

Strengthened Financing for Social Protection Floors A SocDevJustice Initiative

Concept Note

Problem Description

The World Bank estimated that about 700 million people were still living in extreme poverty in 2015, mostly in developing countries.¹ The world's governments pledged in September that year to fully eradicate extreme poverty in 15 years, when their leaders adopted the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda at the United Nations.² However, much of the reduction in poverty over the past 15 years resulted from strong overall economic growth in China and several other developing countries, as well as through anti-poverty programs. Global growth prospects today are less buoyant and additional efforts are needed to ensure that the benefits of growth are distributed more equitably, and contribute effectively to improving the livelihoods and wellbeing of people living in poverty.

One strategy to accomplish that is to develop strong *social protection floors* (SPFs) that would provide universal protection across all segments of a country's population. Developed countries and many developing countries already have SPFs, albeit often not reaching all the poor. Not only should such floors be instituted where they do not yet exist and offer universal nationally defined coverage, but they should be financed in assured and sustainable ways, no matter the volatility and unpredictability of world events. The initiative described herein seeks to help bring this about through focused and credible analysis and advocacy, including by building support for specific reforms and initiatives at United Nations intergovernmental meetings, working toward political consensus and commitments that lead to policy changes on the ground, including regarding appropriate domestic and international public financing.

Expected Outcome and Impact

The initiative aims to build on the intergovernmental commitment made in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA), adopted by the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD) in July 2015,³ to provide strong international support for efforts of governments to provide social protection and to explore coherent funding modalities to mobilize additional resources, building on country-led experiences (AAAA, paragraph 12). A measure of momentum in this direction is being given by a joint initiative of the International Labour Organization and the World Bank Group and by a coalition of civil society organizations. The present initiative aims to complement those efforts by gathering together an international group of policy advisers as well as official and non-official stakeholders in social protection floors to develop practical concrete proposals which will then be brought to relevant global intergovernmental forums for consideration and action. The initiative aims, thereby, to contribute to the strengthening of pro-poor development policies, and thus to achieving the sustainable development goals of eradicating poverty and reducing inequality.

Objectives to be accomplished

- Raise awareness through dissemination of materials prepared by the initiative about the opportunities and impediments to providing appropriate social protection floors, especially in developing countries.

¹ World Bank press release, October 4, 2015.

² UN General Assembly resolution 70/1.

³ Endorsed by the UN General Assembly as resolution 69/313.

- Support efforts to build national and international political momentum toward prioritizing SPFs and assuring their funding at adequate levels.
- Through lobbying at the Financing for Development Follow-up Forum and other venues, increase awareness of the reforms and innovations under consideration by the initiative.
- Present to the Financing for Development Follow-up Forum for its consideration (and possibly other intergovernmental bodies to which civil society is accorded access) the results of deliberations facilitated by the initiative on 1) more adequate and assured financing of SPFs and 2) appropriate international cooperation and other support modalities for construction and expansion of SPFs.

Indicators to monitor the extent to which the initiative’s objectives are being achieved

- Number of governments that voice support of proposals highlighted by SocDevJustice of effective instruments for financing SPFs (gleaned from public statements).
- Number of civil society organizations and other stakeholders that voice support of SocDevJustice proposed instruments for financing SPFs (e.g., as derived from sign-on letters in the context of a SocDevJustice advocacy campaign).
- Number of instruments put under active policy consideration or adopted to safeguard SPF spending in normal and crisis times.

Activities planned to achieve the objectives

- Create an international group of expert advisers to assist coordinators of the initiative in carrying out the project (completed; see Section III below). Work with expert advisers to contract a set of papers with innovative proposals for funding SPFs.
- Promote the holding of multi-stakeholder consultations to discuss, analyze, and draw from best practices, with a view to building momentum for agreement in appropriate forums on a set of concrete international policy proposals for funding SPFs.⁴
- Publish the proposals and background documents. Use these materials to develop media products, including a dedicated website to disseminate proposals and project activities widely. Launch and run a SocDevJustice advocacy campaign, with the aim of spreading political interest and developing greater political momentum for in-depth intergovernmental consideration of the proposals.

Background and detailed description of the initiative

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⁴ Coordinators of the initiative will seek with partners to inscribe a discussion of financing SPFs onto the agenda of the May 2017 session of the Financing for Development Follow-up Forum of the UN Economic and Social Council. Failing that, SocDevJustice will seek with partners to organize a multistakeholder “side event” at the Forum.

I. Proposal for a SocDevJustice Work Program, 2017-19

1. Motivation for the initiative - the need for deeper international cooperation on funding social protection floors

Poverty and inequality - persistent challenges for sustainable development

For about a decade and a half (2001-20015), the social efforts of the international community were focused on policies and programs based on the Millennium Development Goals, which aimed to reduce poverty, hunger, malnutrition and poor access to decent jobs and essential social services (health, education, water, sanitation, housing) in the developing world. Some progress was made and the number of people living below the extreme poverty line was halved by 2010, with 700 million fewer people living in extreme poverty conditions than in 1990 (measured by the \$1 a day poverty line).⁵ But this is hardly a cause for rejoicing. The estimated number of people living in poverty in 2012 was still 902 million (measured against the \$1.90 a day poverty line).⁶

The fact of the matter is that the world economic and social situation has been characterized since the global financial crisis by weak labor markets and stagnant wages, with the uneven benefits of productivity growth increasing income inequality.⁷ These negative trends continue to keep large numbers of people in poverty and vulnerability, depriving them of the means of satisfying their basic human needs. Even the millions of people who had worked their way out of poverty face the risk of being pushed back again into situations of deprivation. For the past 25 years, the average annual income of the bottom 10% of the world's population has risen by less than \$3 per year.⁸ The failure of large sections of the population, especially in low- and middle-income countries, to meet their basic needs in normal times is further exacerbated by the crisis-prone nature of the contemporary world. Political, economic, and climate-induced crises are plunging entire communities into situations of severe hardship. The fiscal austerity measures introduced by many governments in response to economic crises have led to deep cuts in social expenditures for poverty alleviation.⁹

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2015 recognizes “that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions...is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development,” and effectively calls for a course correction in current policies. Governments and stakeholders have committed to taking “bold and transformative steps...” to “ensure that all human beings can enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives,...” and that conditions are created “for sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and decent work for all...”¹⁰ Indeed, such bold policies are exactly what countries need to adopt, if they are to overcome the current, unacceptable world social situation.

Investing in Social Protection Floors - a strategy for reducing inequality and poverty

To achieve shared prosperity and decent livelihoods for all, strong, distributive policies and strategies are needed. Social Protection Floors (SPFs) constitute an important strategy and tool for reducing

⁵ UN 2013 - Goal 1 2013 Factsheet: <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/bkgd.shtml> accessed 18 August, 2016.

