

Side Event of the [Global People's Assembly](#)

**Decade of Action to achieve Universal Social Protection by 2030
Social Protection and Austerity**

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

<http://www.africapsp.org>

Wednesday 22nd September, 2021; 12 - 13:15 GMT

Moderator

Gabriel Fernandez, *Social Protection Advisor Africa Platform for Social Protection (APSP)*



Gabriel Fernandez is Social Protection Specialist, supporting APSP as an Advisor and currently working with the FAO Regional Office for Africa. His experience in social protection spans over 15 years working with UNICEF and with the Government of Liberia in the capacity of National Social Protection Coordinator (2011-2018).

Valérie Schmitt, *Deputy Director, Social Protection Department, International Labour Organization (ILO)*

Valérie Schmitt is the Deputy Director, Social Protection Department, International Labour Organization (ILO), Geneva. She is also leading ILO's Flagship programme on building social protection floors for all.

Born in 1972, Ms. Schmitt holds a Master of Advanced Studies (first year of doctoral studies programme) in quantitative economics from Paris Sciences Economiques (Laboratoire du Delta) and a Master of Business Administration with honours from HEC (Europe's highest ranked MBA programme by the Financial Times). She also holds a bachelor's degree in Philosophy from the University of Paris IV – La Sorbonne.



Ms. Schmitt joined the ILO in 2003. She has 23 years of progressively responsible professional experience in the field of social protection, combining both headquarters and field experience in various types of organizations: ILO headquarters, ILO in Africa and Asia, consulting groups in France, and an NGO in Africa.

Dolline Bussolo, *Social Protection and health activist, Kenya*



Dolline is a freelance consultant in health and social protection activist.

She trained as a nutritionist and worked with the Kenya Agricultural Research Organization and the university of Nairobi, Nutrition Unit before joining the Kenya Energy and Environment Organization as a researcher. For more than 20 years, she has worked at regional level with HelpAge International in various capacities culminating her appointment as the Regional Rights Entitlements and Health Coordinator for the Africa Region. Through her regional engagements, she has gained vast experience in supporting/mentoring advocacy work for Civil Society Organizations, engagement with government working groups in research and in mainstreaming of hard-to-reach people in accessing

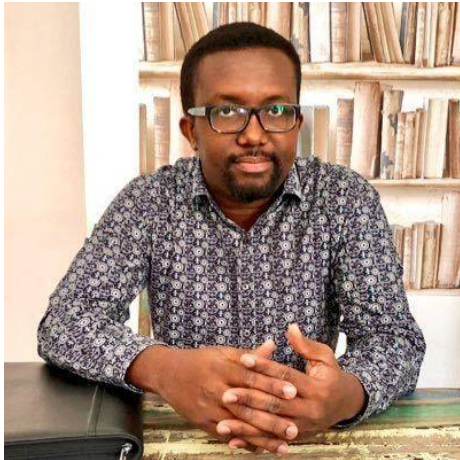
their rights and entitlements across the government sectors. She is currently chairing a church based social protection programme dubbed "relief programme", "a cash transfer where registered members affected by various calamities, sickness, Covid 19 access receive funds to cushion them as they transition to recovery to improve their livelihoods.

Aura Sevilla, *Focal Person in Southeast Asia and Older Workers, WIEGO*

Aura Sevilla is a development worker, feminist, older people's rights advocate, and social protection specialist. She works in improving ageing and social protection policies, gathering evidence, providing technical advice to the government, networking, and building the capacity of older people and workers in the informal economy to affect institutional change both at the national and regional levels. She specializes in gender-responsive and life-course approach to social protection, and the intersection of gender, ageing, and informal employment. Currently, Aura is working part-time as the Focal Person in Southeast Asia and Older Workers of Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO).



Omar Faruk Osman, *General Secretary of the Federation of Somali Trade Unions (FESTU)*



Omar Faruk Osman is General Secretary of the Federation of Somali Trade Unions (FESTU) and Secretary General of the National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ).

Sylvia Beales Gelber, *Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors (GCSPF)*

Sylvia is Director of BealesGelber Consult, inclusive social development consultancy, strategic advisor to Gray Panthers and the Africa Platform for Social Protection (APSP), representative of the UNECE Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCEM) on behalf of older persons and founder of the Stakeholder Group on Ageing (SGA). Sylvia is a published author and has extensive programme, policy, advisory and evaluation experience in global ageing, disability, gender and inequality gained with the United Nations, international civil society and the NGO sector. Sylvia works with and advises the Global Call for Action Against Poverty (GCAP) and Action for Sustainable Development (AFSD) on ageing, disability, inequality and the SDGS.

