

ASIA-PACIFIC SOCIAL PROTECTION WEEK 2026

Empowered Lives, Resilient Futures

6–8 October • ADB Headquarters, Manila



ADB

SESSION 15

Stop Guessing, Start Knowing: The Power of Data and Evidence

MODERATOR



Elisabetta Gentile
Principal Economist (Development Impact)
Economics Research and Development Impact
Department
Asian Development Bank

Dr. Elisabetta Gentile is a Principal Economist at the Economic Research and Development Impact Department of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). She performs policy-oriented research in labor, education, and innovation and supports evidence-based design, monitoring, and evaluations of ADB operations. She is published in top economics journals and has edited several publications, including the Global Value Chain Development Report 2021.

SPEAKERS and PANELIST



Tatia Gvaramadze
Head of the Social Protection and Labour Policy
Department
Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the
Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and
Social Affairs
Government of Georgia

Tea Gvaramadze focuses on developing state social protection programs and services in adoption, orphan care, persons with disabilities and alternative care for children, as well as services for persons with disabilities, programs and care policy. She previously served as Deputy Director of the Social Service Agency. With a medical background and over 20 years of extensive practical experience in social protection, she has contributed to major reforms and new Persons with Disabilities Welfare Services. Her main mission is to

support the most vulnerable groups in society—children, persons with disabilities, and older persons—while contributing to the development of inclusive policies that ensure no one is left behind.



Elizabeth Hosking
Chief Inspector
Social Protection and Labour Services
Government of Cook Islands

Since joining the Cook Islands Ministry of Internal Affairs in June 2026, she has contributed extensive experience in employment relations, labour compliance, consumer protection, and workplace health and safety. With a strong understanding of the Cook Islands welfare system and a growing expertise in social protection policy and practice, works closely with government agencies, employers, workers, communities, and regional partners to strengthen social protection and labour services and improve outcomes for people across the Cook Islands.



Jahan Ara Manzoor Wattoo
Vice Chairperson
Punjab Social Protection Authority

Jahanara Manzoor Wattoo is a globally recognized Pakistani policymaker and the international face of Pakistan's social welfare framework. Currently serving as the Vice Chairperson of the Punjab Social Protection Authority (PSPA), she bridges local grassroots empowerment with international diplomacy.

In July 2025, her impact was cemented on the world stage when she was appointed the Inaugural Chair of the LIS Women Leaders for Social Protection Network in Frankfurt, Germany.

Champion of Global Social Policy International Leadership: As Chair of the LIS Women Leaders Network, she directs high-level policy frameworks for South-South cooperation, driving global discussions on gender-inclusive economic relief.

UN Fellowship Alumna: She represented Pakistan as a fellow at the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization (ITCILO) in Turin, Italy, mastering advanced structural strategies for poverty eradication.

Regional Child Advocacy: She has influenced cross-border policy as a regional advisor for SAIEVAC (a SAARC apex body dedicated to ending violence against children) and acted as a Goodwill Ambassador for orphaned youth.

Architect of Provincial Reform PSPA Governance: Back home, she oversees Punjab's most critical safety nets, modernizing targeted unconditional cash transfers and establishing shock-responsive, climate-smart welfare infrastructure.

National Policy Influence: She actively shapes Pakistan's human rights landscape through her membership in the National Commission on the Status of Women, turning grassroots vulnerabilities into actionable state legislation.

Political Legacy: Daughter of veteran statesman Mian Manzoor Ahmad Khan Wattoo, she utilizes her deep-rooted political acumen within the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) to keep social justice at the forefront of national politics.



Siti Nur Shuhada Baharin
Vice-Chairperson of the International Social Security Association (ISSA) Technical Commission on Actuarial, Statistical and Financial Studies
ISSA Regional Office for Southeast Asia

Head of the Actuarial, Statistics & Resource Centre Division at SOCSO Malaysia. Driven by her personal philosophy as an "Actuary with a Purpose," she focuses on transforming complex demographic data and mathematical modeling into sustainable, long-term social safety nets that protect the livelihood of millions of Malaysian workers. Her professional background includes central banking experience at Bank Negara Malaysia and collaborative policy work with the International Labour Organization (ILO). She holds an Actuarial Science degree from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.



Ludovico Carraro
Social Development Specialist (Consultant)
Asian Development Bank

Ludovico Carraro is an independent consultant with more than 25 years of experience in development specialising in poverty analysis and social protection. He has provided technical assistance and advice in the design and implementation of many social protection programmes in Asia, Africa and Eastern Europe. Ludovico also worked with many statistical offices in the measurement of poverty, generating poverty profiles and looking at social exclusion and overlapping deprivations. He worked for 20 years in Oxford Policy Management and since 2023 he is working as an independent consultant in various assignments with the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank and UNICEF. He has also worked as a short-term lecturer in universities in Germany, People's Republic of China and Italy.