

57th Session of the Commission for Social Development United Nations February 11-21 2019

Priority Theme: Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies

Side event: *Accountability Dimension: social protection as a tool for the reduction of inequalities*

February 14, 2019: 13.15-14.45: Conference room 7; United Nations Headquarters, New York.

Co-organised by the International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW), the International Association of the Schools of Social Work (IASSW), the African Platform for Social Protection (APSP), UNESCO's Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme, and the Center for Economic and Social Rights (CESR).

Concept note

The side event will discuss conceptual issues as well as practical solutions pertinent to the priority theme of 57th session of the Commission for Social Development. Its aim is to promote reflection, debate and innovative thinking, including on emerging challenges on social protection as a tool for the reduction of inequalities.

The presenters will focus on the *accountability* dimension of social protection in designing and delivering accountable social protection schemes, the links between social protection and human rights in reducing inequalities and explore the role of civil society in social protection accountability monitoring.

The event is also conceived as a practical step towards strengthening the issue-based approaches of CSocD. The focus on accountability takes account of Agenda 2030's focus on universality and human rights and its call upon the global community to assess, monitor, evaluate, share and discuss progress towards the implement all goals and targets , including target 1.3 on social protection floors.

As shown by the latest evidence and recognized by target 10.4 of the SDGs, social protection is an absolutely critical tool for reducing inequalities, including economic and gender inequalities. To fulfil this role, social protection systems have to be carefully designed and aligned with human rights, so that their redistributive potential is realized, and they challenge rather than reinforce existing hierarchies and prejudices. Despite the fact that the rights-based approach to

social protection has been elucidated further in recent years, the prevailing approach to social protection by governments, major donors and international institutions has not kept pace. This event will explore this tension and propose how social protection policies can in fact contribute to fighting inequality *and* poverty.

The event celebrates the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It will therefore explore the accountability potential of human rights mechanisms for the universal implementation of social and economic rights that relate to social protection. The speakers will address how this framework applies to all stakeholders, with duty bearers and rights holders being accountable for their role in implementing 2030 Agenda, within their respective governance frameworks and scope of responsibility.

Moderated discussion will follow the ten- minute presentations.

All welcome.

Speakers:

Mr. **Vertti Kiukas**, Secretary General of SOSTE, Finnish Federation on Social Sector and Health, Member of the Finish Delegation to the 57th session of the CSocD

Helen Mudora, Programme Manager, Africa Platform for Social Protection (APSP)

Prof. **Lynne Healy**, Main Representative of IASSW to the United Nations;

Cecilie Golden, Programme Specialist, UNESCO's Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme,

Dr. **Sergei Zelenev**, Executive Director, ICSW

Kate Donald, Center for Economic and Social Rights

Moderator:

Sylvia Beales Gelber, Inclusive social development consultant and strategic advisor to the Africa Platform for Social Protection (APSP)

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