



Minutes High level special event South-South dialogue on the Social Protection Floor Initiative

Tuesday, 2 February 2010

3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

UN headquarters New York - Conference Room 8

Present:

Chair: H.E. Mr. Zachary D. Muburi Muita, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of Kenya to the United Nations, President of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation

Mr. Yiping Zhou, Director Special Unit for South-South Cooperation

Ms. Jane Stewart, Special Representative and Director of the ILO New York Office to the United Nations

Mr. Werner Obermeyer, Deputy Executive Director of the WHO Office at the United Nations

Mr. Christian Jacquier - Chief of country operations and technical cooperation, Social Security Department, ILO

H.E. Mr. Faustin Diatta, Minister of Social Affairs and Relations with Institutions, Senegal

Mr. Vusi Madonsela, Director General of the Department of Social Development, South Africa

Ms. Alicia R. Bala, Under Secretary Department of Social Welfare and Development, Philippines

Ms. Blanca Lila Garcia, Directora de Asuntos Internacionales, Secretaría de Desarrollo Social (SEDOSOL), Mexico

H.E. Jorge Valero, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Venezuela to the United Nations

Mr. Rets'elisitsoe Khetsi, Principal Secretary Ministry of Labour and Employment, Lesotho

Ms. Françoise Beremwoudougou, Attaché, Permanent mission of Burkia Faso to the United Nations

Mr. Jean Claudy Pierre, Counselor, Permanent Missions of Haiti to the United Nations

Mr. Sudhir Bhattarai, First Secretary, Permanent Missions of Nepal to the United Nations

Ms. Rosa Delia Gomez-Ducan, Counselor, Permanent Missions of Argentina to the United Nations

+ See attendance list in annex

- The High-level meeting on South-South Cooperation held in Nairobi from 1-3 December 2009 concluded with the adoption of the Nairobi Outcome Document on South-South Cooperation which urges the UN system agencies to be more engaged in South-South Cooperation. *Urges United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies to take concrete measures to support South-South cooperation by acting as catalysts for cooperation and strengthening the capabilities of regional organizations.* In-line with this request the International Labour Organization, the World Health Organization and the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation sponsored a high-level special event on South-South cooperation on the Social Protection Floor Initiative.
- The main objective of this meeting was two-fold: (a) to support and facilitate an exchange of knowledge and experiences across the South on complementarities, best practices, lessons learned in establishing social protection floors while also examining existing opportunities and obstacles; (b) to establish a consortium of member states from the South in supporting efforts to establish and/or expand social protection floors.
- In his opening remarks, Mr. Zhou (Director Special Unit for South-South Cooperation) emphasised that south-south cooperation related to social protection is new, but it can help to enhance the social impact of development. He stressed that it is well recognised that the knowledge, skills, and technical expertise which can be exchanged through south-south co-operation are in many cases those most suitable to meeting the development challenges faced by others in the South. There is a lot of knowledge in the countries of the south with respect to setting up social protection schemes (a lot of countries of the south have already successfully taken measures to introduce elements of national social protection floors). He listed some examples of Flagship programmes:

- Oportunidades and Seguro Popular in Mexico
- Bolsa Familia in Brazil
- the subsidized health insurance scheme in Colombia
- the child, old-age and invalidity grant system in South-Africa
- the health insurance scheme in Rwanda
- the unfolding 100-day-employment guarantee scheme or Yeshashwini and RSBY schemes for health in India

These experiences show us that good policies can make a difference for people (for example Brazil has already achieved Development Goal on poverty reduction, ten years before the 2015 UN deadline, its inequality levels are the lowest in the country's recent history).

- Ms. Stewart (Director of the ILO New York) confirmed that the ILO and the other cooperating UN agencies of the SPF-I are prepared to promote, coordinate and support South-South cooperation, including peer reviewing arrangements to ensure high quality advice on a national basis.
- Mr. Jacquier (Chief of country operations and technical cooperation, ILO Geneva) gave an extensive presentation on the Social Protection Floor (SPF) activities. The SPF-I was adopted in April 2009 by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board (CEB) as one of its nine key priorities to cope with the current global crisis. The SPF corresponds to a set of essential transfers, services and facilities that all citizens everywhere should enjoy to ensure the realization of the rights embodied in human right treaties.

In his presentation he indicated that a SPF of social transfers is globally affordable at virtually any stage of economic development, even if the funding is not yet available everywhere. He demonstrated the feasibility by several international experiences on Cash Transfers (Household income support in Chili, China, Indonesia, Mozambique,...; Social pensions in Argentina, Brazil; Bangladesh, Nepal, South Africa,...; Child/family benefits in Mozambique, South Africa,...; Cash for work in Argentina, India, Malawi,...; Cash for human development in Bangladesh, Brazil,...), Basic Health Care (Mexico: Seguro Popular – Colombia: Regimen subsidiado – India: RSBY – China: Rural Universal Health Insurance - ...), Emerging Comprehensive SPF (Uruguay: El plan de Equidad – Chili : La red de proteccion social – Brazil – China).

