

GRASSROOTS COMMUNITY-BASED RESEARCH FINDINGS:

“Asks” to Strengthen Social Protection, Digital and
Financial Inclusion, and Climate Finance in a Post-COVID-
19 Era

**VIRTUAL PANEL SESSION
THURSDAY, APRIL 15TH
7:30-8:45 AM EST**

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Cosponsors:





Social Protection ~ Financial and Digital Inclusion ~ Climate Finance

Background:

There is serious doubt regarding whether the Sustainable Development Goals are on track. “Extreme poverty has reached the lowest point since its tracking began. And yet, at the current pace, we are still not on track to end poverty by 2030. Similarly, many countries are taking actions to protect our environment, but the health of our earth is still deteriorating at an alarming rate,” warns the UN in two reports submitted to governments, business and civil society leaders from around the world.

The global community is also reeling under the adverse effect of Covid 19 which has disproportionately impacted the lives and livelihoods of people especially of the poorest of the poor. It has seriously affected the global economy. “Covid-19 impact: According to IMF, the global economy is expected to shrink by over 3 per cent in 2020 – the steepest slowdown since the Great Depression of the 1930s.”

In fact, the global economy was projected to shrink by 4.4% in 2020, before bouncing back to 5.2% growth in 2021. The International Monetary Fund said in October the world economy has started to recover but warned the return to pre-pandemic levels will be “long, uneven, and uncertain.”

“The pandemic has exposed fundamental weaknesses in our global system. It has shown how the prevalence of poverty, weak health systems, lack of education, and a lack of global cooperation exacerbate the crisis.”

Objectives:

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda provides a global framework for financing sustainable development by aligning all financing flows and policies with economic, social and environmental priorities. The Paris Agreement provides the roadmap for climate actions that will reduce emissions and build climate resilience. Together they provide the most important global frameworks for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. However, the experiences of the COVID-19 pandemic tell us the frameworks have not translated effectively to those who need it the most. This side event presents a critical look at how adequate the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement have been to meet their avowed goals at the grassroots level and effective compliance by Member States. It also presents the impact on Social Protection, Financial Inclusion and Climate Finance looking through the principle of “Leaving No One Behind”.

Primary data that was gathered by field surveys conducted in 7 countries regarding Social Protection, Financial Inclusion and Climate Finance both before and during the pandemic forms the basis for policy “asks” to strengthen Social Protection, Financial Inclusion and Climate Finance.

It will provide an opportunity to engage in “Hearing People’s Voices” impacted by the lack of adequate funding for social protection, financial inclusion and climate financing and reeling under the economic, social and health crisis caused by the pandemic.

SPEAKERS:



(from left to right)

Resina Katafono, Financing for Sustainable Development Office of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

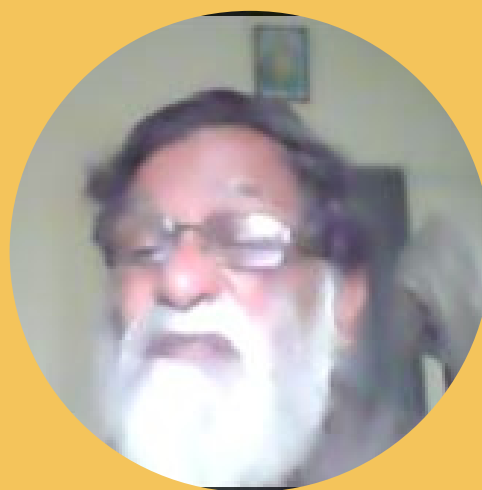
Eamonn Casey, Misean Cara, Ireland

Paddy Hennessey, Salesian Province of Ireland

Godsee Joy, NGO Committee on Financing for Development

Elsa Barron, NGO Committee on Financing for Development

VOICES FROM THE GRASSROOTS:



(from left to right)

S. Dhinipa, Vasantha Pengal Sangam/ Women First International Fund, India

Sr. Sudha Thomas, Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary- Loreto Generalate, India

Sr. Taskil Cein, Congregation of Our Lady of the Good Shepherd, Nepal

Dr. George Kolashany, Salesian Missions Inc, Nepal

Héctor Jair Arzate Beltrán, United Religions Initiative, Mexico

Michelle Mich, Man Up Campaign, Mexico

Gabriele Virzi, Salesian Missions Inc, Senegal

Geoffrey Ngui, Salesians Missions Inc, Kenya

Sr. Joel Urumpil, Sisters of Charity Federation, India



Moderator: Anita Thomas, NGO Committee on Financing for Development