



## **International expert meeting**

### **Towards the consolidation of a welfare state in Latin America and the Caribbean: the future of social protection in an era of uncertainty**

**ECLAC-BMZ/giz project "Recover better – Overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic consequences in Latin America and the Caribbean".**

**June 8 and 9, 2022 (virtual meeting)**

#### **I. Background**

Social protection systems constitute a fundamental pillar of welfare states. Despite the significant progress made in past decades in the countries of the region, it is essential to strengthen and consolidate universal, comprehensive, sustainable and resilient social protection systems. This challenge is intertwined with the imperative to adapt social protection systems for the future. This is an urgent task that requires facing a new risk structure that is shaped from the intersection of the socioeconomic impacts of various disasters and the health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, and three structural crises – of instable and low economic growth, rising inequality and the environmental crisis. It also needs confronting the critical nodes of inclusive social development, in particular of technological transformation, the need to transition towards sustainable economies, and demographic and migratory dynamics. All this unfolds in a context of high uncertainty, and global and regional instability.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the fundamental role of social protection systems in facing the economic and social impacts of these crises. The region has been the most affected in terms of the number of deaths and is one of the most impacted in economic and social terms. This is due to long-term structural factors including inequality in its various manifestations, as well as the weakness of social protection systems in terms of their coverage and distance from achieving universality, sufficiency, and financial sustainability. Therefore, access, financing, and solidarity, continue to be imperative components to be addressed in the design of social protection systems and its allowances. A renewed and comprehensive social protection approach to environmental, economic, and social risks is required. A perspective from a framework of a care society which decommodifies access and collectivizes risks and opportunities beyond individual merits and chances is central. Identifying strategic orientations for social protection in this context is key and will require solid planning, management, and institutional strengthening efforts. Social protection hence contributes towards the construction of a welfare state adapted for the future, by guaranteeing the expansion of rights and integrating the new technological and digital tools in its management, urgently addressing the unequal distribution of income, of paid and unpaid work, and securing access to decent work and care.

In the face of the pandemic, the current situation sets a challenging scenario, as well as opportunities to move towards a path for transformative recovery with equality. Social protection can ensure solidarity between generations and at the same time guarantee adequate social protection for all based at least on four possible axes: 1) policies tending to consolidate a guarantee of adequate income throughout the life cycle; 2) policies aimed at restructuring strategic areas of well-being and in particular of universal access to health and pensions; 3) family policy tools with a life-cycle approach and care policies; and, 4) a social pact that sustains these policies and promotes, among others, strategic actions that combine labour inclusion policies, skills training and social protection entitlements for the transition to an environmentally sustainable economy.

## II. Objective

From an expert perspective, this meeting aims to provide a space for reflection on the main challenges to move towards universal, comprehensive, sustainable and resilient social protection systems. At a time when the matrix of risks is being reconfigured, marked by high levels of uncertainty, social protection systems should be embedded in a welfare state that protects the rights and well-being of people. This event also seeks to promote a space for dialogue and exchange between the experience of Latin American, Caribbean and European countries to reflect on the future of social protection and the welfare states. It falls under the activities of the ECLAC-BMZ/giz project "Recover better – Overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic consequences in Latin America and the Caribbean". This activity is directly related to the areas of work of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and its Regional Agenda for Inclusive Social Development.

## III. Preliminary work schedule

**Day:** June 8 and 9, 2022.

**Time:** 09:30 – 16:30 hrs., Santiago, Chile time (GMT -4)

Day 1 - Wednesday June 8	
09:30-9:45	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Opening session</b></p> <p><b>Alberto Arenas de Mesa, Director of the Social Development Division, Economic Commission for Latin American and The Caribbean (ECLAC)</b></p> <p><b>Manfred Häbig, Principal Advisor of the Cooperation Program ECLAC-BMZ/giz</b></p>
9:45 – 10:10	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Keynote Speech</b></p> <p><b>Alberto Arenas de Mesa, Director of the Social Development Division, ECLAC</b>            “The future of social protection in the face of the protracted crisis in Latin America: the urgent need to move towards universal, comprehensive, resilient and sustainable systems in the framework of welfare states”</p>