He listed 3 main south-south events that are planned in 2010 related to the SPF-I:

- The ILO will build 3 regional networks to establish and/or expand social protection floors; one in Latin America, one in Africa and one in Asia. These networks will support and facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experiences across the South on complementarities, best practices, lessons learned in establishing social protection floors.
- The ILO will continue supporting capacity building on South-South exchange which can include training sessions.

- The ILO will continue supporting the South-South project ILO-Brazil on the SPF-I to promote good practices and lessons learned in social security schemes in Latin American and Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa and Asia.

Link to this presentation:

<http://www.socialsecurityextension.org/gimi/gess/RessShowRessource.do?ressourceId=16037>

- H.E. Mr. Faustin Diatta (Minister of Social Affairs and Relations with Institutions, Senegal) presented the social protection floor in Senegal.
- Mr. Vusi Madonsela (Director General of the Department of Social Development, South Africa) presented South Africa's Basic Social Protection Floor. He focused on Pillar 1 of South Africa's Social Protection Framework: 'Providing a basic SPF as promoted by the United Nations'. The scope encompasses targeted social assistance, targeted free healthcare, targeted free basic education, universal free basic services (water, electricity and sanitation), public works programmes and a tapestry of free welfare programmes. He stressed that South-Africa is convinced that a SPF (cash transfers, complemented by basic services, including health and education) will in the fullness of time, brake the cycle of inter-generational transmission of poverty. South Africa is already involved in benchmarking activities in Latin America which includes exchanges with Brazil, Chile and India.

Link to this presentation:

<http://www.socialsecurityextension.org/gimi/gess/RessShowRessource.do?ressourceId=16172>

- Mr. Jean Claudy Pierre (Counselor, Permanent Missions of Haiti to the United Nations) asked for support from the global south and the UN partners on building up their country. He stressed that they will need their support to build a SPF (to include a SPF in Haiti's recovery plan). It is important to learn from each other, in order not to make the same mistakes.
- H.E. Jorge Valero (Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Venezuela to the United Nations) presented Venezuela's Social Protection Floor which is based on a system of cooperation and which include several components (nutrition, primary health care, training, education, redistribution of land, music (cultural heritage), military forces, ...). Venezuela gives full support to the SPF-I.
- Mr. Rets'elisoetse Khetsi (Principal Secretary Ministry of Labour and Employment, Lesotho) presented Lesotho's Social Protection Floor which is focused on universal cash benefits.
- Ms. Blanca Lila Garcia (Directora de Asuntos Internacionales, Secretaría de Desarrollo Social SEDESOL, Mexico) presented Mexico's Social Protection Floor. The main purpose of the Mexican Federal Government policies is to reach equal

opportunities for better living, reaching human development and social welfare. The Program Oportunidades supports rural urban families living in extreme poverty conditions. Nowadays the Program helps 5 million families in the 32 federal entities of the country. Oportunidades is one of the main instruments of the integral social policies in Mexico which develops inter-sectorial actions in order to stimulate well being among families living in extreme poverty conditions. Its design combines the delivery of cash transfers with coordinated interventions regarding health, nutrition and education.

Link to Factsheet booklet SEDESAL:

<http://www.socialsecurityextension.org/gimi/gess/RessShowRessource.do?ressourceId=15983>

Mexico emphasized their willingness to share their knowledge with other countries of the global south. They are ready to establish a consortium of member states from the South in supporting efforts to establish and/or expand social protection floors

- Ms. Alicia R. Bala (Under Secretary Department of Social Welfare and Development, Philippines) presented Philippines Social Protection Floor. She stressed that it is up to the UN to build a database where countries can find success stories related to SPF-activities.
- Ms. Stewart (Director of the ILO New York) concluded that the meeting proved that there is an emerging consensus on the importance of a social protection floor for national development processes. The ILO will respond to the request of building a compendium of success stories of SPF-measures in countries.

In response to the High level special event South-South dialogue on the Social Protection Floor Initiative, the UNDP Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, jointly with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and World Health Organization (WHO) as well as the other participating UN agencies of the SPF-Initiative, invite nominations for initiatives with successful social protection floor experiences. Selected nominees will be asked to develop a case study of the Social Protection Floor Initiative (SPF-I) and to present and discuss their experience at an international workshop in Turin, Italy in July 2010. The case studies will be published by the UNDP Special Unit for South-South cooperation as volume 17 of the series 'Sharing Innovative Experiences'.

Proposals of maximum 1 page can be sent in English, French or Spanish and must be submitted online by 31 March 2010.

For more information go to this link:

<http://tcdc2.undp.org/Messaging/nominations/FormCapture.aspx>

ANNEX: SIGN IN SHEET FOR

SPECIAL EVENT ON SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION ON THE SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOOR INITIATIVE

Tuesday, 2 February 2010, 3.00PM – 5.00 PM

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