

It is against this backdrop that the United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (SAA) is organizing a side event at the 5th session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD) on “Rethinking social protection policies in Africa: the role of indigenous social protection schemes as key building blocks”. This side event will contribute substantially to the priority theme of CSocD around fostering social d

forms of social protection with a view to developing recommendations for a mix of mechanisms best suited to the contexts of African countries.

In addition, SAA has launched a flagship report entitled, [Solving the Challenges of Africa's Development: Financing, Energy and Food Systems](#), which underlines that with the right policy levers, African nations can tackle the significant flight of capital and resources to be repurposed for accelerating efforts to attain the SDGs and Agenda 2030. The focus on social protection systems is a critical vehicle to ensure successful progress towards these goals, and creating long-term frameworks for domestic resource commitments to this end is essential.

1: 9 Objectives

The objectives of the side event are to:

- Shed light on the role of traditional, indigenous social protection mechanisms in enhancing resilience to shocks, protecting livelihoods, and promoting social justice
- Present examples of traditional social protection schemes from different African countries
- Highlight the opportunities and policy implications to African policymakers on how to develop integrated social protection policies that leverage the potential of traditional mechanisms and
- Illustrate social protection as a critical lever to accelerate the attainment of the SDGs and the importance of anchoring such systems within domestic resource mobilization.

1: 9 Guiding Questions

The proposed guiding questions include:

- *. The formal social security system usually provides for those in formal employment and extends coverage only to those who fit into the limited definition of employee. How do traditional forms of social protection help to cover the health, education or other types of needs of workers in the informal sector? Do you see examples of effective traditional social protection mechanisms in your country/region/community that provide coverage to populations otherwise not covered by the formal schemes?
- #. Most formal social security services tend to be found in urban areas, presenting a serious barrier for the rural poor to access these services. How might traditional social protection and self-organized mutual support at the community level help improve the welfare of the rural population and ameliorate the socioeconomic gap resulting from urbanization?
- &. What are some examples of African Governments that implemented an integrated approach to social protection that leverages the potential of traditional mechanisms and integrates them into national social protection strategies?

7. How might countries develop financing strategies to ensure the long-term sustainability of traditional and formal social protection schemes, through domestic resource