

# ***Empowerment through Social Protection*** **- Social Protection Floor Initiative (SPF-I)**

**United Nations Division for Social Policy and Development  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA)**

**Expert Group Meeting**

***Promoting Empowerment of People in Achieving Poverty  
Eradication, Social Integration and Full Employment and  
Decent Work for All***

**UN - New York 10-12 Sep, 2012**

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# SPF-I → Post-2015 Agenda

- 4 key issues that the Millennium Declaration and MDGs missed:

**1) Inequality reduction**

**2) Social protection**

**3) Disability**

**4) Care work**



# Remember:

## Social Summit **Copenhagen 1995:**

- *We commit ourselves to... reducing poverty... and...to ensure **that all people have adequate economic and social protection during unemployment, ill health, maternity, child rearing, widowhood, disability and old age** (= SPF)*
- *to **reduce inequalities**...and remove any political, legal, economic and social factors that foster inequality*



## **COPENHAGEN 1995: “We will ensure:**

- *that the ...IOs/IFIs assist developing countries... in...ensuring **basic social protection**;*
- *universal and equitable **access of all to ...education, and primary health care ...to rectify inequalities...without distinction as to race, national origin, gender, age or **disability**;***

**= SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOOR**



# Further, Copenhagen 1995:

- *One of the world's largest minorities, more than 1 in 10, are **people with disabilities**, who are too often forced into poverty, unemployment and social isolation.*
- *Ensure that **persons with disabilities** are **included** ...and that society ...responds to **rights of PWDs**..., making the physical and social environment **accessible**;*  
**= INCLUSION OF PWD, ALSO IN THE SPF**



- This all was **missing** in the Millennium Declaration and MDGs in year 2000
- It is high **time to correct** these mistakes in the **Post-2015 Development Agenda**
- Social Protection Floor Initiative is one way to do so...



# Why Social Protection ?

(1)

Pro-poor  
growth

arguments

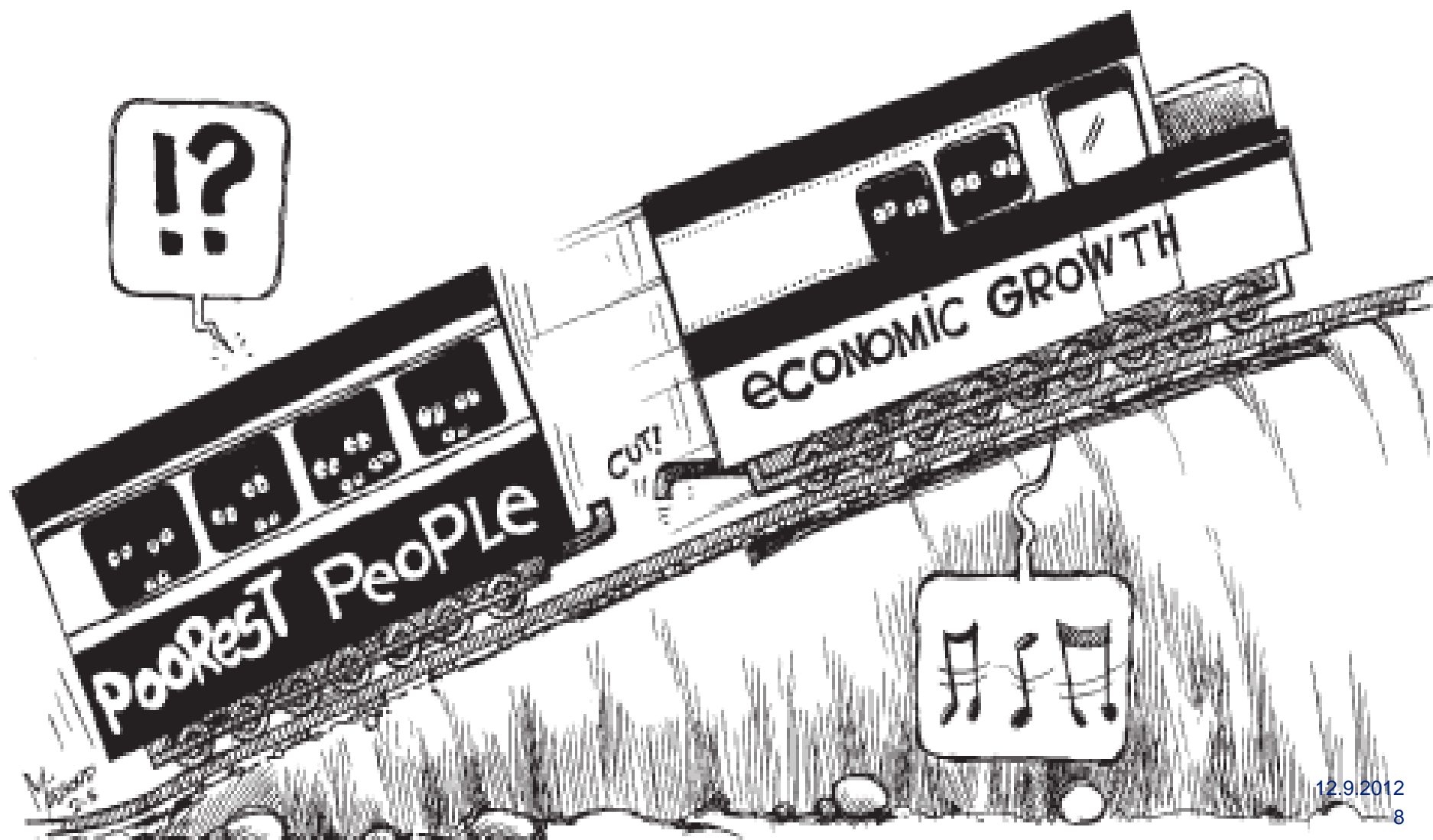
(2)

Human  
Rights

arguments



**AFRICA / LICs 1990→ : Rapid growth of GDP –  
But NO progress on poverty reduction  
→ Wrong model of economic growth?**





# Why Social Protection ?

## Pro-poor growth

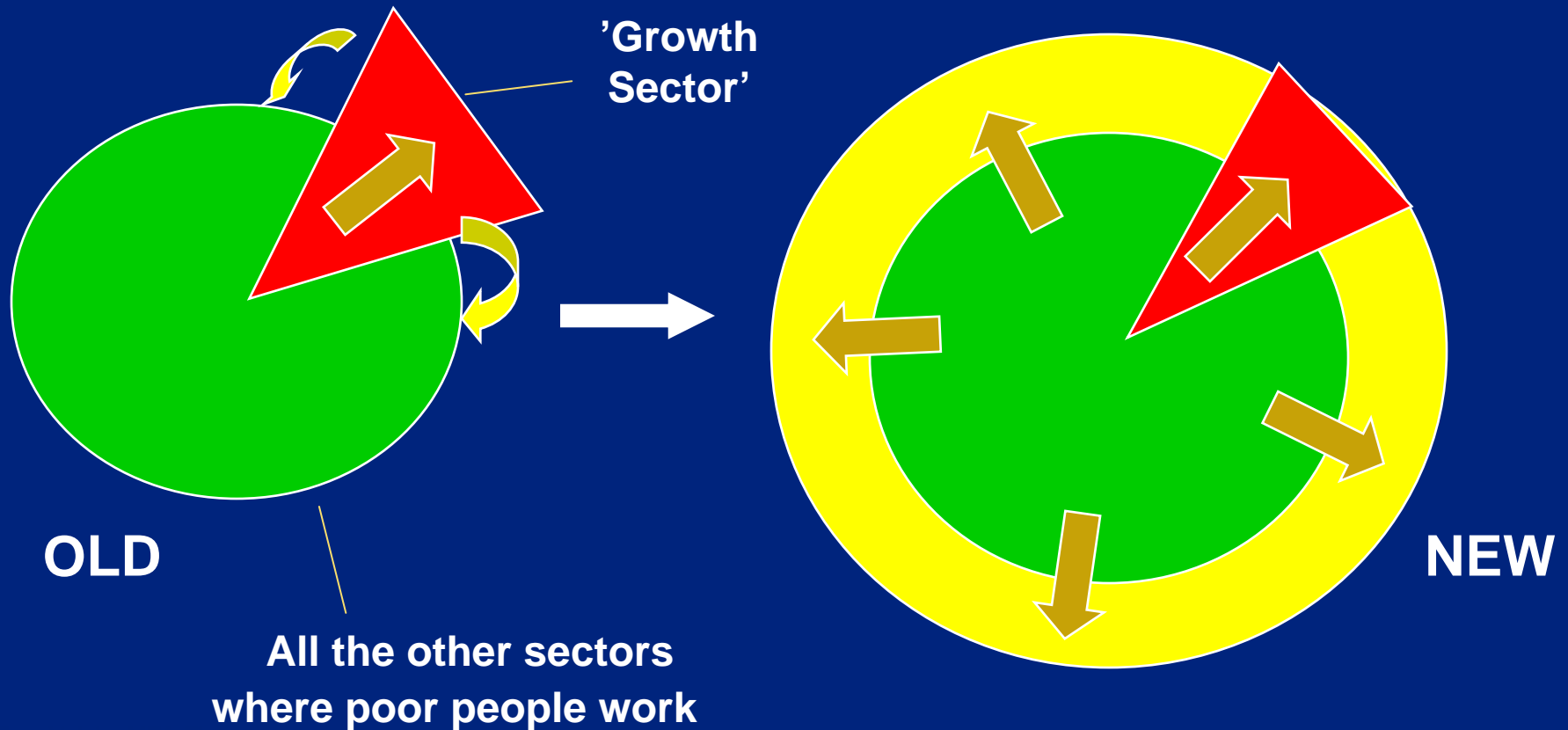
- SP **empowers** poor women and men to participate in and contribute to growth
- SP promotes their innovation, risk taking and entrepreneurship
- counteracts irreversible asset depletion
- broadens the tax base
- aggregate demand in the economy/world

## Human Rights

- Art.22-28 UDHR
- Art. 9-12 of ICESCR
- human development
- global socio-economic 'floor' /'compact' (minimum standards)
- **empowering** all women and men for democratic participation
- child rights protection by breaking the inter-generational poverty

