



## **ANNOTATED PROGRAMME FOR TRADE UNION PARTICIPANTS**

### **February 2017 High-level Meetings**

#### **ITUC/Global Unions, IMF and World Bank**

IMF HQ2, Corner of 19<sup>th</sup> Street and Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington DC

**7-8-9 February 2017**

Languages: English, French, Spanish, Arabic

### **TUESDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2017**

8:45 Coffee, light breakfast available

9:00 - 10:15 **Preparatory meeting of trade union delegation** (union participants only)

Speakers: Sharan Burrow (ITUC), Peter Bakvis (ITUC/Global Unions)

*Information will be provided on the main topics to be discussed during the two-and-half days of meetings with the IMF and World Bank. Trade union colleagues are invited to comment on the objectives of the meetings and the strategy that should be pursued by the trade union delegation.*

*Colleagues are invited to inform the ITUC in advance if they wish to speak during particular sessions so that the chair of the session can be advised of this.*

*Reference: Statement by Global Unions to 2016 Annual Meetings of IMF and World Bank, October 2016*

*(<http://www.ituc-csi.org/statement-by-global-unions-to-the-17849?lang=en>) EN, FR, ES*

10:15 - 10:30 **Break**

10:30-10:40 **Words of welcome**

Keith Hansen (World Bank), Gerry Rice (IMF), Sharan Burrow (ITUC)

10:40 - 11:45 **Presentation on IMF's World Economic Outlook**

Speaker: Maurice Obstfeld (IMF)

Discussants: John Evans (TUAC), Víctor Báez (CSA/TUCA), Naoto Ohmi (Rengo-Japan)

Moderator: Marc Leemans (ACV/CSC-Belgium)

*The speaker is the IMF's chief economist. In January, the IMF published forecasts in which it predicts a slight increase in the rate of global economic growth in 2017, while cautioning that uncertainty has increased because of political changes. It should be noted that during the past several years the IMF has repeatedly revised its published*

*forecasts downwards, since it under-estimated the factors contributing to slow growth. The IMF bases its most recent prognosis on the expectation that prices of oil and a few other commodities will increase to the benefit of commodity exporters, and that some large countries such as the US and China would apply economic stimulus policies. However, the IMF expects a continuation of slow growth in many countries and regions, including most of Europe, Japan, Russia, Latin America, and much of Africa.*

*Colleagues are invited to respond to the economic forecasts presented by the IMF's chief economist, to point out the impact that slow growth has on employment rates and wages, and to comment and what the IMF could do to support job-rich growth. Given that the IMF has systematically overestimated the rate of recovery in the past several years, starting at the time of the "shift to austerity" in 2010, colleagues could also ask why the IMF's slightly more optimistic predictions in its latest forecast are more likely to materialize. The speaker may also broach the issue of increased protectionism in some countries and the Fund's assessment of their impact. Colleagues could use that opportunity to ask if the IMF is prepared to support stronger labour standards in international trade agreements.*

*References: IMF, World Economic Outlook Update, January 2017*

*(<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2017/update/01/index.htm?cmpid=Bbannner>) EN, FR, ES*

*Statement by Global Unions to 2016 Annual Meetings of IMF and World Bank, October 2016 (see paragraphs 4-7 "Consistently erroneous IFI growth forecasts reflect impact of austerity and structural adjustment")*

*(<http://www.ituc-csi.org/statement-by-global-unions-to-the-17849?lang=en>) EN, FR, ES*

#### 11:45 - 13:00 **Policy tools for economic recovery**

*Speaker: Helge Berger (IMF)*

*Discussants: Luca Visentini (ETUC), Samory Ould Beye (CLTM-Mauritania), Zoe Lanara (GSEE-Greece)*

*Moderator: Marc Leemans*

*The speaker is with the IMF's research department. He will speak of the general policy advice offered by the IMF about the limits of monetary policy (such as low interest rates) to stimulate growth in the current context and support for certain types of fiscal stimulus policies such infrastructure construction. However, the IMF recommends that only countries with "sufficient fiscal space" should engage in stimulus, while not expressing with any precision which countries should increase fiscal support nor by how much. The IMF also encourages countries to engage in "structural reforms", including labour market reforms, that are supposed to enhance long-run growth potential, but generally does not pay attention to the negative impact they may have on economies already in recession or experiencing slow growth.*

*Colleagues are encouraged to question the speaker about the IMF's lack of precision as to where fiscal stimulus is appropriate and about the impact of the structural reforms that result in reduced demand by decreasing the buying power of workers.*

