



**Global
Call to Action
Against Poverty**

People Rising to End Inequalities

APSP & GCAP Africa Virtual Side Event: ‘ Extending Social Protection to end Food Insecurity’

At the Eighth Session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD)

“Building forward better: A green, inclusive and resilient Africa poised to achieve the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063”

Date: March 1st or 2nd 2022 (tbc) Time 11.00-12.30 (Kigali time GMT+2) (tbc)

Key objectives the African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development which is held annually are to follow-up, review and catalyse actions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, review the goals of the AU Agenda 2063 and support peer learning through discussion of **Voluntary National Reviews**. Outcomes are conveyed to the High Level Political Forum. In 2022, the Regional Forum shall be hosted by the government of the Republic of Rwanda and shall take place from 3rd to 5th March in the country’s capital of Kigali. The theme for the 2022 event is ***Building forward better: A green, inclusive and resilient Africa poised to achieve the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063***. This is the 8th Forum since the first one was held; the immediate last one was held in 2021 in Brazzaville, Congo: <https://uneca.org/arfsd2021>. The outcomes of the side events will inform the summary messages of the Forum and input into its collective Declaration.

APSP & GCAP side event ‘Extending Social Protection to end Food Insecurity’

Many African countries remain behind or even off-track in different ways towards achievement of the SDGs by 2030 and Agenda 2063 goals. They are also moving at different paces. A key challenge currently is increased food insecurity. With grassroots partners and networks in over 30 countries in Africa APSP and GCAP are working together on promoting social protection as a key contribution of ending food insecurity in Africa. The experience of partners has shown how the impact of Covid 19 has exponentially increased food insecurity, breaking food chains and deepening already endemic poverty and hunger especially in rural areas. Currently Africa is the region with the lowest coverage of social protection, despite the Africa Unions recognition of its importance as a key element of recovery from Covid 19, that social protection tackles generalized insecurity and endemic poverty, and that the extension of social protection floors is fundamental to achieving the SDGs.

The side event will bring together civil society, grassroots organizations UN agencies and VNR countries of Africa. Supported by an experienced moderator, five panelists will bring experience of how social protection acts on food insecurity and hunger, giving up to date information and analysis on extending social protection coverage and its financing and offering best practice examples for peer learning. 2 civil society and grassroots panelists Ms Maipelo Phale from Botswana Council of NGOs and Rwanda will share grassroots experience. Ms Valerie Schimdt of ILO will speak on social protection coverage and current opportunities and challenges; Ms Bintia Stephen Tchicaya of the FAO will share up to date analysis and recommendations on food insecurity and the 4th time VNR reporting country of Togo will be invited to offer lessons learned in the VNR process. Ms Nomaqhawe Gwere from National NGOs coalition of Zimbabwe shall moderate the event proceedings.

The Africa Platform of Social Protection (name tbc) and the Global Call to Action Against Poverty (name tbc) will offer final reflections and key messages to be included in the Forum’s final Declaration and to take forward into the VNR processes of the 22 reporting countries of Africa.