



Financing for Universal and Crisis-Responsive Social Protection and Decent Jobs: Proposals of  
2021 UN Inter-Agency Working Group  
A Side event during the 2022 ECOSOC FfD Forum on  
Financing for Development

**Date and time of event:** Tuesday, 26 April 2022, 8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. EDT  
Location: Zoom

**Organizers:** NGO Committee on Financing for Development, International Labour Organization, Salesian Mission Inc, Women First International Fund (previously Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund), Social Justice in Global Development, World Vision International, and Vivat International.

## Abstract

In 2021, the Secretary-General convened several inter-agency working groups to follow up on his initiative of the previous year with the Prime Ministers of Canada and Jamaica on Financing for Development in the Era of Covid-19 and beyond. The working group on cluster 2, called “socio-economic response,” focused on policies and their financing to promote jobs, social protection, gender, children and youth, health, education, and human rights. The working group produced a [report](#) that concluded with 21 wide-ranging proposals that the working group thought merited consideration. This side event seeks to stimulate discussion of a number of these proposals.

## Background

Social protection refers to assuring a basic income floor and access to basic health care throughout the life cycle. It should be provided universally to all people in need, but that is far from current practice. While decent jobs, including self-employment, are mainly in the private economy, meeting the qualifications for most jobs usually requires education and good health, which are primarily public service functions. Thus, programs to promote social protection and decent jobs entail adequate, efficient, and sustainably financed public expenditures. The topic on which the side event will focus is how to mobilize the financial resources for these public programs. This involves, in the first instance, adequate, effective, and fair national systems of taxation, complemented by international assistance, often in the form of technical assistance but also sometimes in aid-financed budget support, as for low-income countries.

The experience of the pandemic laid bare inadequate systems to deliver cash transfers to compensate for the economic costs of the crisis and inadequate public health systems to deliver vaccines, tests, and protective equipment, along with the very limited capacity, especially in developing countries, to maintain employment during the crisis-induced economic contraction. The pandemic experience requires us to think about preparing better “shock responsive” social protection and health systems and stronger counter-cyclical policies. Preparation, in turn, requires consideration of ways to mobilize the necessary domestic and international financial resources on an ongoing basis and with the capacity to meet the higher expenditure needs at times of crisis.

While the inter-agency report concluded with 21 separate proposals, speakers in the side event will be asked to discuss one or more of the proposals. There is no expectation that all 21 proposals would be covered, nor is that necessary. What is necessary is to bring to the attention of the FfD Follow-up Forum for consideration by policymakers the work of the 16 cooperating agencies in the task force and the civil society, labor, employer, and youth stakeholders that were [consulted](#) in preparing the report.

#### Proposed Speakers:

- H.E. Mr. Philippe Kridelka Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Belgium to the UN
- Mr. Helmut Schwarzer, Senior Social Security Specialist for the Americas, Social Protection Department, ILO Geneva
- Mr. David Stewart, Chief of Child Poverty and Social Protection, UNICEF
- Dr. Santosh Mehrotra, Research Fellow, IZA Institute of Labour Economics, Bonn, Germany.
- Ms. Tikhala Itaye, Director, Global Movement Building, Women in Global Health
- Mr. Yilbel Jose Acosta Parra, Red Salesina de Casas, Don Bosco Network

Moderator: Dr. Barry Herman, Member, Advisory Board, Social Justice in Global Development

Welcome: Anita Thomas, Chair, NGO Committee on Financing for Development

The NGO Committee on Financing for Development is a substantive Committee of the Conference of NGOs. To learn more [www.ngosonffd.org](http://www.ngosonffd.org)