# DEVELOPMENT and PovReduction ?

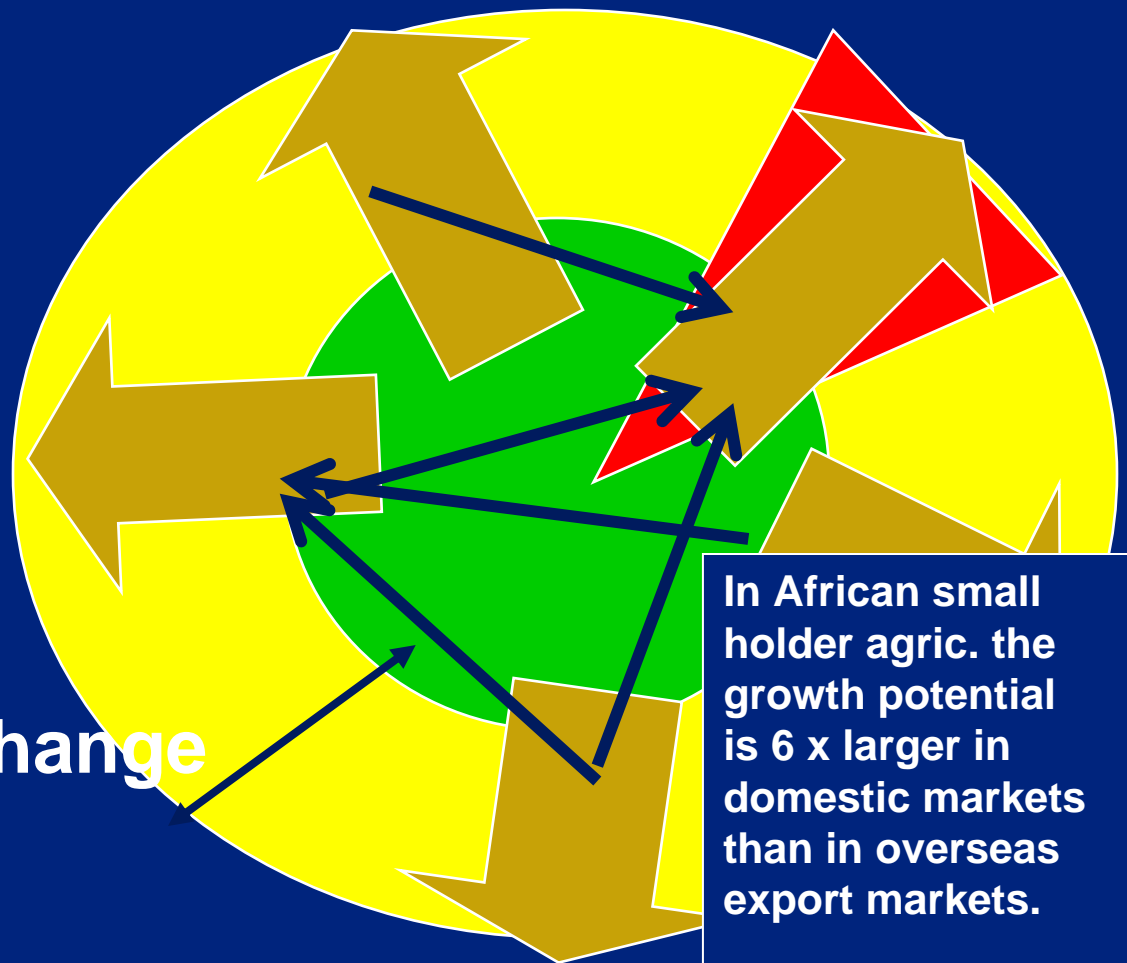
*~ growth + redistribution, if any...?*  
*~ redistribution of opportunity...?*



*...with trust and social protection,  
people are **empowered** to move... to  
more promising businesses and areas...*



**Dynamic structural change  
from sector to sector**



In African small holder agric. the growth potential is 6 x larger in domestic markets than in overseas export markets.



Magdalena Sepúlveda and Carly Nyst

## **The Human Rights Approach to Social Protection**

Publication ***Human Rights Approach to Social Protection*** by Dr. Magdalena Sepúlveda, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Extreme Poverty, with Foreword by Finland's Minister.

[www.formin.fi/public/default.aspx?nodeid=15458&contentlan=2&culture=en-US](http://www.formin.fi/public/default.aspx?nodeid=15458&contentlan=2&culture=en-US)

# Because human rights strive to **empower the poor...**

- ...the focus of PovRed efforts is shifted from a charity or needs-based approach, towards rights and entitlements, which in turn give rise to obligations on the part of the State.
- ...individuals are *rights-holders* that can make legitimate claims, and States and other actors are *duty-bearers* that are responsible and can be held accountable for their acts or omissions.
- ...a HRBA helps to identify who is entitled to make claims and who has a duty to take action, **empowering** those who have legitimate claims to rights.

- ...This regulates the exercise of power and ensures that those who wield power are answerable to those who do not.
- *Accountability*, the essential principle of HRBA, has the **potential to empower** people living in poverty ...ensuring that they are ...not only... passive beneficiaries, rights holders that can hold responsible those with power over policies.
- As a result, the human rights approach has the potential to improve the effectiveness of poverty reduction efforts, and to ensure that progress is equitable and sustainable.
- OHCHR Principles and Guidelines for a Human Rights Approach to Poverty Reduction Strategies, available at <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/PovertyStrategies.pdf>

- **States should empower beneficiaries** to use accountability mechanisms and claim their rights...
- Community promotion committees can be effective in ensuring the poorest communities are able to participate in accountability mechanisms.
- E.g. In Brazil, *Bolsa Familia* integrates around 5,500 *social control committees at the local levels*. These committees can consider a range of issues related to the social protection programme, from inclusion and exclusion errors to the existence of adequate health and education services for the fulfilment of conditionalities

- National **HR institutions could empower** beneficiaries in their relationship with the SP-programme, and in promoting transparency and accountability.
- HR institutions should be able to monitor the formulation and implementation of social policies, providing a further form of accountability.



