

Global Social Protection Week

## “Achieving SDG 1.3 and Universal Social Protection (USP2030) in the Context of the Future of Work”

High-level opening session of the technical segment

Social protection for facilitating transitions and a future that works

Wednesday, 27 November 2019

From 09:00am to 10:15am

### BACKGROUND

The world of work is facing transformative changes, shaped by technological innovations, demographic shifts, climate change, globalization as well as widespread informality and inequality. Responding to these challenges, and marking ILO’s first century, the [Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work](#), adopted in June 2019 by the governments, workers and employer of the ILO’s 187 member States, calls for a human-centred agenda for the future of work.<sup>1</sup> Reflecting a strong tripartite consensus, the human-centred agenda for the future of work places a strong focus on enabling people to benefit from the changes in the world of work, by strengthening the institutions of work to ensure adequate protection of all workers, and by promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable growth, full employment and decent work. A human-centred agenda for the future of work is not possible without universal, comprehensive and adequate social protection that empowers people to build a sustainable future, seizing new opportunities while benefiting from adequate protection.

Social protection, in coordination with other policy areas, is crucial in supporting and protecting people during their life and work transitions, including transitions from school to work, from work to retirement, during labour market transitions, facilitating labour mobility, labour migration, parenting, rehabilitation and return to work, as well as transitions from the informal to the formal economy. Social protection systems, including floors, also support structural transformations associated with demographic change, climate change, globalization, technological progress, and resulting transformations of the world of work. Today’s transformations require new adaptations of social protection, to ensure that it can continue to play its protective role for all workers, facilitate the transformation of the economy and society and create a bridge towards a future that works for all. Safeguarding the principles on which countries have built their social protection systems – solidarity, universality, sustainability, adequacy and participation – is vital to an agenda which puts people and their jobs at the centre of economic and social policy.

Chaired by ILO Deputy Director General Mr Greg Vines, this session brings together distinguished speakers from governments, workers’ and employers’ organizations, development partners and UN agencies to discuss the various ways in which social protection contributes to facilitating transitions for the future of work. It will highlight experiences of countries that have taken steps to strengthen

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<sup>1</sup> Global Commission for the Future of Work, 2019. [Work for a brighter future](#) (Geneva: International Labour Office).

people's capabilities to support them through life and work transitions and discuss ways forward for strengthening social protection systems that are adapted to new challenges and support life and work transitions, based on the principles of solidarity and redistribution.

## OBJECTIVES

This session will

- Discuss the challenges of the global transformations under way and the policies needed to effectively address them;
- Recall successful country experiences that have strengthened their social protection systems to enable people to reap all the benefits of a changing world of work;
- Set the stage for the discussions in the technical segment regarding the future of social protection and stimulate debate on ways forward for strengthening social protection systems for the future of work.

## Moderator and Panellists

Moderator: **Mr Greg Vines**, ILO Deputy Director General for Management & Reform

- **Mr Seni Mahamadou Ouedraogo**, Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Protection, Burkina Faso
- **Boitumelo Moloji**, Deputy Minister of Employment and Labour, South Africa (tbc)
- **Evelyn Astor**, Economic and Social Advisor, International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)
- **Paul Mackay**, Manager Employment Relations Policy, Business NZ
- **Jean-Pascal Labille**, former Minister, Secrétaire général de l'Union nationale des Mutualités socialistes
- **Catalina Devandas**, UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities