

## Social protection and the Millennium Development Goals

In September, the UN General Assembly discussed ways of accelerating progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), whose 2015 deadline is rapidly approaching. One place facing particular challenges is sub-Saharan Africa which, despite recent progress, remains the poorest region in the world.

Ahead of the 'UN summit', 70 leading academics, development professionals, civil society representatives and policy-makers from Europe, Africa, other donor countries and international agencies gathered in Florence to discuss whether social protection can help reducing poverty and vulnerability in Africa and promote pro-poor growth and social cohesion.

This podcast features:

- **Giorgia Giovannetti**, the ERD's lead author, introduces the concept of fragility in all its diversity.
- **Josep Borrell**, president of the European University Institute and former president of the European Parliament.
- **François Bourguignon**, director of the Paris School of Economics and former chief economist of the World Bank.
- **Françoise Moreau**, acting director for EU development policy at the European Commission.
- **Peter Ondiege**, African Development Bank.