

# **: Programme**

Draft: 09 April 2018

## **Potsdam Spring Dialogues 2018 Strengthening Social Protection in Africa. National, regional and international strategies**

**NH Hotel Potsdam**

19-20 April 2018

**Conference languages**

German/English (simultaneous interpretation)

**Cooperating Partner**



**giz** Deutsche Gesellschaft  
für Internationale  
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

**With support from**

**Welt Trends**  
Zeitschrift für internationale Politik



**#Potsdam18**



---

## SOCIAL PROTECTION. DEVELOPMENT GOAL AND HUMAN RIGHT

Social protection is a key building block for poverty reduction and improved quality of life. It has the potential to contribute significantly to the implementation of Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). At the national level, social protection is an investment in the future: it can reduce inequalities, advance social justice (SDG 10) and promote economic growth (SDG 8). The target set in SDG 1.3 is to implement social protection systems for all. In 2012, the members of the International Labour Organization (ILO) adopted the Social Protection Floors Recommendation, defining a minimum level of universal social protection. The ILO and World Bank set up a Global Partnership for Universal Social Protection (USP 2030) in 2016. According to figures from the ILO<sup>1</sup>, however, the majority of the world population – around 71 % – is still either unprotected or only partially protected. For sub-Saharan Africa, the ILO estimate is just 17.8%.

### SOCIAL PROTECTION IN AFRICA

Africa, then, is still the continent with poorest access to social protection coverage – coupled with growing inequality. This is the case even though numerous African countries have adopted measures to improve social protection in recent years. A large number of relevant initiatives have been established at both regional and continental level. In 2015, the African Union (AU) adopted a Declaration on Employment, Poverty Eradication, Inclusive Development in Africa, with social protection identified as one of the priorities for the first implementation programme. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) launched its Tripartite Social Dialogue Forum back in 2011. Other Regional Economic Communities (RECs), such as the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the East African Community (EAC), have adopted a social protection charter or programme.

*How successful are these initiatives, what are the challenges associated? What has to happen for initiatives such as these to be effective on a broader scale?*

### MODERN SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS

One difficulty is that the term “social protection” covers a diverse range of concepts and measures. Social protection systems include basic income support, in the form of financial or in-kind benefits such as cash transfers or school meals. Beyond this, access to pension, health and other forms of social insurance, and employment promotion schemes are other forms of social protection. A modern social protection system must meet very stringent demands: it should build the resilience of individuals and societies against crises, shocks and climate change while also helping to lift people out of poverty and end their dependence on support. This can be achieved by providing training and promoting labour market integration, for example, and by offering access to various productive resources (known as graduation).

*When setting up social protection schemes, what diverse approaches should be considered? How can systems be established that are both effective and self-sustaining?*

### THE POTSDAM SPRING DIALOGUES 2018

Some of Africa’s current social protection strategies will be presented and discussed critically at the Potsdam Spring Dialogues 2018, and various programmes and funding models will be analysed. We will also consider the broader frameworks which need to be in place.

*Is a form of social contract necessary for the development of contributory social protection systems? How can the community of solidarity required for this purpose be fostered? When are taxation-based strategies needed in order to achieve a balance of interests? And what kind of support can the international community provide?*

---

<sup>1</sup> International Labour Organization (ILO): World Social Protection Report 2017-2019, Geneva 2017.

# : Thursday 19 April 2018

9.00 hrs	Registration
	Chair
	<b>Ute Lange</b> Moderator, trainer, communication coach i3kommunikation, Bonn
9.30 hrs	Welcome
	<b>Dr Gerd Harms</b> Deputy Chairperson of the Executive Committee Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn
	Opening
	<b>Anne Quart</b> State Secretary Ministry for Justice, Europe and Consumer Protection of the Federal State of Brandenburg, Potsdam Member of the Board of Trustees, Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn

---

## SESSION I

### SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR ALL. TACKLING INEQUALITIES ACROSS AFRICA

Social protection is not only intended to help people who are facing hardship. It also has the potential to overcome intergenerational cycles of poverty and narrow inequalities. Inequality is widest in sub-Saharan Africa; this applies to income and gender disparities alike. Social protection can open the way for redistribution and enable people to participate fully in society and the economy.

