

## Social Protection and Universality: A Macro Perspective Alan Gelb

Discussant: Najat El Mekkaoui University Paris Dauphine PSL LEDa DIAL, ERF & EMNES



- Nice presentation about the structure of the social protection system from a macroeconomic perspective.
- Factors influencing the social protection system.
- Current and future challenges to inclusive and sustainable social protection.



- Stimulus Packages to support households, workers and private sector.
- Contingency funds for emergency pandemic response.
- Significant action in social insurance and labor market.
- 684 social protection measures in response to COVID-19 (World Bank).
- Social assistance transfers are the most widely used class of interventions.
- About half (47%) of cash transfers are new programs in 78 countries (reaching 512.6 million people).



- Significant levels of coverage under emergency response (Morocco).
- The introduction of a payment to workers in the informal economy (a combination of health insurance data and an online portal to reach people not previously registered in the social protection system).
- The use and fast adaptation of technology have been crucial.



- The concept of the unity of time and place of work has been significantly affected.
- New jobs are created, characterised by more autonomy, independence, often connected and without consideration of space with the digitalisation of the economy.
- These developments raise significant challenges for social protection.
- Can the traditional system take into account the provision of protection against new forms of risk associated with work changes?



- Benefits are not guaranteed for people who work occasionally.
- Current social policies are not adapted to them.
- To disconnect social insurance from work contracts?
- Flexible contribution?



- Full range of public policies.
- The multi-dimensional nature of vulnerabilities.
- Holistic approach: institutions outside the public sector which provide social protection functions. Private systems, civil societies, informal organizations.
- "Semi-formal social protection" (community-based health, savings association) and "Informal social protection" (family support).
- Linkages and complementarities policies and programmes between them.
- New paradigm of social protection systems?