Dear Colleagues,

Earlier this year, ILO Director-General Guy Ryder and United Nations Development Group (UNDG) Chair Helen Clark called for renewed efforts on the part of UN Resident Coordinators (UNRC) and UN Country Teams (UNCT) to realize the aims of the Social Protection Floor Initiative (SPF-I). This Initiative was first set in motion in 2009 by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board (UN CEB) to help individuals and countries deal with the fallout of the global financial and economic crisis.

In July, the UNDG Regional Chair for the Asia-Pacific region and I followed up with UNRCs by way of our own letter, suggesting several steps to facilitate the implementation of social protection floors across the region. This communication contained a resource package, including the “UNDG Asia-Pacific social protection issues brief” and “Social protection assessment-based national dialogue: A good practices guide,” which we recommended be shared with UNCT counterparts.

The ILO is leading the SPF-I, and is working to deliver on its objectives to improve social protection outcomes through enhanced coordination among UN agencies and other development partners in country. In particular, we are working to strengthen the integration of social protection floors as instruments in the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAF).

To these ends, I would ask you to take this initiative forward as you participate with counterparts in your respective UNCTs to pave the way for concrete and effective action to introduce and expand of social protection floors in the Asia and Pacific region. Additionally, I would also like to take this opportunity to hear from you about how this initiative and its aims have been received by others in your countries as well as what potential for future action or conflict you anticipate as we move forward.

If you would, kindly provide your feedback by the end of November to me, Maurizo Bussi and Tine Staermose, and copy our social protection colleagues that are following this initiative closely and remain ready to support you as we move this work forward at the country level and make social protection floors for all a reality across the region: Markus Ruck (ruck@ilo.org), Celine Peyron-Bista (bista@ilo.org), Valerie Schmitt, (schmittv@ilo.org) and James Canonge (canonge@ilo.org).

Please know that I am always available to discuss with you in greater detail our objectives.

Yours sincerely,

Yoshiteru Uramoto
Assistant Director-General
Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific