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Multistakeholder Engagement to Implement the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions and the World Bank Social Protection and Jobs Compass (M-GA)

1st Coordination Council Meeting

Technical Level

Thursday, 12 September 2024, 13.30-15.00 CET (UTC+01:00), Online

SUMMARY

Opening remarks

Mr. Jamele Rigolini, Senior Advisor for Social Protection and Jobs at the World Bank highlighted the role of the M-GA in enhancing collaboration on key aspects, making social protection more adaptive and flexible, and boosting job quality and quantity. The M-GA's lean and pragmatic structure encourages country teams to address key constraints through dialogue with governments, assessment, technical assistance, and advocacy. The mechanism complements the World Bank's operations by providing necessary technical assistance and analysis. A global perspective is crucial for synthesizing lessons learned and transferring knowledge across countries and regions. The World Bank is eager to launch the M-GA and improve the process over time.

Ms. Kathrin Oellers, Head of Division for Population Policy and Social Protection at the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany, noted that Germany played a pivotal role in establishing the M-GA, aiming for collaboration with other donors to support this important initiative. She emphasized the importance of avoiding duplicative structures and the mechanism should be adjusted based on feedback and learning. Collaboration with development banks and other partners is crucial, especially through the working group with Public Development Banks.

Ms. Valerie Schmitt, Deputy Director of the Universal Social Protection Department at ILO explained that the ILO and the UN have been collaborating with Germany and the World Bank for over 18 months to build this partnership. She thanked Germany for their support, marking the upcoming launch of the first funding rounds as a significant achievement.

The Global Accelerator focuses on three main pillars:

- **Financing Social Development:** Supporting countries in financing their social development through domestic resources and international financial support, including the role of Public Development Banks.
- **Integrated Policy Approaches:** Increasing collaboration between the World Bank and the UN to design and implement integrated policy packages that support livelihoods, help individuals graduate from poverty, and formalize the economy.
- **Enhancing Multilateral Cooperation:** Improving technical and financial support coherence from the UN and International Financial Institutions to countries, moving global discussions to the country level through platforms like the Social Protection Interagency Cooperation Board and the Global Partnership for Universal Social Protection 2030.

Overview of the role of the M-GA Coordination Council

The M-GA Coordination Council acts as the governance structure for the M-GA. It provides strategic guidance on M-GA engagements, country support and the development of global



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RAPID SOCIAL RESPONSE

knowledge products and tools. It works in coordination with the GA Steering Group for overall strategic guidance of the Global Accelerator. The M-GA will support activities that are consistent with the dual objectives of the both the Global Accelerator and the World Bank Social Protection and Jobs Compass. Funding for M-GA activities comes from various sources, including the World Bank and the Joint SDG Fund, accessible to World Bank country teams and UN agencies. The Coordination Council is technically supported by a Management Team composed of the World Bank and the TSF comprising six UN agencies: ILO, FAO, UNICEF, UN Women, WFP, and UNDP.

The Council's main roles include:

- Providing strategic guidance and advice on alignment with M-GA goals, funding, global activities, and the results framework.
- Offering strategic country support guidance, including eligibility, review of the calls for proposals, taking stock of progress through the results framework, guidance on the annual reports, identifying synergies and support coherence across the projects within the M-GA and discussing result results of the independent evaluation of the M-GA which is also planned as part of the process.
- Guiding the development of global knowledge products and tools, contributing to dissemination and suggesting new initiatives.
- Advocating for social protection and job creation investments, supporting international financing, and guiding resource mobilization and new member onboarding.

Next steps include sharing the draft Terms of Reference for feedback, and organizing a Coordination Council meeting for strategic guidance.

Strategic Guidance on the first funding round (M-GA guidance note)

The goal is to provide World Bank and partner UN agency teams with up to \$500,000 to implement programs within 24 months in a pilot phase. Eligibility for applying includes teams from Pathfinder countries, with non-Pathfinder countries invited based on funding availability. Proposals must be submitted by teams comprising World Bank and at least one UN agency. The application process emphasizes funding activities consistent with national priorities and involves collaboration with national stakeholders. The proposal process is designed to be concise, aiming for 5-page submissions, followed by an initial vetting and a quasi-blind technical review by independent reviewers from both the UN and World Bank sides. Proposals will be reviewed, ranked, and selected through a combination of narrative and quantitative scores. Some will be accepted, rejected, or asked for revision. Final approval of high-scoring proposals will be from the Coordinating Council, the SDG Fund on the UN side, and the RSR Umbrella Trust Fund Steering Committee on the World Bank side. A possible timeline targets June for publishing final decisions on allocations, with openness to feedback on the process, timeline, and ways to enhance rigor and satisfaction.

Next steps

- Participants can send feedback on M-GA documents via email by February 27.
- A first draft of the Coordination Council's Terms of Reference (TORS) will be shared with the group.
- The first funding round for the M-GA will launch simultaneously with the GA around mid-March.
- The next Coordinating Council meeting at the end of May will endorse the TORS prepared through a participatory process in April.
- Guidance will be sought on joint UN-World Bank proposals for country implementation of the M-GA and the work program for the M-GA in March/April.