How is the debate about inequality framed in Africa? How are the African Union, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and individual countries approaching the task of reducing inequalities through social protection? Which particular strategies are being pursued within the framework of German and European development cooperation? And how can Africa and Europe learn from each another's policies and initiatives?

10.30 hrs	Keynotes
	<b>Dr Zephania Kameeta</b> Minister for Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare Republic of Namibia , Windhoek
	<b>Martin Jäger</b> State Secretary Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Berlin/Bonn
followed by	Q&A

---

## SESSION II

### SOCIAL PROTECTION. CONCEPTS, ACTORS AND CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

11.45 hrs	Input
	<b>Professor Markus Kaltenborn</b> Faculty of Law/Institute for Development Studies and Development Policy (IEE) Ruhr-University Bochum
followed by	Discussion
12.30 hrs	Lunch

---

## SESSION III

### INVESTING EFFECTIVELY IN SOCIAL PROTECTION. INNOVATIVE OPTIONS FOR FINANCING

The diverse and positive effects of social protection are undisputed. It is now recognised that social protection schemes are also affordable for low- and middle-income countries, without their having to spend a substantial proportion of their gross national income (GNI). Often, investing even a small percentage of GNI is sufficient to deliver effective social protection. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA), adopted in 2016, recognises that taxation is critical to achieving the SDGs. An equitable tax system and the restructuring of public spending can expand the financial scope for social protection while increasing government legitimacy in the eyes of citizens. The risk of dependence on external funding is reduced at the same time. Solidarity-based contributory schemes, at least in theory, end the dependence on external funding. However, they are often predicated on a formalisation of employment that has not been achieved in practice.

How can social protection be funded and established on a sustainable footing? What examples of good practice be identified in African countries and regions? Which lessons can be learned from other regions of the world? And how can international cooperation make a contribution?

14.00 hrs	Round-table discussion
	<b>Dr Francesca Bastagli</b> Head of Programme, Social Protection and Social Policy Overseas Development Institute (ODI), London
	<b>Nkateko Chauke</b> Research and Advocacy Coordinator Open Society Foundation for South Africa (OSF-SA), Cape Town
	<b>Alexander Pick</b> Fiscal Economist, Social Cohesion Unit OECD Development Centre, Paris
followed by	Discussion
15.30 hrs	Coffee break

---

## SESSION IV

### GRADUATING OUT OF POVERTY WITH SOCIAL PROTECTION. ACTIVATING EVERYONE'S POTENTIAL

A social protection floor is an important first step in providing coverage for the needy. However, it should also be designed with a view to meeting the long-term goal of lifting people out of poverty. This is where graduation – a relatively new concept – comes in. Graduation links basic social protection with access to financial services or vocational training. For example, income support, in the form of financial transfers, may be combined with saving schemes and basic or advanced training. Graduation facilitates access to productive resources and thus provides people with the essentials that will enable them to engage in economic activity. This may take the form of a one-off payment for the recipient to purchase livestock, a sewing machine or the basic stock for a small shop, for example. Graduation is generally targeted towards those who are able to work. The type and scope of the measures vary considerably, but their common feature is that they all aim to unlock individual potential and help people take control of their own futures.

How can graduation enhance (basic) social protection so that people are able to lift themselves permanently out of poverty? Can any positive models be identified at national and regional level in Africa? Are any innovative programmes being implemented together with international partners, and if so, how can they be rolled out on a broader basis?

