



INTERSECTORAL WORKSHOP ON SOCIAL PROTECTION AND EMPLOYMENT

Toward an intersectoral focus on social protection in the Americas: Labor, social development and social security

December 10-12, 2014 – Mexico City

BASE DOCUMENT

CONTENT

I. Conceptual framework – Background...	1
II. Organizers	3
III. Participants.....	3
IV. Objectives.....	3
V. Preliminary Program.....	4

I. Conceptual framework – Background

The need to advance toward comprehensive systems of social protection, the construction of social protection floors, the generation of employment and labor formalization, as well as achieving an intersectoral focus that coordinates initiatives in these areas are priority issues for the Hemisphere. This has been recognized by the governments of the region in various forums, including the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML) and the Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development of the OAS.

Social protection and employment, under the principles of decent work, arise as pillars of strategies to reduce poverty and social exclusion, and to guarantee that people have the tools they need to confront the various risks that they face over the course of their lives¹. Major components of social protection are recognized: employment, health, education, housing pensions and other social benefits for well-being. These components are provided through three pillars: 1) Non-contributory social protection (traditionally known as social assistance, which includes conditional transfers), 2) Contributory social protection (or

¹ As the OAS has adopted the concept that social protection “is an integral approach comprised of various universal and targeted policies and programs that seek to help individuals confront the various risks they face in their lifetime; and that their specific design will be determined by the conditions, needs, and decisions of each member state.” (Communiqué of the Second Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development of the OAS)



traditional social security systems and other assurances such as unemployment insurance, to which the employee contributes) and 3) Labor market regulation, which consists of policies and standards directed toward encouraging and protecting decent work and programs for generating income, among others. All this is to say that social protection is a multidimensional phenomenon that entails searching for solutions and actions in many areas of government and seeking coordination and cooperation among the various sectors involved.

Single-track policies do not work to address the high degree of complexity and interconnectedness of social problems. Therefore, it is crucial to move toward comprehensive systems of social protection, and to coordinate advances in contributory social protection with those in non-contributory social protection, resolving the fragmentation between various social-protection programs, policies and efforts and searching for synergies and complementarities. Intersectoral coordination is indispensable for strengthening the impact of various actions in social policy, including the promotion of employment and generation of income, strengthening food-security policies along with those in education and health, financial inclusion, prevention management and the protection of communities from risks and vulnerabilities resulting from disasters, among others.

Recognizing this reality and fulfilling ministerial mandates, the “Seminar on Intersectoral Public Policies: Social Protection, Labor and Employment” was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in November 2010 as a joint event of the Inter-American Network for Labor Administration (RIAL) and the Inter-American Network for Social Protection (IASPN), which allowed for an authentic intersectoral dialogue among labor and social-development authorities. During the event, representatives of Ministries of Labor and Ministries of Social Development of the Americas analyzed innovations and advancements with an intersectoral focus to approach social protection and employment generation through programs directed toward the most vulnerable populations.

In the discussions, the questionnaires sent out in preparation for the event and the document prepared by the OAS, ECLAC and ILO, “Social Protection and Employment Generation: Analysis of Experiences from Co-responsibility Transfer Programs,” intersectoral lessons and challenges emerged. It was noted, among other things, that intersectoral coordination requires political leadership, an appropriate institutional framework and operational coordination to be viable; the region should continue to work on all these aspects.

Since 2009 there has been progress toward a global commitment on the construction of social protection floors with, among other things, the publication of the document “Social Protection Floor for a Fair and Inclusive Globalization” by the Social Protection Floor Advisory Group chaired by Michelle Bachelet, and ILO Recommendation 202, issued in June 2012, on “National Floors of Social Protection.” The IACML has itself referred to this: “...we will encourage the implementation of social protection floors commensurate with the situation in each country; promote solid, comprehensive, and sustainable social protection systems; and

foster measures conducive to the gradual formalization of informality, while recognizing it as a heterogeneous and multidimensional phenomenon” (Art. 18 of the Declaration of Medellin, 2013).

The social protection floor initiative underscores that “the social protection floor calls for policy coherence and coordination among different social policies to prevent individuals and their families from falling into poverty and deprivation and remaining stuck there. It also aims to protect those who are unable to earn a decent income through employment and to empower workers to seize economic opportunities and work their way out of poverty.”²

In the framework of the Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development, in the Communiqué of Cali of 2010, the countries of the region reiterated that “intersectoral coordination is essential to broaden the impact of a diversity of social policy interventions, including the promotion of employment and income generation, strengthening of food security policies, and prevention and protection management for communities faced with risks and vulnerabilities as a result of disasters.”

