



United Nations

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs

**Virtual Expert Group Meeting
on**

“Inclusive and resilient recovery from COVID-19 for sustainable livelihoods, well-being and dignity for all: eradicating poverty and hunger in all its forms and dimensions to achieve the 2030 Agenda”

Division for Inclusive Social Development, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) in collaboration with Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the UN Regional Commissions

29 - 30 July and 2 - 3 August 2021

Draft Agenda

Thursday 29 July (Day 1)

Opening Session

Welcome and introductory remarks

7:45am – 8:00am (NYT)

Welcome remarks: **Ms. Daniela Bas**, Director of DISD, UNDESA
Opening statement: **Mr. Maximo Torero**, Chief Economist, FAO

Introduction: **Ms. Makiko Tagashira**, Officer-in-Charge, Social Policy Analysis Section, GDSDB, DISD, UNDESA

The format, objectives, and expected outputs of the 4-day expert group meeting

Session 1

Emerging trends on poverty and hunger: differentiated impacts of COVID-19

8:00am – 8:30am (NYT)

Moderator: Prof. **Paulo L dos Santos**, Associate Professor of Economics, New School for Social Research

Presentation: (7 – 10 minutes per presentation)

Ms. Hantamalala Rafalimanana, Social Affairs Officer, DISD/UNDESA, “Poverty trends at the world and regional levels: Impacts of the COVID-19 crisis”

Mr. Talip Kilic, Senior Economist at the World Bank, “socioeconomic impacts and responses to COVID-19 in Sub-Saharan Africa, emerging from the high-frequency phone survey systems”

Mr. Nicholas Sitko, Senior Economist, Inclusive Rural Transformation and Gender Equality Division, FAO, “Understanding the impacts of COVID 19 on rural livelihoods”

8:30am – 9:10am (NYT)

Interactive discussion

Aim: This session aims to review recent trends in poverty and hunger in all their forms and dimensions at the global and regional levels and examine how the COVID-19 pandemic and its socio-economic consequences have affected the livelihoods, well-being, and dignity of people. Beyond global trends, it will examine the differentiated impact of COVID-19 on different population groups and geographical locations. It will also examine existing gaps, and how these

emerging trends and new challenges are re-shaping the path to achieving the objectives of 2030 Agenda.

Guiding questions:

- What is the impact of COVID-19 on poverty and hunger globally?
- How is COVID-19 affecting the trajectories of achieving the 2030 Agenda, in particular SDG 1 and 2?
- How have various regions and countries been impacted differently?
- Within countries, which segments of society are most vulnerable to falling into poverty and experiencing food insecurity due to the impacts of COVID-19?

Lead discussant:

Mr. Saurabh Sinha, Chief, Social Policy Section, Gender, Poverty and Social Policy Division, UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

Expert participants:

Ms. Rita Sciarra, Regional Team Leader for Inclusive Growth In LAC, UNDP

Ms. Maria-Laura Fornella-Oehninger, Representative to the United Nations/NY Soroptimist International, and Co-Chair of the UN NGO Committee on Social Development

Ms. Jean Quinn, Director, UNANIMA International

10 minutes break

Session 2

Measures to protect those at risk of falling into poverty and experiencing hunger, including due to the impact of COVID-19

9:20am – 9:50am (NYT)

Moderator:

Ms. Christina Behrendt, Head of the Social Policy Unit, Social Protection Department, ILO

Presentations (7 – 10 minutes per presentation)

Dr. Andrew Shepherd, Director, Chronic Poverty Advisory Network, Overseas Development Institute

Dr. Diana Alarcón González, Chief advisor to the mayor and foreign affairs coordinator for Mexico City

Ms. Dorothee Allain-Dupré, Head of Division, Regional Development and Multi-level Governance, OECD (Video)

9:50am – 10:30am (NYT)

Interactive discussion

Aim: This session aims to identify effective measures taken by countries across regions to protect those at risk of falling into poverty and experiencing hunger due to the impacts of COVID-19 (including, extending social transfers, unemployment benefits, wage subsidies, food assistance, health coverage, sick leave, paid leave, etc.). It will also identify existing gaps, identify effective policies and measures, and explore innovative strategies to finance these interventions.

Guiding questions:

- What are the most effective short- and medium-term policy interventions to support those most at-risk populations?
- What are the gaps in existing national strategies and policies?
- How can governments sustainably finance these policy interventions?

