



ازدهار البلدان كرامة الإنسان



PATHFINDERS

FOR PEACEFUL, JUST AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES

HOSTED BY THE NYU CENTER ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

First webinar Social Justice and Social protection in the Arab Region

20 January 2021

1:00 pm - 3 :00 pm (Beirut Time)

ESCWA Opening Comments from Dr Faiza Shaheen, Inequality Lead, Inequality & Exclusion Pathfinder, Centre for International Cooperation, NYU

Good afternoon

I'm Faiza Shaheen, the head of the inequality and exclusion Grand Challenge for the Pathfinders initiative at the Centre for International Cooperation.

The Centre for International Cooperation is a think tank based at New York University, our aim is to advance effective multilateral action to prevent crises and build peace, justice, and inclusion - connecting issues of multilateralism and peace to issues of sustainable development.

The Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, is a multi-stakeholder partnership that brings together UN member states, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector to accelerate delivery of the SDG targets for peace, justice and inclusion. It is a platform for action.

We use three "grand challenges" to build ambition and as a focus for learning, increasing political will, and strengthening strategies for promoting justice for all, preventing violence and tackling exclusion and inequality.

Today I will talk through some of our findings to date on our inequality and exclusion research, in particular in relation to social protection measures, and invite your country experiences and insights.

Many thanks to Mehrnaz and the ESCWA team for inviting us to partner with them on hosting these workshops. As a platform for action, policy dialogue and country level liaison is core to our work.

Today's session on social protection could not be more timely. Social protection measures have proved key in the battle against the regressive economic and social impacts of COVID-19.

Perhaps no other event in the modern era has made the case for the need to support people through cash transfers and other methods of government support than the pandemic.

And, as we go forward and witness the on-going uneven impact of COVID-19 on the poor, marginalized groups and woman - there is a heightened need to consider policies that tackle inequality or exclusion.

We're very pleased to be here today and look forward to the discussion.