

Program

**The Social Protection Floor:
strengthening the role and voice of NGOs**
Core Team Meeting of the *NGO Coalition for a Social Protection Floor*

Monday, 08 - Tuesday, 09 April 2013
Château de Bossey, Bogis-Bossey, Switzerland

Day 1
Monday, 8 April 2013

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|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 09:15 - 09:45 | Welcoming and introduction
Yvonne Theemann, Program Officer, FES Geneva |
| 09:45 – 11:15 | Your Expectations: Workshop and Coalition
Topics to be discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- What do you expect from this workshop?- What should be concrete outcomes?- What do you expect from the Coalition?- How should the Coalition function? Yvonne Theemann, Program Officer, FES Geneva |
| 11:15 - 11:30 | Coffee Break |
| 11:15 - 12:15 | Human Rights Approach to Social Protection
Kate Donald, Adviser to the UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights
Timo Voipio, Senior Adviser for Social Policy and Decent Work
Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland (MFAF) |
| 12:15 – 13:00 | Social Protection in the work of Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES)
Cäcilie Schildberg, Coordinator for Gender-Equal Approaches to Globalisation and Global Social Justice, FES headquarter Berlin |
| 13:00 – 14:30 | Lunch break |
| 14:30 – 16:00 | Strengthening the NGO Coalition for a Social Protection Floor I
Topics to be discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- What are the aims of the Coalition (see Terms of Reference)?- How will the Coalition work in the future?- How will decisions be taken?- How will the Coalition undertake joint actions? |
| 16:00-16:15 | Coffee Break |

16:15 – 17:45 | **Strengthening the NGO Coalition for a Social Protection Floor II**

Topics to be discussed:

- What are the aims of the Coalition (see Terms of Reference)?
- How will the Coalition work in the future?
- How will decisions be taken?
- How will the Coalition undertake joint actions?
- Which topics will the Coalition address in the near future?

18:00 | **Closure for Day 1**
Yvonne Theemann, Program Officer, FES Geneva

18:30 Dinner

20:00 | **Informal NGO Bazar**
(more information will be sent on this item)

Day 2
Tuesday, 9 April 2013

09:00 – 09:30 | **Warming up session**
Yvonne Theemann, Program Officer, FES Geneva

09:30 – 10:15 | **ILO's work on SPF: a global perspective**
Christina Behrendt, Social Security Specialist, Social Security Department, ILO

10:15 – 11:00 | **ILO's work on SPF: perspectives from country levels**
Christine Bockstal, Senior Technical Advisor for the Social Protection Floor, Social Security Department, ILO

11:00 – 11:15 Coffee break

11:15 – 12:30 | **Strengthening the NGO Coalition for a Social Protection Floor III**
I. Topics to be discussed:
- What are the priority areas to move the Coalition forward right after the workshop?
- Who will be responsible for what?

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch break

14:00 – 15:30 | **Strengthening the NGO Coalition for a Social Protection Floor IV**
II. related working groups
a) online presence of the Coalition
b) activities on the global level
c) activities in the regions

- 15:30 – 15:45 Coffee break
- 15:45 – 16:30** | **Strengthening the NGO Coalition for a Social Protection Floor V**
II. related working groups
- a) online presence of the Coalition
 - b) activities on the global level
 - c) activities in the regions
- Presentation to the plenary
- 16:30 – 17:30** | **The strong Coalition for a Social Protection Floor**
- What has been achieved?
What are the concrete next steps?
Is anybody of the Core Team involved in a concrete task of the Coalition? If yes, in which? If not, something went wrong...
- 17:30** | **Closing remarks**
Yvonne Theemann, Program Officer, FES Geneva



CONFERENCE REPORT

ON THE CORE TEAM MEETING OF THE NGO COALITION FOR A SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOOR

THE SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOOR: STRENGTHENING THE ROLE AND VOICE OF NGOS

8 TO 9 APRIL 2013, CHÂTEAU DE BOSSEY, BOGIS-BOSSEY, SWITZERLAND

OLIVIA SCHMITZ AND YVONNE THEEMANN

This report aims to deliver two things: First, it shall provide a short overview of what happened during the two days' workshop. Not all discussions will be repeated in full detail, and presentations given by external experts will not be included in the report itself but rather sent to the participants separately. Second, the report will focus mainly on the discussion of the last day in order to emphasize the concrete steps of the Coalition's Core Team in the near future.

