Global Reset: Inequality and a new social contract
13 January, 14:00-17:45 (GMT)

14:00-14:05 Welcome and overview of the day for participants
Sara Pantuliano, Chief Executive, ODI

14:05-14:15 Opening remarks
Simon Coveney, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Government of Ireland

Session 1: Inequality exposed (Panel discussion)

The Covid-19 crisis has exposed existing and persistent inequalities. It has revealed how inequalities in the provision of essential services and in the world of work, for example, affect the ability of societies to respond to shocks and create new vulnerabilities in a crisis. Far from being an “equaliser”, population groups that are hardest hit by the pandemic include women, racial and ethnic minorities, those with weak employment protections and without adequate access to affordable quality healthcare. Across countries too, it is expected that the poorest will be most negatively affected, with the highest mortality rates and poverty impacts expected in these countries. At the heart of these differential impacts lie existing inequalities and policy shortcomings – domestic and global - that risk being exacerbated by the pandemic and policy response unless they are addressed head-on. This first session will explore the emerging evidence on the pandemic’s, and pandemic policy responses’, impact on inequalities.

Confirmed speakers:

Francesca Bastagli Director of Programme, Equity and Social Policy, ODI (Chair)
Francisco Ferreira Amartya Sen Professor of Inequality Studies, LSE
Liesbet Steer Director, The Education Commission
Els Torreele Visiting Policy Fellow, Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose, University College London
Paromita Sen Research Manager, Self-Employed Women’s Association (SEWA)
15:00- 15:30 Breakout discussions (Round 1)

This optional breakout session will enable participants to discuss the Covid-19 crisis’ implications for inequalities in three areas - education, health, income and wealth - in small groups. All groups will be invited to answer the following question(s): what must be prioritised when it comes to (education / health / wealth and income) to ensure inequality is addressed as we rebuild from the pandemic? What significant progress would you like to see in the next five years?

Facilitators and rooms

Room A - Education
Susan Nicolai  Senior Research Fellow, Director EdTech Hub project, ODI

Room B - Health
Fiona Samuels  Senior Research Fellow, Gender Equality and Social Inclusion, ODI

Room C – Income and wealth
Martin Evans  Senior Research Fellow, Equity and Social Policy, ODI

15:30-16:15 Session 2: What role for redistribution? (Panel discussion)

Calls for building a society that works for all are emphasising the role of redistributive policies, including cash and in-kind tax and transfer policies. Both at the global and national level, initiatives to mobilise resources are increasingly incorporating equity and sustainability concerns, opening up options for reform previously low on the policy agenda, including, for example, the taxation of wealth. In the field of social transfers, as of May 2020, a staggering 190 countries have planned, introduced or adapted a total of 937 social protection measures in response to the pandemic, an unprecedented response, when compared with past crises. This panel discussion will explore what we know about what works when it comes to redistribution of wealth, including the role of different actors for supporting and promoting such ideas.

Confirmed speakers:

Shanta Devarajan  Professor of the Practice of Development, Georgetown University’s Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service (Chair)
Pascal Saint-Amans  Director, Centre for Tax Policy and Administration, OECD
Chenai Mukumba  Visiting Professor: Program in Latin American Studies, Princeton University
Marcelo Medeiros
**16:15-16:45 Breakout discussions (Round 2)**

This optional breakout session will dig deeper into the topics raised in session 2: tax and redistribution, social protection and the role of multilateral organisations. All groups will be invited to answer the following question(s): what must be prioritised when it comes to (tax and redistribution / social protection / the role of multilateral organisations) to ensure inequality is addressed as we rebuild from the pandemic? What significant progress would you like to see in these areas in the next five years?

**Facilitators**

**Room A – Tax and redistribution**
Mark Miller Director of Programme, Development and Public Finance, ODI

**Room B – Social protection**
Jessica Hagen-Zanker Senior Research Fellow, Politics and Governance, ODI

**Room C – Role of multilateral organisations**
Nilima Gulrajani Senior Research Fellow, Development and Public Finance, ODI

**16:45-17:30 Session 3: Time for a new social contract**

The Covid-19 crisis has brought to the fore the frailty of existing social contracts and placed renewed attention on the core values of our social and economic systems. It has also (re)opened up questions about the roles and responsibilities of different actors in shaping the social contract, including those of the State, workers, employers and the private sector. The opportunity to build fairer and more equitable economies that will be better placed to respond to future crises can’t be ignored. Some policy responses risk additionally penalising vulnerable countries and/or population groups, others raise questions about sustainability over time. Moreover, as the economic slowdown progresses, we are witnessing renewed calls for belt-tightening and austerity.

In this **solution focused final session** we will explore how to harness these circumstances to establish and strengthen the social contract.

**Confirmed speakers:**

Ruairi De Burca Director General, Irish Aid (Chair)
Baroness Minouche Shafik Director, London School of Economics and Political Science
Sharan Burrow General Secretary, International Trade Union Confederation
Phil Bloomer Executive Director, Business and Human Rights Resource Centre
Dominic McVey Entrepreneur and Business Leader

**17:30-17:45 Closing reflections and conclusions of the conference**