Lead discussant:

Mr. Michael Danquah, Development economist and a Research Fellow at UNU-WIDER

Expert participants:

Dr. Santosh Mehrotra, Visiting Professor, Centre for Development, University of Bath, UK
Ms. Natalia Winder Rossi, Director/Global Chief of Social Policy, Programme Division, UNICEF
Ms. Maya Takagi, Regional Programme Leader Regional office for Latin America and the Caribbean, FAO
Ms. Maria-Laura Fornella-Oehninger, Representative to the United Nations/NY Soroptimist International, and Co-Chair of the UN NGO Committee on Social Development
Ms. Jean Quinn, Executive Director, UNANIMA International
Ms. Véronique M. Choquette, Senior Policy & Programme Development Advisor, Club de Madrid

Friday 30 July (Day 2)

Session 3

Linking temporary measures to forward-looking policies and strategies: Recovering better to ensure sustainable livelihoods, well-being, and dignity for all people

8:00am – 8:30am (NYT)

Moderator:

Dr. Arjan de Haan, Director of Inclusive Economies Program, International Development Research Centre

Presentations (7 – 10 minutes per presentation)

Prof. Rolph van der Hoeven, Member of the United Nations Committee for Development Policy (CDP), Professor of Employment and Development Economics (Emeritus) at the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS), Erasmus University, Netherlands

Prof. Ludovico Feoli, Professor at Tulane and director of the Policy Area of CEQI

Mr. Ilcheong Yi, Senior Research Coordinator in the Social Policy and Development Programme and in the Social Dimensions of Sustainable Development Programme, UNRISD

8:30am – 9:10am (NYT)

Interactive discussion

Aim: This session aims to propose effective long-term policies and strategies to recover better from COVID-19 and accelerate the pace of reducing poverty and hunger in all its forms and dimensions in a more sustainable manner. It will focus on addressing the interlinkages between inequality (in opportunities, access to basic services, digital technologies, productive assets and financing, access to decent work, etc.), poverty and hunger. Discussions will also focus on creating/expanding jobs in growing sectors (green, circular, solidarity and digital economies), and explore ways to renew the social contract that will ensure inclusive growth, universal access to basic services, and ensure economic security for all.

Guiding questions:

- What are national long-term policies and strategies that have proven to be effective in simultaneously reducing poverty, hunger, and inequalities and achieving shared prosperity for all?
- How can governments effectively link current emergency measures to forward looking reforms to enable more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable recovery from COVID-19 and get back on track to achieve the 2030 Agenda and SDGs?
- How countries / regions can develop recovery strategies in response to the COVID-19 crisis, to address their specific needs and challenges?
- How can countries build a new (or renewed commitment to) Social Contract to meet the needs and aspirations of all segments of societies?

Lead discussant:

Ms. Paola Simonetti, Deputy Director, Economic and Social Policy Development, International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)

Expert participants:

Ms. Rosemarie G. Edillon, Undersecretary for Policy and Planning, National Economic and Development Authority of the Philippines – *From global norms to national implementation: tackling poverty through human capital formation, the case of the Philippines*

Prof. Rana Jawad, Senior Lecturer, Department of Social & Policy Sciences, University of Bath

Mr. Roberto Bissio, Executive Director of the Instituto del Tercer Mundo (Third World Institute)

Ms. Maria-Laura Fornella-Oehninger, Representative to the United Nations/NY

Soroptimist International, and Co-Chair of the UN NGO Committee on Social Development

Ms. Jean Quinn, Director, UNANIMA International

Ms. Véronique M. Choquette, Senior Policy & Programme Development Advisor, Club de Madrid

10 minutes break

Session 4

Effective strategies to eradicate poverty and hunger (Part I): Addressing food insecurity

9:20am – 9 :50am (NYT)

Moderator:

Mr. Benjamin Davis, Director, Inclusive Rural Transformation and Gender Equality Division, FAO

Presentations (7 – 10 minutes per presentation)

Prof. John Hoddinott, H.E. Babcock Professor of Food & Nutrition Economics and Policy, Division of Nutrition Sciences, Cornell university

Ms. Azzurra Chiarini, Head of Resilience in Democratic Republic of the Congo, World Food Programme

Ms. Esther Penunia, Secretary General, Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA)

9:50am – 10:30am (NYT)

Interactive discussion

Aim: This session aims to review overall trends in hunger and examine how COVID-19 has increased food insecurity, especially among those living in extreme poverty, low-income households, people in working poverty, and those who have newly fallen into poverty due to COVID-19. It will also examine effective policies to enhance food security and sustainable food production/agriculture.

Guiding questions:

- What is the impact of COVID-19 on food insecurity and hunger and who are the most affected population groups?
- How can we design effective remedial policy actions at the national, regional, and global levels?

Lead discussant

Mr. Adriano Campolina, Senior Policy Officer Rural institutions and empowerment team, FAO

Expert participants

Dr. Abbi Kedir, Senior Lecturer in International Business, Management School, The University of Sheffield, UK

Ms. Jean Quinn, Director, UNANIMA International

Monday 2 August (Day 3)

Session 5

Effective strategies to eradicate poverty and hunger (Part II): social protection systems and floors

8:00am – 8 30am (NYT)

Moderator:

Dr. Fábio Veras Soares, Senior research coordinator at the International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth (IPC-IG) and Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA) researcher

Presentations (7 – 10 minutes per presentation)

Ms. Carolina Trivelli, Senior Strategic Analysis Advisor, FAO

Mr. Patrik Andersson, Chief, Sustainable Socioeconomic Transformation Section
Social Development Division, ESCAP

