

CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM 2018 OFFICIAL PROGRAM



Social Protection, Including Floors: A preminent strategy to eradicate poverty and achieve social development for all.

Emerging issues: towards sustainable and resilient societies: innovation and interconnectivity for social development

Prepared by the NGO Committee for Social Development with support from UN DESA/DSPD and FES

February 2018
United Nations HQ
New York, New York





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Civil Society Declaration 2018

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CSOCD56

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Welcome, Welcome, Welcome to the 2018 Civil Society Forum. Since 2006 this gathering has provided space for NGOs and other members of civil society to gather for orientation, discussion and collaboration on the themes and deliberations of The Commission for Social Development (CSOCD). This year, the planning teams of the Forum and the Commission have worked even more collaboratively than ever to integrate the contribution of Civil Society into the workings of the Commission.

The results of these efforts will reveal themselves during the Forum and the Commission. What we can say is that we have been guided in our planning by the original spirit underlying the creation of the United Nations, the Commission for Social Development, and of the founding values of our organizations. During our time together, we invite each of us to consider the words of those who set the way for us. and which unite and challenge us today.

“Recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world.” preamble of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948

MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER We hope that the Program Booklet along with the Civil Society Declaration will:

- Serve as a guide to active participation in both the Forum and the Commission
- Clarify the connections among the Civil Society Declaration, The Commission for Social Development, and the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030,
- Enable all of us to bring key themes of the Civil Society Declaration to discussion at side events, with your constituencies, and for questions or discussion at the conference itself
- Focus on the core vision that each of our NGOs share and which motivates us in our particular missions to see through the lens of those most in need, most excluded and most vulnerable.



Social Protection: A Coherent Strategy for Shared Prosperity United Nations 56th Commission for Social Development Civil Society Declaration

Achieving prosperity in its full sense requires the broadest and deepest possible participation in the economic and social life of society. Both within and across nations, the creation of social conditions that would end extreme poverty and, beyond this, provide all people with a genuine opportunity to flourish is among the greatest challenges of today. In recent years, social protection has emerged as a unifying concept for an array of measures aimed at building fairer and more inclusive societies. As a “set of policies and programmes designed to reduce and prevent poverty and vulnerability throughout the life cycle,” social protection “includes benefits for children and families, maternity, unemployment, employment injury, sickness, old age, disability, survivors, as well as health protection.”¹ The establishment of social protection regimes has shown itself to be one of the most effective and straightforward strategies to simultaneously address human rights and fundamental material needs, and to strengthen capacity to constructively engage in the life of society at all levels. As such, it is a strategy that the international community has explicitly taken on as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Among its targets, Goal 1 of the Agenda, to “end poverty in all its forms everywhere,” calls for the implementation of “nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors,” as well as the achievement of “substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable” by 2030.

Social protection systems speak to the universality of eradicating poverty and building broad-based prosperity. In particular, the concept of social protection floors reflects the conviction that there are thresholds which a community – whether local, national, regional, or international – will refuse to let any of its members fall below. Especially given that poverty is not static, and an individual may travel in and out of it as the result of different life events, social protection floors are grounded in the idea that those in positions of vulnerability represent the trust of the whole.

However, it is not only those living in poverty who stand to gain from such measures. Unlike discredited theories about the shared benefits of unfettered wealth-creation at the top, social protection has truly shown the potential to serve as that much-touted “rising tide that lifts all boats.” It is a potent mechanism for promoting social equity and demonstrates significant salutary effects for all strata of society. Living in more equitable societies means increased health, stability, and happiness for everyone – which represents the actual goal of development, beyond economic benefits.

Although social protection is a shared endeavor involving a wide array of stakeholders, the place of public institutions is preeminent. Non-governmental organizations will be crucial to implementation, as could the private sector, but national governments and international bodies must lead and regulate efforts, given the high degree of coordination and multi-sectoral collaboration required to implement a coherent and consequential system. While not without complications, a state-led, rights-based approach, in many ways derives power from its simplicity. In the face of the most basic of needs, public social protection floors and other measures offer direct redress, unconditioned by employment or other status, shareholder interests, or fluctuations in charitable-giving. At a deeper level, much of the promise of the public establishment of robust social protection regimes lies in their potential to progressively undo systemic injustices and foster long-term shifts in attitudes, nurturing a societal ethic of reciprocity and a sense of responsibility to one another.