**BUT:**  
**Social Protection**  
**- was not on MDG-Agenda**  
**in 2000**

**→ Gradual rise onto the**  
**Global Development Agenda**  
**2004 → 2015 →**



# OECD-POVNET 2004-9

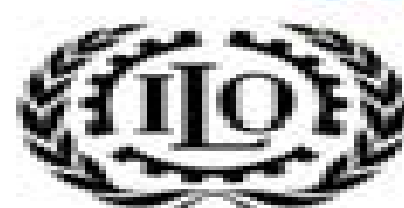
Promoting  
Pro-Poor Growth  
SOCIAL PROTECTION



# UN Chief Executives' Board 2009

The global financial crisis and its impact

**SPF-I = One of 9 UN  
Responses to the Global  
Financial Crisis**



International  
Labour  
Organization



World  
Health  
Organization

# One-UN Social Protection Floor Initiative (SPF-I)

## 1. **Basic services for all**

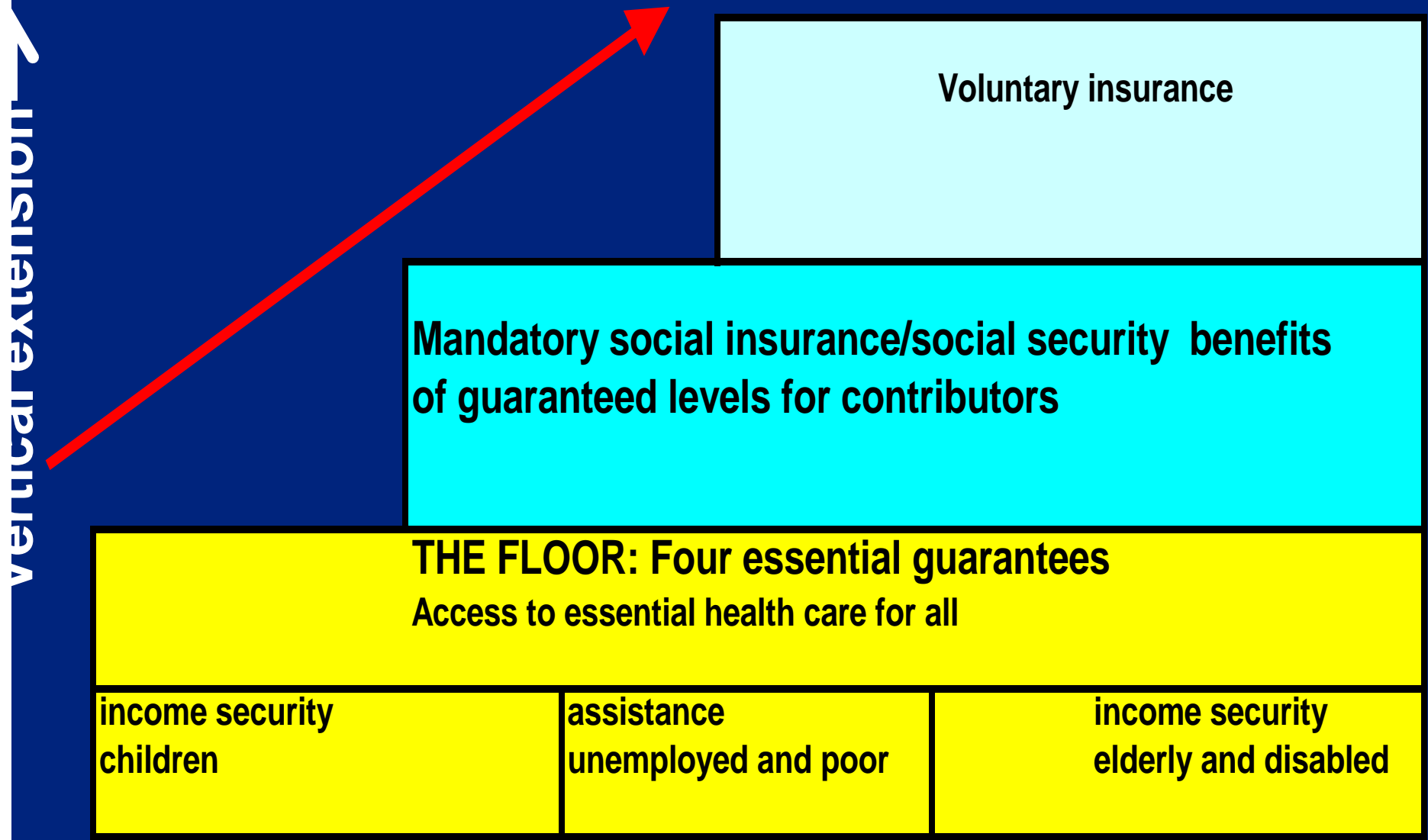
- health, watersan, education, social care, housing

