



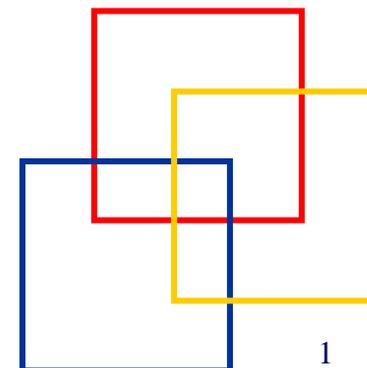
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# How to Give Effect to the Human Right to Social Security

Tripartite Meeting of Experts on Strategies for the Extension  
of Social Security Coverage  
Geneva, 2-4 September 2009

Ursula Kulke  
Social Security Department  
International Labour Office

The ILO Campaign on Social Security and Coverage for All

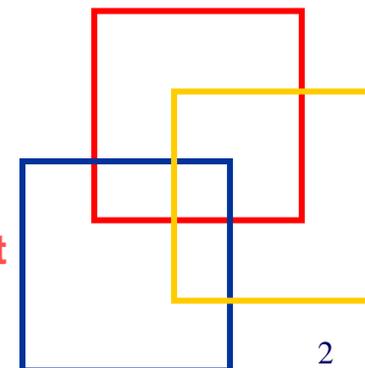




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# Social Security – A basic human right

- **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948):**
  - Article 22: Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security
  - Article 25: Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family
    - *Through the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, UN Member States have recognized social security as a basic human right*
- **International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966):**
  - Article 9: The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to social security, including social insurance
    - *Through ratification, accession or succession 160 UN Member States have committed themselves to work towards social security for everyone.*
  - **While the basic human right to social security was adopted as such in 1948 by the UN, the ILO, as the UN agency specifically charged with setting international labour standards, had been given the primary responsibility since its creation in the realization of that right**



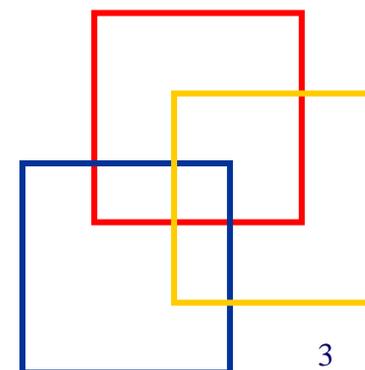


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# The ILO Mandate in the field of social security (1)

## The ILO Mission:

- **Preamble to the ILO Constitution (1919)**: ...to improve conditions of labour, inter alia, through the «*prevention of unemployment, ...the protection of the worker against sickness, disease, and injury arising out of his employment, the protection of children, young persons and women, provision for old-age and injury*»
- **Declaration of Philadelphia (1944)**: to pursue... «*the extension of social security measures to provide a basic income to all in need of such protection and comprehensive medical care*»
  - ***Thus, with the adoption of the the Declaration of Philadelphia, ILO constituents widened the mandate of the Organization from the social security protection of workers and their families to the extension of social security measures to all those in need.***
  - ***This was the first moment in history that the world community declared its commitment to the extension of social security to all***





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## The ILO Mandate in the field of social security (2)

### – Conclusions of the General Discussion (adopted by the ILC 2001):

- Reaffirmed social security as basic human right,
- Confirmed the ILO Mandate in social security, and
- Proposed that the ILO launches a global campaign for the extension of social security for all, which was launched at the ILC 2003

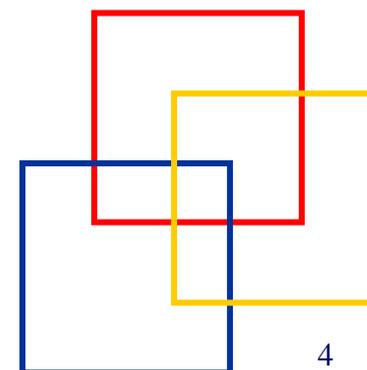
### – ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization (adopted by the ILC 2008): *«recognizes that the ILO has the solemn obligation to further among the nations of the world programmes which will achieve the objectives of ... the extension of social security measures to provide a basic income to all in need along with all the other objectives set out in the Declaration of Philadelphia »*

### – Global Jobs Pact (adopted by the ILC 2009):

Requests countries that do not yet have extensive social security to build “adequate social protection for all, drawing on a basic social protection floor, including:

- Access to health care ,
- Income security for the elderly and persons with disabilities,
- Child benefits, and
- Income security combined with public employment guarantee schemes for the unemployed and the working poor”