⁶ Sundaram J.K, 2016. *Poverty, Vulnerability, and Social Protection*-<http://www.ipsnews.net/2016/08/poverty-vulnerability-and-social-protection/> Accessed 6 August, 2016.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ OXFAM Briefing Paper, 20 January, 2014. *Working for the Few. Political capture and economic inequality.*

⁹ Ortiz I and M Cummins 2013. *The Age of Austerity: A Review of Public Expenditures and Adjustment Measures in 181 Countries* - Initiative for Policy Dialogue, Columbia University, and the South Centre, Geneva, Working Paper March 2013.

¹⁰ A/RES/70/1 (Preamble pages 1 and 2; page 3, para 3.

inequality and improving the wellbeing of populations.¹¹ (The concept of SPFs is described in more detail below in Section II.) They provide income security, as well as access to health and other essential social services through a number of mechanisms, including cash transfers, employment guarantee schemes, and measures to achieve universal health coverage. Increasingly, low- and middle-income countries are constructing or expanding their social protection systems, including floors, with international support, notably from the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the World Bank.

Yet, coverage of those populations most in need is weak or non-existent.¹² According to estimates of the ILO, only 27% of the population worldwide benefits from comprehensive social security coverage. The remaining 73% receives only partial coverage or no coverage at all.¹³ This means they lack access to adequate income security, protection against the adverse effects of life-course risks such as unemployment, poverty wages and precarious livelihoods, as well as inadequate access to health care services including maternal and child health; thus, they lack the capacity to cater to their own and their children's health and development needs. Women are particularly negatively impacted by these life-course risks, because of their weak engagement in labour markets and their unequal access to productive resources.¹⁴ This situation runs counter to government commitments and people's aspirations for inclusive, equitable economic development with decent livelihoods for all.

A Work Program on Social Protection Floors

Inadequate public financing is a major obstacle to extending social protection coverage to all in need. [Social Justice in Global Development](#) (SocDevJustice) is making a strong case for deepening international cooperation in this regard, for defining and shaping an international public role in social protection financing, both for normal and for crisis times.

SocDevJustice is therefore proposing a program of work that is aimed at developing a broad consensus within the international development community around the need to deepen international cooperation on funding and other support modalities to facilitate the construction, expansion and effective functioning of national SPFs. This program of work will help give effect to the commitment made in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA), adopted by the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD) in July 2015, “to provide strong international support for [the] efforts [of governments to provide social protection and to] explore coherent funding modalities to mobilize additional resources, building on country-led experiences”.¹⁵

SocDevJustice Advocacy Campaign on Social Protection Floors

Strategies formulated by SocDevJustice would aim to make a strong case for concrete proposals through expert group meetings and multi-stakeholder consultations which will bring together specialists from national governments, international and donor agencies, academic institutions, and civil society. The objective, in other words, would be to prepare for intergovernmental deliberations that could conclude with concrete policy agreements.

An important component of the project will be an outreach and advocacy strategy devised by SocDevJustice and partners, with campaigns aimed at developing political interest and momentum, and building consensus among key development actors at national and international levels, on the need to embrace SPFs as a core component of the sustainable development agenda, and to align policies and programmes with their objectives. In this regard, ILO Recommendation 202 (2012) on social protection floors sets out a useful operational framework and provides principles and guidelines for

¹¹ Cichon, M. 2014. *Missing a golden opportunity? Social protection floors as a UN social protection strategy and the post 2015 development agenda* - Background Note for the MPI/RUB Workshop “Soziale Sicherung und die Post 2015 Agenda”.

¹² ILO (2014), *World Social Protection Report 2014/15*, Geneva.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ World Bank (2011), *World Development Report, 2012: Gender Equality and Development*. Washington DC.

¹⁵ Endorsed by the UN General Assembly as resolution 69/313 (paragraph 12).

investing in SPFs.¹⁶ Significantly, according to the terms of this Recommendation, ILO Member States recognize social protection as a human right, and commit to providing basic social protections and guarantees to all.

Projected Outcomes: greater security and well-being for populations in need

While primary responsibility for providing basic social protection lies with national governments,¹⁷ weak institutional capacities and the scarcity of domestic tax resources mobilized in a number of developing countries, show the need for a heightened international response. There is an urgent need for deeper international cooperation to help countries strengthen their domestic policies and revenue-raising capacities for building or expanding their social protection systems. Many countries also need assistance to boost their ability to provide promised services to vulnerable populations during “normal” times, and even more so during “crisis” times.

The outcome of this heightened international cooperation advocated by SocDevJustice must be the provision of sustainable support for nationally defined SPFs, to enable them to contribute significantly to reductions in poverty and inequality, and to improvements in the wellbeing of populations in need, especially in low- and middle-income countries.

2. Main elements of the initiative

Towards deeper international cooperation on funding social protection floors

Moving an agenda of deeper international cooperation toward agreed intergovernmental actions will require both additional expert analyses of existing and new cooperation proposals and frank conversation among representatives of governments and various stakeholders. SocDevJustice thus proposes to organize or facilitate with partners “multi-stakeholder consultations”, as that term was developed in the Financing for Development (FfD) discussion process that followed adoption of the Monterrey Consensus in 2002.¹⁸ These consultations would focus on strengthening modalities of international cooperation on funding social protection floors.

We propose to work with one or more partners and to cooperate with ILO and other international organization partners, including the Financing for Development Office of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. We would begin—have begun—by convening a small group of experts to serve as our advisors on financing social protection (group already created; see Section III). The main task of the expert group would be to help us and our partners organize or facilitate multi-stakeholder consultations. These consultations would bring together national-level officials working on social protection, specialists from donor agencies and international institutions and academic experts, representatives of trade unions and other civil society and business organizations to share country experiences and specific ideas on financing social protection floors, and to learn from best practice on building a sustainable, domestic resource base for social protection provisioning over the long term.

Developing proposals and mechanisms for funding SPFs in normal and crisis times

The meetings would consider various options for financing social protection floors, including what contributions might be made by official development assistance and other mainly grant financing mechanisms. They would consider new and innovative international mechanisms, including for the mobilization of international resources for the start-up of programs and related temporary uses of

¹⁶ ILO (2012 b). International Labour Organization, Social Protection Floors Recommendation No. 202 (R202). Retrieved from ILO NORMLEX Information System.

<http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:12010:0::NO::>

¹⁷ ILO (2012). The Strategy of the International Labour Organization - *Social security for all; Building social protection floors and comprehensive social security systems*, Geneva.

¹⁸ Beginning in 2004, the FfD Office organized with partners several series of focused discussions among relevant stakeholders from governments, international institutions, civil society and the private sector; it also cooperated with multi-stakeholder initiatives managed by non-governmental and business organizations (for reports and materials prepared for each of these initiatives, see <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/msc/>). The General Assembly requested that the FfD Office continue these and related efforts in resolution 60/188 (para 10).

funds by a limited number of cases of fiscally constrained least developed and other vulnerable countries, as well as for the safeguarding of spending on social protection floors during times of unusual difficulty. These may be occasioned by natural calamities (pandemics, hurricanes or typhoons, etc) or severe economic shocks (surges in specific import costs, as for fuel or food, collapses of export commodity markets, etc).

