

## **SIDE EVENT FOR 57<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF CSOCD**

### **Social Protection as a Strategy to addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion**

#### **CONCEPT NOTE**

Inequality within countries has negative impact on many socio-economic and security challenges in our communities. In many countries of the world today, both developed and developing, income and wealth inequality is rising at an alarming rate. Many people are also excluded from access to health, education and other social services.

The Sustainable Development Goals also recognize the challenge of inequality within and between countries and the challenge of promoting social inclusion. The Commission for Social Development at its 57<sup>th</sup> session is tackling the issue under the theme: “*Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies*”. The session is taking place from 11 – 21 February 2019.

Addressing inequality is one way of addressing poverty. There are about six billion people in the world and almost 50% of them are living on less than two dollars a day. To eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development for all it is pertinent that we address the issue of inequalities as well as the challenges of inclusion in our society.

In some developing countries, governments and their agencies have focused their efforts on designing winning policies and programmes to eradicate poverty. However, despite these numerous poverty eradication policies and strategies, about half of the population of the world still lives in poverty. They live in homes within adequate water, poor sanitation facilities and no electricity. They lack access to good schools, health care, modern transport facilities, and employment opportunities. Many are malnourished as they cannot afford adequate nutrition.

This side event will be looking at social protection as a strategy to address inequalities and challenges of social inclusion. The event will also be looking at the role of cooperatives in reducing inequalities and social exclusion.

The event will seek to answer the following questions:

1. What are the factors fueling poverty in our communities?
2. What actions can be taken to reduce inequalities and social exclusion within countries.
3. Can social protection policies address the challenge of inequality and poverty?
4. Can low and middle-income countries afford universal social protection?
5. Can gender equality and women empowerment be achieved through Social Protection?
6. How can cooperatives contribute to tackling inequalities and social exclusion?