

Social Protection Inter-Agency Cooperation Board - 2nd meeting

Monday 29 October 2012, 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm, Hyderabad (India)

Hyderabad Marriot Hotel & Convention Center

The second meeting of the Social Protection Inter-Agency Cooperation took place on 29 October 2012 in Hyderabad, India. The establishment of the Board is based on the recommendations of the G20 Development Working Group presented to the G20 summit in Los Cabos, June 2012. The Board is jointly chaired by ILO and World Bank, the secretariat is provided by ILO for the upcoming 2 years. The first SPIAC-B meeting took place on 2-3 July 2012 in New York.

In attendance were 21 participants of 14 different international organizations (World Bank, ILO, UNICEF, UNDP), bilateral organizations (AUSAID, Belgium, DFID, EUROPEAID, Finland, France, Germany/GIZ) and NGOs (Helpage, ICSW, Save The Children).

During this meeting, the preparation of a tentative action plan for joint work at the country level, collaboration on social protection assessment tools, knowledge sharing and capacity building were discussed. The meeting was also an opportunity to brief the members on the latest developments in the global social protection agenda, including the discussions about the UN Post 2015 development framework. The meeting showed again that cooperation in the area of social protection is necessary as no organization is doing everything and social protection issues are spread over different agencies at the country level. To have a greater impact at the country level it is essential to deepen joint cooperation.

In this table you can find the focus of the meeting, related to the action-matrix, the areas of cooperation which had been discussed during the first SPIAC-B meeting.

Operational/ Technical Assistance Stream	Country Assessments and Strategies	Technical assistance in Country	Operational linkages with other areas	
	-SPF pilots - Other collaborations (Kenya, ...)	-Cash transfers -Pensions -Publicworks - Health -	-Agriculture -Labor/ Employment -Access to services --Health	
Advocacy/ Evidence/ Tools Stream	Joint Advocacy Messages	Shared Tools	Building Evidence	Knowledge Sharing
	-SP Floors -Link to economic growth -Rights -.....	-SPARCS - Assessment Based National Dialogue -Costing tool -....	-Impact evaluations -Case studies/ "stories" -Open data	-South-South learning - Knowledge Gateway

The discussions in the second meeting lead to the following outcomes:

1. **Social Protection Assessment Tools:** The [SPARCS framework](#) (Social Protection Assessment of Results and Country Systems) presented by the World Bank to benchmark and assess Social Protection and Labor systems, and the [ILO actuarial, social budget, expenditure review and impact assessment tools](#) (including the Social Security Inquiry (SSI), Social Protection Expenditure and Performance Review ([SPER](#)), Rapid Assessment Protocol ([RAP](#))) can be combined to set up concrete country operations with different partners as they are complementary. The Group welcomed the idea of the SPARCS framework which could be a platform that includes different tools of participating agencies. It was agreed that SP assessment tools have to focus on national capacity building. These tools are meant for national monitoring and not for international benchmarking or ranking.
 - World Bank will distribute a concept note of SPARCS framework to SPIAC-B members at the end of November which will include an invitation to participate. SPARCS is an instrument to assess social protection and labor systems, to identify strengths and weaknesses and to guide their development (guide country level design and implementation options to improve the performance of Social Protection and Labor systems). The assessment will be at three levels: policy, program and administration level (in the past focus on policy). The idea is to have SPARCS developed as a shared platform with joint initiatives among agencies, in which “ownership” is very important.
 - The ILO presented its tools for comprehensive monitoring and evaluation of national social protection systems which are used from mapping (what is in place? Planned?) and gap analysis, to simulation of future costs & impacts (on poverty, labor market, economy,...) of policy reforms. The [SSI](#) (Social Security Inquiry), an online database, helps to do the mapping. SPIAC-B members are encouraged to use and promote this database (and online questionnaire).
 - The Assessment Based National Dialogue (ABND) on social protection is a participatory approach which unites many actors (different stakeholders at the national level - including different line ministries, national statistics office, civil society organizations, etc - and different international and bilateral organizations). The ABND aims at identifying priority areas for the Government’s intervention in the field of social protection, and at estimating the cost of these interventions. Thailand and Indonesia, where the assessments were conducted by the UN SPF team, are good examples of how different agencies can work together on assessment exercises.
 - The SPARCS platform and the assessment tools developed by the ILO and other organization can be used in a complementary way. Data sharing will be indispensable to combine different methodologies.