They would consider how funding may be provided to assist countries to better handle such economic, humanitarian and environmental shocks that increase the vulnerability of populations, as well as to offer social protection coverage to vulnerable individuals and families at times when the rest of the population is able to enjoy improving economic conditions.

Multi-stakeholder consultations and consensus-building

The United Nations Financing for Development Office and the ILO held an inter-agency expert group meeting on 30 November 2016 in New York, to which they invited the expert advisors to the SocDevJustice initiative.¹⁹ The meeting was held under the auspices of the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) on Financing for Development, the main substantive secretariat for follow-up to the AAAA and the means of implementation of the 2030 sustainable development agenda. One co-director of the SocDevJustice initiative, Gemma Adaba, prepared a background paper for that meeting and the other co-director, Barry Herman, was asked to prepare a policy paper drawing on that expert group meeting for the IATF. Its report will be presented to the May 2017 Financing for Development Follow-up Forum and will be an input to the July 2017 meeting of the High-Level Political Forum, which monitors progress towards the sustainable development goals.

An opportunity has thus been created to begin international consideration of a range of proposals and ideas about deepening international cooperation on funding and other support modalities to enhance SPFs. It is possible (but unknown at the time of writing) that the FfD Forum will decide to discuss financing SPFs. If that is not the case (or even if it is), it will still be possible to organize with partners a “side event” at the FfD Forum to begin a multi-stakeholder consideration of SPF financing. SocDevJustice will seek to take an active role in either or both discussion venues. The objective would be to identify more and less promising proposals in the view of the participating stakeholders, with the intention of undertaking additional work on sharpening the more promising proposals and developing additional support for them.

We propose to follow-up that consultation with a second phase of the initiative, incorporating additional analyses, in consultation with the expert advisory group, leading to a second multi-stakeholder consultation in 2018. The intended outcome of this second consultation would be to reach agreement on a set of concrete international policy proposals for funding SPFs.

Building political momentum through advocacy campaigns

SocDevJustice will publish the results of the meetings, and will engage in sustained outreach and advocacy with the aim of spreading political interest and developing greater political momentum for in-depth intergovernmental consideration of the proposals, as in the UN Forum on FfD Follow-up, as well as in other relevant intergovernmental meetings, such as the High-Level Political Forum of the United Nations, the special dialogues that the President of the UN General Assembly organizes on an ad-hoc basis, and “side events” timed to coincide with the FfD Forum, the Commission on Social Development and other major intergovernmental meetings, such as the Annual and Spring Meetings of the Bretton Woods institutions. In this, SocDevJustice intends to work together with the Global Coalition for Social Protections Floors (see Section II below) and other civil society advocates. The aim is to garner broad support for working toward guidelines to governments and other stakeholders concerning international cooperation on the financing of SPFs. A dedicated website will be developed to disseminate policy proposals, project activities and information on relevant developments widely.

¹⁹ *Link to report of the meeting when posted.*

Aspiring to universal social protection coverage over the longer-term

Ultimately, the outcome aimed for is the effective operation of sustainably funded SPF programs that attain universal coverage, thereby making a real improvement in the livelihoods and wellbeing of communities in low and middle-income countries. A critical objective to be attained is the safeguarding of spending on social protection floors during times of unusual difficulty, whether owing to natural calamities or severe economic shocks. An important means to achieve these outcomes would be the adoption by governments of viable proposals, including in the form of new instruments of international cooperation on the financing of SPFs in normal and crisis times. Deepened international cooperation will provide strong analytical, technical and financial support for institutional capacity building, and guidelines for the design of policies, as well as for the start-up and expansion of programs.

II. Background on the International Politics of Financing Social Protection Floors

The initiative proposed by SocDevJustice aims to boost support to social protection reformers around the world by making a strong analytical case and strengthening political momentum through multi-stakeholder discussion and advocacy toward significantly boosting international financial resources to help countries provide adequate social protection floors both in normal and crisis times. Countries will differ in the extent of social protection coverage they provide to their poorest and most vulnerable citizens. However, public reform campaigns in countries can be effective in keeping governments accountable to the commitments they have made in favour of pro-poor, people and planet-centred development. International debate can highlight how social protection programs can be and have been successfully structured and financed to provide much needed assistance to vulnerable populations. In this regard, the SocDevJustice initiative aims to build on the considerable work that has already been undertaken.

1. Social protection floors in recent intergovernmental agreements

The year 2015 saw unusual international political attention placed on financing for sustainable development, defined to have social, economic and environmental pillars. While the latter was a focus of the December Conference in Paris of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1), financing for all three pillars of sustainable development was a central concern of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA), adopted at the third International Conference on Financing for Development in July 2015,²⁰ and of the September UN Summit at which Heads of State and Government committed to strive to attain a set of 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) by 2030 (General Assembly Resolution 70/1). In several instances, these agreements reflected work pioneered by ILO.

Social Protection Floors - the ILO's policy framework

Social protection has been on the international labour and development agenda for almost a decade. It received a special impulse in 2012 with the agreement by the tripartite constituents of the ILO (comprising 185 governments as well as employers' and workers' organizations) when they adopted Recommendation No. 202 on Social Protection Floors (R. 202).²¹ According to the terms of this Recommendation, ILO Member States recognize social protection as a human right, and commit to providing basic social protections and guarantees to all. The Recommendation proposes a two-dimensional strategy of expanding coverage horizontally and vertically. In designing social protection systems, governments should seek to build on existing social security schemes to extend minimum coverage at the floor level across the entire population (the horizontal dimension), while progressively increasing levels and quality of coverage (the vertical dimension). Minimum coverage should comprise:

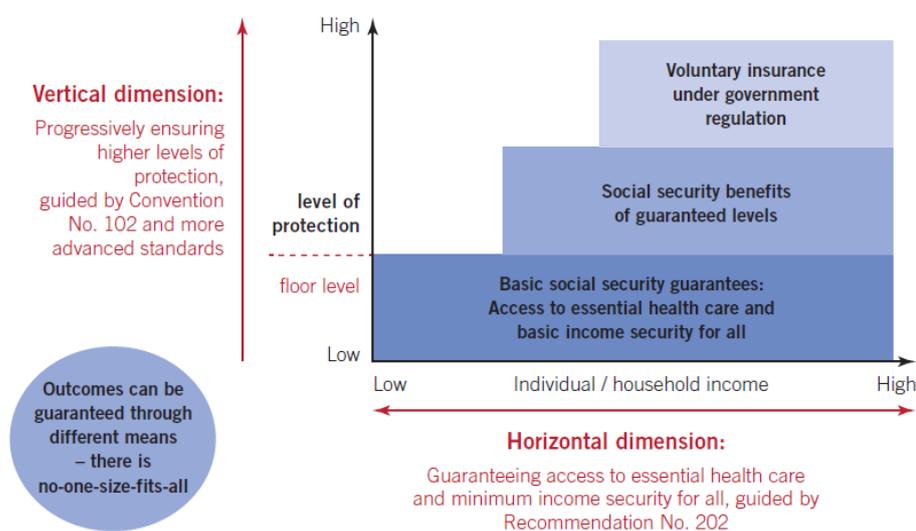
- (a) Access to essential health care, including maternity care;
- (b) Basic income security for children, providing access to nutrition, education, care and any other necessary goods and services;
- (c) Basic income security for persons in active age who are unable to earn sufficient income, in particular in cases of sickness, unemployment, maternity and disability; and

²⁰ Endorsed by the UN General Assembly as resolution 69/313.

²¹ See Michael Cichon (2013), "The Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202): can a six-page document change the course of social history?", *International Social Security Review*, vol. 66, Nos. 3-4, pp. 21-43.

(d) Basic income security for older persons.

In relation to the vertical dimension, governments would seek, progressively, to provide higher levels of income security and access to healthcare. The two-dimensional framework can be represented as follows:



Source: ILO (2012), *The Strategy of the International Labour Organization - Social security for all; Building social protection floors and comprehensive social security systems*, page 3.

According to the ILO, SPFs should be implemented in close association with other policies aimed at addressing precariousness and vulnerable employment, and at promoting sustainable livelihoods. That is, without “active” labour market policies geared to creating decent jobs, social protection floors will be inadequate to support households in their efforts to work their way sustainably out of poverty.

Long-term strategies for SPFs should rely on domestic resource mobilization, since governments have the primary responsibility to build their social protection systems. However, international cooperation can play an important role in initiating the process and providing support for building the national resource base. The ILO has estimated that the average cost of financing social protection floors is 2.9% of gross domestic product for 90 developing countries, and that many of these countries have the capacity to finance them without external assistance. However, given shortfalls in a number of countries, the ILO has concluded that appropriate social protection floors would require additional global start-up funding, whether via a dedicated global fund, or a multi-donor trust fund, or innovative funding mechanisms.²²

Addis and the 2030 Agenda

The 2015 global conferences carried forward the intergovernmental consideration of social protection. In particular, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development emphasized the importance of governments providing social protection in paragraphs 7 and 24, and included social protection as part of SDGs 1.3 on poverty, 5.4 on gender equality and 10.4 on inequality. The AAAA contained an explicit commitment to a new “social compact” in which governments pledged to deliver social protection to their citizens, including social protection floors. The pledge on SPFs embodies provision of a basic level of essential public services for all, with an emphasis on those left furthest below the poverty line. The Addis Agenda further contained a mandate to explore how best to deliver the “means of implementation” of the SDGs and thus provides a further mandate to investigate means for enhancing the financing of social protection. This potentially includes deeper international cooperation to promote social protection floors, although the AAAA did not specify how to do so.

²² Presentation by Isabel Ortiz, Director of Social Protection, ILO, at a side event held during the Financing for Development Follow-up Forum, United Nations, New York, 19 April 2016.

More precisely, the Addis Agenda drew attention to areas where international cooperation policies could support populations during emergencies. Such international cooperation is entirely consistent with the notion of social protection provisioning in “crisis times”, including with respect to the “management and mitigation of natural disasters and complex emergencies” (para. 66), “accessing financing for peace building and development in the post-conflict context” (para. 67), assistance by “relevant international institutions” to help least developed countries build their capacities to respond to various shocks (para. 68), realizing the potential of multilateral development banks to address “financial and economic shocks, natural disasters and pandemics” (para. 70), and assistance through a variety of official and multi-stakeholder initiatives in the areas of health (para. 77) and education (para. 78). What the Addis Agenda lacks is a strategy to put these and other dimensions of global cooperation together in a way that would help governments in every country of the world to deliver adequate and universal social protection floors, i.e., that a minimum level of social protection should *always* be available *everywhere*. SocDevJustice is proposing to help advance consideration of such a strategy.

2. International initiatives to boost national SPFs

Once the international community of nations agrees on new norms, governments and international agencies look to the norms as implicit mandates—and sometimes explicit ones—to work to bring them about around the world. This is indeed the case for social protection floors.

UN agency collaboration

Boosted by the increasing intergovernmental endorsement of SPFs, United Nations agencies have increased their assistance to developing countries that seek to devise or improve their social protections floors, mainly by supporting domestic discussions of policy needs. In this context, Helen Clark, as head of the UN Development Group, which brings together the UN agencies working in developing countries, and Guy Ryder, Director-General of ILO, wrote a joint letter to the UN family of institutions on 2 March 2014 encouraging them to “maintain momentum” on social protection floors in various ways, including strengthening “One UN” national social protection floor teams, supporting national dialogues, assisting in preparation of national analyses, and so on.

Indeed, ILO is guiding a process of national dialogues in Member States, involving governments, trade unions, employers and civil society organizations, with the aim of developing national consensus on priorities and strategies for building social protection systems and floors. As of April 2016, dialogues had been completed or were on-going in 18 countries, while they were being planned in another 11 countries.²³ ILO has also published a global guide for undertaking assessment-based national multi-stakeholder dialogues on social protection floors, drawn from experiences with pilot exercises thus far in 14 countries.²⁴

As regards financing, primary attention has thus far been to support examination and reprioritization of budgetary expenditures, and to provide technical advice on expansion of fiscal space through programmes such as tax reform and strengthened administrative structures and human capacities. In addition, there has been a focus on expanded coverage of contributory insurance for traditional social security regimes, and consideration of non-contributory schemes to extend coverage to the informal economy and to vulnerable populations.²⁵

SPIAC-B

A number of international social protection initiatives had gained momentum as part of recovery efforts from the global financial crisis. In this context, the Development Working Group of the Group

²³ Presentation by Isabel Ortiz, 19 April, 2016, op cit.

²⁴ See ILO (2015), *Social Protection Assessment-based National Dialogue: A Global Guide*, Geneva.

