as ever. While many countries have made progress in progressively building up their social protection systems, 55 per cent of the world population – 4 billion people – remains completely unprotected.<sup>3</sup> Appropriate policy measures therefore need to be taken to close social protection gaps for workers in new forms of employment.<sup>4</sup> Social protection systems need to ensure that people can seize new opportunities, while enjoying adequate protection throughout their

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<sup>1</sup> Global Commission for the Future of Work, 2019. [Work for a brighter future](#) (Geneva: International Labour Office); OECD, 2019. [The future of work: OECD Employment Outlook 2019](#) (Paris: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development).

<sup>2</sup> Behrendt C, Nguyen QA and Rani U., 2019. [Social protection systems and the future of work: Ensuring social security for digital platform workers](#). International Social Security Review 72(3): 17–41; Behrendt C and Nguyen QA, 2018. [Innovative approaches for ensuring universal social protection for the future of work](#). ILO Future of Work Research Paper Series 1 (Geneva: International Labour Office).

<sup>3</sup> ILO, 2017. [World Social Protection Report 2017-19: Universal Social Protection to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals](#) (Geneva: International Labour Office).

<sup>4</sup> ILO, 2018. [Innovative approaches for ensuring universal social protection for the future of work](#). Issue Brief Prepared for the 2nd Meeting of the Global Commission on the Future of Work 12 (Geneva: ILO).

lives, particular during life and work transitions. Some of the policy measures instituted by countries to extend coverage to the self-employed and to workers in the informal economy can provide valuable pointers.

The [\*ILO Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work\*](#), adopted by the International Labour Conference in June 2019, provides a roadmap for a human-centred approach to the future of work, and highlights the urgent need to enhance social protection systems to ensure universal access to adequate, comprehensive and sustainable social protection adapted to the world of work. The Declaration also calls for policies and measures that respond to challenges and opportunities in the world of work relating to the digital transformation of work, including platform work.

This session will bring together governments, social partners, international organizations and other strategic partners to discuss how social protection systems can adapt to changing forms of work and ensure full and effective coverage for workers in all types of employment, including self-employed and those in “new” forms of employment and identify innovative approaches that countries have employed to ensure universal social protection in a changing world of work.

## OBJECTIVES

This technical session has the following objectives:

- To discuss the challenges of the global transformations under way and the policies needed to effectively address them.
- To explore the link between social protection, lifelong learning and effective measures to support people through transitions that they face throughout their life cycles.
- To highlight experiences of countries that have taken steps to strengthen people’s capabilities to reap all the benefits of a changing world of work.

## 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.

## MODERATOR AND PANELLISTS

Moderator: **Francesca Bastagli**, ODI

- **Guillermo Montt**, Social Protection Specialist in the DWT/CO-Santiago
- **Liu Muping**, Deputy Director General of the Social Insurance Administration Center, Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security (MoHRSS), China
- **Giulia Pagliani**, European Commission (tbc)
- **Fook Keong Stephen Yee**, Assistant Executive Director, Singapore National Employers' Federation
- **Thorkild Holmboe-Hay**, Political communications advisor, 3F
- **Uma Rani**, Senior Economist, ILO