



International Labour Conference

109th Session, Geneva, 2021

Date: 04 May 2021

Recurrent discussion on the strategic objective of social protection (social security), under the follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, 2008

► Suggested points for discussion

In the light of the analysis provided in this report,¹ and with the objectives of realizing the right to social security and achieving universal access to comprehensive and sustainable social protection in line with the ILO Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work, the following may be considered as starting points for the discussion of the Conference Committee:

- **Realizing universal social protection**

How can the obstacles presented by persistent informality and transformations in the world of work be overcome to achieve universal social protection as a means to prevent and reduce poverty, inequality, social exclusion and social insecurity? How can social protection systems be adapted and coordinated with employment, economic and social policies to ensure that all persons, including women, migrants and workers in all forms of work, can enjoy comprehensive and adequate social protection, including in times of crisis?

- **Strengthening social protection systems**

What are the challenges Member States face in designing, implementing and monitoring social protection systems consistent with ILO standards? How can Member States achieve greater impact, including through national social dialogue and coordination with employment, economic and social policies? How can Member States realize the full potential of social protection in recovering from the crisis, facilitating comprehensive policy responses to support and protect workers and employers during their life and work transitions, including those induced by climate change in line with the ILO guidelines for a Just Transition, and ensure no one is left

¹ Including the outcome of the 2019 Conference discussion on the [General Survey concerning the Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 \(No. 202\)](#).

behind? How can Member States transition from temporary crisis response measures into sustainable social protection systems?

- **Ensuring adequate and sustainable financing for social protection systems**

Against the multiple financing challenges encountered in the various national contexts, including those related to demographic evolutions and, most recently, the strong financial implications of facing the pandemic, how can Member States ensure the financial, economic and fiscal sustainability of their social protection systems?

How can Member States achieve adequate and comprehensive social protection for all through a combination of contributory and non-contributory financing mechanisms? What are the roles of different pillars of the social security system in contributing to financial, fiscal and economic sustainability with due regard to social justice and equity? How can the financial and fiscal sourcing of social protection be ensured through a balanced payment of taxes and contributions, taking into account the economic situation of Member States and of the classes of persons protected?

How can Member States ensure transparent, accountable and sound financial governance and the adequate allocation of resources towards sustainable financing of social protection systems, based on social dialogue and the principles laid out by ILO up-to-date social security standards?

What are the measures that Member States should take to progressively close financing gaps to ensure universal coverage and adequate benefits, including in the context of systemic crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic?

- **Reinforcing ILO means of action to achieve universal access to comprehensive and sustainable social protection**

What are the actions and measures that the ILO should undertake to achieve the above objectives? How can the ILO pursue its human-centred approach to the future of work and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 in relation with social protection?

What further measures should the ILO take to promote ratification and effective implementation of up-to-date international social security standards and to enhance its support to tripartite constituents at the national level?

How can the international community provide strengthened support to low-income countries in developing and building up sustainable social protection systems?

How can the ILO strengthen its leadership role in the multilateral system in the area of social protection to ensure policy coherence with principles laid down in up-to-date ILO standards?

In discussing these questions, the Conference Committee may provide guidance on how the Organization and the Office can respond more effectively and efficiently when addressing constituents' needs in each of these areas.