²⁵ For a review of mainly domestic sources of increased resources for social protection floors, see Isabel Ortiz, Matthew Cummins and Kalaivani Karunanethy (2015), “Fiscal Space for Social Protection : Options to Expand Social Investments in 187 Countries,” Extension of Social Security Working Paper no. 48, ILO, Geneva.

of 20 asked ILO and the World Bank in 2011 to organize a new coordination mechanism, the Social Protection Inter-Agency Cooperation Board (SPIAC-B). It brings together relevant global, regional and bilateral development institutions that work at country level on social protection advocacy, financing and/or technical advice, and includes as observers major civil society organizations working in the field.²⁶ SPIAC-B is currently overseeing the development of a set of evaluation tools—the Inter-Agency Social Protection Assessment (ISPA) tools—geared to building an evidence base on social protection assessments, including cost estimates and delivery systems. The tools, which are in different stages of development, are meant to assist countries in making core diagnoses, assessing the social protection impact of public works programs, identifying beneficiaries, as well as estimating the cost and assessing the impact of social protection floor programs.²⁷

ILO/World Bank collaboration

An additional multilateral initiative was launched in a statement issued just before the 2015 Addis meeting when the ILO and the World Bank announced a joint effort to boost “universal” social protection. They defined universal protection to include “adequate cash transfers for all who need them, especially children; benefits and support for people of working age in case of maternity, disability, work injury or for those without jobs; and pensions for all older persons. This protection can be provided through social insurance, tax-funded social benefits, social assistance services, public works programmes and other schemes guaranteeing basic income security.”²⁸

ILO and the World Bank also issued a joint concept note to accompany their statement,²⁹ which announced that they would together seek to increase the number of countries adopting programs of universal social protection, and indicated potential sources of “sustainable domestic financing” on which they would focus.³⁰ The concept note promised a short-term work program that would include preparing case studies of countries successfully providing universal protection, analysing the financial consequences of making social protection universal within individual countries, exploring innovative resourcing methods, and continuing to work on developing statistics for a social protection monitoring framework.

EU-SPS

A noteworthy example of an independent donor initiative in this arena is the European Union Social Protection Systems Programme (EU-SPS), which has been set up to support low and middle-income countries in building their social protection systems. The Programme, which will run from 2015 to 2018, is funded by the European Union, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Government of Finland. The initiative will focus on reforms to social protection in each of 10 selected countries in Africa and Asia. It will provide technical assessments, develop analytical tools and strengthen capacities of policymakers, implementation planners and service providers. The kick-off meeting for the project took place at OECD in Paris on 16 September 2015.³¹

3. International public finance for social protection

The programs of international cooperation that explicitly address SPFs, such as noted above, are viewed as helping countries meet what are fully their domestic responsibilities. This is as it should be

²⁶ See “Social Protection Interagency Board: Terms of Reference,” (http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---nylo/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_211033.pdf).

²⁷ See <http://www.socialprotectionfloor-gateway.org/24.htm>.

²⁸ Joint statement by World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim and ILO Director General Guy Ryder, Geneva, 30 June 2015.

²⁹ ILO and World Bank, “A shared mission for universal social protection: Concept Note” (http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/genericdocument/wcms_378996.pdf).

³⁰ Four sources of funding were mentioned, including reallocation of funds from other government outlays, increased tax revenues, increased contributions to enlarged social insurance schemes and use of funds freed up by reduced government debt servicing. There is no mention of international financial collaboration as such, although relief from debt servicing could in principle result from internationally negotiated workouts from external debt overhangs.

³¹ See <http://www.oecd.org/dev/inclusivesocietiesanddevelopment/eu-social-protection-systems-programme.htm>.

under most circumstances. Nevertheless, there are situations that demand efforts beyond national capacities and that thus warrant international financial assistance. This is not controversial, as voluntary global outpourings of official and private funds to mitigate suffering after natural and human catastrophes attests. What is controversial is how much international support is needed of what types in what situations and for how long. While not usually phrased as addressing the need to maintain social protection, humanitarian assistance may be considered a starting point for configuring an international public role in social protection.

International humanitarian finance for emergencies

International assistance in humanitarian emergencies is provided through voluntary donations by governments and charities, based on official and private assessments of need.³² The funds assist refugees, respond to the harm from earthquakes and help replace food lost due to drought, nurture civilians in conflict situations, and so on. Increasingly, donors are working with the governments of crisis countries to provide some of their support in the form of cash transfers. Indeed, the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016 “saw several concrete commitments for scaling up the use of cash transfers in conjunction with national social protection schemes.”³³ While humanitarian and economic assistance have long been counted as separate categories of international cooperation, increased provision of emergency international support through cash transfers such as are used in many systems of social protection suggests that the two concepts of international assistance might overlap more than generally realized.

World Bank crisis financing

Most financing by the World Bank is aimed at long-term development, although the Bank has also found itself called upon to support developing countries that have to cope with natural disasters and economic crisis situations. Some of the Bank’s long-term investments embody efforts at crisis and disaster prevention. The Bank has also supported efforts to help countries prepare to deal with crises or disasters when they occur. This includes helping them to plan for surges in needed financial resources, such as by helping countries launch “catastrophe bonds” in international financial markets, in which the investor foregoes the principal and unpaid interest in the event a named catastrophe occurs, freeing up funds for the crisis-hit country (the borrowing government pays a higher interest rate for inclusion of this option).

Recently, the Bank has sought to prepare more systematically for assisting poor countries in future crises. That is, in 2011 it created two additional financial mechanisms for the low-income countries that are eligible to draw from its International Development Association (IDA). One is the Crisis Response Window, which aims to supplement UN and other emergency assistance so as “to maintain the pre-existing path of spending on education, health and operations and maintenance of existing infrastructure, and to maintain, or potentially increase, depending on the nature of the crisis, spending on safety nets.”³⁴ The other is the Immediate Response Mechanism, which allows countries to draw down undisbursed balances from ongoing investment projects as part of their responses to specified emergencies.³⁵ Support under both mechanisms is viewed as complementing other efforts of the international community and is thus quite constrained in overall amount and in country eligibility.

³² For example, the United Nations assessed that \$21.6 billion in contributions were needed as of mid-2016 to assist 95.4 million people in 40 countries (United Nations (2016), *Global Humanitarian Overview, 2016*, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, June status report).

³³ Chair’s summary, United Nations Secretary-General, World Humanitarian Summit, Istanbul, 23-24 May 2016 (<https://consultations.worldhumanitariansummit.org/bitcache/5171492e71696bcf9d4c571c93dfc6dcd7f361ee?vid=581078&disposition=inline&op=view>).

³⁴ See <http://www.worldbank.org/ida/CRW/Operation-Crisis-Response-Window.pdf>

³⁵ The Bank earlier devised an emergency financing option for countries borrowing from the less-concessional IBRD loan window, known as a Catastrophe Delayed Drawdown Option (Cat DDO). It is a line of credit that can be available for up to 15 years (3 years initially) to draw upon in case of natural catastrophes. See “Costa Rica Cat DDO,” Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance Program, World Bank, March 2012 (<http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/927341468191352762/pdf/97465-BRI-Box391476B-PUBLIC-study-CostaRicaCatDDO-Final.pdf>).

IMF crisis financing

In the family of multilateral institutions, the World Bank is meant to focus on long-term public investments, traditionally dams, bridges and other infrastructure, but with a wider scope of lending today. When crises occur, the Bank contributes emergency financing because it can. However, the primary institution for dealing with economic crises is the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Typically, IMF loans to governments are not earmarked for specific uses, although borrowing governments have to agree to sets of policy changes to obtain the loans (“conditionality”). A process of negotiation between the Fund and the borrowing government is thus required before any disbursement, making IMF funding perhaps the second line of response to a crisis but not the first. On the other hand, Fund programs can be quite large.

In June 2015, IMF increased the potential size of its standard concessional loans to the poorest countries and raised the cap on borrowing from two special loan “windows”, the Rapid Credit Facility (RCF) for low-income countries and the Rapid Financing Instrument (RFI) for middle and upper-income countries. It also reduced the interest rate on RCF loans to zero.³⁶ In addition, the IMF reshaped an earlier trust fund for assisting Haiti after its earthquake and created the Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust in February 2015, which would provide funds to low-income countries experiencing disasters (in particular, the Ebola outbreak) with which to pay interest and principle on IMF loans falling due.³⁷

Multilateral and Paris Club debt relief

Finally, it may be noted that the usual first priority of government expenditure is paying interest and principal on its debt. It may seem unnatural, but that is the standard pledge made to the creditors as a condition of the loans. Several authors have proposed writing the loan contracts differently, such as correlating interest payments with economic growth rates or the prices of key export commodities, or building in contingency clauses to allow the borrower to decide to delay payments in times of stress.³⁸ However, private finance has not expressed a demand for such credit instruments except as part of a negotiated debt restructuring, i.e., after a country has become insolvent so that full repayment under original terms is no longer possible.

In workouts from insolvency, private creditors accept to receive less than full repayment because they have no other option. Public creditors do as well, but they may also accept less than full repayment for policy reasons other than insolvency. For example, the expressed motivation for the relief accorded to heavily indebted poor countries by IMF, the World Bank and certain regional development banks under the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative of 2005 was to better enable the debtor countries to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.³⁹ Other creditors were not expected to join the multilateral institutions in offering additional relief. In addition, the Paris Club of major official government creditors has agreed on various occasions to unilaterally offer to postpone debt repayments falling due from crisis-affected countries so as to free up national resources to fight their crises.⁴⁰

³⁶ See IMF (2015), “Financing for Development: Enhancing the financial safety net for developing countries,” IMF Policy Paper, July.

³⁷ IMF, Press release No. 15/53, 13 February 2015.

³⁸ Known as the “bisque clause” when included in loan contracts, this option has a long history (see Enrique Cosío-Pascal (2010), “Paris Club: Intergovernmental relations in debt restructuring,” in Barry Herman, José Antonio Ocampo and Shari Spiegel, eds. *Overcoming Developing Country Debt Crises* (Oxford: Oxford University Press), pp. 231-276).

³⁹ IMF, “The Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative: Fact Sheet” (<https://www.imf.org/external/np/exr/facts/mdri.htm>).

⁴⁰ Cases include a three-year deferral of payments falling due by Honduras and Nicaragua owing to hurricane damage in 1998 and a three-year deferral for Liberia in 2008 owing to the impact of its long-standing internal political conflict (<http://www.clubdeparis.org/en/communications/page/exceptional-treatments-in-case-of-crisis>).

4. Global advocacy campaigns for SPFs

It would seem, based on the above, that the principle of providing official international assistance to countries facing crisis and disaster situations has been fully accepted. This is clearly an expression of international solidarity aimed at extending relief and recovery measures to affected populations. This is not to say, however, that the financial support is enough or of the right type. One can certainly conceive of ways to do better. In particular, once a country has adopted a social protection floor and set about to assure the domestic financial resources to maintain it under normal up and down circumstances, it would be important to have assured international support to maintain that floor during unusually difficult circumstances. Moreover, for countries in fragile or post-conflict situations, or where poverty is extreme, it would be in the interest of national and global peace to provide international support with temporary funding of the social protection floor. Moreover, the mere existence of widespread extreme poverty should be taken as a warning sign of possible future social and political fragility, flagging a compelling reason to institute and safeguard social protection floors. Motivated by these social justice and solidarity—if not also security—considerations, civil society organizations have been campaigning to increase international as well as domestic funding for SPFs.

Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors

In 2012, a group of civil society organizations formed the Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors to advocate everywhere for implementation of the principles on social protection floors contained in ILO recommendation 202. The Coalition produces videos, photo exhibitions, briefing papers, convenes meetings around the world and in other ways advocates for SPFs.

One focus of its attention has been in promoting a financing proposal that had been made in 2012 by two UN Human Rights Special Rapporteurs, Olivier de Schutter and Magdalena Sepúlveda, to deepen international cooperation on social protection floors.⁴¹ Its featured innovation was to create a new international fund, the Global Fund for Social Protection (GFSP). In essence the authors proposed a Fund with two branches:

- A Facility Branch which would assist countries to meet shortfalls in domestic resources for financing SPFs, focusing, in particular on the least developed countries.
- A Reinsurance Branch which would provide temporary support to countries that experience surges in the cost of SPF provisioning as a result of shocks such as substantial declines in prices of export commodities, severe climate-related events or natural disasters as well as pandemic outbreaks.

The proposal took no position as regards the institutional arrangements that could be used to mobilize international funding from high-income countries that would be channelled to low-income countries, albeit mentioning that a formal fund could be established, which could be managed by a new body or an existing international institution. Alternatively, direct bilateral earmarked support could be provided by donor countries to partner countries.

In support of this proposal, the Global Coalition mobilized 85 civil society organizations or networks to promote the GFSP.⁴² The Coalition has been focusing on the concepts put forward for the Facility Branch, i.e., assisting countries to overcome shortfalls in their domestic resources for establishing or strengthening SPFs, complemented by temporary funding for roughly 10 countries that are estimated to be too poor to fully cover social protection floor obligations out of domestic resources.

Think tank advocacy

One rather remarkable phrase in the Addis Agenda is “we commit to a new social compact” (para 12). There are only 155 words in the paragraph containing that commitment and no reference to a more

⁴¹ Olivier de Schutter and Magdalena Sepúlveda (2012), “Underwriting the Poor: A Global Fund for Social Protection,” United Nations, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Briefing Note 7, October.

⁴² “A global fund for social protection: a proposal for the Conference on Financing for Development, Addis Ababa, July 2015” (see <http://www.socialprotectionfloorscoalition.org/members/members-of-the-global-coalition> for the text and a current list of signatories).

elaborated intergovernmental agreement explaining what such an important statement might contain. There is, however, a 79 page report from the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) in London detailing what a “global social compact to eradicate poverty” should look like.⁴³ Financed by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, the report was addressed explicitly to the negotiators of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. Social protection in the sense of cash transfers to people below the international extreme poverty benchmark was a central part of the proposed ODI social compact, along with universal health coverage and universal primary and secondary education. The cash transfer programme for countries that lacked adequate domestic funding sources would be supported by an international fund, denoted the “Bolsa Familia Global.” UN Member States did not embrace the proposed fund, although the broad social concepts, as noted above, found their way into the internationally agreed texts.

