



UNITED NATIONS



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development



INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR

SOCIAL COVENANTS FOR MORE INCLUSIVE SOCIAL PROTECTION: EXPERIENCES, OBSTACLES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN LATIN AMERICA AND EUROPE

Santiago, 20 and 21 March 2013

PRESENTATION AND GOALS

A sustained onslaught on poverty and inequality in Latin America must involve the consolidation of social and fiscal covenants that make it possible to coordinate social protection efforts through time. The lack of agreements —whether because of conflicting interests or tensions between the short and long terms— has been a hindrance to consistent, adequately resourced public action transcending the immediate horizons and interests of political actors and political and electoral cycles.

Although political rights have gained greater traction in the region, effective enjoyment and application of social and economic rights and the development of democratic governance commensurate with these rights are still unmet challenges. In the light of the successive adjustments experienced in the two closing decades of the twentieth century, macroeconomic equilibria have been given priority in public policy. Although politicians are now more convinced about the need to expand fiscal space, raise social spending and increase its redistributive impact, there is a need to nurture political agreements around social protection based on the principles of solidarity and universality.

At the same time, living as they are through an unprecedented economic crisis and fiscal retrenchment, some countries in Western Europe are currently under pressure to review the scope and fiscal weight of public and social spending. Social protection systems with a large solidarity and redistribution component, concerning which a broad social and political consensus existed for many years, are now coming under strain and are even being called into question. The issue now at centre stage is the soundness of these systems' social and political underpinnings and the room for manoeuvre left by the pressures resulting from macroeconomic disequilibria, and the soundness of social protection systems that have traditionally been central to the democratic legitimacy and social cohesion of these countries.

Underlying these very different situations is a shared difficulty: how, in a democracy, is it possible to build the kind of broad consensus that is needed to establish and maintain more inclusive social protection systems? Fiscal and social covenants lay down road maps for public policy. The requirement here is to manage the tension between short-term rationales among political actors and long-term policies of State that require continuity over time. In the light of these concerns and with the support of GIZ, ECLAC is implementing the “Social covenant for more inclusive social protection” project with the aim of providing and sharing with the countries some analytical tools and processes of social and political dialogue that are conducive to progress towards more inclusive social protection, including sectoral reforms and national care systems, in the region’s countries.

This seminar is meant to provide an opportunity for high-level dialogue and reflection on the feasibility of covenants and consensus in support of more inclusive social protection systems. To this end, it has convened specialists, decision-makers and academics from different parts of the world whose experience and knowledge can help to articulate challenges, identify useful experiences and generate analytical tools.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

Wednesday, 20 March 2013

Social covenants and protection: general framework and reform experiences in Latin America

- 8.30 – 9 a.m. Registration
- 9 – 9.15 a.m. Opening
Christof Kersting, Senior Advisor, German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)
Luis Yáñez, Officer in charge, Secretary of the Commission
- 9.15 – 9.35 a.m. Keynote speech: Social covenants for more inclusive social protection in Latin America: an ECLAC perspective
Martín Hopenhayn, Chief, Social Development Division of ECLAC
- Session 1: General framework**
Moderator: Verónica Amarante, Social Development Division of ECLAC
- 9.35 – 9.45 a.m. Presentation of the ECLAC-GIZ project “Social covenants for more inclusive social protection”. Rodrigo Martínez, Social Development Division of ECLAC
- 9.45 – 9.55 a.m. “Towards the emergence of national care systems”. María Nieves Rico, Social Development Division of ECLAC
- 9.55 – 10.05 a.m. “Notes towards a conceptual framework for the analysis and development of social covenants”. Carlos Maldonado, Social Development Division of ECLAC
- 10.05 – 10.20 a.m. Questions and comments
- 10.20 – 10.30 a.m. Responses by the speakers
- 10.30 – 10.45 a.m. Coffee break
- Session 2: Three preliminary analyses of experiences with agreements in the region**
Moderator: Rodrigo Martínez, Social Development Division of ECLAC
- 10.45 – 11 a.m. Uruguay: “The Family Allowances Act, 2003-2008”. Andrea Palma, consultant, Social Development Division of ECLAC
- 11 – 11.20 a.m. Commentator: Fernando Filgueira, Assistant Representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Uruguay
- 11.20 – 11.35 a.m. Mexico: “The Mexican Social Development Act, 2003-2008”. Carlos Maldonado, Social Development Division of ECLAC

- 11.35 – 11.55 a.m. Commentator: Rodolfo de la Torre, General Coordinator of the Human Development Research Office, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Mexico
- 11.55 a.m. – 12.10 p.m. Chile: “The 2005-2008 pension reform”. Andrea Palma, consultant, Social Development Division of ECLAC
- 12.10 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. Commentator: Eugenio Rivera Urrutia, Fundación Chile XXI
- 12.30 – 12.45 p.m. Questions and comments
- 12.45 – 12.55 p.m. Responses by the speakers
- 12.55 – 2.30 p.m. Lunch break

Session 3: Other covenant processes in Latin America

Moderator: Simone Cecchini, Social Development Division of ECLAC

- 2.30 – 2.50 p.m. Uruguay: “The National Care System”. Andrés Scagliola, National Director of Social Policy, Ministry of Social Development (MIDES) (by videolink)
- 2.50 – 3.10 p.m. Ecuador: “Economic policy as applied to the transformation of social protection systems”. Pabel Muñoz, Under-Secretary of the National Secretariat of Planning and Development (SENPLADES) (by videolink)
- 3.10 – 3.30 p.m. Commentator: Claudia Serrano, Executive Director, Latin American Centre for Rural Development (RIMISP)
- 3.30 – 3.45 p.m. Questions and comments
- 3.45 – 3.55 p.m. Responses by the speakers
- 3.55 – 4.15 p.m. Coffee break

Session 3 (continued)

Moderator: María Elisa Bernal, Social Development Division of ECLAC

- 4.15 – 4.35 p.m. Brazil: “Brazilian social protection covenants based on the federal Constitution”. Marcus André Melo, Professor, Federal University of Pernambuco
- 4.35 – 4.55 p.m. Colombia: “The judicialization of health care in Colombia: the challenge of building consensus for universal coverage”. Juanita Durán, Associate Researcher, Dejusticia, Bogota
- 4.55 – 5.15 p.m. Commentator: Fabián Repetto, Director, Social Protection Programme, Centre for the Implementation of Public Policies Promoting Equity and Growth (CIPECC)
- 5.15 – 5.30 p.m. Questions and comments
- 5.30 – 5.40 p.m. Responses by the speakers
- 6 p.m. Reception

Thursday, 21 March***Democracy, public policies and social protection in Europe and Latin America***

- 9.30 – 9.35 a.m. Presentation: Ana Sojo, Social Development Division of ECLAC
- 9.35 – 10.15 a.m. Lecture: “Does discourse matter in the politics of building social pacts on social protection? International experiences”, Vivien Schmidt, Director, Center for the Study of Europe, Boston University
- 10.15 – 10.35 a.m. Questions and comments
- 10.35 – 10.45 a.m. Response by the speaker
- 10.45 – 11 a.m. Coffee break

Session 4: Social covenants, the welfare state and the economic crisis

Moderator: Christof Kersting, Senior Advisor, GIZ

- 11 – 11.25 a.m. “Is the European welfare State irreversible? Its encounter with the current economic crisis and its future prospects”, Göran Therborn, Professor Emeritus, University of Cambridge
- 11.25 – 11.50 a.m. “Milestones and outlook for the welfare State in Spain”, Ludolfo Paramio, Institute of Public Goods and Policies, Spain
- 11.50 a.m. – 12.15 p.m. Commentator: Ernesto Ottone, Director, Chair of Globalization and Development, Universidad Diego Portales
- 12.15 – 12.35 p.m. Questions and comments
- 12.35 – 12.50 p.m. Responses by the speakers
- 12.50 – 2.30 p.m. Lunch break

Session 5: Institutional challenges for covenants in Latin America

Moderator: María Nieves Rico, Social Development Division of ECLAC

- 2.30 – 2.50 p.m. “The contribution of participatory processes to the generation of social protection covenants and consensuses”, Lais Abramo, Office of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Brazil
- 2.50 – 3.10 p.m. “Is it possible to construct late welfare States? Social covenants and democratic governance”, Sonia Fleury, Research Fellow, Getulio Vargas Foundation, Brazil
- 3.10 – 3.30 p.m. Commentator: María del Carmen Feijóo, International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP), Buenos Aires

3.30 – 3.45 p.m.	Questions and comments
3.45 – 3.55 p.m.	Responses by the speakers
3.55 – 4.10 p.m.	Seminar conclusions Ana Sojo, Social Development Division of ECLAC
4.10 – 4.20 p.m.	Closing remarks Martín Hopenhayn, Chief, Social Development Division of ECLAC Christof Kersting, Senior Advisor, GIZ