All this provides a basis for further promoting dialogue and exchange, and for proposing an event that would build on discussions that took place at the Seminar in Brazil in 2010 and advance the dialogue on intersectoral coordination regarding the construction of integrated social protection systems.

II. Organizers

- OAS, through its Labor and Social Protection areas and its cooperation networks: the Inter-American Network for Labor Administration (RIAL) and the Inter-American Social Protection Network (IASPN), with the participation of the authorities of the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML).
- Inter-American Conference on Social Security (CISS)
- Government of Mexico, through the Secretariat of Labor and Social Welfare (STPS) and the Secretariat of Social Development (SEDESOL)

III. Participants

Ministries of Labor, Ministries of Social Development, Social Security institutions, representatives of workers and employers (consultative bodies of the IACML) and international organizations.

² Social Protection Floor for a Fair and Inclusive Globalization, Report of the Advisory Group chaired by Michelle Bachelet and convened by the ILO in collaboration with the WHO. ILO, Geneva, p. 10, 2011.

IV. Objectives

- Learn about recent developments of the intersectoral approach among labor, social development and social security authorities to address social protection. To this end, identify how they are linked and coordinate among them, including: institutional frameworks, operational coordination, and concrete initiatives and programs.
- Identify contributions, functions and roles of Ministries of Labor, Ministries of Social Development and Social Security institutions in building integrated social protection systems.
- Identify and exchange initiatives of Ministries of Labor, Ministries of Social Development and Social Security institutions targeting vulnerable populations.

Product / Result: Document with lessons learned and recommendations on intersectoral coordination among social development, labor and social security regarding the construction of integrated social protection systems.

V. Preliminary program

DAY 1 – December 10, 2014

8:00 – 9:00 Registration

9:00 – 9:40 **OPENING – WELCOMING REMARKS**

- Authorities of co-organizing institutions (CISS, OAS, SEDESOL, STPS)
- Authorities of ministerial forums - Chairs of the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML), CISS and Inter-American Committee on Social Development

9:40 – 11:40 **PANEL 1: CONFERENCE FRAMEWORK:** Beyond the sum of sectors: Toward an intersectoral approach to social protection

- OAS / CISS
- ECLAC
- ILO
- World Bank / GIZ
- IDB
- EUROSOCIAL
- Question and answer session

11:00 – 11:20 **Break**

11:20 – 1:00 **PANEL 2: NATIONAL EXPERIENCES I**

Panels 2 and 3 seek to ground the conceptual framework in experiences of the region’s countries in the area of intersectoral social protection, in line with elements from the guiding questions.

- 2 or 3 countries (Ministries of Social Development, Ministries of Labor and Social Security Institutions)
- Open dialogue among all participants

Guiding questions for the dialogue and presentations:

- What designs and institutional structures (regulatory framework, intersectoral roundtables, inter-agency plans) and/or financial structures (inter-agency budgets) exist in the region that facilitate coordination among MoLs, MSDs and ISS?
- How is intersectoral coordination achieved among different levels of government (vertical coordination – local focus)?
- How do each of the institutions (MoLs, MSDs and ISS) contribute to the construction of integrated social protection systems and social protection floors? What initiatives or functions have each developed to support the construction of these systems and floors?
- How is the management and linking of income support programs and cash transfers for populations in situations of poverty done with programs for generating income and productive inclusion, as well as with initiatives to broaden social security coverage? Is there coordination and/or interoperability among different information systems for these types of programs?

1:00 – 2:30 **Lunch**

2:30 – 4:50 **PANEL 3: NATIONAL EXPERIENCES II**
(Continued)

- 2 or 3 countries
- Open dialogue among all participants

4:50 – 5:30 **PANEL 4: PERSPECTIVES OF SOCIAL ACTORS**

- Presentation from representative of the trade-union sector (COSATE)

- Presentation from representative of the employers' sector (CEATAL)
- Open dialogue among all participants

5:30 **Adjournment**

DAY 2 – December 11, 2014

On-site visit to gain experience on intersectoral coordination

DAY 3 – December 12, 2014

9:00 – 11:00 **WORK IN SUB-GROUPS** – Participants divide themselves into 3 sub-groups, each choosing a moderator and rapporteur.

Objective: Exchange experiences, hold technical discussions and identify lessons learned, recommendations and challenges on intersectoral coordination among social development, labor and social security regarding the construction of integrated social protection systems.

11:00 – 1:00 **Plenary and Closing**

- Presentation by moderators/rapporteurs of subgroups and general discussion on lessons learned and recommendations
- Closing remarks