



Berkeley Social Welfare



TOWARDS FAMILY SENSITIVE SOCIAL PROTECTION

**Side Event during 57th Session of the
Commission for Social Development, UN HQ, NY**

February 14th, 2019

CR12 (3:00 – 4:15 pm)

CONCEPT NOTE

BACKGROUND

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development underscores the importance of social protection for the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Governments have committed to implementing social protection floors and systems for all. Yet, access to social protection is uneven and varies widely between countries, groups and individuals depending on their age, gender, disability or migrant status, race or ethnicity. Gaps in access and insufficient benefits challenge the effectiveness of social protection to reduce inequality and leave no one behind. Understanding the barriers that diverse groups face in accessing social protection is necessary if substantial coverage is to be ensured for all nations, peoples and segments of society. The family is an institution that serves the essential social functions of procreation, socialization, nurturing of the young, social-emotional gratification and care for dependent members; it is the primary seedbed for the transmission of human values and a vital source of social cohesion; moreover it plays the important role of mutual support mediating between the individual and the state. Indeed, family is often referred to as the basic building block of society. However, despite their obvious social and economic contribution to society, families are rarely the focus of major social policy initiatives as they increasingly face difficulty in caring for their dependent members and reconciling work and family life, while maintaining the intergenerational bonds that sustained them in the past. The bonds of stable family life are diminishing. Hence, innovative policy frameworks such as family sensitive social protection are needed to help focus policy makers attention on ways that social measures impact family life, especially vulnerable families such as families living in poverty and social exclusion, and those caring for people with disabilities.

Evidence shows that social protection programs can strengthen the capacity of families to care for their children, and remove barriers to services

access, while reaching those that are most vulnerable. Increasing evidence also shows that social protection measures have led to increased family spending on education and health, which help families to cope with the burden of care for ill family members; improves families' nutritional status; decreases childhood mortality; reduces school absenteeism; and reduces child labor. However, despite the above, most social protection measures tend to benefit individuals by increasing individual security and freedom. Social protection measures designed to support family formation, choice, interdependence and cohesiveness in family life remain less implemented. Hence, this side-event aims to present an analytic framework of family sensitive social protection (FSSP). In particular, the side-event will answer questions such as what is meant by FSSP. What this definition adds to the conventional views of family social protection; how are the FSSP benefits financed?

OBJECTIVES

This side event aims to provide a platform for a diverse set of stakeholders, including Governments, civil society, and United Nations entities to undertake a policy dialogue and to enable a better understanding of progress made and challenges faced by families, as well as to exchange experiences and lessons on new evidence and innovations in efforts targeted at families.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What measures can Governments take to strengthen the stability and vitality in family life over the life course?
- What measures can Governments take to support family formation, choice, interdependence and solidarity, which promote the vitality of family life and its capacity to perform the essential functions of procreation, socialization of the young, care for dependent members, mutual support and companionship, etc.?
- How can Governments enhance the family's capacity for nurturing,

caring and socialization of children and facilitate intergenerational transfers that support adult children caring for elderly parents and grandparents in caring roles for their grandchildren?

- What steps can Member States take to intensify efforts to promote a family sensitive social protection?

FORMAT

Moderated panel discussion followed by Q&A session: The side event will consist of a moderator, interactive panel discussion (Davos style) among representatives of Government, civil society and UN entities. The floor will then be opened to all participants to raise questions and share comments either with regard to specific interventions made by the panelists and to the theme of the event more broadly.

PARTNERS

- MISSION OF THE STATE OF QATAR TO THE UN
- DISD/DESA
- ESCWA
- BERKELEY SOCIAL WELFARE
- INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WELFARE COUNCIL

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CSocD57, UN HQ, NY

AGENDA

- 3:00-3:10 Opening Remarks
HE. Sheikha Alya Al-Thani (tbc)
Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations
- Dr. Sharifa Al-Emadi**
Executive Director, Doha International Family Institute (DIFI)
- Moderator:*
- 3:10-3:50 **Anis Ben Brik**
Family Policy Director, Doha International Family Institute (DIFI)
- Neil Gilbert**
Milton and Gertrude Chernin Professor of Social Welfare and Social Services, University of California, Berkeley
- Renata Kaczmarska**
Focal Point on the Family, Social Inclusion and Participation Branch/ Division for Inclusive Social Development Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)
- Gisela Nauk**
Chief, Inclusive Social Development Section, UN ESCWA
- 3:50-4:15 **Discussion**