Another team of scholars, this time at the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance, contributed analytically to the campaign for social protection. They produced a Social Protection Floor Index (SPFI) which uses estimates of a population’s income security and health coverage to rank middle and low-income countries on their shortfalls in meeting SPF provisioning, measured against standards derived from the definitions in the ILO Recommendation 202.⁴⁴ While the composition and extent of each country’s actual social protection floor should be decided through national dialogue, the index was meant to provide a rough benchmark from which to compare countries’ SPF financing capacities and needs. According to the SPFI, many middle income countries have index values of zero or close to zero, indicating no gaps or only small gaps in their funding requirements, which they could meet themselves through budget re-allocations or other means without having recourse to external financing. Countries with wider gaps are deemed to possibly require some support to help them strengthen the human capacity and administrative structures of their SPF systems. Countries at the bottom of the ranking where the resources needed are estimated to exceed a benchmark that would need to be selected, say 15% of gross domestic product, would likely require grant financing, such as from official development assistance, for meeting recurrent costs for a while as well as start-up costs. The tool could also be used for monitoring progress and assessing the need for continuing financial support over time.

Lobbying intergovernmental bodies

In addition to types of efforts noted above, some civil society organizations are accredited to UN bodies and may lobby Member States both through oral and written statements in official meetings and individually. Thus, the International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW) has promoted a proposal at the UN for a resolution in the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on Social Protection Floors, via advocacy at the 54th Session (2016) of the Commission on Social Development.⁴⁵ The objective was to garner political support and commitment throughout the UN System for the implementation of social protection floors at national level as a core target of the SDGs. Adoption of such a resolution first at ECOSOC (accomplished in June 2016) and then at the level of the General Assembly (possibly in its autumn 2016 session) would strengthen the political impact of ILO Recommendation 202, and express political commitment for advancing universal social protection.⁴⁶

⁴³ Romilly Greenhill, Paddy Carter, Chris Hoy and Marcus Manuel (2015), *Financing the Future: How international public finance should fund a global social compact to eradicate poverty*, Overseas Development Institute, London, April.

⁴⁴ Mira Bierbaum, Annalena Opiel, Sander Tromp and Michael Cichon (2016), “Social Protection Floor Index - Monitoring National Social Protection Policy Implementation.” Discussion Paper, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, April (<http://library.fes.de/pdf-files/iez/12490.pdf>).

⁴⁵ Sergei Zelenev (2015), “Inter-Agency collaboration on social protection”. In *ICSW Global Cooperation Newsletter*, November.

⁴⁶ The Social Commission adopted a draft resolution E/CN.5/2016/L.3 on 12 February 2016, which proposed that the Economic and Social Council adopt a resolution that would, *inter alia*, encourage Member States to further develop their social protection systems, including floors, taking note of ILO Recommendation 202 (para. 7) and call upon States to provide “fiscally sustainable and nationally appropriate social protection systems, including floors” (para. 12). Such a resolution was adopted by consensus by the Council on 2 June 2016 (see E/2016/26, draft resolution III).

5. Conclusions: the value added of the initiative

As may be seen, not only have social protection floors come into the accepted international vocabulary of sustainable development, but several international SPF initiatives are currently being implemented, focused on assisting individual countries to introduce, assess, expand, or manage national social protection floors. The proposals for a new global fund for financing and technical assistance for SPFs, as put forward by de Schutter and Sepúlveda or by ODI, have not gained official support. Indeed, one additional proposal, which was recently made in an official venue, namely, SPIAC-B at its November 2015 meeting, would create a Social Protection Multi-Donor Trust Fund. It was accepted as an idea to “explore” but on condition that it include “no funding of benefits”.⁴⁷ At the same time, as noted above, multilateral financial institutions, as well as individual donors, have boosted their programmes to support countries experiencing economic crises or natural disasters, including helping them maintain their social protection floors during times of stress, whether or not explicitly stated that way. There are things here on which to build.

SocDevJustice is thus proposing a program of work that would take international discussion a step further, leading—it may be hoped—to formal consideration and then adoption of one or more international policy proposals or guidelines on the funding of social protection floors in normal and crisis times. The project would seek to further define means by which the international community could best help countries to initiate the process of creating or expanding social protection floors, thereby enhancing on-going support initiatives. It would also boost financial assistance in situations of extreme poverty and fragility, as well as invest in means to assure that national social protection floors can provide the requisite services in the face of the volatilities in the global economy and economic, health and environment-related shocks.

This background discussion accompanies a proposal to organize a set of international discussions that would provide contextual information, deepen conceptual thinking, provide expert analyses, suggest guiding principles on financing social protection floors, and propose concrete mechanisms for coherent international cooperation to these ends. As is, international support to social protection is provided by different donors and creditors on different terms and with different earmarking of the funds provided. The assisted government requires a strong and capable administration to impose coherence on its international support, especially during difficult times. Extracting lessons from individual country experiences can be very useful here.

In sum, the SocDevJustice initiative seeks to complement the initiatives that have already won international support by deepening consideration of additional domestic and international measures to assure that adequate funding is available in good times and bad times, and to ensure implementation of SPFs in the poorest countries and in the most fragile situations, so as to deliver on the promise of universal social protection. The collective pledge of the world’s governments in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to “leave no one behind” requires just such efforts.

⁴⁷ See http://www.ilo.org/newyork/issues-at-work/social-protection/social-protection-inter-agency-cooperation-board/seventh-meeting/WCMS_446540/lang--en/index.htm.

III - Biographies of Initiative Coordinators and Expert Advisers

Coordinators of the initiative

Ms Gemma Adaba is a Member of the Advisory Board of SocDevJustice. Currently, Ms Adaba works as an international development consultant. The policy focus of her work includes global labor and employment, gender, early childhood education, and social protection. Recently, she has served as a consultant to the UN Women Project: “Gender and the Aid Effectiveness Modalities”, to the UNICEF/ILO Project: “*Supporting Workers with family responsibilities: connecting child development and the decent work agenda*” and to the UNICEF Project: “*Strengthening Families, a Two-generational Solution: Women's Economic Empowerment and Early Childhood Care and Development*” She was the Representative of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) to the United Nations in New York, from 1999 to 2010. In that capacity, she followed the major conferences and intergovernmental meetings of the UN on thematic areas related to financing for development, as well as social, economic and development policies more broadly. She has written a number of policy briefs, statements and research papers in the thematic areas outlined above.

Mr. Barry Herman, PhD is a Member of the Advisory Board of SocDevJustice. For the past decade, Mr. Herman taught courses on public finance and sovereign debt and on inclusive finance in the Graduate Program in International Affairs of The New School in New York. He retired from the United Nations Secretariat in December 2005 after almost 30 years of service, where he led a team undertaking research and supporting negotiations on international economic and financial issues. For example, he led the staff team that produced the *World Economic and Social Survey* for five years (1995-99) and he supported the intergovernmental preparations and follow-up of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey, Mexico. He publishes frequently on economic and financial policy and has consulted on global economic governance, sovereign debt and other international financial issues for the UN, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the German Development Ministry, the World Council of Churches and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung. He holds a PhD (Economics) from the University of Michigan and an MBA (Business Economics) from the University of Chicago.