*Colleagues should also emphasize trade union proposals for sustainable, job-rich and inequality-reducing recovery strategies.*

*References: IMF, World Economic Outlook Update, January 2017*

*([http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2017/update/01/index.htm?cmpid=Bba\\_nner](http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2017/update/01/index.htm?cmpid=Bba_nner)) EN FR ES*

*Statement by Global Unions to 2016 Annual Meetings of IMF and World Bank, October 2016 (see paragraphs 20-23 “Global Unions’ recommendations”)*

*(<http://www.ituc-csi.org/statement-by-global-unions-to-the-17849?lang=en>) EN, FR, ES*

13:00 - 14:15 **Lunch**

14:15 - 15:30 **Meeting with Managing Director of the IMF**

Speaker: Madame Christine Lagarde

Moderator: Sharan Burrow

*Christine Lagarde was appointed to a second five-year mandate as head of the IMF in 2016. Europe was the main recipient of IMF loans when her first mandate began in 2011, but in 2016 the Middle East and North Africa became the most important borrowing region. Lagarde has spoken extensively of the need for overcoming gender discrimination in order to improve economic well-being, and also raised the challenge of inequality as an obstacle to growth and development. However, the IMF has done little to include inequality-reducing measures in its loan programmes or country-level policy advice and has in fact supported inequality-increasing measures to weaken labour market regulations and institutions. The ITUC’s general secretary will summarize some primary concerns of the trade union movement with IMF policies and practices. Colleagues are invited to comment and ask questions on specific IMF policies or on IMF programmes in their country.*

15:30 - 15:45 **Break**

15:45 - 17:30 **IFIs’ policy advice on job creation and labour market reforms**

Speakers: David Robalino (World Bank), Romain Duval (IMF), Aurelio Parisotto (ILO)

Discussants: Marija Hanzevacki (NHS-Croatia), Omar Faruk Osman (FESTU-Somalia)

Moderator: TBD (IMF)

*In past years, both IFIs tended to see job creation as an automatic result of policies that are supposed to promote growth as long as labour regulations are kept to a minimum. That was one of the assumptions of the World Bank’s “Doing Business” report, which the ITUC heavily criticized. On an analytical level, the Bank’s views have evolved in recent years. It suspended the Doing Business labour market flexibility indicator and later published the “World Development Report 2013: Jobs”. The WDR showed that claimed links between weak labour regulations and strong employment growth are unfounded, expressed strong support for respect for workers’ rights and proposed that all Bank projects should be assessed using a “jobs lens” to ensure they have a positive employment effect. In 2015, the Bank published a manual on labour regulations that advocated for appropriate levels of minimum wages, protections*

*against dismissal and unemployment benefits and that recommended the involvement of the ILO and social partners in any labour market reform. However, it is unclear to what extent the manual is being used by the Bank on the country level, and the Bank never acted on the WDR's recommendation to apply a "jobs lens" on new projects.*

*At the IMF, progress has been more uneven. In 2010, the IMF engaged in joint work with the ILO for developing job-rich growth strategies, including through tripartite dialogue, but the IMF abandoned this work by 2013. Instead, many IMF programmes in Europe starting around 2011 included requirements or advice to weaken minimum wages, job security provisions and access to collective bargaining. Application of such measures resulted in reduced workers' buying power and probably contributed to prolonging recessions and slow growth. Some recent IMF lending programmes in the Arab countries and in other regions also include recommendations to weaken labour market regulations.*

*Colleagues are invited to questions the IMF speaker as to whether the IMF still endorses jobs-rich growth strategies and on possible contradictions between advice to weaken labour market regulations and the Fund's support for economic recovery and reduced inequality. Colleagues are invited to question the World Bank speaker on the implementation of the Bank's latest approaches on job creation and labour regulations, and to point out any inconsistencies in country-level Bank actions and these approaches.*

*References: World Bank, "Balancing Regulations to Promote Jobs", 2015*

*(<http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/636721468187738877/pdf/101596-REPLACEMENT-WP-PUBLIC-12-9-15-Box394816B-Balancing-regulations-to-promote-jobs-FINAL-web-version.pdf>), EN*

*IMF, Press Release: "Oslo Conference Calls for Commitment to Recovery Focused on Jobs", September 2010*

*(<http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2010/pr10339.htm>) EN, FR, ES*

*ITUC, Labour Market Deregulation Measures in IMF Loan Conditionality and Policy Advice for European Countries, 2014*

*(<http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/ituc-imf.lm-europe.background-paper.0614.pdf>)*

