

PBVM Oral Statement HLPF 2016

by Olivia Dawson, IPA Volunteer

Mr. President, your Excellency's, Bureau members and fellow civil society colleagues,

My name is Olivia Dawson and I am a youth representative speaking on behalf of International Presentation Association and the NGO committee on Financing for development. IPA, an NGO with ECOSOC status, works in 23 countries and we consider ourselves well positioned to educate on and implement the 2030 Agenda, both through our feet on the ground experience, community involvement, and institutional work, to ensure nobody gets left behind.

The SDGs chart a course for action to do just this. In the Secretary General's Report for the World Humanitarian Summit, it states the *commitment to leave no one behind requires reaching everyone in situations of conflict, disaster, vulnerability and risk*, affirming this principle. We believe that it is possible to reach the furthest behind first if there is enough political will and a small fraction of the money spent in the arms race, lost through illicit financial flows and hidden in tax havens is invested in people and their capacities are developed.

Through the Sustainable Development Goals, governments are committed to eradicating extreme poverty and ensuring that all people enjoy a basic standard of living. A human rights based approach to Social Protection Floors is a basic requirement to ensure that most vulnerable people including those living in poverty and migrants, have access to essential health care and to basic income security. What is required is enhanced collaboration between governments and community-based initiatives which have the capacity to augment government schemes and provide opportunities for people's progressive growth and empowerment

SDG Target 1.3 outlines the need to implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors. Social Protection is not solely mentioned in SDG1, but also in Goal 5 and Goal 10. Paragraph 12 of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda also refers to the provision of *'fiscally sustainable and nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all including floors, with a focus on those furthest below the poverty line and the vulnerable'*.

The International Labour Organisation reiterates the value of Social protection floors as a win-win investment both in the positive impact on human development and productivity, and in terms of macroeconomic stabilization. The recent stories of Ecuadorean housewives and of Rwandan mothers who have been lifted out of poverty and provided with better health care are evidence enough that reforms to health care systems contribute to a rapid increase in maternal and child health.

Through the strong evidentiary links between Social Protection Floors and reductions in poverty, inequality, as well as greater autonomy for women, we see they are an effective means to ensure participation and to reach those left furthest behind. We have enough evidence from our engagement on the ground with most vulnerable groups that when Government sponsored Social Protection Floors are supported by committed civil society engagement the 2030 agenda can be really transformative as communities are motivated to engage in their own development with the support that they need to do so.

Thankyou.

