

Official Virtual Side Event at the [2026 High-Level Political Forum \(HLPF\)](#)

“Transforming sustainable growth through the lens of people-centred investment with Universal Social Protection”

Tuesday, July 7, 2026 – 9 am – 10:30 am EDT

Moderator – Roberto Bissio, Coordinator, End Austerity Campaign (EAC)



Roberto Bissio is a Uruguayan journalist. He is the coordinator of Social Watch, a member organization of the Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors (GCSPF). Roberto co-chaired the Development Caucus in the preparatory process of the 1995 World Summit for Social Development and coordinated the drafting of the civil society "Quality Benchmark for the Social Summit." He is a member of the International Committee for October 17 (International Day for the Eradication of Poverty) and was previously a member of the board of WEDO (Women's Environment and

Development Organization) and of the civil society advisory group to the UNDP Administrator.

Panel: Why Universal Social Protection is important and why the public sector matters

Peter Ombasa, Assistant Director Children's Service, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, State Department of Social Protection and Senior Citizen Affairs - National Social Protection Secretariat (NSPS) National Social Protection Secretariat (NSPS), Kenya

Pak Maliki, Deputy Minister for Community Empowerment, Population, and Labor Ministry of National Development Planning/National Development Planning Agency (BAPPENAS), Indonesia



Maliki has been appointed as Deputy Minister for Community Empowerment, Population and Labor. His main task is to formulate policy planning for development of population, labor, social protection program, social empowerment, ageing issues, and inclusive development. On the ageing issues, he has coordinated the formulation of National Strategy on Ageing Policy 2020-2024 regulated on Presidential Decree 88/2021. Through the National Strategy on Ageing, Indonesia is pioneer among the developing countries to formally address and on the ageing issues by preparing the challenges through life-cycle approach. Following up the strategy, Maliki also coordinates planning formulation on ageing in both current draft of long term development plan and medium-term development plan. Further, he is in charge with coordinating formulation of Social Protection Reform road map in Indonesia. Two main strategies of the reform that also under his coordination are development of Adaptive Social Protection scheme and development of care economy.

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.

Olivier De Schutter, Special Rapporteur on Extreme poverty and human rights (2020-2026)



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 was UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights (2020-2026).

Baba Aye, Health and Social Services Officer, Public Services International (PSI)

Baba Aye is the PSI Health and Social Sector Officer. He has an International Masters in Labour Policies & Globalisation. An activist of over three decades, he fights for a better world where development brightens the lives of the many and not just the 1%.

Baba has published book chapters, working papers and journal articles on: health and social care, industrial relations, development economics, migration, workers' education, identity politics, women's liberation, precarity and globalisation. He is also the author of *Era of Crises & Revolts: Perspectives for Workers and Youth*.

Panel: Key actions to be taken

Susana Muñiz, Director of the National Care Secretariat, Ministry of Social Development (MIDES), Uruguay



Dr. Susana Muñiz is a medical doctor with a postgraduate degree in Health Services Management. She served as Uruguay's Minister of Public Health from 2013 to 2015 and as President of the State Health Services Administration (ASSE) from 2015 to 2018. Previously, she was Director of Secondary Care Health Centers in Uruguay's interior (2010–2013), Deputy Director of the Jardines del Hipódromo Health Center (2008–2010), and Deputy Director of the Ciudad de la Costa Health Center (2005–2008).

Beatrice Di Padua, Advisor, Economic and Social Policy, International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)



Beatrice serves as Economic and Social Policy Officer at the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), championing universal social protection and living wages through global advocacy and coalition building. With deep roots in labour rights and social justice, she collaborates with trade unions to center workers' voices in policy reform. As a member of the Global Council of the Fight Inequality Alliance, she amplifies the labour movement's role in challenging inequality and advancing people-powered economic alternatives. Committed to solidarity and inclusive dialogue, Beatrice connects struggles across regions to build collective power and drive systemic change rooted in justice and dignity.

Isabel Ortiz, Director, Global Social Justice



Isabel Ortiz is director of Global Social Justice, a think tank based in Geneva, and is also director of the Global Social Justice Program at the Initiative for Policy Dialogue, based at Columbia University, New York.

Previously, she was the director of the social protection department at the UN's International Labour Organization (Geneva), associate director of policy and strategy for UNICEF, and senior advisor at the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations.

Additionally, she was a project economist and senior official at the Asian Development Bank (ADB, Manila)

where she was a founding member of the ADB Poverty Reduction Unit.

Isabel was also a researcher at the department of international economics of the High-Level Council of Scientific Research and a lecturer at Madrid University and University of Salamanca (Spain). In 1992–93 she worked at the European Commission in Brussels, and in 1991, at the UN Economic Commission for Latin America (Buenos Aires).

Isabel has worked in more than 50 countries in all world regions, providing advisory services to governments and engaging in high-level initiatives at the UN, G20, BRICS, African Union, and Union of South American Nations, among others. Additionally, she actively supports policy and advocacy work of civil society organizations. She was educated in Barcelona and the United Kingdom (MSc and PhD, London School of Economics). She has more than 95 publications translated in several languages.

Aditi Anand, National Campaign Coordinator of Wada Na Todo Abhiyan (GCAP India)



Aditi has been working on advancing the rights of marginalised communities through advocacy for disaggregated data for development and acceptance of citizen data since 2019. She's connected to several civil society networks leading collaborative engagement on SDGs including Global Call for Action against Poverty (GCAP), Action for Sustainable Development (A4SD), International Civil Society Center (ICSC), and is the National Coordinator of Wada Na Todo Abhiyan (WNTA). WNTA is a civil society campaign working since 2004 to promote governance accountability for the social and economic inclusion of marginalized communities. She's

also contributed to the work of Collaborative on Citizen Data helmed by the UN Statistics Division and to the LNOB consultations held for India's VNR in 2020 and 2025.