*EN*

18:00 - 19:00 **Reception offered by AFL-CIO (815 16th Street NW)**

### **WEDNESDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2017**

8:45 *Coffee, light breakfast available*

9:00 - 10:15 **IMF and World Bank work on addressing income and wealth inequality**

*Speakers: Prakash Loungani, Rupa Duttagupta and Stefania Fabrizio (IMF), Ambar Narayan (World Bank)*

*Discussants: Antonio de Lisboa (CUT-Brazil), Gylfi Arnþjörnsson (ASI-Iceland)*

*Moderator: TBD (IMF)*

*In the past three years, the IMF has produced research papers that demonstrate the negative impact of increased income inequality on growth and economic stability.*

*Other Fund research identifies less redistributive fiscal policy, labour market deregulation and declining trade union membership and collective bargaining coverage as the principal drivers of increased inequality. The ITUC has pointed out that on the issue of inequality the IMF has displayed a marked inconsistency between research and anti-inequality rhetoric on the one hand, and actionable policy proposals and conditionality on the other. Frequently the IMF has urged countries, or obliged them through loan conditions, to weaken labour regulations, reduce payments to the unemployed or increase regressive taxes, thus accentuating inequality.*

*The gulf between analysis and action on inequality also exists within the World Bank. The previously mentioned World Development Report 2103: Jobs determined that higher minimum wages and some other labour regulations reduced inequality. In 2013, the Bank adopted a new organizational strategy that made boosting of the growth rate of the bottom 40 per cent of income earners above the national average one of the Bank's twin goals (the other is elimination of extreme poverty). The Bank has also endorsed the inequality- and poverty-reduction targets of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. However, other Bank publications produced since then have called for more flexible labour markets, while some recommendations for social protection reform have encouraged countries to adopt more selective "targeted" schemes rather than universal programmes which have a stronger impact in reducing inequality.*

*Colleagues are invited to question the IMF and World Bank speakers as to the internal consistency of their institutions on the issue of inequality, and to put forward recommendations for actions the IFIs should take to support country-level initiatives for reducing income and wealth inequality.*

*References: Statement by Global Unions to 2016 Spring Meetings of IMF and World Bank, April 2016 (see paragraphs 11-18, "Developing a consistent approach on inequality within the IFIs")*

*(<http://www.ituc-csi.org/statement-by-global-unions-to-the-17170>) EN, FR, ES  
IMF, "Power from the People" in Finance and Development, March 2015*

*(<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2015/03/jaumotte.htm>) EN, FR, ES*

10:15 - 10:30 **Break**

10:30 -12:00 **Gender analyses and strategies of the World Bank and IMF**

*Speakers: Bénédicte Leroy de la Brière (World Bank), Cathy Pattillo and Monique Newiak (IMF)*

*Discussants: Hilma Mote (ITUC-Africa), Jacqueline Hernández (CNUS-Dominican Republic)*

*Moderator: TBD (IMF)*

*Christine Lagarde has made gender equality a central focus of her leadership at the IMF, which has used a macroeconomic lens to bring the discussion for gender equality into new venues, especially finance ministries, and produced research. The primary focus of the Fund's work has been female labour force participation, while gender-based budgeting is another key area of research and discussion. The Fund often promotes increased labour force participation as a remedy for declining economic*

*growth rates and a catalyst for development, a view shared by the World Bank. While endorsing this goal, trade unions and civil society support a broader analysis that ensures decent work for women. Access to social security, healthcare, free education, childcare, living wages and public services are essential for women to enter and stay in the labour force. Without these, deriving economic growth from an increase in female labour force participation could aggravate exploitation of women for economic gain. Moving from research to action at the Fund will require confronting the contradictions between the necessary conditions to close gender gaps and the deregulatory policies often promoted by the institution.*

*The World Bank's efforts are anchored by the 2016-2023 gender equality strategy, focused on "removing constraints for more and better jobs", facilitating access to ownership and finance, promoting women's voices, and improving support services including healthcare, education and social services. While this framework raises important goals around access, further action is needed to ensure women's rights are fully respected and realized. In particular, freedom of association and collective bargaining are essential tools for women to end occupational segregation, raise their voices, achieve decent work and create inclusive development. On the expansion of the care economy and services, and in the removal of occupational segregation, the strategy relies too much on private initiatives. A greater focus is needed on public investment, job creation programs, liveable minimum wages, transitions from informal to formal employment, universal social benefits and other measures that create economic security for women.*

*Colleagues are invited to encourage the IFIs to take on the broader agenda for promoting decent work for women, and to question the IFIs' lack of attention to issues such as the need for adequate public services and social programmes, transition from informal to formal employment and protection of freedom of association and collective bargaining rights. Colleagues should put forward suggestions to the IFIs for developing new policies on these topics as they relate to gender equality.*

*References: World Bank, Gender Equality Strategy 2016-2023: Overview, December 2015*

*(<http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/gender/overview#2>) EN, FR, ES*

*Joint GUF-ITUC Statement: Unions Central to Women's Economic Empowerment in the Changing World of Work, December 2016*

*(<http://unioncsw.world-psi.org/news/joint-guf-statement-unions-central-women%E2%80%99s-economic-empowerment-changing-world-work>) EN, FR, ES*

*Bretton Woods Project, The IMF and Gender Equality: A Critical Analysis, June 2016*

*(<http://www.brettonwoodsproject.org/2016/06/the-imf-and-gender-equality-a-critical-analysis/>) EN*

12:00 - 13:30 **Lunch**

13:30 - 14:45 **IMF and World Bank's work on climate change, mitigation and transition strategies**

Speakers: John A. Roome (World Bank), Ian Parry (IMF)

Discussants: Bishnu Rimal (GEFONT-Nepal), Catalene Passchier (FNV-Netherlands)

Moderator: Sulistri Afrileston (KSBSI-Indonesia)



*The IMF does not have any policy or programme on climate change. In 2010, the Fund's management proposed the adoption of a financing programme for climate investment but it was rejected by the executive board. The IMF has however actively discouraged energy subsidies – in part because of the climate impact, but principally because of the fiscal cost – and has made reduction of subsidies a condition of some loan programmes in developing countries, particularly in Middle East-North Africa. The Fund's climate-related analyses focus on the fiscal issues and, in particular, have attempted to calculate the costs of direct or indirect subsidies for fossil fuels.*

*The World Bank has done much more extensive analyses and recommendations on climate change in recent of years, such as in the three-volume "Turn Down the Heat" series. These reports have gone into depth on the costs of climate change and the distributional impact, notably the fact that it will affect low-income and vulnerable populations more than others. The World Bank is also involved in a major way in climate finance and in the Climate Investment Funds. However, neither the Bank's analyses nor its recommendations have focused on the impact of climate change on working people and on strategies for a just transition. Several civil society organization working on climate change have praised the World Bank's research on the issue but have been critical of the Bank's continued financial support for some fossil-fuel projects. Although these projects are generally limited to low-income countries, some organizations have stated that the Bank is hypocritical for engaging in this financial support while at the same time calling for a zero-carbon future.*

*Colleagues are invited to question the IFIs about the impact of their climate-related recommendations and programmes on working and low-income people and to make suggestions for improvement. For example, if the elimination of fuel subsidies result in higher public transit costs, the IMF could support increased minimum wages. The World Bank should explicitly include support for a just transition for workers in its climate-change mitigation and transition programmes. The ITUC has proposed engaging in joint work with the Bank for carrying this out but the Bank has not yet taken up the proposal.*

*References: IMF Factsheet: "Climate, Environment and the IMF", September 2016 (<http://www.imf.org/external/np/exr/facts/enviro.htm>) EN, FR*

*World Bank, "3 Steps to Decarbonizing Development for a Zero-Carbon Future", May 2015*

*(<http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2015/05/11/decarbonizing-development-zero-carbon-future>) EN, FR, ES*

*World Bank, Press Release: "World Bank Group Pledges One-Third Increase in Climate Financing", October 2015*

*(<http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2015/10/09/world-bank-group-pledges-one-third-increase-climate-financing>) EN, FR, ES*

*Sierra Club, Fossil Free Finance at the World Bank, October 2016*

*([http://priceofoil.org/content/uploads/2016/10/1418-FFF-FactSheet\\_02\\_low.pdf](http://priceofoil.org/content/uploads/2016/10/1418-FFF-FactSheet_02_low.pdf))*

*EN*

14:45 - 16:00 **World Bank's support for public private partnerships**

Speaker: Laurence Carter (IFC), TBD (World Bank)

Discussants: Pierre Habbard (TUAC), Jill Christianson (Education International)  
Moderator: Sulistri Afrileston (KSBSI-Indonesia)

