

Role of Economic Security and Council

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ABSTRACT

Economic security can either be achieved through income from work, or by publicly financed social safety net. In developed countries, social welfare systems have emerged during the time of industrialization. These systems are very varied across countries, and are ‘works in progress’.

The late Mahbub Ul Haq, The Chief architect of the UNDP’s annual Human Development Report was among the first to propose the formation of an Economic Security Council (ESC) within the UN Huq envisioned and expansive ESC that would implement a programme based on security in its fullest sense security for people, from food security to ecological security. Haq’s ESC was conceived to provide an ‘early warning system’ to plan assistance in internal conflicts.

A streamlined and efficient ESC could focus primarily on the promotion of economic equality which refers to the equal provision of public goods, which refers to the equal provision of public goods, including nutrition, a clean environment, sanitation, shelter, clothing primary and secondary education and basic health care. The ESC can center on measure to end this needless suffering through the promotion to economic equality. It could do this by concentrating on the twenty – twenty compact for human development.

Introduction

The most obvious place to start with on the topic of economic security is the 1994 UNDP Human Development Report. “Economic Security requires on assured basic income – usually from productive and remunerative work, or in the last resort from some publicity financed safety net.” (UNDP 1994, P – 25).

This definition of economy security is provided by the UN in their 1994 Report on Human Development ways related to other aspects of human security, particularly food security and political security. A steady income allows people to acquire the food they need to survive raising food prices require people to allocate a great share of their income for food supply. And political may interfere with economic activity in general making in harder for people to earn their living.

Economic security can either be achieved through income from work, or by publicly financed social safety net. In developed countries, social welfare systems have emerged during the time of industrialization. These systems are very varied across countries, and are 'works in progress'. They continue to be fought about daily in contemporary politics social insurance usually covers such fields as unemployment, invalidity, family policy, health care, accidents, food aid and others. Mostly, these policy programs have been developed nationally. The main actors in the fight were politicians, employers, trade unions and religions entities. In other words, the international community was largely absent from the creation of social welfare states in the developed countries.

Who is responsible for the provisions of economic security?

The fundamental question in the field of human security is who should provide it? The 1994 UNDP report is very unclear about this It states that individuals have the main burden of mastering their lives. At the same time, the report calls for solidarity and co- operation in order to achieve the goals it sets. How should the burden be shared among the different factors? As stated, the creation of social insurance in the developed world was essentially a national process. Should the international community thus stand on the sidelines while developing countries, develop their social welfare systems?

Problems for the provision of social policy social policy in developing countries:

Developing countries are confronted with big challenges when moving towards the provision of social safety nets. The problems are manifold.

- Developing countries national budgets are often strongly overstretched Tax collections is weak. Other issues, such as conflict relief and warfare, often take up a larger share of the national budget. No money is left for government provided social insurance. However, donor governments sometimes provide budgetary help to assistance receiving countries, which could be earmarked towards the construction of a social safety net.
- In developing countries economies, the informal sector is often bigger than the formal one Individuals employed in the formal part of the economy enjoy even less protection in term of social insurance than their counterparts in the formal sector. These jobs thus needs to be brought into formal sector, in order to give than appropriate social security.

- Globalization has sometimes been described as a ‘race to the bottom’ – Open borders, and the mobility of capital have forced countries to lower their social and environmental standards in order to attract investment and maintain their productive sector. Therefore, countries cannot impose costly social insurance schemes on their economy, since the companies would leave for a ‘cheaper’ place to establish themselves. But is there really a ‘race of the bottom’ and does it really impede the provision of social security?
- What is the role of private sectors? Historically, in the developed countries, trade unions and religious groups have played a crucial role in the establishment of social policy. Can such groups play a similar role in developing countries? If so, which stance should the international community take towards these actors?

Role of Economic Security Council

The late Mahbub Ul Haq, The Chief architect of the UNDP’s annual Human Development Report was among the first to propose the formation of an Economic Security Council (ESC) within the UN. Haq envisioned an expansive ESC that would implement a programme based on security in its fullest sense – security for people, from food security to ecological security. Haq’s ESC was conceived to provide an ‘early warning system’ to plan assistance in internal conflicts. In 1995, the Report of the Commission on Global Governance supported the establishment of an ESC. Also in 1995 the Report of the Independent Working Group on the Future of the UN recommended two councils – an Economic Council and a Social Council. In 1981 the government of India endorsed the idea of an ESC with further support coming from the NGO community as well.

These many calls for an ESC reflect the need for global action to protect economic and social human rights. There are currently no effective international institutions to govern world Economic and Social policy nor to protect the poor at the global level. An ESC focused on economic and social human rights fulfillment could provide a flexible forum at a high prestigious level. Such an institution could pressure existing institutions, including the IMF and WTO to be more attentive to the human rights implications of their policies. The ESC could establish regulatory mechanisms to ensure that current investment and capital flows actually help the long – term human development of the impacted country. The composition of the new ESC should reflect the new balance of economic and political power in the world today with all important geographical regions or political constituencies represented.

A streamlined and efficient ESC could focus primarily on the promotion of economic equality which refers to the equal provision of public goods, which refers to the equal provision of public goods, including nutrition, a clean environment, sanitation, shelter, clothing, primary and secondary education and basic health care. The ESC can center on measures to end this needless suffering through the promotion of economic equality. It could do this by concentrating on the twenty – twenty compact for human development. The ESC could require yearly reports from all member states on individual reports from all member states and

individual progress towards achieving twenty – twenty and could hold states accountable to implement this agreement. Almost all the member states of the UN agreed to the final declaration from the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen in 1995, which adopted the UNICEF – UNDP proposed twenty – twenty compact for human development. These nations pledged to ensure the provision of at least the very basic human development levels for all their people – Most nations can achieve minimal levels for nutrition, safe drinking water, primary health care, population stabilization and access to basic education adjusting existing developmental priorities. Currently developing countries devote on average only 13% of their national budgets to these basic human development concerns. Rising this figure to 20 percent will produce additional billions. Developed donor countries allocate only 8.3% to their aid to these human priorities.

The ESC could help to mobilize public pressure to get states to fulfill their obligations under twenty – twenty. The ESC aimed pressure IFIs, the WTO and other strong economic actors to moderate their policies to help states achieve twenty – twenty. With this clear and straight forward mandate, the ESC could play a principle leadership role in global economic governance. The creation of a UN ESC is only the beginning. The local, national and international actions necessary to end world poverty will clearly take time to concretize and implement. But the creation of such a body can provide an institutional focus for the international community's effort to eradicate world poverty.

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