Expert Advisers

Mr. Michael Cichon, PhD is Honorary Professor in Social Protection at UNU-MERIT/School of Governance where he teaches in the joint ILO/University of Maastricht Master’s course on social protection financing. This follows a career of over 25 years at the ILO, culminating in the position of Director of the Social Security Department. While at the ILO, he served as social security specialist on the ILO advisory team for Central and Eastern Europe in Budapest (1992-95). He undertook and supervised technical co-operation projects in more than 30 countries, and writes on social security policy, financing and governance issues. He holds a Masters degree in Pure and Applied Mathematics (Technical University, Aachen, Germany), a Masters degree in Public Administration (Harvard University) and a Ph.D. in Economics (University of Göttingen, Germany). He is a member of the German Actuarial Association (DAV) and is a past President of the International Council on Social Welfare.

Mr. Anis (Anisuzzaman) Chowdhury, PhD, a Bangladeshi by birth, returned to his home in Australia in January 2016, completing an eight-year career in the United Nations Secretariat, which began and ended in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in New York but included senior positions in economics and statistics in the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok, where he was responsible for various ESCAP flagship publications. Previously, he was Professor of Economics at the University of Western Sidney and taught also at the Universities of

Singapore, New England (Australia) and Manitoba. He was a founding managing editor of the *Journal of the Asia Pacific Economy* (1995-2008), where he remains on its editorial board. He has published widely on East and Southeast Asia and on macro-development issues. He holds a PhD from the University of Manitoba (1983) and honours and master's degrees from Jahangirnagar University of Bangladesh (1976 and 1978).

Ms Eva Hanfstaengl is Executive Director of SocDevJustice. Ms Hanfstaengl currently works as Policy Officer at Bread for the World in Germany, a member of the global NGO network ACT Alliance. She works and publishes papers on Financing for Development and on the G20. Formerly she worked as a consultant on issues of global governance, financing for development, external debt and social development policy. Between 2009 and 2010 she worked for the United Nations Division for Social Policy and Development, undertaking a study on the impact of global crises on civil society organizations. In 2008 she assisted the Global Social Economy Group in coordinating the advocacy work of international non-governmental organizations at the United Nations. From 1999 to 2004 she worked as Senior Policy Officer for United Nations, International Monetary Fund and World Bank related issues at the headquarters of CIDSE, an international umbrella of 16 Catholic development organizations. Before that she worked several years in the Development Service (KED) at the headquarters of the Evangelical Church in Germany. She studied economic geography.

Mr. Peter Heller, PhD is currently Visiting Professor of Economics at Williams College in Massachusetts. He was previously Deputy Director of the Fiscal Affairs Department at the International Monetary Fund, where he advised developed and developing countries for over 30 years on macroeconomic policy issues. He has published widely on ageing, health care and social security, fiscal policy, taxation and government expenditure, including on the relationship of “fiscal space” to health and the Millennium Development Goals. He holds a PhD in Economics from Harvard (1971). Owing to current obligations, he becomes available to join the advisory group on 1 April 2017.

Ms Katja Hujo, PhD is Senior Research Coordinator in the Social Policy and Development Programme of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), and a member of the Institute's Senior Management Group. She is coordinator of the forthcoming UNRISD flagship report “Policy Innovations for Transformative Social Change – an UNRISD Contribution to the Implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda”. Katja joined UNRISD in 2006. Her academic work focuses on social policy, poverty reduction and economic development. Much of her research is at the interface of economics and politics, for example her research on the political economy of pension reform, on social protection and poverty reduction, on social policy in mineral-rich contexts, and more recently, on the politics of domestic resource mobilization. She has also coordinated a series of think pieces for UNRISD on financing social development in support of preparations for the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in 2015.

Mr. John Langmore is Professorial Fellow in the School of Social and Political Sciences at the University of Melbourne. He also teaches the graduate subject United Nations: Review and Reform in the Master of International Relations course and Socio-Economic Development for the Master of Development Studies. At present he is researching and publishing on global governance, Australian foreign policy, conflict resolution, and development. He retired from parliament in 1996 after serving as a Member for 12 years to become Director of the UN Division for Social Policy and Development in New York, where he served for five years. He then became Representative of the International Labour Organization to the United Nations for two years. He was responsible for the organization of the 24th Special Session of the General Assembly in 2000, which was the first world conference to agree on the global target for halving serious poverty by 2015. Mr. Langmore holds a Diploma of Development Economics (RSA and Cambridge University Local Syndicate, 1973), Master of Economics (Monash University, 1969), Diploma of Social Studies (University of Melbourne, 1963) and Bachelor of Commerce (University of Melbourne, 1963).

Ms Isabel Ortiz, PhD is a Member of the Advisory Board of SocDevJustice. Ms Ortiz is Director of Social Protection at the ILO. In 2012-2013, she was the Director of the Global Social Justice Program at the Initiative for Policy Dialogue at Columbia University. Earlier, she was Associate Director of

Policy and Strategy for UNICEF (2009-2012) and Senior Advisor at the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations (2005-2009). During 1995-2003, she was a Project Economist and senior official at the Asian Development Bank (ADB), where she was a founding member of its Poverty Reduction Unit. In 1993-95 she was a researcher at the Department of International Economics of the High-Level Council of Scientific Research (CSIC) and a lecturer at Madrid and Salamanca Universities in Spain. In 1992-93 she worked at the European Commission in Brussels and in 1991 at the Buenos Aires office of the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Isabel Ortiz has worked in more than 40 countries in all regions of the world, providing advisory services to governments and development institutions. Additionally, she actively supports policy advocacy work of civil society organizations. Isabel has a PhD from the London School of Economics and numerous publications, among them, *Social Protection in Asia and the Pacific* (2001), *Social Policy in National Development Strategies* (2008), *Child Poverty and Inequality* (2012) and *A Recovery for All* (2012).

Ms Magdalena Carmona Sepúlveda, PhD was the United Nations Independent Expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty from March 2008 to June 2011. She was the UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights from June 2011 to June 2014. Ms Sepúlveda was a Senior Research Associate at UNRISD (United Nations Research Institute for Social Development) from 2013 to June 2015, where she supported the development of a web-based resource platform, Linking Social Protection and Human Rights, and wrote a paper on “Human Rights, Poverty, and Social Policy”. She has worked as a researcher at the Netherlands Institute for Human Rights, as a staff attorney at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, and as the Co-Director of the Department of International Law and Human Rights of the United Nations-mandated University for Peace in San José, Costa Rica. She also served as a consultant to the Division of International Protection of UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees), and to the Norwegian Refugee Council in Colombia. She was Research Director at the International Council on Human Rights Policy in Geneva, and Associate Research Fellow at the Norwegian Center for Human Rights. Ms. Sepúlveda is a Chilean lawyer who holds a PhD in International Human Rights Law from Utrecht University in the Netherlands, an LLM in human rights law from the University of Essex in the United Kingdom, and a postgraduate diploma in comparative law from the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile.