

***Beyond the pandemic: social dialogue shaping the new labour Market  
Global Deal Annual High-Level Social Dialogue Forum***

***Partner Session: ILO – How can social dialogue help to achieve universal  
social protection?***

***13 October 2021 – 16:00-17:30 (CET)***

**Session description**

This session is organised by the International Labour Organization (ILO). The role of social dialogue in developing, implementing and evaluating sound social protection policies and sustainable social protection systems cannot be overstated. The Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202) highlights the critical role of social dialogue in formulating and implementing social protection (extension) strategies. Social protection policy measures that are developed through effective social dialogue provide more efficient, balanced and durable solutions, including in periods of crisis<sup>1</sup> such as the current COVID-19 pandemic. A more recent research brief by the ILO has also shed light on important policy outcomes delivered by peak level social dialogue including in the area of social protection.<sup>2</sup>

This has also been recognised at the highest political level. The [Resolution on the Global Call to Action for a human-centred recovery from the COVID-19](#), adopted by the International Labour Conference (ILC) at its June 2021 session, has emphasised the need to achieve universal access to comprehensive, adequate and sustainable social protection, including nationally defined social protection floors. At the same time it called for the promotion of social dialogue to achieve the objectives of the Call to Action.

During the same session, the ILC also adopted the [Resolution and Conclusions concerning social protection](#). The conclusions underline that universal social protection is crucial for the prevention and reduction of poverty, inequalities, social exclusion and insecurity. It is also an effective crisis response, enabling access to healthcare and stabilizing aggregate demand by supporting income security and facilitating job transitions and business stability. The conclusions call on the ILO constituents to build sustainable social protection systems through national efforts and calls on ILO member States to leverage inclusive social dialogue in all its forms, including collective bargaining, by meaningfully involving social partners in the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of social protection policies and strategies, and in the governance of national social security systems.

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<sup>1</sup> The role of social dialogue in formulating social protection responses to the COVID-19 crisis. ILO Brief October 2020. [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_protect/---soc\\_sec/documents/publication/wcms\\_757246.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_protect/---soc_sec/documents/publication/wcms_757246.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Social dialogue one year after the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic: Spotlight on outcomes. ILO Research Brief June 2021. [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_dialogue/---dialogue/documents/publication/wcms\\_802527.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_dialogue/---dialogue/documents/publication/wcms_802527.pdf)

The session will provide a short overview of the ILC conclusions and their framework for action. A panel discussion will present the different perspectives of governments and social partners as well as from an international institution. The panellists will discuss the role that social dialogue can play to extend social protection to all, including those working in the informal economy, and to develop comprehensive, adequate, sustainable and inclusive social protection systems, that can underpin social and economic stability especially in times of crisis.

The members of the panel will highlight a number of national experiences drawn from their day-to-day work and practice and explain under which conditions and how social dialogue and tripartite cooperation can work effectively and deliver sustainable outcomes in the area of social protection.