

Distr.: Restricted
28 May 2010

English only

Human Rights Council

Fourteenth session

Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights
including the right to development**

**Summary of the Human Rights Council panel discussion on
the impact of the global economic and financial crises on the
realization and effective enjoyment of all human rights**

Prepared by the Secretariat

several measures undertaken by the Government of Colombia, which were emblematic of the general experience of Latin American countries, including increased spending in infrastructure, investment in social welfare network, sustaining private sector investment and ensuring access to financing. These measures enabled the Government not only to maintain social spending but to increase the coverage. Mr. Calderón said that there were several lessons learned from the crisis: (a) a code of conduct is needed to regulate the behaviour of financial markets which should be based on ethics; (b) social investment should not be sacrificed as a mean to contain the crisis; (c) inflationary pressure in times of crisis should be controlled; and (d) protectionist measures in response to the crisis should be avoided.

6. Mr. Juan Somavia underlined the strong link between human rights and labour rights enshrined in the ILO Constitution. The Declaration of Philadelphia, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as well as the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights provided a strong basis

take the lead in addressing inappropriate policy conditionality taking into account the need of developing countries, to honour ODA commitments, and refrain from introducing protectionist measures.

9. Ms. Irene Khan noted that poverty represents the deprivation of economic and social rights, insecurity, discrimination, exclusion and powerlessness. Ms. Khan stated that the harmful effects of the crisis on human lives and human dignity were not just inevitable consequences of unpredictable and uncontrollable market forces, but were the result of actions or inaction of governments and economic actors –a human rights approach would

of their making. Due to the economic crisis there was a cut in tax collection in a number of countries and important investments had to be reconsidered or postponed for that reason, further endangering the achievement of the MDGs.

National responses to the crisis

14. In their statements, several delegations presented various emergency packages and other measures taken by their Governments to alleviate the social consequences of the crisis, including through the increase of public investment in infrastructure and social services and measures adopted to face the adverse affects on specific sectors. Some noted that their strategy was built upon on needs and legal entitlements of g -17. -17.934 T17. -17.934 bgal en