The SSI (developed by ILO) and the [ASPIRE](#) database (household-level data on populations’ social and economic status, developed by World Bank) could be used complementary.

Experts of ILO and World Bank will work together to discuss the harmonization of the data collection efforts and different databases.

- Experts from the World Bank and the ILO will work together to explore the possibility of developing a methodology which includes the SPARCS platform and the different ILO tools.

- 2. Inter-Agency Cooperation at the country level:** The members agreed that inter-agency collaboration at the country level has to be reinforced in all countries that requested technical cooperation on social protection and in which more than one of the international organizations and/or bilateral institution members of the Board are active in social protection. The country teams of Indonesia, Cambodia, Tanzania (and other countries to be suggested by SPIAC-B members) will be contacted as there is already a close collaboration with some of the SPIAC-B members. The objective is to present progress of joint work in these countries during the next SPIAC-B meeting. It was agreed that the national action plans and cooperation decisions have to be discussed in close collaboration with the national stakeholders.
3. It is important to have an [inventory of ongoing and planned country cooperation](#) activities as a basis for both information-sharing and signaling on cooperation. The German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development provided a draft template for this mapping exercise. SPIAC-B members are invited to send the secretariat (cattaert@ilo.org) updated information on partnerships at the country level, based on the proposed matrix.
- 4. Knowledge Sharing and Capacity Building:** The new developed Social Protection Gateway website (<http://www.socialprotection.org/>), developed by UNDP, responds to the G20 request of establishing an effective knowledge sharing platform on social protection. The idea was to have a social protection gateway website which would be fed by automatic links with the websites of the partner organizations. The members were not convinced about the added value of such a new platform which would require significant inputs from all the partner organizations (as automatic links were not possible for some members and even with automatic links moderation will be indispensable). The further development of the platform depends on securing mid-term and long-term funding and the engagement of a member of the board to take the lead, which would be a multi-year commitment. SPIAC-B members are invited to show their interest to stepping forward to lead.
5. It was decided to improve the exchange of information on ongoing/planned capacity building activities. This will allow identifying possibilities for joint activities. To this end it is important to have an inventory to share information on training activities. SPIAC-B members are invited to send the secretariat (cattaert@ilo.org) updated information on ongoing/planned capacity building activities, including the following information:
 - Topic of the course
 - Public (for who?)
 - Cost
 - Duration – Time(Thank you [World Bank for the update on their planned courses](#)).

6. It was agreed that it would also be important to include representatives from potential partner countries for implementation of joint actions in future meetings.
7. It was agreed that meetings will be organized (maximum) biannually in addition to ad hoc video conferences as needed. A video conference will be organized on Tuesday 20 November at 10.00 a.m. (NYT) with Olivier De Schutter (Special Rapporteur on the right to food) to explain the idea of a Global Fund for Social Protection. The meeting will be organized at the ILO NY office, One Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza, 885 Second Avenue, 30th Floor New York, NY 10017. Please contact us if you are interested in attending.

Executive Summary:

http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Food/20121009_GFSP_execsummary_en.pdf

Whole Briefing Note

http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Food/20121009_GFSP_en.pdf

The next SPIAC-B meeting will be held on **Monday 11 February** in **New York** concurrent with the Commission for Social Development. The focus of the next meeting will be on advocacy, including “social protection advocacy in the context of the deliberations on the Post-2015 development agenda” and on the progress of joint work at the country level. Another topic on the agenda could be cooperation in the field of social protection statistics (standardization of the terminology and classifications used, harmonization of the data collection efforts and different databases and supporting countries to enhance their capacity in producing reliable social protection data and establishing national social protection statistical systems).

It is important to promote Social Protection in the Post 2015 UN Development Agenda. To prepare our discussion of our next SPIAC-B meeting, please find more information in the following documents:

- [Post 2015 UN Development Agenda - Matrix](#): secretariat-driven and the government-driven processes
- [Social protection: A development priority in the post-2015 UN developmentagenda - Thematic Think Piece](#)