



International
Labour
Organization

BUILDING SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOORS WITH THE ILO TOGETHER, TO CHANGE MILLIONS OF LIVES THROUGH THE SOCIAL PROTECTION, FREEDOM AND JUSTICE FOR WORKERS NETWORK

MOBILIZING WORKERS FOR IMPLEMENTING AND EXTENDING SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOORS (SPFs)

The Social Protection, Freedom and Justice for Workers Network was initiated in 2017 by the ILO, the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and in collaboration with members of the Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors. It aims to support workers' organisations in the promotion and defence of the right to social protection. Building on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 1.3 on the implementation of nationally appropriate social protection systems and floors for all, the network offers a dedicated space where workers' organisations can build their capacities to:

ADVOCACY

- Advocate for social protection, including improving national social protection systems including floors;
- Contribute to the design and implementation of SPFs;
- Educate workers' organisations' members and the general public about the importance of social protection systems for all and the SPF approach;
- Monitor social protection implementation and administration by holding national governments accountable for the enforcement of the SPF.

DEFENCE

- Defend the right to social protection in contexts of austerity and inadequate short-term adjustments by ensuring that any social security reform is done in the context of tripartite dialogue;
- Mobilize workers to articulate their voices based on ILO Conventions and Recommendations, to guarantee benefit adequacy, predictability, tripartite governance, and long-term sustainability of social security systems.



The engagement of workers' organisations is thus fundamental to ensure that both the design and implementation of SPFs are done through appropriate consultation and national dialogue, guaranteeing that social protection benefits are adequate to the needs of the population. Workers' organisations are well-placed for monitoring the implementation of SPFs, holding their governments accountable for its provision, and striving to guarantee that benefits are sustainable and adequate in the face of austerity and social security reforms.

For decades, workers' organisations all over the world have been prominently fighting for the extension of social protection coverage and defending the safeguard of acquired rights. The knowledge that workers' organisations have been developing, as well as their grounded experiences of struggle on behalf of social protection, comprise essential material for furthering the horizontal and vertical extension of social protection. Workers' organisations' commitment to the defence of social protection is particularly crucial due to the ongoing trend of short-term adjustment measures and social security reforms in 105 countries.

"The UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) now include decent work and social protection, thanks to the hard work of many trade unionists and allies in government. The ITUC, active across all these and the other international issues of concern to workers, has stepped up its integrated and targeted campaign work, with significant results. The race to austerity has further slashed jobs, wages, social protection and consequently dampened demand. We have participated in negotiated fiscal consolidation in many countries at different times, but we would always argue for strategies leveraging a social protection floor and a minimum wage on which people can live with dignity, broader coverage of collective bargaining, and investment in jobs."

Sharan Burrow, General Secretary of ITUC



The network consists of two main components. A **global knowledge-sharing platform** that includes:

- **Policy briefs and policy materials** that consolidate ILO's position on social security reforms, costs and fiscal space for the expansion of social protection floors;
- **Country cases** gathering best practices and documenting examples where workers' organisations have played an important role in establishing social protection floors and in fighting inadequate social security reforms;
- A **web-based curriculum** for workers' organizations (on education, advocacy and accountability for SPFs and comprehensive social security systems);
- **Tools for monitoring SPFs** to equip workers with relevant data on social protection so that they are able to follow the process of implementation of national SPFs.

The second component refers to the organisation of **social protection awareness-raising events, training workshops and education programs for workers** allowing workers' organisations to share their technical expertise and innovative strategies for promoting and defending SPFs through a peer-to-peer approach.

These activities and outcomes are meant to provide workers' organisations with knowledge and arguments that these actors can wield in the context of national dialogue to move other stakeholders (notably the government and employers' organisations) towards the establishment and improvement of social protection floors.

To further discuss your objectives and the ways in which you can contribute to the Social Protection, Freedom and Justice for Workers Network and improve millions of lives, you can contact:



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