Workshop facilitator:

Yvonne Theemann, Program Officer, Geneva Office, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung

External presentation:

Kate Donald, Adviser, UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, Switzerland

Timo Voipio, Senior Adviser, Social Policy and Decent Work, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland

Cäcilie Schildberg, Coordinator, FES-project on gender-equal approaches to globalization and global social justice, Germany

Christina Behrendt, Social Security Specialist, Social Security Department, ILO

Veronika Wodsak, Social Security Extension Officer, Social Security Department, ILO

Day one: Introduction, expectations and first brain-storming on the way forward

1. Introduction

The workshop was opened by Yvonne Theemann, Program Officer at FES Geneva. She delineated the most important steps of the Coalition’s history and further explained the workshop’s aim and program.

History of the Coalition

The starting point of the Coalition was a two days’ workshop in late March 2012 at Château de Bossey about the ILO Recommendation concerning National Floors of Social Protection. 14 NGOs from all parts of the world were invited mainly selected through the international network of the FES.

The NGOs received information from the ILO experts of social protection as well as the UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, and discussed possible joint actions in order to achieve a strong ILO Recommendation. The main result of this workshop was an idea by Wouter van Ginneken from the ATD4 World Movement to write a joint statement of NGOs in promoting a strong Recommendation.

This joint statement was discussed and finalized by May 2012. From this time on, NGOs who participated at the March 2012 workshop lobbied enormously in two directions; towards the tripartite constituencies of the ILO and towards other NGOs to convince them to sign the

statement. In the run-up to the 101st International Labour Conference, 59 NGOs from all parts of the world eventually signed the Joint Statement, and most of the amendments proposed by the NGOs were adopted by the ILC constituencies.

With this success in mind, NGOs involved in the process wanted to keep the momentum of joining NGO forces. Soon the idea was born to create a less spontaneous but constant network of NGOs involved in social protection efforts. By the end of August 2012, the paper “Terms of Reference” was adopted. Thus, the NGO Coalition for a Social Protection Floor was created. By the end of 2012, a first News Bulletin about NGO activities of the Core Team members was published. Today, 18 NGOs belong to the Core Team of the Coalition which continuously works on further joint actions like the workshop organized in April 2013.

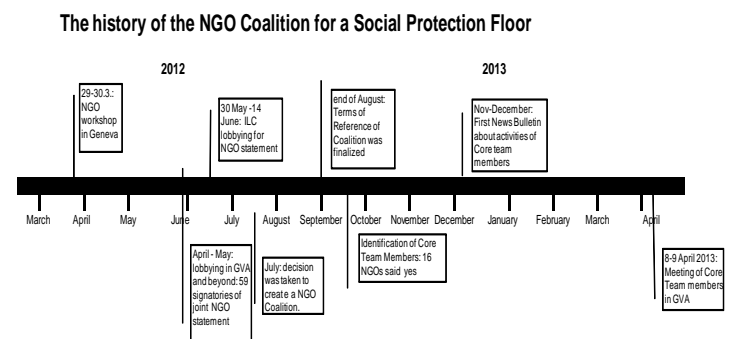


Chart: Yvonne Theemann

Aims of the 2013 Core Team Meeting

The aim of the workshop in April 2013 was to strengthen the Coalition by identifying future joint activities, identifying persons

responsible for concrete tasks, and to discuss about the Coalition's functioning.