16.00 hrs                      Round-table discussion

**Regine Kopplow**

Senior Advisor Food Security and Livelihoods  
Concern Worldwide, Dublin

**Bessie Msusa**

Chief Economist, Poverty Reduction and Social Protection Division  
Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development  
Republic of Malawi, Lilongwe

**Raania Rizvi**

BRAC International

**Dr Keetie Roelen**

Co-Director for Social Protection  
Institute of Development Studies (IDS), Brighton

followed by                      Discussion

until 17.30 hrs

---

## EVENING PROGRAMME

from 18.00 hrs                      City tour

from 19.00 hrs                      Reception at the invitation of the Minister-President of the Federal State of Brandenburg

Welcome by

**Anne Quart**

State Secretary  
Ministry for Justice, Europe and Consumer Protection  
of the Federal State of Brandenburg, Potsdam  
Member of the Board of Trustees, Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn

**Dr Gerd Harms**

Deputy Chairperson of the Executive Committee  
Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn

# : Friday, 20 April 2018

Chair

**Ute Lange**

Moderator, trainer, communication coach  
i3kommunikation, Bonn

---

## SESSION V

### SOCIAL INSURANCE. A SOCIAL CONTRACT AS A BASIS FOR CONTRIBUTORY APPROACHES?

Social insurance schemes are a key element of a comprehensive social protection system. They are based on the principle of solidarity, which means that all the insured share the risks in accordance with their capacities. They may be state-run collective schemes or based on private insurance. One of the challenges facing social insurance provision in Africa is that most of its workforce is employed in the informal sector and is therefore excluded from conventional schemes. Furthermore, for women social insurance is often out of reach as they face different risks than men.

What are good examples of social insurance systems in African countries and regions? Can any contributory models be identified? How and when should the state contribute? How can the existence of a variety of social insurance models be reconciled with the goal of universal social protection? How can informal sector workers and women be reached? Is it possible to hold a constructive national dialogue on the social conditions that must be in place for the introduction of contributory schemes? And which particular blend of contributory and state-funded elements is appropriate for which context?

09.30 hrs

Round-table discussion

**Fatadin Fatadin**

Commissioner Social Security  
Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Environment and  
Sustainable Development, Port Louis

**Dr Frédéric Ntimarubusa**

Secretary-General  
East and Central Africa Social Security Association (ECASSA), Arusha

**Raquel Tebaldi**

Researcher  
International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth (IPC-IG), Brasília

followed by

Discussion

11.00 hrs

Coffee break with snacks

---

## SESSION VI

### TOWARDS UNIVERSAL SOCIAL PROTECTION. HOW CAN COUNTRIES COOPERATE AT REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL?

Achieving universal social protection by 2030 is an ambitious goal. There is a yawning gap between the stated intentions and the reality in many African countries. So it is even more important to take targeted action at all political levels. The task of designing and implementing suitable schemes, programmes and systems lies with the countries and regions themselves, but support from the international community is also required. Various mechanisms are available for this purpose, including the UN's Commission for Social Development, the Global Partnership for Universal Social Protection and the Social Protection Inter-Agency Cooperation Board. A regional and a south-south exchange are essential as well. But can universal social protection be achieved by 2030? We look ahead and hazard a guess.

How can international support mechanisms be improved? What can be done to broaden regional and continental consultation mechanisms and establish south-south exchange on a permanent footing? What can Africa and Europe learn from each other's approach to social protection? And what do the African countries and regions expect from German and European development policy in this context?

11.30 hrs                      Round-table discussion

**Ebenezer Adjete-Sorsey**

Chair

Africa Platform for Social Protection, Nairobi

**Vince Chipatuka**

Programme Manager/SASPEN Coordinator Regional Social Protection Project

Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Zambia Office, Lusaka

**Valerie Schmitt**

Deputy Director of Social Protection

International Labour Organisation (ILO), Geneva

**Heiko Warnken**

Head of Division Health, Population Policy and Social Protection

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Berlin/Bonn

followed by                      Discussion

---

## SESSION VII

### WRAP UP AND OUTLOOK

13.00 hrs                      Interview with

**Professor Henning Melber**

Senior Research Associate, The Nordic Africa Institute, Uppsala

Member of the Advisory Board, Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn

13.10 hrs                      Farewell by the organisers