Ms. Christina Behrendt, Head of the Social Policy Unit, Social Protection Department, ILO

8:30am – 9:10am (NYT)

Interactive discussion (facilitated by a moderator)

Aim: This session aims to analyze how effective social protection systems, including floors, can prevent people from falling into poverty and food insecurity, as well as lift people out of poverty and hunger. It aims to identify ways of creating better linkages and synergies between poverty reduction strategies, zero-hunger campaigns, and social protection initiatives. It will also examine how governments can mobilize resources to build/strengthen nationally adequate social protection systems and/or floors in advanced, middle-income, and low-income countries (improve coverage and quality, streamline social protection measures for universal coverage over a life-cycle, ensure universal health coverage)

Guiding questions:

- How can countries build on emergency social protection measures, established in response to COVID-19, to pursue structural reforms of their social protection systems?
- What are effective strategies to extend social protection coverage to informal/vulnerable workers?
- How can countries extend social protection to those living in rural areas?
- What are innovative strategies to sustainably finance social protection systems, especially in low-income countries?

Lead discussant:

Dr. Stephen Devereux, Research Fellow and Founding Director of the Center for Social Protection' at the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), University of Sussex

Expert participants:

Dr. Sergei Zelenev, Special Representative of the International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW) to the United Nations, New York Office

Dr. Mawutor Ablo, Director of Social Protection, Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Ghana

Dr. Rose Ngugi, Executive Director, Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA)O

Ms. Claudia Robles Fariás, Social Affairs Officer, Social Development Division, ECLAC

Mr. Marco Schaefer, Senior Social Protection Officer, or **Mr. Vladimir Hlasny**, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCWA

Mr. Rafael Moreno López, Project Officer, Club de Madrid

10 minutes break

Session 6

Tools to analyze multiple dimensions of poverty and food insecurity at the national and regional levels

9:20am – 9:50am (NYT)

Moderator:

Prof. Sabina Alkire, Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), Associate Professor of Development Studies in the Oxford Department of International Development at the University of Oxford

Presentations (7 – 10 minutes per presentation)

Prof. James E. Foster, Oliver T. Carr Professor of International Affairs and Professor of Economics at the George Washington University and Co-Director of the Institute for International Economic Policy

Ms. Karin Kronlid, Development Analyst, Chief Economist's Team, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)

Mr. Khalid Abu Ismail, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, ESCWA

9:50am – 10:30am (NYT) Interactive discussion (facilitated by a moderator)

Aim: This session aims to review existing approaches and tools used to analyze multiple dimensions of poverty and food insecurity to inform better policies at the national and regional levels. It aims to discuss the benefits and challenges of such tools and identify ways in which they can be used to enable an inclusive, resilient, and sustainable recovery from COVID-19 and achieve the 2030 Agenda and SDGs.

Guiding questions:

- What are existing approaches and tools that are used to analyze multiple dimensions of poverty and food insecurity?
- Can these tools be used to analyze/ assess the potential impact of COVID-19 on multidimensional poverty and food insecurity? If so, with what results?
- How can these approaches and tools help countries to get back on track to achieve SDGs?

Lead discussant

Dr. Annalena Opper, Research Associate at UNU-WIDER

Expert participants:

Ms. Ana Paula de la O Campos, Economist Division of Agrifood Economics, FAO

Prof. Augustin Fosu, Professor in Economics, Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER), University of Ghana

Prof. Paul Makdissi, Department of Economics, University of Ottawa

Ms. Christina Behrendt, Head of the Social Policy Unit, Social Protection Department, ILO

Mr. Adrian Gauci, Economic Affairs Officer, ECA

Mr. Rodrigo Martínez, Senior Social Affairs Officer, ECLAC

Mr. Vladimir Hlasny, Economic Affairs Officer, or **Mr. Hassan Hamie**, Research assistant, ESCWA

Session 7

Regional Breakout sessions

(Time and the format to be decided by each Regional Commission)

Tuesday 3 August (Day 4)

Session 8

Bringing regional perspectives: Addressing specific needs and challenges

8:00am – 9:10am (NYT)

Moderator: **Ms. Wenyan Yang**, Chief, Global Dialogue for Social Development Branch (GDSDB), DISD, UNDESA

Presentations: (Four Regional Commissions: 15 minutes per presentation)

Mr. Patrik Andersson, Chief, Sustainable Socioeconomic Transformation Section

Mr. Rodrigo Martínez, Senior Social Affairs Officer, ECLAC
Social Development Division, ESCAP

Mr. Khalid Abu Ismail, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, ESCWA

Mr. Saurabh Sinha, Chief, Social Policy Section, Gender, Poverty and Social Policy Division,
UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

Interactive discussion (facilitated by a moderator)

10 minutes break

Session 9

Policy recommendations and closing session

9:20am – 10:20am (NYT)

Moderator: **Ms. Makiko Tagashira**, Officer-in-Charge, Social Policy Analysis Section, GDSDB,
DISD, UNDESA

Discussion on the draft policy recommendations

10:20am (NYT)

Closing – endorsement of policy recommendations