2. Expectations

After this short introduction, participants stated their expectations of the workshop and the Coalition. The expectations can be classified as "structure" and "strategies," and differentiated among different levels, i.e. international and regional level.

Regarding the "structure of the Coalition," participants mentioned in summary the following:

- organizing a common website,
- identifying opportunities to jointly advocate for SPF,
- discussing decision making procedures,
- funding and sustainability of the Coalition.

Regarding the "strategies of the Coalition," participants would like to achieve:

- clear objectives of the Coalition,
- clear outcomes of the workshop,
- a collective strategy for the Coalition.

Expectations regarding the international level are:

- a common statement towards the post-2015 development agenda,
- to influence practical policies of IMF, WB and WTO.

On regional level the participants demanded:

- sharing of case studies and best practices/pilot cases
- identifying countries willing to implement SPF with NGOs.

3. Presentations

Kate Donald, Adviser to the UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, spoke about the work of Magdalena Sepulveda, the UN Special Rapporteur on Social Protection. It should be highlighted that in 2012 she, together with Carly Nyth, wrote a book on "The Human Rights Approach to Social Protection" which contains concrete recommendations on human-rights based designs of social protection systems.

The following contributor was Timo Voipio, Senior Adviser on Social Policy and Decent Work at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, who talked about "Human Right to Social Protection Post-2015: entry points for the NGO Coalition for Social Protection Floors?" The presentation was shared with the participants.

The final speaker of the first workshop day was Cäcilie Schildberg who coordinates the FES project on gender-equal approaches to globalization, and works on issues of global social justice at the FES headquarters in Berlin, Germany. She presented the work of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung in the field of social protection on different levels. In 2013, Cäcilie herself will organize different regional seminars on social protection including a closing event of the regional workshops on 26 to 27 November 2013 in Berlin. Her presentation was also shared with the participants.

4. First brain-storming on the way forward

The workshop continued with addressing the question of how to strengthen the NGO Coalition for a Social Protection Floor. The participants were divided into three groups to discuss possible activities of the Coalition structured by the four aims decided upon by the Coalition and stated in its Terms of Reference. These aims of the Coalition are as follows:

- to seek to influence international debates on a social protection floor and raise awareness of the ILO Recommendation, based on the joint statement presented to the 101st International Labour Conference (particularly relating to the post-2015 MDGs agenda);
- to create a platform for learning experiences among civil society organisations worldwide, including contributions to the development of tools;
- to collaborate with national and regional social protection platforms and/or coalitions where these exist, particularly those whose efforts seek to promote the uptake of SPF objectives;
- to advocate for the formation of inclusive coalitions, where these do not exist, aimed at promoting the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of social protection floors.

Afterwards each group presented activities that the Coalition could undertake to achieve the above mentioned four aims defined in the Terms of References. In summary, the participants developed the following ideas:

Aim 1

- 1 Joint Statement on SPF for Post 2015 Agenda
 - Presentation at HRC Side- event organized by Magdalena & Finland
 - National advocacy work with all stakeholders from various sectors
 - Linkage to tax justice
- 2 Observer status in international Fora
- 3 Build relationship with ILO's Group of experts (monitoring R202)
- 4 Promote a campaign for an UN Convention on SPF: strategy & discussion?
- 5 Input at Conference of states parties to CRPD in New York (17. – 19. July & 23. – 25. Sept.)
- 6 Linkage ILO SPF -> HRC (UN Special Rapporteur)
- 7 Coalition to influence SPIAC-B
- 8 Influence all HR mechanism including UPR processes
- 9 OECD + UN + BRICS (donors) development aid effectiveness
- 10 Disseminate references on NGO studies
- 11 Regional summits
- 12 Influence parliaments
- 13 Social Protection Day 20. February

Aim 2

- 1 Tool kit (trainers + documents)
- 2 Monitoring tools
- 3 Regular conferences at global level (national experience sharing)
- 4 Ensure media visibility

