United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Division for Inclusive Social Development

Provisional Agenda

ADDRESSING INEQUALITIES AND CHALLENGES TO SOCIAL INCLUSION THROUGH FISCAL, WAGE AND SOCIAL PROTECTION POLICIES

United Nations Headquarters • New York
Conference Room S-1522
25-27 June 2018

Monday, 25 June 2018

9:00 – 9:30   Registration

Opening Session  Welcome and opening remarks
9:30 – 9:45
  • Welcome and opening remarks: Ms. Daniela Bas, Director, Division for Inclusive Social Development (DISD), UN-DESA
  • Self-introduction: Participants

Session 1  Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion: Current trends and challenges at the global level

9:45 – 10:45  Facilitator: Ms. Wenyan Yang, DISD, UN-DESA
  • Presentation: Mr. Giovanni Cornia, University of Florence (Remote via video connection) — Trends in income and non-income inequalities within countries
  • Presentation: Mr. Joe Hasell, Oxford Martin Programme on Global Development — Empirical evidence on long-term global trends in income inequality
  • Presentation: Ms. Nita Rudra, Georgetown University — Challenges to taxation and redistribution in globalizing economies

10:45 – 11:15  Interactive Discussion

11:15 – 11:30  COFFEE BREAK

Session 2  Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion: Regional perspectives

11:30 – 12:30  Facilitator: Mr. Anisuzzaman Chowdhury, University of New South Wales
  • Presentation: Mr. Khalid Abu-Ismail, UN-ESCWA (Remote via video connection) — Policies to reduce income inequality in Western Asia
  • Presentation: Mr. Ayodele Odusola, Regional Bureau for Africa, UNDP — Economic and social policies to reduce income inequality in sub-Saharan Africa
Presentation: **Ms. Therese Bjork**, Social Development Division, UN-ESCAP — *Inequality of opportunity in Asia and the Pacific*

12:30 – 13:00 Interactive Discussion

13:00 – 14:30 LUNCH BREAK

**Session 3**

**Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal policies**

14:30 – 15:15 Facilitator: Ms. Roxana Maurizio, Instituto Interdisciplinario de Economía Política

- Presentation: **Ms. Sandra Martinez**, Commitment to Equity Institute, Tulane University — *Fiscal policy and redistribution: Overview*
- Presentation: **Mr. Anisuzzaman Chowdhury**, University of New South Wales and Western Sydney University — *The role of fiscal policies in addressing poverty and inequality*
- Presentation: **Ms. Sarah Perret**, OECD — *Tax design for inclusive economic growth in OECD countries*

15:15 – 15:45 Interactive Discussion

15:45 – 16:00 BREAK

**Session 4**

**Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through public spending**

16:00 – 16:45 Facilitator: Mr. Timo Voipio, National Institute for Health and Welfare

- Presentation: **Mr. Julian May**, Institute for Social Development, University of the Western Cape (Remote via video connection) — *Why don’t fiscal policies reduce health inequalities?*
- Presentation: Financing for Sustainable Development Office, UN-DESA — *Effectiveness of public spending on education and health* [TBC]
- Presentation: **Ms. Sumedha Bajar**, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Indian Institute of Science — *The impact of infrastructure provisioning on inequality*

16:45 – 17:15 Interactive Discussion

17:15 – 17:30 Wrap-up and close

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**Tuesday, 26 June 2018**

**Session 5**

**Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through wage policies**

9:30 – 11:00 Facilitator: Ms. Nita Rudra, Georgetown University

- Presentation: **Mr. Patrick Belser**, Senior Economist, Wage Specialist, ILO (Remote via video connection) — *Trends in wages, employment, and the distribution of income*
- Presentation: **Ms. Zsofia Barany**, Sciences Po, Paris — *Minimum wages and inequality: the effects of artificial intelligence and technological upgrading*
- Presentation: **Ms. Roxana Maurizio**, Instituto Interdisciplinario de Economía Política and Universidad Nacional de General Sarmiento Argentina — *Labour market institutions and the distribution of wages in Latin America: Impact on inequality and social inclusion*
- Presentation: **Ms. Céline Thévenot**, OECD — *Labour market structure and wages: Policies to reduce inequality in OECD countries*
11:00 – 11:30  COFFEE BREAK
11:30 – 12:30  Interactive Discussion
12:30 – 14:30  LUNCH BREAK

Session 6  Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through social protection policies: Overview of successful social protection systems and social protection floors

14:30 – 15:30  Facilitator: Ms. Sarah Perret, OECD

- Presentation: Mr. Timo Voipio, National Institute for Health and Welfare, Government of Finland — Towards universal social protection to reduce inequalities in low-income countries
- Presentation: Ms. Valérie Schmitt, Deputy Director, Social Protection Department, ILO — Overview of the current coverage, affordability and funding options of universal social protection floors in low- and middle-income countries
- Presentation: Ms. Junko Sazaki, Director, Social Policies and Rural Institutions Division, FAO — Social protection to reduce vulnerabilities of poor households in rural and remote areas
- Presentation: Ms. Alexandra Yuster, Programme Division, UNICEF — Combating child poverty and deprivation: Universalism versus targeting

15:30 – 16:00  Interactive Discussion
16:00 – 16:15  COFFEE BREAK

Session 7  Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through social protection policies: Successful social protection systems at the regional and national levels

16:15 – 17:15  Facilitator: Ms. Sandra Martinez, Commitment to Equity Institute

- Presentation: Mr. Simone Cecchini, UN-ECLAC (Remote via video connection) — Social protection systems in Latin America and the Caribbean: A comparative view
- Presentation: Mr. Lixiong Yang, Renmin University of China — Social assistance reform in China: Towards a fair and inclusive social protection floor
- Presentation: Mr. Daniel Perell, Chair of the NGO Committee for Social Development and Representative to the UN for the Baha’i International Community — Social Protection at the Local Level: Civil Society Perspectives on implementation

17:15 – 17:45  Interactive Discussion
17:45 – 18:00  Wrap-up

Wednesday, 27 June 2018

Session 8  Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through social protection policies: Successful social protection systems and social protection floors at the national and regional levels

9:30 – 10:30  Facilitator: Mr. Amson Sibanda, DISD, UN-DESA
- Presentation: Ms. Gisela Nauk, UN-ESCWA (Remote via video connection) — Overview of successful social protection systems and social protection floors in the ESCWA region
- Presentation: Mr. Vinicius de Oliveira Botelho, Ministry of Social Development, Brazil — Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through productive inclusion policies: Brazil’s experience
- Presentation: Mr. Stanfield Michelo, Independent Social Protection Expert — How Zambia’s social protection services and programmes helped mitigate inequality and reduce poverty
- Presentation: Ms. Gulmira Kazakunova, Ravenstvo (Union of People with Disabilities) — Kyrgyzstan’s social protection measures and programmes

10:30 – 11:00 Interactive Discussion

11:00 – 11:30 COFFEE BREAK

Session 9 Policy recommendations

Facilitator: Ms. Wenyan Yang, DISD, UN-DESA

11:00 – 12:20 Discussion in plenary

12:20 – 12:30 Concluding remarks

- Ms. Daniela Bas, Director, Division for Inclusive Social Development (DISD), UN-DESA