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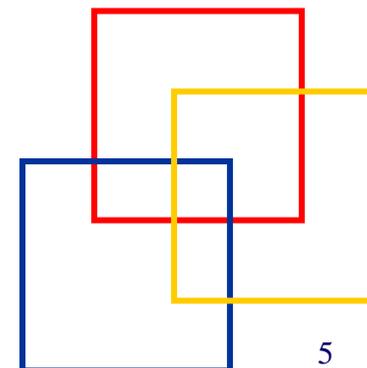


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# Realizing ILO's mandate and the basic human right to social security

## *Under Human rights law...*

- Every human right has a «***minimum core content***» without which the right becomes meaningless.
- Once this minimum core content has been established, countries have the obligation to ***progressively move towards the full realization of the right to social security*** by establishing higher levels of social security protection, according to their social and economic development and to the maximum of their available resources





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# Realizing ILO's mandate and the basic human right to social security

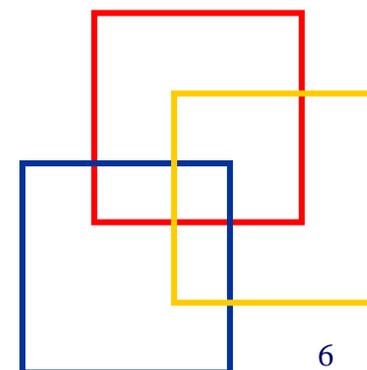
## *For the ILO ....*

From the analysis of the

- *UN Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,*
- *ILO's Constitution and its mandate as defined in the Declaration of Philadelphia,*
- *Conclusions of the ILC in 2001 and the Declaration on Social Justice for a fair Globalization, adopted by the ILC in 2008*

a **two dimensional approach** for the extension of social security can be discerned to assist member States in realizing this basic human right under the campaign strategy

The ILO Campaign on Social Security and Coverage for All



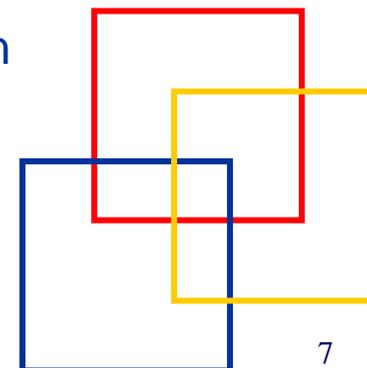


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# Realizing ILO's mandate and the basic human right to social security

## *The two dimensions...*

- The **horizontal dimension** corresponds to the “*minimum core content*” of this basic human right, and consists of an essential level of social security which member States should provide to their people immediately
  - In view of the ILO, this “*minimum core content*” comprises the four essential social security guarantees as
    - *Suggested by the UN Chief Executive Board as part of the wider social protection floor, and*
    - *Laid down in the Global Jobs Pact (June 2009)*
- The **vertical dimension** corresponds to the progressive realization of social security towards the full realization of this right. This comprises higher levels of income security and access to higher quality health care at a level that protects the standard of living of people through predictable benefits as of right

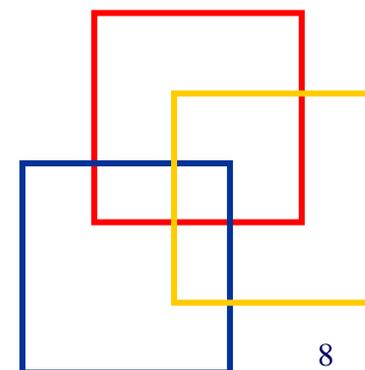




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## ILO's main tools for pursuing its mandate and realizing the basic human right to social security

- ILO's main tools for pursuing its mandate and realizing the basic human right to social security are its **social security standards**
  - Flagship of ILO's six up-to-date Conventions:
    - Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102), as it is the only international social security Convention which
      - Defines the nine classical social security branches,
      - Sets minimum standards for each of these branches, and
      - Lays down internationally agreed social security principles
        - Convention No. 102 thus has had and still has substantial influence at the international, regional and national level and became a symbol for the development of formal social security schemes all over the world
- However, neither Convention No. 102, nor any of the other up-to-date Conventions provide for the **minimum core** level of social security on a universal basis.
  - *It thus appears that the existing standards are appropriate instruments for extending the vertical dimension of social security, while the question arises whether there is the need for a new mechanism which helps countries to put in place the minimum core level of social security*





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*Thank you*

