

From crisis to recovery: Lessons learnt for achieving USP by 2030

3rd USP2030 Membership Assembly

29 March 2022, 14:00-16:45 CEST

1 Background

Roughly one year ago, on the 2nd of March 2021, members and interested partners came together for the 2nd Membership Assembly of the [Global Partnership for Universal Social Protection \(USP2030\)](#). The Membership Assembly happened at a point in time when the COVID-19 pandemic's economic and social fallout had already drawn unprecedented attention to the crucial need for universal social protection. It therefore allowed for a reflection on the unparalleled developments since the crisis' onset.

The panel discussions and debates during the 2nd Membership Assembly focused on the topics of [sustainable and adequate sources of financing](#) and [digital solutions for social protection delivery](#), two key issues for USP2030 and universal social protection that had gained considerable traction during the crisis. A key result of the Membership Assembly was members' decision to continue exchanging their views and advancing their thinking on these topics, leading to the creation of the [Digital Convergence Initiative](#) (Towards convergence in digital technology for enhanced delivery of social protection) under the auspices of USP2030, as well as the launch of a USP2030 Working Group on Financing Social Protection.

Throughout 2021, USP2030 members have also started to engage with other pressing societal challenges. In the run-up to the United Nations Food Systems Summit held in September 2021, several organizations and countries decided to join efforts to enhance the linkages between national social protection and food systems, thereby capitalizing on synergies to accelerate progress towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 1) (No Poverty) and SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), with these efforts being taken forward in the USP2030 Working Group on Social Protection and Food Systems Transformation.

Furthermore, recognizing climate change as a systemic risk that will ultimately affect us all, as well as the role of social protection for climate action, the USP2030 Working Group on Social Protection and Climate Change formed, aiming to provide a space for knowledge building and sharing, as well as a platform for international and multidisciplinary cooperation.

Two years into the COVID-19 crisis, and now taking place in the midst of a dangerous two-speed recovery, it is time to take stock: What have we learnt for achieving universal social protection by 2030? The third Membership Assembly will be an opportunity to reflect on our achievements in the past year, hear from our working groups, engage in a strategic discussion with all USP2030 members, and plan the next steps for the partnership.

2 Objectives

The 3rd Membership Assembly will take place on 29 March 2022, 14:00–16:45 CEST, via Zoom. The objectives of the Assembly are to:

- Hear from the four USP2030 working groups and their activities during the first year and how these relate to the partnership’s goals, allowing all members to engage with these groups, as well as encouraging cross-fertilization among the groups;
- Engage in a strategic discussion with all members, reflecting on lessons learnt from the COVID-19 crisis for achieving universal social protection, as well as the role of the partnership and its Call to Action in this respect;
- Report on USP2030 activities over the past year and provide an outlook for the next year, present the results of a survey among current and potential future members, and discuss future priorities.

3 Agenda

14:00-14:05 CEST **Welcome to 3rd USP2030 Membership Assembly**

14:05-14:50 CEST **Updates from USP2030 working groups**

Representatives from each working group will briefly present their past and planned future activities and how they relate to the partnership’s goals, leading to a discussion among all members with a view to increasing engagement and cross-fertilization, and setting the stage for the following strategic discussion.

- Introduction (5 minutes)
 - Presentation by working group representatives (5 minutes per group)
 - Digital Convergence Initiative
 - Social protection and climate change
 - Social protection and food systems transformation
 - Financing social protection
 - Discussion and conclusion (20 minutes)
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14:50-15:45 CEST **Strategic discussion: Lessons learnt from the COVID-19 crisis for achieving USP**

This session is an opportunity to reflect on what the unprecedented social protection response during the COVID-19 pandemic has taught us for accelerating progress towards achieving universal social protection. The discussion aims to go beyond reporting on what we have done, but to take it one step further – what does this mean for our future work at the country, regional, and global level?

- Perspectives from USP2030 co-chairs (5 minutes each)
 - Shahra Razavi, Director, Social Protection Department, International Labour Organization
 - Michal Rutkowski, Global Director, Social Protection and Jobs, World Bank
 - Discussion on lessons learnt and the implications for USP2030, its mission, and its Call to Action (45 minutes)
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15:50-16:35 CEST **Next steps for USP2030**

In this session the secretariat will report on USP2030 activities in the past year, present the results of a survey among USP2030 members and potential future members regarding their expectations in the partnership, and provide an outlook of activities for the next year. This will be followed by a discussion among all members on strategic priorities for the coming years.

- Introduction (5 minutes)
 - Presentation of survey results (5 minutes)
 - Presentation of implemented and planned activities (5 minutes)
 - Discussion (30 minutes)
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16:35-16:45 CEST **Closing remarks**

- Michal Rutkowski, Global Director, Social Protection and Jobs, World Bank
 - Shahra Razavi, Director, Social Protection Department, International Labour Organization
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