Aims 3&4

- 1 Mapping existing networks on SPF
- 2 Consider "inclusive" Coalition
- 3 Use national and regional events: influence
- 4 Identify responsible Coalition
- 5 Develop multi-sectorial arguments for introducing and supporting SPF
- 6 Focus on target countries: Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and Myanmar?
- 7 Civil society monitoring system
- 8 Empowerment of national watchdog capacity
- 9 Bottom-up monitoring of actual conditions
- 10 Training on basic issues
- 11 Build sustainable leadership -> national & regional level
- 12 Global Coalition agencies -> links national & regional level

Day two: ILO's projects and decisions for the way forward

The second day of the workshop started with inputs from the International Labour Organization.

1. Presentations

Christina Behrendt, Social Security Specialist at the Social Security Department, focused on the global perspective of the ILO's work on social protection. After giving a brief overview of the Social Protection Floor and the according Recommendation, she explained how the ILO will monitor SPF implementations. She further presented the ILO social security plan of action for the coming years. Details were available for the workshop participants.

Veronika Wodsak, Social Security Extension Officer at the Social Security Department, outlined the range of activities and key services the ILO can provide on the country level with regard to SPF implementation. In addition, she gave examples of current country level projects

2. Decisions on the way forward

After these presentations, the discussion on the prospective work of the Coalition continued to debate which steps the Coalition should take next. The participants were asked to choose the most important activities on which they would like to work in the future.

The group selected eight different activities:

1. Mapping existing networks
2. Build relationship with ILO's Group of experts
3. Tool kit with trainers and documents
4. Website
5. Develop a Social Protection Day on the 20 February
6. Development of a Joint Statement on SPF for Post 2015 Agenda
7. Linkage between ILO SPF and HRC + Special Rapporteur on SP
8. Activities of the Coalition on country level

After having decided WHAT should be done, the next question was WHO would do it. For some items, people in charge of related projects were found quickly and are listed below.

Item 1 (Mapping existing networks): Help Age, Solidar, Development Initiatives – Shelter Afrique Building, PWESCR, and ICSW.

Item 2 (Build relationship with ILO's Group of experts): International Movement ATD Fourth World

Item 3 (Tool kit with trainers and documents): ICSW and PSI; considering tools which have already been developed by organizations such as the ILO.

Item 4 (Develop a Social Protection Day on the 20 February): everybody; NGOs should organize special events on SPF issues to mobilize civil society and call for the implementation of a social protection floor in all parts of the world.

Item 5 (Website) remains an unsolved problem. Everybody agrees on its

importance to create visibility of the Coalition and its advantages as information sharing platform. So far, no organization has taken the lead to develop such a website or to discuss further a possible integration into the GESS website. In addition, an online calendar could be a starting point in which events are shown related to SPF and/or organized by Coalition members.

The last three items (item 6, 7, 8) were discussed in full detail in three different working groups in order to achieve concrete plans of action for the coming months.

Item 6 (Development of a Joint Statement on SPF for Post 2015 Agenda):

In relation with the ideas developed during its earlier work, the Core Team took the following decisions: Two documents should be produced; first a Resolution addressing members states of ECOSOC and UN General Assembly, and second a Call for Action to be used specifically in the post-2015 forums.

This report is currently written, and the Resolution has been drafted by Odile (PSI) and Wouter (ATD4World). It has been sent to all Core Team members asking for comments and amendments. The Resolution will be finalized by June 2013 and will be presented in a draft version at a side event during the 23rd session of the UN Human Rights Council on 3 June by Wouter van Ginnecken.

Ideally, this Resolution will be lobbied at the next ECOSOC meeting which will take place

from 1 to 26 July 2013 in Geneva as well as at adequate meetings in New York.

