



COMMISSION EUROPÉENNE

Direction générale Développement et relations avec les Etats d'Afrique, des Caraïbes et du Pacifique



## ERD RESEARCH WORKSHOP

### Towards the European Report on Development 2010 – Poverty, inequality and social protection in Africa

#### *Presentation of the draft outline*

Brussels, Centre A. Borschette, Rue Froissart, 36, Room 3A

*Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> March 2010, 9h – 16h30*

**9h00 – 9h30:** Registration of participants and welcome coffee

**9h30 – 10h00:** *Welcome address, Françoise Moreau, European Commission*

**10h00 – 11h00:** *General presentation of the draft Outline Report for the ERD 2010 – Presentation of the process, including the new research team, the forthcoming preparatory events and working papers as well as the "refreshed" ERD website. Prof. Giorgia Giovannetti, ERD Team Leader, European University Institute (EUI)*

**11h00 – 12h45:** *Working session 1: What should be dealt with in the Report?*

*The ERD 2010 will deal with the broad and complex issues of poverty, inequality and social protection, with a specific focus on Sub-Saharan Africa. In particular, it will look at the role of formal and informal social protection mechanisms both in responding to short term shocks and in addressing long term structural vulnerabilities and poverty traps.*

*The purpose of this first working session will be to refine and delimitate the scope and coverage of the Report, on the basis of the draft outline and taking into account what exists*

*already on the subject ("state of the art"), and discuss how to frame these various topics within a coherent structure with a clear story line.*

*Questions which will be discussed in that regard include notably: what definition of social protection should adopt the ERD 2010, considering the African (heterogeneous) context? How far should the Report look into the inter linkages between social protection mechanisms and inequality trends? What are the main interactions/synergies between formal and informal social protection systems that the Report should look at, and how to link them with overall state-building processes? Should we and (if yes, how) integrate current and future global challenges such as climate change, economic shocks and demographic trends within the analytical scope of the Report? Should the Report give more emphasis to affordability and financing aspects, or to the political economy and governance dimensions of social protection? How far should the Report go into analyzing success stories, failures and lessons learnt from approaches and initiatives in other (developing and developed) regions?*

### **12h45 – 14h: Lunch**

### **14h00 – 15h00: Work session 2: What should be the entry points and main messages to be expected from the Report?**

*The challenges of poverty, inequality and social protection embraces a wide range of different topics and issues on which there is already a wealth of academic and policy-oriented literature. Therefore, there is a need to reflect already now on the potential added value and specific objectives of the ERD 2010, in order notably to avoid overlapping or duplicating with other existing reports and analyses on the same issue.*

*In that regard, what could be the specific entry points of the ERD 2010? Should we for example take the combined impact of the food-fuel and financial/economic crisis on developing countries, which have raised the profile of social protection and safety nets in the development agenda, as a starting point? Or rather the relative absence of inequality (and social protection) within the MDG framework (since the MDGs are mostly monitored on the basis of nationally aggregated data and therefore neutral with respect to distribution among population groups)? And what could be the main potential messages to guide the future ERD research and consultative work, bearing in mind the focus of the Report on Sub-Saharan Africa and on the role of the EU as a development actor?*

### **15h00 – 16h00: Work session 3: The EU dimension of the Report**

*One key purpose of the ERD 2010 will be to come up with concrete conclusions and recommendations to help the EU identifying its added value, in comparison for instance with what the World Bank, the OECD and the ILO are doing, and developing its own vision and policy framework in the field of social protection.*

*The need for social protection mechanisms to promote social and economic development in partner countries is already recognised in a range of EU policies and agreements. Besides, although social protection is not a focal sector in any EC country strategies, the European Commission is already involved in a number of social safety net programmes in many*

*developing countries in Africa (Ethiopia, Lesotho), Latin America (Paraguay, El Salvador) as well as Central and East Asia (Afghanistan, China...). These range from support to national reforms of social security policy to small scale localized pilot transfer schemes. However, there is still no, contrary to some individual Member States, comprehensive EU policy framework for the promotion of social protection within development cooperation at the moment.*

*The purpose of this last working session will be to explore ways of elaborating the EU dimension and specificity within the ERD 2010, taking into account notably the European own history and diversity in terms of social systems, the EU comparative advantages as well as its wide array of policies beyond development which can have a spill over effect on social protection mechanisms abroad.*

**16h00 – 16h30:** *Wrap up session, Françoise Moreau* (European Commission) and **François Bourguignon** (Paris School of Economics, external scientific advisor on the ERD initiative)