1 International Labour Organization, *World Social Protection Report 2017-2019*



A stabilizing force in a world of instability

From near-constant transformations in the spheres of employment and communications technologies, to massive waves of international migration and dramatic changes in the environment, we live in a time of unprecedented upheaval. While the twenty-first century has seen impressive achievements in poverty eradication, and improvements in global living standards, the outset of the 2030 Agenda finds the world in a precarious position, with many of the gains of previous decades in jeopardy of being reversed. Low, middle, and high-income countries alike are experiencing ever more uncertainty and instability in their political, economic, and ecological systems, with four of our planetary boundaries already breached and global warming a scientifically-proven fact. As the notion of “disruption” is increasingly prized as a social good, longstanding institutions and practices are giving way to new and often unpredictable social arrangements, and “risk” is becoming an ever more common feature of contemporary life.

Against this backdrop, the need for adequate social protection systems becomes all the more clear. At present, 71% of the world’s population is not adequately protected, with over 750 million people living in abject poverty and utter insecurity and sufficient data is lacking for some of the most marginalized, uncounted populations. Only about 29% of the world’s working population have effective access to comprehensive social protection.²

It is patently clear that people cannot make meaningful contributions to societal development if they are sick, malnourished, uneducated, and without a basic degree of income security that is, if they are fighting simply for basic survival. Public institutions must resolve to guarantee access to the goods and services necessary for humanity to adapt and flourish amidst the challenges and opportunities of this inflection point.

A scheme of proven effectiveness

Where implemented with rigor, social protection regimes have shown themselves capable of effecting broad-based improvements in social well-being. Countries in every corner of the globe offer glimpses of their transformative impact.

Uruguay, for instance, has for many decades benefitted from a solid social protection regime focused on education, health, social security, and housing.³ Spending more on social programs than any other government in Latin America (over 80% of total public spending and about 25% of its GDP)⁴ has helped the country stand out in the region, in the words of the World Bank, “for being an egalitarian society and for its high per capita income, low level of inequality and poverty, and the almost complete absence of extreme poverty.”⁵

2 According to the International Labour Organization’s *World Social Protection Report 2017-2019*, 5.2 billion people are not, or are only partially, protected. According to the World Bank, 767 million people live on less than \$1.90 per day as of 2013.

3 http://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/4037/1/S1201025_en.pdf

4 <http://blogs.worldbank.org/governance/uruguay-s-award-winning-innovations-social-protection>

5 Placing great focus on social equity in recent years, between 2006 and 2016, moderate poverty in Uruguay went from 32.5% to 9.4%, while extreme poverty went from 2.5% to 0.2%. (<http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/uruguay/overview>)



In Ireland, robust public investments in social welfare and development contributed decisively to transforming one of Europe's poorest nations into a country with one of the highest standards of living in the world in just a matter of decades. Bolstered by international support in the form of Structural and Cohesion Funds from the European Union, Ireland made its citizens a priority and allocated an above-average share of the monies to human capital development particularly in the area of education.⁶ Following the dramatic economic reverses precipitated by the Global Financial Crisis of 2008, this investment in people showed its long-term transformative impact, as Ireland was able to begin rebounding by 2014.

Furthermore, in Indonesia, faced with a fragmented healthcare system that covered little more than 50% of the country's quarter of a billion citizens, the government began phasing in the world's largest single-payer health insurance system, with the ambitious goal to provide universal coverage by 2019, just years after its introduction. A year into its implementation, the program had a membership of 133.4 million, exceeding its target of 121.6 million, and customer satisfaction was reported at 81%.⁷

In order to build on these success stories, it is important that social protection policies incorporate protection, prevention, promotion and transformation as each of these elements reinforce the other and improve societal outcomes. Notions of social protection should not be limited to what has come before, but should be expanding to encompass the needs of a particular time and place, e.g. access to land, climate issues, protection for refugees, and support for care and community work. Moreover, to view social protection purely through the lens of adversity limits its scope and runs the risk of reinforcing patterns of thought harmful to those receiving such assistance.

A responsibility of the government, a right of all people

To be secure in one's person, to be "protected," is not a privilege but a right that the governments of the world have agreed to uphold. Article 22 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states: "Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international co-operation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality." This right was reaffirmed in the Social Protection Floors Recommendation unanimously adopted by 184 members of the International Labour Conference in 2012. With this, the global community has accepted the commitment to achieve at least a baseline, of social protection for all people to live a life of dignity and justice.⁸

For most countries, closing the gaps to secure adequate social protection does not require unreasonably large amounts of funding. One recent report on 142 countries found that about half would have to allocate less than 3.5% of their GDP to close their health security and income security gaps, and about a third would only have to allocate an additional 2% of their GDP to close their social protection floor gaps. However, for other countries the financial challenge would be more significant; 12 African nations would need to direct more than 10% of their GDP to provide adequate protection. As a result, it is clear that the establishment and maintenance of global social protection floors will likely only be achievable as a shared endeavor of the international community.

6 The Irish case, with its relation with the European Union, also speaks to the importance of international solidarity in pursuing comprehensive social protection for all people. While country-led efforts are indispensable, the greatest gains will come when countries recognize our global interdependence.

7 <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development-professionals-network/2015/may/15/indonesias-universal-healthcare-insurance-verdict>

8 <https://www.merit.unu.edu/civil-society-social-protection-floor-index-five-qas/>

Civil Society Declaration

CSOCD56



Moreover, governments would do well to consider the costs of such measures not in isolation, but with respect to the costs of inaction. To use the language of the market - a dangerous endeavor when social protection refers to a people-centered approach - social protection measures could be viewed as investments destined to yield major returns in human and financial capital in the future.

Translating global promises into social reality at the national and international levels will be largely a question of political will and intent. By looking at these policies through the lenses of social justice and service to the common well-being, political leaders must take ownership of this issue and find financing solutions – whether through new taxes or shifts in current budget allocations. This may even entail leadership embracing a more decidedly redistributive role for the state.⁹ However bold the countries of the world strive to be in this regard, in developing policy proposals it will be useful to emphasize that social protection is not a partisan issue - it belongs not to the right nor the left, and this consensus should be the starting point for its implementation.

In the final analysis, social protection is founded on the most basic and universal conceptions of human worth. While the specifics of its implementation and administration must be the subject of rigorous, objective research and deliberation, the underlying premise is not controversial. It is a question of value, and it speaks to the sort of society which all fair-minded people wish to live in – one in which fears of being unable to even survive would no longer darken any person's horizons. Moreover, experience has shown that, to the extent that it is universally applied and embraced, social protection ceases to be seen as unsustainable, dependency-fostering hand-outs, and instead helps to reshape long-term relations within a society. Social protection broadens and deepens the social contract, promoting greater understanding of the fact that the well-being of the individual is ultimately dependent upon, and contributes to, the well-being of the whole.

In light of the above, and in accordance with with the provisions of the International Labour Organization's Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202),¹⁰ we urge Member States to introduce language into the Commission's resolutions related to Social Protection. In addition to building on the substantive policy recommendations found in numerous UN documents, we would encourage language that ensures social protection policies and processes include civil society input in the design, implementation and evaluation of the programs - including those who are meant to benefit from the programs. Only in this way will the international community achieve the dual objectives of reaching the furthest behind first and leaving no one behind.

9 In this connection, it is worth noting that actors as diverse as Finland, India, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and prominent tech gurus have all expressed interest in proposals of a universal basic income.

10 The recommendations articulated there are as follows:

- i. Provide effective access to a nationally defined set of essential health care goods and services, including maternity care, that meets the criteria of availability, accessibility, acceptability, and quality;
- ii. Ensure basic income security for children, assuring access to nutrition, education and care;
- iii. Arrange for basic income security for persons in active age, with particular attention to sickness, unemployment, maternity and disability; and
- iv. Guarantee basic income security for older persons.

Social Protection, Including Floors:

A preeminent strategy to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development for all

Friday, February 2nd, 2018

United Nations HQ, Conference Room 3

The Civil Society Forum has been planned by the NGO Committee for Social Development in joint sponsorship with UN-DESA Division for Social Policy and Development and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES). This Forum has been organized to prepare civil society participants to engage at the 56th Session of the Commission for Social Development (29 January to 7 February 2018 at the UNHQ in New York) as well as in ongoing discussions related to implementation of social protection, including floors, at national and local levels. This space is to create an inclusive dialogue to foster cooperation between Member States, Civil Society and the United Nations, and to unify behind a common vision in furtherance of the Sustainable Development Goals. Specifically, how social protection can help fulfil this objective. Following from last year, speakers are invited to address and critique the priority theme for the Commission: Strategies for the eradication of poverty to achieve sustainable development for all. The aim is for participants to develop concrete recommendations for the Commission, hone their understanding of the relationship between poverty eradication and social protection, see their efforts link with the HLPF focus on the SDGs, and to galvanize and engage meaningfully both with governments in New York, and at the grassroots.

In the final analysis, social protection is founded on the most basic and universal conceptions of human worth. While the specifics of its implementation and administration must be subject of rigorous, objective deliberation, the underlying premise is not controversial. It is a question of value, and it speaks to the sort of society which all fair-minded people wish to live in – one in which fears of being unable to even survive would no longer darken any person's horizons.

Friday, February 2nd

10:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Welcome

Mr. Daniel Perell, Chair of the NGO Committee for Social Development

Ms. Bettina Luise Rürup, Executive Director, FES New York

Ms. Thayvie Sinn, NGO Committee for Social Development, Co-Chair of the Civil Society Forum 2018

Special Presentations:

Mr. Nikulás Hannigan, Minister, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Mission of Iceland to the United Nations, Bureau Chair, 56th Commission for Social Development

Mr. Liu Zhenmin, Under Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations

10:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Keynote Speaker

H.E Mr. Juan Somavia, Former Director-General, International Labour Organization (ILO)



11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Panel and Interactive Dialogue

Leaving No One Behind: Best practices, examples, lesson learned from the field, and highlighted at the 56th Commission. How the work of the Commission is linked to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Moderator:

Ms. Winifred Doherty, Main UN NGO Representative, Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shephard

Speakers:

Mr. Yao Shaojun, Counselor, Mission of China to the United Nations

Ms. Daniela Bas, Director, the Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD), the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) of the United Nations

Ms. Chirlane McCray, First Lady, City of New York (Invited)

Fr. Ajaya Kumar Singh, Director, Odisha Regional Forum for Social Action

Ms. Kerry Gibson, President, EcoCentury Technologies

10:00 PM – 3:00 PM

LUNCH (on your own)

3:00 PM – 3:45 PM

Discussion on Civil Society Declaration

What policy recommendations should be changed in this year's Civil Society Declaration?

3:45 PM – 5:00 PM

Regional Breakouts

Through the lens of Social Protection and Poverty Eradication, linking the global level to the grassroots level. Making the connection between the 56th Commission for Social Development and the High Level Political Forum (HLPF). Participants working in small groups will learn about the 2030 Agenda, the SDGs that will be reviewed in July at the HLPF and how this is relevant to leaving no one behind. In 2018, the theme is “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies, reviewing the following goals: Goal 6, 7, 11, 12, 15, and 17. Using lessons learned at the 56th Commission, hands-on experience and networking to develop policy recommendations and action plans.

5:00 PM – 5:30 PM

End

Daniel Perell, Chair of the NGO Committee for Social Development

Mr. Perell joined the Baha'i International Community's United Nations Office as a Representative in 2011. His areas of work include social and sustainable development, global citizenship, human rights, the role of religion in society, and defense of the Baha'i Community. He is currently a Global Organizing Partner of the NGO Major Group and the Chair of the NGO Committee for Social Development. In 2010, Mr. Perell received a JD from the University of Virginia, School of Law and an MA in Law and Diplomacy from the Fletcher School at Tufts University. Mr. Perell has worked with the International Service for Human Rights in Geneva, the UN in Aceh, Indonesia and other organizations in the Marshall Islands and Chile.

Bettina Luise Rürup, Executive Director, FES New York

Bettina Luise Rürup is the Executive Director of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) office at the United Nations in New York. Associated with FES for more than 20 years Luise served as head of department at FES Headquarters in Berlin as well as at offices in Chile, India, Turkey as well as at the federal state level in Germany.

Prior to joining FES she was involved with interdisciplinary field research on rural development in Costa Rica and Tanzania. Luise has published on a wide range of topics related to development, social justice and democracy. Luise earned a master's degree in Political Sciences from the University of Hamburg (Germany) and an intermediate diploma in Political Sciences from the Free University of Berlin (Germany). She was enrolled with an DAAD exchange program at the L'Università degli Studi di Urbino Carlo Bo (Italy) and holds a postgraduate certificate from the Centre for Rural Development (SLE) at the Technical University of Berlin (Germany).

Thayvie Sinn, NGO Committee for Social Development, Co-Chair of the Civil Society Forum 2018

Ms. Sinn is the founder and president of Save Cambodia, a nonprofit focusing on preserving Cambodian identity by providing resources through the promotion of cultural preservation, socioeconomic and sustainable development, and building international relations for Cambodia and its diaspora. Ms. Sinn is an American daughter of Khmer Rouge refugees and uses her experiences to promote the organization's core values of open-mindedness, integrity, courage, resilience and diplomacy. Ms. Sinn uses her position on CSocD to develop interactive dialogue between all parties in order to promote understanding and mutual relationships. Ms. Sinn has also served as a Cambodian Youth Ambassador for Youth for Human Rights International, a UN Representative to ECOSOC for Global Education Motivators, and is a committee member of the UN NGO Major Group, and the Coalition for Global Citizenship. Ms. Sinn has a degree in Biology from the Penn State University, and an MBA from Western Governors University.

Nikulás Hannigan, Minister, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Mission of Iceland to the United Nation, Bureau Chair, 56th Commission for Social Development

Mr. Nikulás Hannigan has been a career diplomat in the Icelandic Foreign Service for twenty years, serving in the Icelandic Delegation to the Council of Europe, then in the Foreign Ministry in the Department of External Trade and subsequently as Director for international institutions, including the United Nations. From 2009-2014 he was Deputy Head of Mission at Iceland's Embassy to the European Union in Brussels. Prior to his career in the foreign service he worked as senior officer at the EFTA Secretariat in Brussels.

Liu Zhenmin, Under-Secretary- General for Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations

As Under-Secretary- General for Economic and Social Affairs, Mr. Liu guides UN Secretariat support for the follow-up processes of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. He also oversees the substantive services to many intergovernmental processes, including the annual meetings of the Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly, the meetings of the Economic and Social Council, including its Development Cooperation Forum, and the work of the subsidiary bodies of ECOSOC.

Prior to his appointment as Under Secretary, Mr. LIU was Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of China since 2013. Among his various diplomatic assignments, he served as Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations Office at Geneva and Other International Organizations in Switzerland (2011-2013).

In addition to intergovernmental processes, Mr. Liu oversees DESA's policy analysis and capacity development work. He also serves as the Convenor of the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs, and advises the United Nations Secretary-General on all development-related issues, including climate change, internet governance, and financing for development.

Keynote Speaker: Juan Somavia, Former Director-General of ILO

H.E. Mr. Somavia is the former director-general of the International Labour Organization from 1999 to 2012. He is the first representative from the Southern Hemisphere to head the organization. He is an attorney by profession and has served in many roles at the United Nations and other inter-governmental organizations. Some of the positions he has held have included permanent representative of Chile to the United Nations in New York; president of the United Nations Economic and Social Council; representative of Chile on the United Nations Security Council, including president of the Security Council in April 1996 and October 1997; and chairman of the preparatory committee for the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen. In addition, Somavia was founder, executive director, and president of the Latin American Institute of Transnational Studies from 1976 to 1990; chairman of the board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development from 1996 to 1999;

Moderator: Winifred Doherty, Main UN NGO Representative, Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shephard

Ms. Doherty is a Good Shepherd Sister from Ireland. Winifred has been the NGO Representative to the United Nations for the Sisters and Mission Partners since 2008. She is a social worker by profession, graduating from University College Cork, Ireland. She worked in Ethiopia for 16 years empowering the girl child and young women through education and micro finance programs. She has experience in community mobilization for infrastructural development – water, sanitation, walkways, and kitchens. She facilitated the girl child and young women to confront extreme poverty and the many discriminatory practices that plagued their lives – FGM, early marriage, kidnapping of girls, gender based violence, sexual exploitation and trafficking. As an NGO representative at the United Nations she collaborates with other NGO's in efforts for poverty eradication, ending prostitution and human trafficking, ending violence against women and girls, and the promotion of the girl child. She is a director of the Working Group on Girls and is currently a core team member of the NGO Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors. She is a former Chair of NGO CSocD.

Interactive Panelists:

Yao Shaojun, Counselor, Mission of China

Counselor Yao Shaojun is experienced in multilateral diplomacy. After graduating from Peking University in 1997, he joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and started his career in the Department of International Organizations and Conferences. From 2002 to 2005, he was in charge of peace and security issues in the Permanent Mission. In the next 8 years, he served as the director of social affairs division then the human rights division in the department of International Organizations and Conferences of MFA. He became the counsellor of the Permanent Mission of PRC to United Nations, the head of Human Rights and Social Affairs Section in November 2013.

Ajaya Kumar Singh, Director, Odisha Regional Forum for Social Action

Father Ajaya Singh is a Catholic Priest who serves in the Archdiocese of Cuttack in India, and who presently serves as the director of the Odisha Forum for Social Action. Father Singh has a long history of being a development activist, human rights defender, and an advocate for India's Dalit, Adivasi, and minority communities. He is the founder of the Dalit Adivasi Vikas Initiative (DAVI), the Prashanti Cultural Center, and a woman's led economic cooperative. In 2013 Father Singh was awarded the National Minority Rights Award by the Indian Commission for Minorities. He has an MBA from the Xavier Institute of Management, and a Master in Law from Utkal University.

Kerry Gibson, President, EcoCentury Technologies

Ms. Gibson is the President of EcoCentury Technologies, which is a socially directed developer and distributor of LED lighting and hydrogen-fueled aviation technologies. She has been with ECT since it was a startup where she served as the VP of Operations. In the past Ms. Gibson has volunteered for a diverse selection of charitable organizations such as the Williams Lake Care Home, Pacific Riding for the Disabled, New Vista Care Home, St. Paul's Hospital, UN Women, LGBTQ organizations, and the Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's shelter. Currently Ms. Gibson serves on the Board of Directors of the Canadian Club, Upgyres, Moving Forward Family Services and We for She. Ms. Gibson has a BA in Psychology from Simon Fraser University, and a degree in business management from the British Columbia Institute for Technology.

Daniela Bas, Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)

Ms. Daniela Bas was appointed Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DSPD/UNDESA) on 9 May 2011. A politologist specializing in international politics and social development, Ms. Bas has most recently served as Secretary General of the Interministerial Committee for Human Rights within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and as Senior Consultant designated by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs as an expert on social development and human rights to Institutes that operate internationally. She has also provided her expertise on anti-discrimination issues at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers in Italy.

Ms. Bas has worked for close to 10 years for the UN as a Professional Officer in social development and human rights, travelling around the world on behalf of the UN and also as a speaker at international conventions. In the past, she has held a number of other significant assignments including as Special Adviser on fundamental rights and social policies for the Vice President of the European Commission (Belgium); as the Italian representative designated by the Presidency of the Council of Ministers on the topic: "Tourism for All" to the European Commission (Belgium); and as journalist and broadcaster for Radio and TV both in Italy and abroad. In 2008 she also received her Master as Business and Life Coach.

Chirlane Irene McCray

Ms. Chirlane Irene McCray is an American writer, editor, communications professional, and political figure. She has published poetry and worked in politics as a speechwriter. Married to current Mayor Bill de Blasio, she is the First Lady of New York City.

She is the chair of the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City which has focused on mental health, immigration, and youth workforce projects.

In November 2015, she led the launch of ThriveNYC, a plan to overhaul the city's mental health and substance abuse services, promoting a shift from a traditionally more reactive model, which can strain police, prisons, hospitals, and schools, to an integrated public health approach, focused on awareness and early identification.

Eileen Reilly, School Sisters of Notre Dame – NGO CSocD Executive Committee, Vice-Chair

Ms. Reilly is the Main UN NGO representative for the School Sisters of Notre Dame which is an international congregation operating in thirty-two countries. Her involvements at the UN are related to the concerns of women and girls - such as education and anti-trafficking – as well as poverty eradication and migration. In addition she has significant experience in coordinating Social Justice activities in schools, universities, parishes, and within her own religious congregation. Sister Eileen has completed a Masters of Divinity from the Weston School of theology.

Marilyn (Lyn) Hensle-Hirsch – NGO CSocD Executive Committee, Member-At-Large and Co-Chair of the Civil Society Forum 2018

Ms. Hensle-Hirsch is a UN Representative for the International Federation of Business and Professional Women (IFBPW). She is on the Executive Committee of the NGO Committee on Social Development and a member of the NGO Committees on Financing for Development (FfD), the Status of Women (CSW) and Alliance 8.7 whose mission is the elimination of enslaved labor. Ms. Hensle-Hirsch joined IFBPW following a 35+ career in Financial Services spanning marketing, product development and branch management with Paine Webber, Smith Barney and Morgan Stanley Smith Barney. She is a Member of the Board of Trustees of Metropolitan College of New York, and was inducted into the Academy of Women Achievers of YWCA of the City of New York in 1977.

Every year, the Civil Society Forum receives valuable support from faculty and students for translation and interpretation services before, during, and after the Forum. Our volunteers come from every corner of the world and they have a strong interest in working with NGOs. Some of our volunteers are also completing an academic year in an American University throughout the Fulbright Program managed by the Institute of International Education.

The Civil Society Forum Task Force wishes to acknowledge the following individual interpreters' valuable contribution to the Forum's success:

2018 Coordinators

Elisa Tellez Perez and Edgar I. Felix

Interpreters

Dominique Roberts

Laureana Byrne

Juan Francisco Amand de Mendieta

Laura Clark

Lis Santamaria

Maria Pia Maiti

Pierre Agbadou

Yuna Ngal

Nasser Larkem

Jonathan Solarte

Emmy Decker

UN Acronyms & Useful Terminology

CSOCD56

Advocacy: Advocacy is all about taking what you've learned and putting it into action. Actions of advocacy can include: information campaigns, panel discussions, art exhibitions, film screenings, petition circulation, and lobbying.

Civil Society: The term used to describe the sum of non-governmental organizations and other related institutions that advocate for the interests of citizens at large.

CSocD - Commission for Social Development: United Nation conference generally lasting 10 days, and generally in February, which advises the Economic and Social Council on matters relating to social policies, and the social field in general. Further, the Commission highlights social development themes based on the Copenhagen Summit for Social Development held in 1995 with emphasis on poverty eradication, full employment and social integration. The Copenhagen Declaration put the person at the center of development

DESA-DSPD - Department of Economic & Social Affairs - Division for Social Policy & Development: Guided by the Sustainable Development Goals, UN DESA is charged with creating policies and programming to ensure sustainable development for all.