The Call for Action should be written in a different language as the before mentioned Resolution, and aiming at achieving different goals. It shall first raise the attention again amongst NGOs all over the world to get or remain active with regard to the Social Protection Floor. Secondly, it shall be a call also for governments. They shall be reminded on their responsibility to implement SPF as it is also an adequate instrument to reach common development goals, such as the MDGs. Thus, SPF will have to play a crucial part in the post-2015 sphere. The Call for Action shall also be a sign for governments that NGOs are a necessary and willing partner in assisting the implementation and monitoring processes of SPF. Of course, the Call for Action aims at emphasizing a strong and loud voice of NGOs in relation to social protection floors. The Call for Action shall be used as widely as possible in various meetings with regard to the post-2015 agenda.

Item 7 (Linkage between ILO SPF and HRC + Special Rapporteur on SP)

The second working group made three proposals: First, to write a UN Resolution to be used at the Human Rights Council. At the moment, this report has been written, the Core Team agreed to wait for the final Resolution mentioned under item 6, which should be used as basis for a Human Rights Council Resolution. Second, the Coalition should call for a Special Rapporteur on

Social Protection. This will be done probably at the 25th session of the Human Rights Council in March 2014. Third, especially PWESCR and the Community Law Centre will try to assist in implementing SPF in all human rights mechanisms including the UPR process.

Item 8 (Activities of the Coalition on country level)

The third working group presented a number of activities the Coalition could undertake on and for the country level.

First, the Coalition shall collect information about where civil society organizations are active in the area of social protection and what sort of projects they are involved in. The following three questions should be included in a respecting questionnaire:

- Where are you based?
- Where do you work on social protection? In which country and with which local partners?
- Where do you think we, the members of the Coalition, can find/provide additional information on Social Protection Floor projects?

Such information could be presented as a map easy to be used by NGOs and other interested stakeholders. In this “mapping project,” the following NGOs agreed to take the lead: Help Age, Solidar, Development Initiatives – Shelter Afrique Building, PWESCR, and ICSW as mentioned under item 1.

Second, the Coalition should raise awareness about the Social Protection Floor and help strengthen the bargaining power of civil society organizations at national

levels. This could be done through adequate briefing on the ILO Recommendation 202 and by demonstrating the role civil society organizations can play in implementing and, especially, monitoring SPF measures within a country. Identifying clear monitoring indicators would therefore be essential.

Third, the idea of forming a “global watch dog” on the world wide implementation of the Social Protection Floor was brought into the discussion. Such a function would require a large amount of time and resources from the Coalition. Thus, it would be more practicable and more realistic to start with three pilot countries. Information should be collected on the establishment of social protection floors. In some countries, reports about such projects are still written without any consultation with civil society organizations. The Coalition could fill this gap and provide information. In the following months, such countries should be identified, and a common methodology should be developed.

Conclusion of the workshop

Not all expectations raised by the participants could be achieved during these two days. But many of them have been translated into very concrete activities for which single persons and organizations have been identified to take action.

For the future of the Coalition, it will be essential that every member, and especially the members of the Core Team, remain active and undertake actions related to the

above mentioned activities. In addition, each member shall take the advantage to talk about the existence of the Coalition wherever members are participating in meetings and conferences. Further, key stakeholders should be involved from an early stage at least in the sense of information sharing.

All Core Team members having participated in the workshop underlined not only their willingness to keep the Coalition alive, but to create a powerful Coalition of many NGOs from all parts of the world in order to achieve Social Protection Floors in each country.

On the Authors

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The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily the ones of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung or of the organization for which the author works.

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The Social Protection Floor: strengthening the role and voice of NGOs
Core Team Meeting of the *NGO Coalition for a Social Protection Floor*

from Monday, 08 to Tuesday, 09 April 2013
Bogis-Bossey, Switzerland

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Ms. Eva HANFSTAENGL
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Solidar

Ms. Barbara CARACCILO
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Mr. Surya TJANDRA
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Coordinator for Gender-Equal Approaches
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