



Permanent Mission of Kyrgyzstan



International  
Labour  
Organization



UNITED NATIONS  
UNCTAD



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Nations

Department of  
Economic and  
Social Affairs

## 2023 Commemorative Event on the Occasion of the World Day of Social Justice

**“Overcoming Barriers and Unleashing Opportunities  
for Social Justice”**

**20 February 2023**

1:15 – 2:30 p.m.

ECOSOC Chamber, UNHQ

The Permanent Mission of the Kyrgyz Republic to the UN and the International Labour Organization, in partnership with the International Telecommunication Union and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the UN DESA are pleased to convene the commemorative meeting of the 2023 World Day of Social Justice. This year’s theme will focus on the recommendations of Our Common Agenda to strengthen global solidarity and to rebuild trust in government by “Overcoming Barriers and Unleashing Opportunities for Social Justice”.

Today, the majority of workers have not recovered their pre-pandemic labour incomes and the gender gap in hours worked has continued to grow. Increases in food and commodity prices is disproportionately impacting poor households and small businesses, especially those in the informal economy. Roughly half the world’s population remains without any access to social protection. And in too many places, having a job does not guarantee the ability to escape from poverty. A continued lack of decent work opportunities, insufficient investments in social policy, and an over-consumption of natural resources have led to an erosion of trust and a frayed social contract in many countries. Even before the pandemic, there was growing concern about the adverse effects of high and rising levels of inequality, and a recognition of the need for urgent and decisive action to reduce them and ensure more inclusive growth that provides decent work opportunities for all. The digital divide and disruptions to global trade and supply chains risk further deepening inequalities and poverty. Women and youth are disproportionately affected by overlapping crises, unemployment, and socio-economic insecurity and face many barriers in accessing decent work.

There are however many opportunities to unleash greater investments in decent jobs, particularly in the green, digital and care economy. In an era of rapid technological development, young digital natives can also find solutions to overcome inequalities. Youth entrepreneurship is on the rise and the increasing number of incubators, accelerators, and

programs focused on supporting young entrepreneurs contributes to this trend. As tech leaders, young entrepreneurs can also use their influence to advocate for policies and practices that promote diversity, equity, and inclusion. The Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions, launched by the UN Secretary-General and welcomed by member States and many other stakeholders, also provides a platform to mobilize financing, to boost employment in the green, digital and care economy and to extend social protection floors.

Almost thirty years ago, at the World Summit for Social Development in 1995, global leaders pledged to make the eradication of poverty, the goal of full employment and social justice overriding objectives of development. The 2030 Agenda also aims to “promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all”. Decent work has increasingly been recognized as the lynchpin of strategies to achieve social justice by linking the social, economic and environmental components of sustainability.

The 2023 World Day of Social Justice provides an opportunity to foster dialogue on actions needed to achieve social justice by strengthening the social contract that has been fractured by rising inequalities, conflicts and weakened institutions that are meant to uphold and protect the rights of workers.

**Key Questions for Discussion:**

- What are the key bottlenecks and challenges to overcoming rising inequalities, decent work deficits, including lack of access to social protection, digital exclusion and disruption of trade?
- What are the opportunities in the green and digital economy to reduce inequalities and promote social justice, in particular for youth?
- What actions are needed by governments, the UN system, international financial institutions, employers’ and workers’ organisations, civil society and other stakeholders to increase investments for social justice?

<b>PROGRAMME</b>	
<b>ECOSOC Chamber, UNHQ</b>	
<b>1:15 - 1:25 p.m.</b>	<p><b>CHAIR</b> <b>H.E. Ms. Aida Kasymalieva</b>, Permanent Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic to the United Nations</p> <p><b>OPENING MESSAGES</b></p> <p><b>Ms. Amina Mohammed</b>, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations</p> <p><b>Mr. Gilbert Hougbo</b>, Director-General, ILO</p>
<b>1:25 – 1:30 p.m.</b>	<p><b>KEYNOTE ADDRESS</b> <b>H.E. Mr. José Antonio Ocampo Gaviria</b>, Minister of Finance, Colombia</p>

<p><b>1:30 – 1:50 p.m.</b></p>	<p><b>Moderator: Ms. Beate Andrees, Special Representative and Director, International Labour Organization Office for the United Nations</b></p> <p><b>PANEL DISCUSSION</b></p> <p><b>Ms. Sakiko Fukuda-Parr</b>, Professor of International Affairs, The New School</p> <p><b>Ms. Paola Simonetti</b>, Director, Equality Department, International Trade Union Confederation</p> <p><b>Mr. Amadou Sako</b>, Africa Advisor, International Organisation of Employers</p> <p><b>Ms. Sinead Bovell</b>, Youth Representative</p>
<p><b>1:50 – 2:25 p.m.</b></p>	<p><b>INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Ms. Chantal Line Carpentier</b>, Chief, UNCTAD New York, Office of the Secretary-General</p> <p><b>H.E. Mrs. Paula Narváez Ojeda</b>, Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations</p> <p><b>H.E. Ms. Ana Paula Zacarias</b>, Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations</p> <p><b>H.E. Mr. Burhan Gafoor</b>, Permanent Representative of Singapore to the United Nations</p> <p><b>H.E. Mr. Bakhtiyor Ibragimov</b>, Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations</p> <p><b>H.E. Mr. Cheikh Niang</b>, Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations</p> <p>Other speakers requesting the floor</p>
<p><b>2:25 – 2:30 p.m.</b></p>	<p><b>CLOSING REMARKS</b></p> <p><b>H.E. Ms. Aida Kasymalieva</b>, Permanent Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic to the United Nations</p>