

**Reinhard Krapp, Minister,
Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations,
on the occasion of the Side Event
“Universal Social Protection:
End Poverty and Reduce Inequality”**

(07/18/2017)

**Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am delighted to welcome you to the German House. Tonight, we will discuss how “universal social protection” relates to the 2030 Agenda as part of our thematic review series on the SDGs.

Since SDG 1 is on the agenda of this year`s HLPF-agenda, we will focus especially on how “universal social protection” is relevant to SDG 1.

Today`s side event is co-hosted by the German NGO “Brot für die Welt” and the “Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors”.

This coalition is a global network with members from civil society, trade unions and think tanks. The coalition advocates for the implementation of social protection floors around the world.

I am honored to welcome you, particularly the panelists, to this important event.

I would like to extend a particular welcome to Dr. Luise Steinwachs, our moderator. Ms. Steinwachs is working for „Brot für die Welt“ and is member of “VENRO”.

Just for those, who have not heard about it: “Brot für die Welt” is the development and relief agency of the protestant churches in Germany. And “VENRO” is the

umbrella organization of all German NGO`s working in the field of development and humanitarian aid.

By the way, I recommend to read an interesting blog of Luise Steinwachs about this year`s HLPF. It was published just two days ago on the website of “Brot für die Welt”.

She gives her NGO-perspective to the pros and cons of the HLPF. Under the headline “Alter Wein in neuen Schläuchen?” - meaning “Old wine in new hoses” (or bottles) - she asks the question, where the new approaches of HLPF are to be found. Are those who read their statements in UN conference rooms taking into account the responsibility of the North?

She writes that almost all contributions in the official HLPF statements are based on solutions that are to be found in the countries of the South. The responsibility of the North for poverty situations is according to her not really tackled.

You might discuss this somewhat provocative thesis tonight.

I think that these discussions are very useful. Side Events are an important part of the HLPF. They contribute to making the HLPF a market-place for ideas and for leading the modern North-South-dialogue which does not repeat the stereotypes of the 80ies and 90ies.

It is not about white-washing reports about how perfectly the SDG`s are implemented in UN member states. HLPF is a stakeholder event which allows for critical questions. It is platform for the presentation of different ideas and approaches.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

May be I should concentrate more on the real subject of today`s side event “Social protection systems”. It means social transfers, social insurance and access to social

services such as health care and education. They are among the most important means to end poverty for all people in all its dimensions.

With the adoption of the SDGs in September 2015 the world's nations reaffirmed in SDG 1, Target 3, that nationally appropriate social protection systems will be implemented in order to achieve by 2030 a substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable.

Universal social protection is central to the eradication of poverty and therefore key to a successful implementation of the development agenda.

As I mentioned before, universal social protection is mentioned explicitly in SDG 1, target 3. But a number of other SDGs are inextricably intertwined with social protection. I have been told that in total 11 goals and 27 targets have direct links to social protection.

While the importance of social protection is widely recognized, the fundamental human right to social security remains unfulfilled for the large majority of the world's population.

Only 27 percent of the global population enjoys access to comprehensive social security systems, whereas 73 percent are covered only partially or not at all.

This side event will give us the opportunity to analyze, why social protection is so central to the 2030 Agenda.

I invite the panelists and everyone in the room to provide their insights, on how national and international actors and initiatives can strengthen and support the implementation of universal social protection floors and systems.

With these words of welcome, I wish us an interesting event. I give the floor now to Dr. Ingolf Dietrich from our Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation.