

**Statement on behalf of the UN Office for South-South Cooperation, UNDP
by Mr. Francisco Simplicio**

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**Integrating Social Policies and the Delivery of Social Protection Floors
Technical Workshop
Siem Reap, Cambodia**

Dear colleagues and guests,

1. On behalf of the UN Office for South-South Cooperation in UNDP, I would like to begin by congratulating our colleagues and partners at ILO and the Royal Government of Cambodia for having jointly organized this “Technical Workshop on Integrating Social Policies and the Delivery of Social Protection Floors”. The high-level participation from both our host government as well as the distinguished speakers and participants from around the world gathered here today demonstrates the significance of this agenda and the considerable impact social protection floors can have on alleviating poverty.
2. This workshop comes at a critical time as countries in all corners of the world are facing volatile and uncertain fiscal realities. In light of serious resource limitations, we are seeing developing countries increasingly seek innovative ways to prevent people from falling into poverty and empowering those who are poor to escape the poverty trap and find decent jobs. In fact, many developing countries have already successfully taken measures to build their nationally defined social protection floors or to introduce elements thereof – This is clearly evidenced by the impressive and diverse line-up of panelists that will be sharing their experiences with us over the course of the coming days.
3. The results of these measures show us that the impact of the social protection floor on poverty, vulnerability and inequality can be dramatic. The experiences and successes that many countries of the Global South have achieved in their efforts at establishing a social protection floor – as well as many other development-related areas – can provide valuable momentum, information and means for other countries in the South to address similar concerns and challenges. Innovation generated from the South is increasingly recognized a key driver for the development agenda globally and receives broad-based support from developing countries as well as the donor community.
4. This wide-spread support stems in part from the recognition that South-South Cooperation is based on a number of recognized and internationally agreed-upon principles. Grounded in *-national ownership and leadership – equality and horizontality – non-conditionality – mutual benefit and learning, etc* - SSC has the potential enhance national responses to well-defined country priorities

and increase the flow of information, resources, and expertise among developing countries at reduced costs.

5. SSC is essentially a cross-cutting mechanism that can be realized through a variety of types of cooperation among developing countries, including *knowledge and experience sharing – technology exchanges – strengthening of capacities and coalition-building, etc.* It also provides opportunities and options for coordinated action in advancing SSC approaches, such as is exemplified by the Government of China's support for this week's technical workshop.
6. The UN Office for South-South Cooperation has a long history of supporting Member countries in the identification and transfer of Southern knowledge, skills and expertise on the implementation of social protection measures. It is well recognized that the experiences and lessons learned that can be exchanged through South-South cooperation in this field are in many cases those that are particularly suitable for meeting similar development challenges faced by other countries of the South.
7. One of the key pillars of UNOSSC's work in this area has been our ongoing partnership with ILO – a partnership deeply rooted in our shared commitment to enhance Member states' own efforts to establish consistent and coherent frameworks to ensure a basic level of socio-economic security for their populations.
8. In 2011, for example, this partnership resulted in the publication of a compendium of Social Protection Floor Experiences from the South under the *UNOSSC Sharing Innovative Experiences Series.* Together with a number of national and local governmental agencies, scientific institutions and development practitioners we prepared 18 national cases studies that describe the process and key factors in the development and implementation of a social protection floor.
9. The publication of these 18 Southern experiences proved to speak to a broader demand for deeper collaboration on how we can continue to capitalize on and share the knowledge and expertise being generated by developing countries through their varied approaches to establishing a social protection floor.
10. Accordingly, this work served as the basis of the subsequent report to the Secretary General from the Social Protection Floor Advisory Group, chaired by Michelle Bachelet, former Executive Director of UN Women. This report – entitled, *Social Protection Floor for a Fair and Inclusive Globalization* – seeks to enhance global advocacy on the issue and provides guidance on the conceptual and policy aspects of the social protection floor approach.

11. Furthermore, the publication sparked significant demand from Member states for continued support in developing social protection floor policies and an expression of interest in advice and technical assistance in this area. These requests have led to the development of the new joint ILO-UNDP UNOSSC project “South-South and triangular cooperation for the implementation of gender sensitive social protection floors at country level”, which was officially launched in March of last year. This project will further advance the exchange of invaluable knowledge, skills and expertise in this area and will allow an even larger number of Southern policy makers to engage and collaborate with their contemporaries as they face and overcome similar development challenges.
12. Today's Technical Workshop represents an important forum in which we are honored to support this ongoing movement led directly by Member states to better understand, plan and implement social protection schemes - and in particular the vision of the Royal Government of Cambodia. I look forward very much to the valuable insight and discussions that will undoubtedly come out of this event.
13. Thank you