



**Expert Group Meeting**

**Strengthening Social Development in the Contemporary World**

United Nations Headquarters, New York  
The Secretariat building, Room S-2725BR

19 - 20 May 2015

**Provisional agenda**

**Tuesday, 19 May 2015**

9:00 – 9:30           **Registration**

9:30 – 10:00       **Opening Session**

Welcome remarks

**Ms. Daniela Bas**, Director, Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD)

Participant introductions

10:00 – 12:00      **Session I: Strengthening social development: what will it take?**

Moderator: **Ms. Daniela Bas**

*Rethinking approaches to social development*

**Ambassador Juan Somavia**

Director of the Diplomatic Academy of Chile and Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Inter-regional Policy Cooperation

*The role of social development in achieving environmental goals*

**Mr. Elliott Harris**

Assistant Secretary-General, Head of the New York Office, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

*Towards a more coherent social policy framework: bringing together social development concerns, notions and discourses*

**Ms. Gabriele Köhler**

Senior Research Associate, UNRISD

Coffee break

Discussion

12:00 – 12:30 Wrap-up: policy-relevant conclusions

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch break

14:00 – 15:30 **Session II: Rethinking social policy: new trends and challenges**

Moderator: **Ms. Thelma Kay**, Former Director, Social Development Division, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

*New challenges for and new directions in social policy*

**Mr. Ilcheong Yi**

Research Coordinator, United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)

*Reducing vulnerability and building resilience: what does it entail?*

**Dr. Andrew Shepherd**

Director, Chronic Poverty Advisory Network at the Overseas Development Institute (ODI)

*Framing social inclusion policies*

**Prof. Frances Stewart**

Professor Emeritus, Oxford Development Studies, University of Oxford

Discussion

15:30 – 15:45 Coffee break

15:45 – 17:00 **Session III: Strengthening social development in the contemporary context: Regional approaches**

Moderator: **Ms. Daniela Bas**

*Middle East and Northern Africa*

**Prof. Rana Jawad**

Lecturer, Department of Social and Policy Sciences, University of Bath

*Latin America and the Caribbean*

**Mr. Simone Cecchini**

Social Development Division, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

*Asia and the Pacific*

**Ms. Thelma Kay**

Former Director, Social Development Division, ESCAP

*Sub-Saharan Africa*

**Ms. Eunice Kamwendo** on behalf of **Mr. Ayodele Odusola**

Chief Economist and Head, Strategy and Analysis Team, Regional Bureau for Africa, UNDP

Discussion

17:00 – 17:30 Wrap-up and policy-relevant conclusions of Sessions II and III

**Wednesday, 20 May 2015**

10:00 – 12:00 **Session IV: Decent work and social protection: new directions**

Moderator: **Ambassador Juan Somavia**

*The world of work and labour market institutions – Is there a rift?*

**Prof. Gordon Betcherman,**

Professor, School of International Development and Global Studies,  
University of Ottawa

*The decent work and social protection: a pathway for socially and economically sustainable development*

**Mr. Vinicius Carvalho Pinheiro**

Deputy Director, International Labour Organization (ILO) Office for the  
United Nations (New York)

*Social Inclusion – the nexus between research and policy*

**Mr. John Crowley**

Chief of Section, Sector for Social and Human Sciences, United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Coffee break

Discussion

12:00 – 12:30 Wrap-up: Discussion of policy-relevant conclusions

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch break

14:00 – 16:30 **Session V: The role of social development in the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda**

Moderator: **Ms. Wenyan Yang**, Chief, Social Perspective on Development  
Branch, DSPD, DESA

*The social drivers of sustainable development*

**Mr. David O'Connor** on behalf of **Mr. Nikhil Seth**

Director, Division for Sustainable Development, DESA

*Engaging the private sector in strengthening social development*

**Ms. Ursula Wynhoven**

General Counsel and Chief, Governance and Social Sustainability, UN  
Global Compact

*Monitoring social progress through the SDGs: challenges and opportunities*

**Ms. Francesca Perucci**

Chief, Statistical Services Branch, Statistics Division, DESA

*Potential role of ECOSOC functional commissions in the implementation of the post - 2015 development agenda: perspective of the Commission on the Status of Women*

**Ms. Christine Brautigam**

Director, Intergovernmental Support Division, UN-Women

Comments and additional suggestions

**Mr. Paul Ladd**, Director, Post-2015 Strategic Policy, Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, UNDP

**Ms. Jane Stewart**, Special Representative and Director, ILO Office for the United Nations

**Mr. John Crowley**, Chief of Section, Sector for Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO

**Ms. Azza Karam**, Senior Advisor and Coordinator of the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Religion and Sustainable Development, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

**Ms. Maitreyi Bordia Das**, Lead Social Development Specialist and Team Leader for Social Inclusion, the Social, Urban, Rural and Resilience Global Practice, the World Bank

**Mr. John Wilmoth**, Director, Population Division, DESA

**Mr. Pingfan Hong**, Director, Development Policy Analysis Division, DESA

**Mr. Patrick Spearing**, Division of Public Administration and Development Management, DESA

**Mr. Daniel Perell** on behalf of **Ms. Margaret Mayce**, Chair, NGO Committee for Social Development

Discussion

Coffee break

16:30 – 17:25 Conclusion and recommendations

17:25 – 17:30 Closing remarks – **Ms. Daniela Bas**, Director, DSPD