WRC5
Parallel Session
Mechanisms for Social Protection and Local Recovery
May 23th, 2022

Organizers	- UNDP - ILO
Context	For the first time in 20 years, the number of people living in poverty globally is expected to rise due to the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Around 100 million people will have been pushed into extreme income poverty by end of 2021. Following the pandemic, up to 10 years of progress in reducing multidimensional poverty are threatened to be reversed, a concern exacerbated by the emerging challenge of climate change. Recent analysis shows how distant many countries were from sufficiently facing poverty and inequality caused by the pandemic, due to fiscal and other limitations. Only a small group of countries, mostly high income, seem to have been up to the challenge (UNDP 2022). Data speak for themselves: According to the World Social Protection Report 2020-22, 47 percent of the global population are covered by at least one social protection benefit, while roughly 4.1 billion people (53 percent) do not have access to even one social protection benefit (ILO 2021). COVID-19 made it impossible for policymakers to ignore the "missing middle" and unpaid carers. The ILO Convention 102 and Recommendation 202 on social protection floors, as well as the Recommendation R205 on Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience provide a strong foundation to overcome this gap, building on social dialogue and ratification by Countries. By 2030, up to two-thirds of the world's extreme poor is expected to live in countries characterized by fragility, conflict, and violence. According to the new Special Report on Human Security, nearly 1.2 billion people live in conflict-affected areas, with 560 million of them in countries not typically classified as fragile. Nearly half the global poor live in conflict-affected countries. Unless we take urgent action to protect the most vulnerable, several sustainable development goals could be reversed.
Session Objectives and expected Outcomes	This event will shed light on how, given the need to rapidly provide assistance to those in need (often previously uncovered by social protection) and at the same time comply with social distancing measures, countries had to be **innovative** in terms of the design, implementation and financing of social protection measures.

The crisis is not over, but many of the emergency measures put in place, including funding, are of a temporary nature and are now expiring. The COVID-19 pandemic has acted as a stress test for gauging national crisis preparedness. Solid social protection systems, working coherently with labour market policies, increase countries' capacity to deal with large-scale, multifaceted and complex crises, to effectively protect individuals and businesses, and to accelerate recovery. As many countries, particularly the poorest, have overstretched their budgets, it is now time for the international community to provide the technical and financial support needed to institutionalize the advances made in the response to COVID-19, and build on them towards the establishment of robust, inclusive, and shock and gender responsive social protection systems, that can also ensure a just transition to resilient, green and sustainable economies.

The event will examine how this can be done, including through leveraging initiatives under the UN's Our Common agenda, such as **the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection** and the **High-Level Coalition of Ministers on green and digital economy.**

The objectives of the session are:

1. To demonstrate national **innovative** measures in terms of the design, implementation and financing of social protection measures to support local recovery efforts.
2. To share lessons learned and best practices.
3. To advocate for the leveraging of initiatives under the UN's Our Common agenda, such as **the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection** and the **High-Level Coalition of Ministers on green and digital economy.**

Key elements for the discussion	The session will deliberate on the following questions and issues: 1) What were the factors explaining why some governments have responded faster and in a more comprehensive manner than others. What was the role of maturation of social protection systems, fiscal space and political will ? 2) What has been learnt from the social protection response to the pandemic? Has this been a testing ground for new technologies, including digital? 3) How can the learnings and best practices be used for scaling up, and extending social protection systems? 4) How can the learnings and best practices be used to make social protection systems more instrumental to support a just transition towards a net zero economy? 5) How can the financial sustainability and resilience of social protection systems be ensured? What are the options to mobilize better national resources, through contributory and non-contributory approaches, and global financial resources?
Speakers / Panellists	Moderator: Ms. Paola Albrito, Chief of Branch, Intergovernmental processes, Interagency co-operation and Partnerships, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) Keynote speaker: Ms. Michiko Miyamoto - Director, Country Office for Indonesia and Timor Leste, International Labour Organization (ILO) Panelists: 1. Ms. Carmen Ubaldi, Executive Director of the Social Cabinet of the Republic of Paraguay 2. Mr. Setareki Macanawai, Chief Executive, Pacific Disaster Forum 3. Ms. Armine Hayrapetyan, Representative of MES in Foreign Countries and International Organizations, Sendai National Focal Point, Lieutenant Colonel of Rescue Service, Government of Armenia