Welcome and Introduction

"Amidst the global COVID-19 crisis, we are at a critical juncture where we must work to counter a dangerous trend of ‘divergent recoveries’ that could lead to a more unequal world. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to depart from models that have generated unsustainable inequalities and rebuild inclusive economies that work for everyone. The UN Secretary General (SG) has called for ‘a New Social Contract and a New Global Deal that create equal opportunities for all and respect the rights and freedoms of all’.”

- Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights Nada Al-Nashif

"A human rights-based approach to economic transformation means first and foremost a focus on inequality. ... reverting the worldwide trend of growing inequality must be at the heart of all efforts of the UNDS."

- Director of the UN Development Coordination Office for Latin America and the Caribbean Christian Salazar Volkmann

What do you hope to get out of this workshop?

What does the "New Social Contract" mean to you?
"At a time when the pandemic and its socio-economic consequences have propelled economic concerns to the forefront of political attention almost everywhere we work, the UN must come together and develop a common vision and joint knowledge about tools, standards and approaches for economic transformation that are available in the different organizations of the UNS. Together, we can advance with the right footing. And the right footing is a “rights” footing! A human rights-based approach to economic transformation means first and foremost a focus on inequality."

- **Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights Nada Al-Nashif**

"OHCHR has made it a priority to expand its work on economic and social rights and the 2030 Agenda. Our 80+ field presences have stepped up work in the context of supporting the COVID-19 socio-economic response and recovery. We have continued to deploy Human Rights Advisers (HRAs) to provide human rights support to RC offices and UNCTs, and since 2020, we have also set up a team of field facing economists (the Surge Initiative) who provide specialized advice to our field presences and work with other UN agencies’ economists to advise on country recovery strategies and operational solutions for a human rights-based approach to macroeconomics. These resources stand ready to support RCs and UNCTs."

- **Director of the UN Development Coordination Office for Latin America and the Caribbean Christian Salazar Volkmann**

**Questions Discussed in the Session 1**

**Session 1 - Introduction**

- **What are the best ways for OHCHR to engage with other parts of the UN on economic matters?**
- **Social protests are on the rise; concretely what can the UN do to help states prevent and address economic grievances?**
- **Evidence can be a powerful tool for creating “political will” and perhaps even more importantly channeling the aspirations of people can create the right kind of political pressure and momentum for leaders to change.**
- **How can the UN generate the political will for the new social contract.**
- **Fulfilling the UN’s normative agenda would require certain amount of financial resources for countries, particularly for countries which have significant gaps. In that context, is there any kind of tools to measure these costs? By asking this, I would also bring the topic of SDG costing that may give some incentives to link it with this issue.**

As highlighted with your reference to Colombia in recent days, tax reforms pose challenges. Where do we start building the fiscal space for social spending?

I second the question on the Common Understanding and would add that whenever obstacles we have to seeing it work properly are also likely to affect the realisation of the SDG’s Call to Action for human rights. The CU has a lot of potential and it would be great to explore how we could support its implementation.

The CCA’s and the cooperation frameworks are indeed ideal conduits to work on the new social contract. As per the almost twenty-year-old UN common understanding, a human rights-based approach to programming and development cooperation, all activities should contribute directly to realising one or several human rights. But too many times, a set of programme activities only incidentally contributes to the realisation of human rights. So how do we create the will on all UN levels to apply a genuine human rights-based approach to programming that includes the human rights obligations.
\textit{Leave No One Behind, Reducing Inequalities and Catalyzing More Inclusive Economic Growth to Rebuild Trust and Social Cohesion}

Rebuilding trust and social cohesion and addressing risks of social unrest through curbing inequalities and tackling discrimination, including through macroeconomic policies, advising on the structure of the economy and generation of decent and green jobs etc.

