



Advocating Universal Social Protection (USP) Floors for Asian Countries (VIRTUAL)

Side Event: 11th Asia-Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development

Date: February 21, 2024 (Wednesday), 16.30 – 17.45 Bangkok time (GMT+7)

Link to the Virtual Side Event (Register to join):<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYvcO-gqjlrGNZXd7-g4s6DIQWJmLAdbc6g>

Organizer:

Global Call to Action Against Poverty

Co-organizers:

Wada Na Todo Abhiyan, India; NGO Federation of Nepal, Nepal; Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement, the Philippines; Noakhali Rural Development Society, Bangladesh; Sri Lanka United Nations Friendship Organisation, Sri Lanka; Pakistan Development Alliance, Pakistan; Coordination Committee of Cambodia, Cambodia; Sanayee Development Organisation, Afghanistan; ONE Singapore, Singapore; Africa Japan Forum, Japan, Asia Dalit Rights Forum, Global Forum on DWD, Global Coalition For Social Protection Floors

Registration:

To register for this side event, please use <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYvcO-gqjlrGNZXd7-g4s6DIQWJmLAdbc6g>

Background:

Globally, the number of the extreme poor stands at 860 million. Over 820 million people goes hungry every day.

SDG 1.3 and other SDGs and targets mention social protection, but the SDG framework itself is being derailed as a consequence lack of commitment on the part of governments.

In Asia and Pacific 930 million workers out of a total of the 1.3 billion informal economy workers (68%) are in vulnerable sectors. Female workers experience gender-based discrimination, receiving less pay than men and spending more time on unpaid care work.

The impact of climate change becomes more and more visible. More and more people are affected by natural disasters from Pakistan over Bangladesh to the Philippines. The people have also had to contend with inflation on food and energy. International debt among some low- and middle-income countries are limiting their investment in social protection. At the country level there are some social protection mechanisms covering the people of various ages, but even where there is good coverage, there are implementation gaps.

The side event will discuss the scope of Universal Social Protection Floors to address poverty, hunger, inequality and adapt to climate change.

Key Questions and Outcomes:

Guiding questions:

- What is the state of social protection in the countries?
- Are they being properly implemented and are they sufficient to cover the most marginalised and vulnerable groups
- How inequality, climate change and debt are affecting the social protection in the countries
- Can Asian governments put in place an universal social protection framework in coming years?

Expected Outcome:

- Civil society is aware about the state of social protection in countries
- CSOs start pondering on the possibility of a USP in Asian countries
- Policy options for a USP are discussed

Programme:

Moderator: Arjun Bhattarai, NGO Federation of Nepal, Global Council member, GCAP

Time (Bangkok time)	Topic	Speaker
4.30 pm - 4.35 pm (5 min)	Welcome and context setting	Pradeep Baisakh, Asia Coordinator, GCAP
4.35 pm - 4.45 pm (10 min)	State of Social Protection in the World	Sylvia Beales Gelber, Global Coalition for Social protection Floors (GCSPF)
4.45 pm - 4.53 pm (8 min)	State of Social Protection in Asia and Pacific	TBF
4.53 pm - 5.00 pm (7 min)	How climate change is affecting food production and agriculture in India	Ranjan Panda, Climate Expert , India
5.00 pm - 5.07 pm (7 min)	Can the Philippines adopt a USPF in coming years?	Beckie Malay, Philippines Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM)
5.07 pm – 5.14 pm (7 min)	Impact of debt on public service in Nepal	Saroj Pokhrel, Head of Program and Policy, ActionAid Nepal

5.14 pm – 5.21 pm (7 min)	State of social protection of Dalit communities in South Asia	BeenaPallical, Asia Dalit Rights Forum
5.21 pm – 5.28 pm (7 min)	State of Universal Health Coverage in Asian countries	Prof Rajendra Pratap Gupta, Health Parliament (TBC)
5.28 pm - 5.40 pm (12 min)	Open discussion and suggestions	
5.40 pm - 5.45 pm (5 min)	Conclusion and thank giving	Sin Putheary, Cooperation Committee of Cambodia

For more information, please contact Mr. Pradeep Baishakha, Asia Coordinator, GCAP
 WhatsApp: +918447459549 Email id: Pradeep.baisakh@gcap.global

