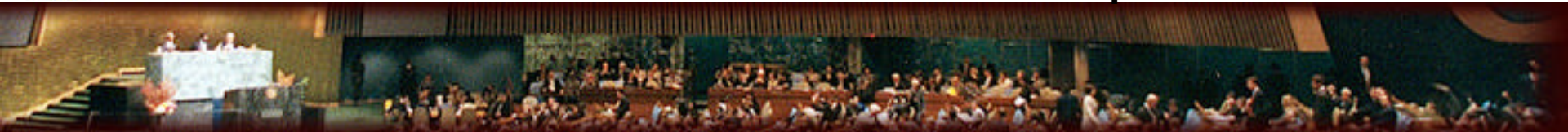




UNITED NATIONS Commission for Social Development Side Events



ILO, HelpAge, UN DESA

A Global Social Floor

Thursday 7 February - Conference room 4 - 1:15-2:45

The Global Social Floor consists of a basic set of social security benefits for all citizens. It is a powerful tool to reduce poverty. While the benefits provided are modest, a basic social security scheme can reduce poverty by 35 to 50 percent. There are good and successful examples regarding the role of social transfers in combating poverty not only in high income countries but also in Africa, Latin America and Asia. Social security is a human right (Article 22 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights) and it is affordable. A basic package consisting of non-contributory old-age and disability pensions plus child benefits is estimated to cost from 2 to 5 percent of GDP as an average, even in the poorest countries of Africa. For low-income countries, a basic social security system can make a difference between

achieving the MDG 1 of halving poverty by 2015 or not.

Chair:

**Jean- Pierre Gonnot, Chief, Social Perspective on Development Branch,
Division for Social Policy and Development, UN DESA**

Speakers:

Michael Cichon, Director, Social Security Department, ILO

Isabel Ortiz, Senior Policy Advisor, UN DESA

Silvia Stefanoni, Director, HelpAge International

Kenapeta Mupaine, Director Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Namibia

Sansanee Sahussarungsi, Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Thailand to the UN