ECOSOC - Economic and Social Council: UN body responsible for follow-up to major UN conferences, ECOSOC seeks to advance consensus building, debate, and innovation on the economic, social, and environmental facets of sustainable development. The current president of the Economic and Social Council is Her Excellency Ambassador Marie Chatardová of the Czech Republic.

GA - General Assembly: The primary policy making, deliberative, and representative organ of the United Nations, composed of all 193 member states. The General Assembly provides a forum for discussion, debate, and adoption of UN resolutions and agendas.

Human Rights: Human rights are universal rights, freedoms, and protections to which all human beings are entitled. All human beings have, by nature of being human, human rights. Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (a document that outlines 30 agreed upon human rights) states that "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights." Categories of human rights include social, political, and economic rights.

ILO - International Labour Organisation: Comprised of 187 member states, ILO is a UN-affiliated organization that creates policy, programs, and labor standards through the cooperation of governments, workers, and employers.

LDCs - Least Developed Countries: countries with the lowest gross national income, high economic vulnerability, and weak human assets.

MDGs - Millennium Development Goals: MDGs are eight international development goals that were established by the United Nations in 2000. All of the UN member states have agreed to achieve these goals – such as reducing child mortality and combating HIV/AIDS – by the year 2015.

NGO - Non-Governmental Organization: non-profit, voluntary organizations working on a local, national or international level. NGOs bring citizen concerns to Governments, advocate and monitor policies and encourage political participation through raising awareness and building coalitions.

UN Acronyms & Useful Terminology

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PGA - President of the General Assembly: Currently , Miroslav Lajčák of Slovakia, the President of the General Assembly is a position for which the member states elect a new leader ever year. The President of the General Assembly presides over the assembly.

Poverty: The state of not having access to the resources to satisfy basic human needs, such as nutrition, clean water, or shelter. It is estimated that about one-fifth of the world's population lives in extreme poverty. Poverty pertains not only to income-poverty and is multi-dimensional. Poverty also refers to a lack of capacity to participate in society.

SDGs - The Sustainable Development Goals: are a comprehensive and ambitious set of 17 goals that were created to follow-up and continue the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals. The Goals include ending poverty, protecting the environment, creating sustainable infrastructure, guaranteeing gender equality, granting access to education for all, and more. The SDGs are also referred to as “Agenda 2030” or the “Global Goals.”

SG - Secretary General: Currently Antonio Guterres of Portugal, the Secretary General is the public spokesperson and leader of the UN, and is the head of the Secretariat, one of the three UN organs.

Social Protection Floors: Reaffirming that the right to social security is a human right, social protection floors are nationally-defined sets of basic social security guarantees which secure protection aimed at preventing or alleviating poverty, vulnerability and social exclusion. These guarantees should ensure at a minimum that, over the life cycle, all in need have access to essential health care and basic income security. National social protection floors should comprise at least the following four social security guarantees, as defined at the national level:

1. access to essential health care, including maternity care;
2. basic income security for children, providing access to nutrition, education, care and any other necessary goods and services;
3. basic income security for persons in active age who are unable to earn sufficient income, in particular in cases of sickness, unemployment, maternity and disability;
4. basic income security for older persons.

Such guarantees should be provided to all residents and all children, as defined in national laws and regulations, and subject to existing international obligations.

UDHR - The Universal Declaration of Human Rights: is a declaration adopted by the United Nations on December 10, 1948 (now known as International Human Rights Day) that outlines the rights to which every human being is entitled. It is divided into 30 Articles, or parts.

UN - United Nations: The United Nations, or UN, is an international organization founded in 1945 dedicated to maintaining international peace and security, developing positive relations between nations, and promoting social progress, better standards of living, and human rights. There are currently 193 member states (or countries) in the UN.

UNRISD - United Nations Research Institute for Social Development: A UN-affiliated, but independent organization that researches the social aspects of development issues.

Notes

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