



United Nations



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**Expert group meeting on financing social protection floors of the
Inter-agency Task Force on Financing for Development
United Nations, New York, 30 November 2016**

Provisional Agenda

Morning session, 9:00 – 12:30¹

Chair: Shari Spiegel, Financing for Development Office/DESA

- 9:00 – 9:45 Setting the context: what are social protection floors?
(Room S - 1521)
- Gemma Adaba, co-director of SocDevJustice project on financing social protection floors
 - Isabel Ortiz, Director, Social Protection, ILO: International agreed commitments to social protection/transfers across the life cycle
- 9:45 – 10:45 Country experiences with policies to expand and reserve fiscal space for social protection
(Room S - 1521)
- Opening speaker:* Anis Chowdhury, Western Sydney University: Country case studies of financing social protection (Brazil, Ecuador, Indonesia)
- Second opening speaker:* Alexandra Yuster, UNICEF: Country case study
- Open discussion
- 11:00 – 12:15 Strengthening international support for universal social protection floors, including the role of official development assistance
(Conference Room 9)
- Opening speaker:* Vinicius Pinheiro, NY Office, ILO: Meaning of the Addis Agenda commitment and how to encourage implementation,
- Second opening speaker:* Michael Cichon: Estimates of financing need, including self-financing and international support needs
- Open discussion
- 12:15 – 12:30 Conclusions from the morning
(Conference Room 9)
- Discussion of how to take this work forward, and the role of the IATF in doing so

Lunch break, 12:30 – 14:00

¹Previous IATF thematic meetings have lasted approximately 3 hours in the morning, with interested Task Force members participating in person or by video or telephone connection. It is proposed that in light of a rich agenda, it will be useful to have an afternoon session for those attending in person, with a video or phone-in option for those available to continue on line, keeping in mind the difficulty given time differences.

Afternoon session, 14:00 – 17:15, Conference Room 9

Chair: Jose Antonio Ocampo, Columbia University, ILO Goodwill Ambassador for Social Protection (tbc)

14:00 – Countering the pro-cyclical nature of public finance and its impact on
15:30 financing for social protection floors: domestic and international options

Opening speaker: Barry Herman, co-director of SocDevJustice project on financing social protection floors

- Allocating adequate funds to dedicated fiscal reserves in good times to be available to draw upon in hard times (eg. Mongolia)
- Linking counter-cyclical clauses in sovereign loan contracts/bonds) to social protection needs (“bisque” clause, GDP-linked bonds, sovereign CoCos)
- International counter-cyclical credit: Semi-automatic multilateral credit lines for low- and middle-income countries in support of maintaining essential outlays under sustainable medium-term macroeconomic frameworks
- Reallocating unsustainable debt service obligations to social protection (e.g. Ecuador); limits of debt-for-health/education swaps

15:45 – Balancing contributory revenues with general tax revenue for social protection
16:30 finance

Opening speaker: Teresa Ghilarducci, New School (tbc)

- Employer and workers’ contributions to social security finance about half of total social protection expenditures and therefore an important avenue for domestic resource mobilization and expansion of the formal sector
- What role is there for earmarked taxation versus general tax revenue?

16:30 – Other proposals for financing social protection
17:15

Open discussion on items such as:

- A World Solidarity Fund
- Reprioritizing expenditures and locking in budget commitments (entitlement versus discretionary budgeting, re-purposing funds allocated to fuel subsidies, etc)

Conclusions, 17:15 – 17:30

Shari Spiegel, Financing for Development Office/DESA