*World Bank management and staff often insist that the Bank does not promote Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), but instead provides advice for countries considering or executing them. This is done through a wide range of tools including technical advice and project loans from the International Finance Corporation (IFC: the Bank's private-sector lending arm); the Bank's PPP Knowledge Lab; a cross-cutting solution area team (CCSA) on PPPs; and the Public-Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility (PPIAF). The G20's push for global infrastructure connectivity spurred a renewed focus on PPPs in infrastructure projects.*

*The World Bank has also supported PPPs for public services and education, prompting concern that they are being used to quietly privatize these core services. PPPs for roads, schools and healthcare usually rely on the imposition of fees to create profit for the private investor, thereby undermining the fulfilment of basic rights and development goals. The UN's Sustainable Development Goal 4 calls for all children to "complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education" by 2030. The Bank continues to defend investments by the IFC in Bridge International Academies despite numerous problems. The privately run fee-based Bridge schools were ordered to be closed by a Ugandan court in November 2016 for failing to meet basic national standards and have been the target of criticism around the world. This focus on PPPs stands in contrast to waning interest among some governments in PPPs and a record of low-quality infrastructures and services, budget overruns and hidden costs for public entities.*

*Colleagues are invited to question the Bank's choice to give strong support to PPPs, despite all of the costs and negative impacts associated with them, rather than giving full priority to developing quality public services and infrastructures. In particular, colleagues should give examples of negative impacts of specific PPP initiatives supported by the Bank and public sector alternatives that have delivered superior results for beneficiaries and workers.*

*References: Eurodad, What lies beneath? A critical assessment of PPPs and their impact on sustainable development, July 2015*

*(<http://www.eurodad.org/whatliesbeneath>) EN, FR, ES*

*Global Campaign for Education, Private Profit, Public Loss: GCE's report shows scant evidence that low-fee, for-profit private schools are better than public schools, September 2016*

*(<http://www.campaignforeducation.org/en/news/global/view/690-private-profit-public-loss-gce-s-report-shows-scant-evidence-that-low-fee-for-profit-private-schools-are-better-than-public-schools>) EN*

16:00-16:30 **Break**

16:30 - 18:00 **Joint IMF and World Bank Executive Directors' meeting with international trade union delegation**

Moderator: Sharan Burrow (ITUC)



*The Executive Directors, who number 24 at the IMF and 25 at the World Bank, represent member-country governments at the IFIs and compose the institutions' executive boards. This meeting thus represents an opportunity for dialogue with the governments that theoretically run the IFIs. Sharan Burrow will summarize some of trade unions' concerns with IFI policies that have been or will be expressed during the high-level meetings. Executive Directors, who represent individual large countries or groups of smaller countries, will be invited to respond.*

**18:00 - 19:00 Reception offered by the IMF and the World Bank**

Brief Remarks

*The trade union delegation and IMF and World Bank Executive Directors are invited to this reception.*

**THURSDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2017**

8:45 *Coffee, light breakfast available*

**9:00 - 10:00 Implementation of World Bank's new Environmental and Social Framework**

*Speakers: Mark King (World Bank)*

*Discussants: Ambet Yuson (BWI), Peter Bakvis (ITUC)*

*Moderator: World Bank (TBD)*

*In August 2016, the World Bank adopted a labour safeguard as part of a new Environmental and Social Framework. Environmental and Social Standard 2: Labour and Working Conditions (EES2), stipulates that Bank-financed projects in the public sector must comply with certain basic labour practices, including occupational health and safety standards, written information to workers about their conditions of employment, respect for workers' fundamental rights and ensuring absence of serious labour violations in the primary supply chain. Since the late 1990s, the ITUC and GUFs and their predecessors have urged the World Bank and regional development banks to adopt labour safeguards based on the ILO's fundamental rights conventions. The World Bank's adoption of ESS2 follows earlier adoption of labour safeguards by the African and European development banks and IFC (for private sector projects). Some provisions of ESS2 are weaker than the other banks' safeguards, most notably the absence of any reference to ILO standards. Since the adoption of the new policy in August, the ITUC and some GUFs have engaged in discussions with the Bank on its implementation, and have made suggestions for trade union involvement in the preparation of guidance notes, training for Bank staff and project managers, monitoring on the project level and creation of an accelerated complaints procedure. In addition to the ITUC, BWI has been particularly engaged in discussions on implementation since about one-half of the Bank's project lending, and one-third of total lending, involves construction work.*

*Colleagues are invited to make suggestion on specific measures that the World Bank should take to ensure that workers' rights are fully respected in Bank-financed activities. In addition, colleagues are encouraged to provide examples of violations*

