

Side Event of the UN Commission for Social Development 2021

**Building Roofs and Raising Floors Through Inclusive Digital Technologies and
A Global Fund for Social Protection**

<http://www.socialprotectionfloorscoalition.org/>

12 February, 2021; 8:30am – 9:45am EST

**Moderator – Magdalena Sepúlveda, Executive Director of the Global Initiative
for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (GI-ESCR)**



Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmona was the United Nations Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights (formerly Independent Expert) between May 2008 and June 2014.

Ms. Sepúlveda is a Chilean lawyer who holds a Ph.D in International Human Rights Law from Utrecht University in the Netherlands; an LL.M in human rights law from the University of Essex in the United Kingdom and a post graduate diploma in comparative law from the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile.

Ms. Sepúlveda has worked as a researcher at the Netherlands Institute for Human Rights, as a staff attorney at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, and as the Co-Director of the Department of International Law and Human Rights of the United Nations-mandated University for Peace in San Jose, Costa Rica. She also served as a consultant to the Division of International Protection of UNHCR and to the Norwegian Refugee Council in Colombia. More recently she was Research Director at the International Council on Human Rights Policy in Geneva and Associate Research Fellow at the Norwegian Center for Human Rights.

Section 1: Overview of the Topic from Member States and Special Rapporteur

Mme Meryame Kitir, *Minister of Development Cooperation in charge of Major Cities, Government of Belgium*



Meryame Kitir is the Belgian minister of Development Cooperation and Major Cities. After her studies she started her career as a blue-collar worker. In 2007 she was elected as member of the Belgian Chamber of Representatives. In 2020 she became minister of the federal government.

Ms Saira Ruuth, *State Secretary to the Minister of Social Affairs and Health Government of Finland*



Saira Ruuth is State Secretary to Minister of Social Affairs and Health Aino-Kaisa Pekonen. Before her appointment as State Secretary, she worked in the Finnish Industrial Union as an expert in social affairs and working environment. Her other previous workplaces include the Ministry of Education and Culture, employment pension company Ilmarinen, and the unemployment fund of the Finnish Food Workers' Union. Ruuth holds a Master's degree in Social Sciences. She has served as the Chair of the Left Women in Finland, Member of the Executive Board of the European Left, and as a Member of the Board of Directors of the Left Alliance.

Olivier De Schutter, *Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights*



Olivier De Schutter is professor at UCLouvain and SciencesPo, and he taught in the past at Columbia University, at UC Berkeley, and at Yale University. He was the UN Special Rapporteur on right to food between 2008 and 2014, and a Member of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights between 2015 and 2020. He is currently co-chair of the International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (IPES-Food) and the UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights.

Section 2: Lived Experience and Social Protections for All

Rob Robinson, *Partners for Dignity and Rights and the Institute of Global Homelessness*



Rob Robinson was a cofounder and member of the Leadership Committee of the Take Back the Land Movement and is currently a staff volunteer at Partners for Dignity and Rights. After losing his job in 2001, he spent two years homeless on the streets of Miami and ten months in a New York City shelter. He eventually overcame homelessness and has been in the housing movement based in New York City since 2007. In the fall of 2009, Rob was chosen to be the New York City chairperson for the first ever official mission of a UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing to the US. Rob has worked with homeless populations in Budapest, Hungary and

Berlin, Germany and is connected with housing and land movements in South Africa and Brazil. He is a regular guest lecturer at the City University Graduate Center and has a working relationship with the New School University where he helps students develop their thesis projects in a master's degree program, Design and Urban Ecology. He lends his expertise to the work of the Institute of Global Homelessness.

Samuel Obara, *Programme Manager, Africa Platform for Social Protection*



Samuel Obara is based in Nairobi Kenya. He works for a pan Africa Civil Society organisation, the Africa Platform for Social Protection (APSP) that advocates for mainstreaming of social protection in laws, policies and programmes in Africa. This is realised through collaborative the efforts of 21 member platforms in 21 countries in Africa and advocacy with the African Union, regional bodies and piloting of grassroots driven models.

Section 2 continued

Roshni K. Nuggehalli, *Global Call to Action Against Poverty Co-Convenor, Wada Na Todo Abhiyan (WNTA), GCAP India and Executive Director, Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action (YUVA)*



Roshni K. Nuggehalli is Executive Director at Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action (YUVA) an Indian development organisation set up in 1984. YUVA's work questions social structures alongside the poor, with the goal of empowering them to participate in a process of meaningful change. YUVA aims to address poverty and social justice through community interventions, research and policy advocacy. Roshni works on issues of youth and child rights, migration, informal economy and governance. She has published on themes of urbanisation, participation and youth citizenship. She is the co-convenor of Wada Na

Todo Abhiyan, a civil society coalition on governance accountability and SDGs in India.

Sulistri Afrileston, *All Indonesian Trade Union Confederation, Deputy President in charge of social protection of the national union confederation KSBSI (Indonesian affiliate member of ITUC)*



Sulistri is Chairperson of FSB KAMIPARHO (the union for food, beverage, tourism, restaurant, hotel and tobacco workers) and a member of the steering committee of the International Network for Social Protection Rights: INSP!R in Asia. She is an active participant in the steering committee meetings for the ILO Flagship Programme on Social Protection and participated in the Global Social Protection Week on November 2019. In Indonesia she has been active in advocating for unemployment insurance and that the ILO Decent Work Country Program prioritises Social Protection. Sulistri is in charge of social security training at KSBSI.

Section 3: Action for change: Collaboration between civil society and the United Nations

Nicola Wiebe, *Social Protection Policy Specialist Bread for the World; Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors*



Nicola Wiebe is social protection advisor at Brot für die Welt, member of the Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors. Previously she worked in the field of social policy in development cooperation and as researcher in the area of labour market policy and social protection.

Shahra Razavi, *Director of Social Security, The International Labour Organisation*



Shahra Razavi is the Director of the Social Protection Department at the International Labour Organization (since February 2020). Before joining the ILO she was Chief of the Research and Data Section at UN Women (2013-2020), and prior to that Senior Researcher at the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, UNRISD (1993-2013), working at the interface of gender, social policy, social protection and the care economy. She obtained her Bsc. from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), and her Msc. and D.Phil/PhD from Oxford University, and published extensively on social policies, gender and development.

Section 4: Conclusions and Recommendations

Paul Ladd, *Director of United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)*



Paul Ladd has been Director of the UN Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) since October 2015. Before joining UNRISD he spent 10 years at UNDP where he had most recently been Director of the team supporting consultations and technical inputs for the 2030 Agenda. From 2008-2009, he provided support to the Office of the UN Secretary-General on the impacts of the financial and economic crisis and the G20.