## 2. **Basic income security:**

- Health insurance for all
- Employment guarantee or unemployment benefit
- Child grants
- Social pension (for elderly & PWD)

**[www.socialprotectionfloor-gateway.org](http://www.socialprotectionfloor-gateway.org)**

# Social Protection Floor → progressive realization of horizontal and vertical extension of coverage and the levels of protection...





FIRST SESSION OF THE AU CONFERENCE  
ON MINISTERS

## SOCIAL POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR AFRICA

### 2.2.3 Social Protection

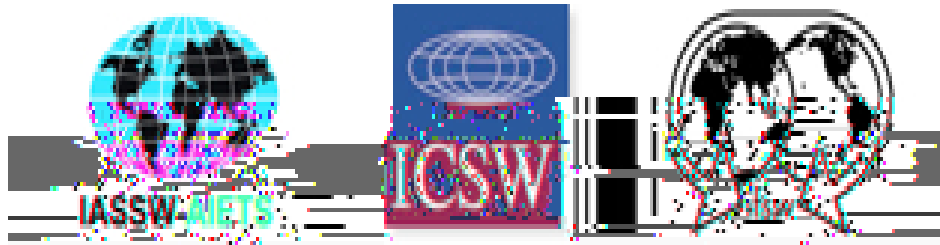
Member States have noted that social protection has multiple beneficial impacts on national economies, and is essential to build human capital, break the intergenerational poverty cycle and reduce the growing inequalities that constrain Africa's economic and social development.

consensus that a minimum package of essential social protection should cover: essential health care, and benefits for children, informal workers, the unemployed, older persons and persons with disabilities. This minimum package provides the platform for broadening and extending social protection as more fiscal space is created.

# UN: MDG-Summit (9/2010)

- Increase decent and productive employment for all...
- Promote universal access to social services and provide social protection floors...
- Social protection systems that address and reduce inequality and social exclusion are essential for ...MDGs





## The Social Protection Floor Initiative

An approach to social welfare and social development

# SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

**EU 2010**



Michelle Bachelet



## SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOOR FOR A FAIR AND INCLUSIVE GLOBALIZATION



Tarja Halonen  
& Jacob Zuma

## RIO: UN HL Panel on Global Sustainability:

- **SP** and safety nets are essential tools
- **SP systems** = springboards to empower people to resume productive lives
- **SP** can help build effective States — by deepening the **social contract** between citizens and States.
- States to ensure access to **basic SP** for all !



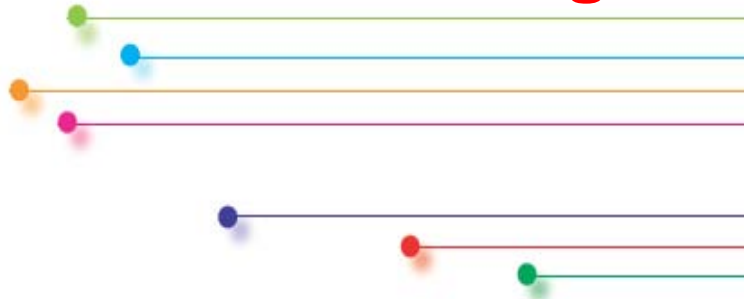
# Integrated Social Protection Systems

Enhancing Equity for Children



United Nations  
**World Food Programme**

## New SP-Strategies



UNICEF  
Social  
Protection  
Strategic  
Framework



# THE WORLD BANK'S new SOCIAL PROTECTION AND LABOR STRATEGY For the Decade 2012-2022

*How Social Protection  
Contributes to  
Sustainable and Inclusive  
Development*



→ Prevention, Protection and Promotion →



*ience, Equity,  
and Opportunity*

*Resil*

# SOCIAL PROTECTION INTER- AGENCY COOPERATION BOARD

1. **G20** Initiative
2. All UN-agencies, World Bank, IMF
3. Active bilateral governments
4. Leading CSOs working on SP,  
including ICSW, HAI, CSF, FES...



# **ILO / Social Protection Floor RECOMMENDATION, June-12**

- = Historic, 1<sup>st</sup> Human Rights instrument on Social Protection for All
- = 4 nationally defined guarantees:
  - 1) **Health** and **maternity** care
  - 2) Income security for all **Children**
  - 3) **Unemployed** and **Disabled** (able to work)
  - 4) **Old Age** and **Disability Pensions**
- = National definition of levels & approaches: SocIns, SocAss, Universal.

# Joint NGO statement on SPF at ILC-2012:

- *“Full support to SPF-REC*
- *A great step forward towards the reduction of poverty & HRBA*
- *we propose amendments on: Residence, Accountability mechanisms, Dignity, Participation of all, and gender equality*  
*(= EMPOWERMENT ISSUES).*

# ENSURING THAT THE SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOOR WORKS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

## International Disability Alliance (IDA)

- *SP-Floor policies should **be empowering**:*
1. ***Not discriminate** against PWD*
  2. *Be **inclusive** and **accessible** for PWD*
  3. *Take into account **extra costs** of PWD*
  4. *Contribute to greater **participation** of PWD*
  5. ***Do no harm** to other social policies necessary for PWD*
  6. *Ensure **consultation** with PWDs and DPOs*



# European Commission's New Policy on *Social Protection in EU Development Cooperation*

1) Communication by the Commission:  
August 2012 +

2) EU Council Conclusions: 15 Oct-12

→ Policy Document

→ Enables EU-Commission to set a  
dedicated budget line for SocProt





## The purpose of the Communication:

'...to explain the role of SP in underpinning inclusive and sustainable dev't and the role of EU in supporting the strengthening of social protection policies and systems







## **SP IN EU ODA - AREAS OF WORK:**

- i) Placing social protection at the centre of dialogue on national development strategies**
- ii) Supporting national policies and programmes**
- iii) Revenue reform for fiscal space**
- iv) Capacity building for ODI for analysis**





THESE NUMBERS HAVE FACES

# WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT FUND



**Social protection for all  
through public works for  
community infrastructure...**

**...and vocational training for  
green jobs for youth...**

**Social protection through a right to...**

**...an employment  
guarantee, e.g.  
100 days/HH/yr**

**Productive safety net  
programmes:  
Natural resource /  
watershed mngt**



**Social protection transfers for work for those able to work,  
with waivers (grants) to those too old, ill or pregrant to work**

# ICT: Smart cards, point-of-sale devices and biometric identity recognition (finger prints)

→ Individual right to SP







**Cellphone (SMS) transfers of SP:  
Reaching everyone everywhere,  
and reducing clientilism &  
fiduciary risks  
(= EMPOWERMENT)**

**ATM Withdrawals**  
24/7 access  
Over 650 ATM's connected countrywide

**Social/Salary Payments**  
Partnerships with Oxfam,  
Concern worldwide and other NGO's





# DECENT WORK AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

The ILO approach to development results