*of workers' rights in Bank projects in order to stress the importance for the Bank to take serious and effective steps for implementation of its new labour safeguard.*

*References: World Bank, The New Environmental and Social Framework, August 2016 (<http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2016/08/05/the-new-environmental-and-social-framework>) EN, FR, ES*

*World Bank, Environmental and Social Framework, August 2016 (see pages 52-60 "Environmental and Social Standard 2: Labour and Working Conditions") ([http://consultations.worldbank.org/Data/hub/files/consultation-template/review-and-update-world-bank-safeguard-policies/en/materials/the\\_esf\\_clean\\_final\\_for\\_public\\_disclosure\\_post\\_board\\_august\\_4.pdf](http://consultations.worldbank.org/Data/hub/files/consultation-template/review-and-update-world-bank-safeguard-policies/en/materials/the_esf_clean_final_for_public_disclosure_post_board_august_4.pdf)) EN*

*Statement by Global Unions to 2016 Annual Meetings of IMF and World Bank, October 2016 (see paragraphs 16-19 "Implementation of the World Bank's new labour safeguard") (<http://www.ituc-csi.org/statement-by-global-unions-to-the-17849?lang=en>) EN, FR, ES*

**10:00 - 11:15 Meeting with President of the World Bank Group**

Speaker: Dr. Jim Yong Kim

Moderator: Sharan Burrow

*Jim Yong Kim will begin a second five-year term as World Bank president in July 2017. During his first term, Kim oversaw new initiatives on climate change, support for universal health care and social protection and the introduction of a new safeguards policy, including for labour. More controversially, he expanded support for PPPs and undertook a much-criticized organizational restructuring, but positively, the latter included creation of a Jobs group to give increased emphasis to employment creation in World Bank programmes. The Bank's pre-eminence in development finance has been challenged in the past few years by the creation of new multilateral lending institutions based in China (AIIB and NDB). The ITUC's general secretary will summarize some issues the trade union movement has raised with World Bank policies and programmes. Colleagues are invited to comment and ask questions on specific Bank policies or on projects in their country.*

**11:15 - 11:30 Break**

**11:30 - 12:45 Joint work towards universal social protection and health care**

Speakers: Michal Rutkowski (World Bank), Vinicius Pinheiro (ILO)

Discussants: Ath Thorn (CLC-Cambodia), Sandra Vermuyten (PSI)

Moderator: World Bank (TBD)

*The World Bank has taken position, starting in 2014, in favour of universal healthcare and later universal social protection. These policy positions were announced by the Bank's president and mark a change in approach, at least on a rhetorical level, from previous Bank policies where governments were encouraged to assist only the most vulnerable through their social protection and healthcare policies. The Bank has also*

*endorsed the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, which include targets for universal health care and the establishment of social protection floors. With the ILO, the bank co-chairs the Social Protection Inter-Agency Coordination Board, which has facilitated some joint initiatives for expanding universal social protection. Genuine support for universal social security, healthcare and education could make important contributions to the achievement of decent work and reduced inequality. However, in some client countries the Bank continues to promote social protection reforms that focus on targeting rather than broad coverage. Also, investments by the Bank in for-profit private healthcare and schools through its private-sector arm IFC are inconsistent with the objective of prioritizing universal health care and education rather than services for those able to pay for them.*

*Colleagues are invited to give examples of World Bank support for initiatives which support selective rather than universal social protection and health care, and to make recommendations for Bank actions which would contribute to universal coverage.*

*References: World Bank, "Speech by World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim on Universal Health Coverage in Emerging Economies", January 2014*

*(<http://beta.worldbank.org/en/news/speech/2014/01/14/speech-world-bank-group-president-jim-yong-kim-health-emerging-economies>), EN*

*World Bank Press Release: "World Bank, ILO Announce New Push for Universal Social Protection", September 2016*

*(<http://beta.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2016/09/21/world-bank-ilo-announce-new-push-for-universal-social-protection>) EN, FR, ES*

*Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors, "End poverty in all its forms everywhere: Implement social protection by 2030", April 2016*

*([http://www.socialprotectionfloorscoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Implement-social-protection-by-2030\\_20160108.pdf](http://www.socialprotectionfloorscoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Implement-social-protection-by-2030_20160108.pdf)) EN*

**12:45-13:00 Conclusions of meeting**

Speakers: Sharan Burrow (ITUC), Michal Rutkowski (World Bank), Sabina Bhatia (IMF)

**Note on speaking times:** In order to permit time for discussion, speakers are requested to limit their presentations to 10 minutes and discussants to 5 minutes