	<p><b>Moderator:</b> Claudia Robles, Social Affairs Officer, Social Development Division, ECLAC.</p>
<p><b>10:10 – 12:15</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Panel 1</b></p> <p><b>Social protection guarantees in the face of disasters and an uncertain future: lessons and challenges for strengthening the systems and instruments</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> María Luisa Marinho, Social Affairs Officer, Social Development Division, ECLAC</p> <p><b>Raúl Holz and Claudia Robles, Social Development Division, ECLAC</b> “Lessons from the pandemic for the future of social protection in the face of emergencies and disasters”</p> <p><b>Joakim Palme, University of Uppsala, Sweden</b> “The role of an intergenerational welfare pact to face the impacts of the crisis”.</p> <p><b>Cristóbal Cuadrado, Undersecretary of Public Health, Ministry of Health, Chile</b> “The central role of social protection for the effectiveness of the public health measures in times of the pandemic”</p> <p><b>Pietro Regazzoni, European Social Policy Network (ESPN) and European Social Observatory</b> “Social protection and inclusion policy responses to the COVID-19 crisis. An ESPN analysis of policies in 35 European countries”</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Comments by:</b></p> <p><b>Merike Blofield, Director of GIGA Institute of Latin America</b></p> <p><b>Questions and answers</b></p>
<b>Break</b>	
<p><b>14:00 – 16:30</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Panel 2</b></p> <p><b>Social policy institutions: baseline for a welfare state</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Carlos Maldonado, Social Affairs Officer, Social Development Division, ECLAC</p> <p><b>Rodrigo Martínez, Senior Social Affairs Officer, Social Development Division, ECLAC</b> “Pathways to strengthen social policy institutions from the perspective of welfare: lessons learned from the European experience”.</p> <p><b>Van Elder Espinal, Technical Director of the Cabinet of Social Policy of the Dominican Republic</b> “Responses to the pandemic: lessons learnt and challenges for disaster management and universalization of social protection in Dominican Republic”</p>

	<p><b>Andrew Pollard, Coordinator (ag) Poverty Alleviation and Reduction Programme, Ministry of People Empowerment and Elder Affairs, Barbados</b> "The challenges of social institutions to address climate change: the experience of Barbados"</p> <p><b>Laura Barrios, Director of Design and Planning, Ministry of Social Development, Paraguay</b> "Contribution and challenges of the new institutional framework of the Ministry of Social Development in Paraguay"</p> <p><b>Rider Cáliz, Director of Strategy and External Relationships, Secretary of Social Development, Honduras</b> "Challenges in moving towards universality with progressivity. The experience of Honduras"</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Questions and answers</b></p>
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Day 2 – Thursday June 9	
<b>09:30 – 10:30</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Keynote Speech</b></p> <p><b>Gøsta Esping-Andersen</b>, Director of the Sociodemographic Research Group, Pompeu Fabra University. "The central role of welfare states: strategic policies for equality in an uncertain world"</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Claudia Robles, Social Affairs Officer, Social Development Division, ECLAC.</p>
<b>10:40-12:40</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Panel 3</b></p> <p><b>Moving towards social protection policies from a life-cycle perspective: Towards a welfare and care society</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Simone Cecchini, Director of CELADE- Population and Development Division, ECLAC</p> <p><b>Jeanette Vega, Minister of Social Development and Family, Chile</b> "The urgency to consolidate a national care system: lessons from the pandemic"</p> <p><b>Dean Jonas M.P., Minister of Social Transformation, Human Resource Development and the Blue Economy, Antigua and Barbuda</b> "Universal social protection systems with a life cycle approach to confront the impacts of disasters and crisis: the experience of Antigua and Barbuda"</p>

	<p><b>César Calmet, General Director of Policies and Social Strategy, Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion, Peru</b> “Social protection policies with a life cycle approach: the experience of Peru”</p> <p><b>Cecilia Rossel, Consultant, Social Development Division, ECLAC</b> “Investment in family allowances and long-term care: strategic stakes for a welfare state”</p> <p><b>Iliana Vaca-Trigo, Social Affairs Officer, Gender Affairs Division, ECLAC</b> “Comprehensive care policies and their role for a transformative recovery”</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Comments by:</b> <b>Camila Arza, Interdisciplinary Centre for the Study of Public Policies, Argentina</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Questions and answers</b></p>
<b>Break</b>	
<b>14:00 – 16:00</b>	<p><b>Panel 4</b></p> <p><b>The central role of labour inclusion for a transformative recovery with equality and sustainability: approaches for the social protection of workers</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Daniela Trucco, Senior Social Affairs Officers, Social Development Division, ECLAC</b></p> <p><b>Andrés Espejo, Social Development Division, ECLAC</b> <b>María Luisa Marinho, Social Development Division, ECLAC</b> "Challenges for the growing articulation between labour inclusion and social protection in Latin America in facing the pandemic and its recovery"</p> <p><b>Helmut Schwarzer, Head of the Public Finance, Actuarial and Statistical Services Unit, Social Protection Department, ILO</b> “Social protection of formal and informal workers during the pandemic: lessons from the European experience”</p> <p><b>Sebastián Nieto Parra, Head for Latin America and the Caribbean, OECD Development Center</b> "Challenges for labor inclusion of informal workers during the process of recovery"</p> <p><b>Omar Estefan, General Director of Social Security, Secretary of Labour and Social Security, Mexico</b> “Social protection of informal workers: progress and challenges”</p>

	<p><b>Pablo Chena, National Director of Social Economy and Local Development, Ministry of Social Development, Argentina</b> "The experience of the <i>Potenciar Trabajo</i> program: links between social protection and labor inclusion"</p> <p><b>Camila Gramkow, Economics Affairs Officer, ECLAC Office in Brasilia</b> "The Big Push for Sustainability and the dynamics of employment, work and income: the articulation of social protection and work in the context of transformation"</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Questions and answers</b></p>
<p><b>16:00 – 16:30</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Closure</b></p> <p><b>Alberto Arenas de Mesa, Director of the Social Development Division, ECLAC</b></p>