



**ASIA-PACIFIC**  
**SOCIAL PROTECTION WEEK 2023**  
Social Protection in a Changing World

26–28 September • ADB headquarters, Manila, Philippines

## Plenary Panel Discussion: Navigating change: Shaping the Future of Social Protection in Asia and the Pacific

### Moderator



**Wendy Walker**, Director, Human and Social Development Sector Office, Sectors Group, ADB

Wendy Walker is Director, Human and Social Development Sector Office, Sectors Group at the Asian Development Bank, and heads the Social Development practice team. She provides technical leadership in social development and social protection, and facilitates collaboration across sectors and technical groups in ADB, and with external partners. She co-leads the implementation of ADB Strategy 2030's first operational priority on *Addressing Remaining Poverty and Reducing Inequalities*. She has led multi-sector teams for designing and implementing complex and innovative projects and has worked across diverse sectors such as transport, urban, health, education, and social protection.

Wendy has an M. Phil from University of Oxford and a PhD from Johns Hopkins University.

### Panelists



**Shahra Razavi**, Director, Social Protection Department, International Labour Organization (ILO)

Shahra Razavi is a distinguished development economist with more than 25 years of experience in social policy, social protection, gender, and development. As the Director of the Social Protection Department at the International Labor Organization (ILO), she plays a crucial role in shaping global initiatives. Her previous positions at UN Women and the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) have allowed her to make significant contributions to understanding gender dimensions in economic policy, poverty,

livelihoods, land rights, and social policies. With an extensive body of published work, Shahra Razavi is recognized as a leading expert in her field. Her ongoing efforts continue to drive positive change and promote greater equity and inclusivity in societies worldwide.



**Michael Samson**, Research Director, Economic Policy Research Institute (EPRI)

Michael Samson is the Research Director of the Economic Policy Research Institute (EPRI), a global research institute with offices in Bangkok, Cape Town, and San Juan. He has 36 years of experience working in social protection, and specialises in designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating integrated social protection programmes, policies, and systems; and his project experience in these areas includes work in 58 countries in Africa, Latin America, Eastern Europe, Asia and the Pacific as well as many related publications. He has conducted integrated social protection and public finance reviews in Cambodia, Indonesia and the Kyrgyz Republic. He led the international team supporting the evaluation of Thailand's Child Support Grant, designed a long-term social protection training-of-trainer capacity development programme in Vietnam, and supported 32 other social protection policy and programme-related projects over the past fifteen years in Asia and the Pacific. His current work explores the role of social protection as the vital social dimension of integrated climate, development and equity strategies. He is also on the economics faculty at the Williams College Center for Development Economics in the United States, and he has a Ph.D. in Economics from Stanford University.



**Arup Chatterjee**, Principal Financial Sector Specialist, Finance Sector Office, Sectors Group, ADB

Arup Kumar Chatterjee is a Principal Financial Sector Specialist at the Asian Development Bank, working on reforming and developing capital markets, contractual savings, and insurance sectors. Arup has previously served at the Bank for International Settlements in Switzerland and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India, where he led work on promoting a sound, progressive and inclusive financial sector. His work has focused on innovative insurance solutions for improving the financial protection of vulnerable and underserved populations prone to various idiosyncratic and covariate shocks. Arup is an alumnus of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, Jawaharlal Nehru University, and Delhi University.



**Laura Alfors**, Director, Social Protection Program, Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO)

Laura Alfors is the Director of the Social Protection Programme at Women in Informal Employment Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO), as well as a Research Associate in the Department of Sociology at Rhodes University in South Africa. Over the last 10 years she has worked on various aspects of social policy to better include women working in the informal economy, including health care, child care, and social protection systems. Her latest publication - a co-edited book - is entitled *Informal Workers and Social Contracts in the Global South* (Elgar), which aims to interrogate the idea of social contracts from the grounded perspective of workers in the informal economy.



**Arghya Sinha Roy**, Principal Climate Change Specialist (Climate Change Adaptation), Climate Change and Sustainable Development Department (CCSD), ADB

Arghya Sinha Roy is involved in the implementation of ADB's climate priorities and targets by supporting client governments in strengthening climate adaptation related policies, plans and investments and access climate finance. He has more than 19 years of international experience in the field of climate and disaster resilience, especially in the context of urban resilience, resilient infrastructure, community resilience, and post-disaster recovery and reconstruction.