## Session 5: Extension of social protection, a global priority

**Tuesday, 23 May, 15.30-16.30 (1 hour)**

**Facilitator:** Betina Ramirez, Social Protection Officer for Cambodia, ILO

**Discussants:** Patrik Anderson, Chief, Social Integration Section, Social Development Division,

UNESCAP

Nuno Cunha, Senior Social Protection Specialist for South-East and East Asia and the Pacific, ILO

Oscar Cetrangolo, Professor, Argentina

**Session Note:**

In October 2013, in Brunei Darussalam, ASEAN Heads of State adopted a Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection as one of the key priority areas to achieve growth with equity. The principles set out in the ASEAN Declaration echo ILO’s principles, in particular those of the Social Protection Floors Recommendation, No.202 (2012), adopted by the representatives of the Government, Workers and Employers of 187 ILO Member States, including ASEAN countries. Since 2012, the Recommendation No.202 has served as an accelerator of social protection extension while providing concrete guidance to countries. Furthermore, in 2015, the ILO adopted the Transition from the Informal to the Formal Economy Recommendation, 2015 (No. 204) which recognizes the lack of protection of workers in the informal economy, and provides guidance for improving their protection, including social protection, and facilitating transitions to the formal economy. Moreover, social protection is at the core of the Sustainable Development Agenda, and will play a crucial role in ensuring that no one is left behind by guaranteeing income security and facilitating access to health, education, skills, and decent employment, and ultimately increasing economic growth.

**Objectives of the session:**

Discussions during this session will inform participants on the content of those internationally agreed framework and standards to advance progress in extending social protection. The experience of Latin America will also demonstrate that social protection can indeed have a positive effect on the economic growth.

**Format of the session and methods:**

The session will take the form of a talk show. The main facilitator will have prepared 3 key questions for each discussant to invite them to inform participants on those global developments, and how these commitments and instruments can be used to advocate for improved social protection at national level.

Participants will be invited by the facilitator to submit their questions to the discussants and share concrete experiences when those global commitments have been translated into national strategies and actions, in particular on going national debates to work towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.