\textbf{Key questions addressed:}

- \textbf{Can we rebuild trust and social cohesion with a greater emphasis on LNOB, reducing inequalities and a more inclusive economy?}

- \textbf{How do you factor inequalities into your work on advising on economic policy and advancing economic transformation?}

- \textbf{What are the challenges and opportunities for the UN in playing a stronger role on inequalities and macroeconomic policy?}

\textbf{Country Example:}

\textbf{Tajikistan, RCO}

This intervention examined the nature of economic growth in Tajikistan. Growth may be pro-poor, but it may not necessarily be inclusive enough to promote wealth creation and jobs. It is important to make such distinctions to better understand the nature of growth and future path to sustainable economic transformation. Lessons from other countries were discussed that have managed to achieve the twin imperatives of both inclusive and pro-poor growth. Lastly, some highlights were shared about the UN’s support to promote sustainable growth and development in Tajikistan. Key points are the following:

- It is important to understand the nature of growth because it often comes in different colors and shades.
- There are indeed different paths but also some common ingredients that have often shaped economic development.
- A sustainable path to future growth and development would invariably mean greening the economy & harnessing technology.
This presentation focused on Afro-Ecuadorians, indigenous peoples, people with disabilities and persons deprived of their liberty under an LNOB framework and examining the impact of economic policies on their rights, especially in the context of COVID-19, in Ecuador. Pre-existing vulnerabilities of these groups and the impact economic reforms in recent years, have put them at greater risk. Ongoing analysis and other work draw on the recommendations made by the CESCR in 2005 and 2019 to ensure that austerity measures and economic reforms do not disproportionately impact marginalized groups.

The presentation also touched on the 2020 agreement between the country and the IMF.

Ecuador, OHCHR

This presentation presented a brief cluster analysis of the current situation of the region after 18 months of crisis with a focus on Ecuador. An emphasis was placed on key socioeconomic variables and economic response policies, identifying recovery and growth, distributive and gender related aspects. It concluded with a broad proposal to i) promote a social contract for short and medium terms; ii) identify the role of the UN for this promotion and its implementation. Key points are the following:

- Ecuadorian vertical and horizontal structural inequalities (particularly gender and ethnic based) have remained for 3 decades of sustained growth, secular crisis and anti-crisis measures. Although its severity has showed the weakness and inadequacy of these measures and growth regime, COVID crisis is not the exception: response has emphasized on targeted transfers, labor flexibility, financialization, public debt increases and austerity measures. Factors of inequality remain, particularly gender inequality has increased, so as the latent likelihood of increased social conflict.

- UN has supported the government for a medium-term socioeconomic response and conflict prevention. The response includes fiscal space for social protection, promotion of small economies, financial inclusion, women's formalization and locally based care systems. UN has also supported the identification and mobilization of alternative sources of financing SDG, social security and protection. Key strategies have been human rights and gender aware data production and analysis; design and install key sectoral strategies; social dialogue, community participation and private sector commitment.

- There is an opportunity for supporting transformative recovery. Withdrawing from SG's main social contract components, for Ecuador we propose: i) an equalizing economy; ii) an inclusive economy; iii) a caring economy; iv) a resilience economy. These challenges imply deepening structural and prospective analysis, increasing alliances for multilateral channelling of resources towards closing gaps, design and support innovative impact investments; promote a fiscal contract; support improvement of economic governance and institutions; deepen multi-actor dialogue and local government's involvement. Finally, support women's and other social organizations for advocacy and dialogue for social cohesion and conflict prevention.

Ecuador, UN Women

Country Example:

Tackling the root causes of social unrest, political instability and high level of inequalities in Haiti is at the heart of the UN's strategic priorities in the country. One of these priorities consists in advocating for a paradigm shift in the country’s economic model towards a more inclusive path, with a greater emphasis on social inclusion and LNOB. To this end, the UN leverages on its strengths as a knowledge organisation and uses its convening role to support the design and implementation of landmark national policies, which will be the focus of this presentation.

Haiti, RCO

Country Example:
To rebuild trust, social cohesion, reduce inequalities and increase inclusivity in the economy, the ILO defends the thorough promotion of decent work and access to a universal social protection system, including social protection floors. Central American countries and Mexico present significant deficits in these dimensions and require intensifying their efforts. This presentation will share how ILO promotes reforms of social protection systems to extend non contributory benefits to all, increase formalization of labour markets, and the strengthening of actuarially balanced contributory social security systems in Latin America, including in Central America and Mexico.

Questions Discussed in the Session 2

We are looking forward to seeing you on Day 2 of the Workshop!

Please CLICK HERE to join the meeting.

Contact Marcella Favretto for more information and access the programme on the dedicated webpage.