

ERADICATING POVERTY BEYOND GROWTH: A GLOBAL ROADMAP FOR A NEW ECONOMY

22 April 2026, 09:00-18:30 CET

**International Labour Organization
4 route des Morillons
CH-1211, Geneva**

**Olivier De Schutter, UN Special Rapporteur on
extreme poverty and human rights**

Global Coalition for Social Justice



SPECIAL PROCEDURES
UNITED NATIONS
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**Global Coalition
for Social Justice**



**NEW ECONOMIES FOR
ERADICATING POVERTY**

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High-Level Policy Conference

Eradicating Poverty Beyond Growth: A Global Roadmap for a New Economy is a high-level, international policy conference organised under the mandate of the [UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, Olivier De Schutter](#), as a contribution to the International Labour Organization-led [Global Coalition for Social Justice](#).

Held at [ILO Headquarters](#) in Geneva, this public conference will bring together leading scholars, diplomats, UN officials, policymakers, trade unions, employers organisations, civil society organisations, and social movements from around the world to discuss strategies to confront the intertwined crises of poverty, inequality and ecological breakdown, beyond the limited imagination of economic growth orthodoxy.

As environmental collapse accelerates, inequalities widen within and between countries, and economic precarity becomes pervasive, the long-standing assumption that economic growth alone can reduce inequalities and end poverty [is falling apart](#). What remains is an urgent challenge: how can societies secure social justice, economic security and human dignity without relying on a development model that deepens extraction, exclusion and ecological harm?

Eradicating Poverty Beyond Growth: A Global Roadmap for a New Economy offers an important forum in which to discuss how moving beyond growth is not about bringing economic activity to a halt. Rather, it requires confronting the failures of growth as it has been pursued in practice. Leading experts will take to the floor in Geneva to articulate alternative development pathways that [decentred GDP](#) as the primary measure of progress and demonstrate how social well-being and ecological integrity can be advanced through models less reliant on continuous economic expansion.

The conference is guided by the conviction that by placing the fight against inequalities at the heart of development efforts – as called for most recently by the [G20 Extraordinary Committee of Independent Experts on Global Inequality](#) – we can make progress both towards eradicating poverty and towards preventing further environmental collapse. Two agendas are often presented as competing: social justice versus environmental protection; redistribution versus sufficiency; growth for the poor versus limits for the planet. As a result, policy debates are frequently reduced to false trade-offs that stall action on both fronts. Instead, by addressing them together, we can address both these challenges, with the required imagination and will.

Featuring keynote interventions and panel discussions with high-profile speakers, the conference will examine how the world of work and social protection systems – both central to efforts to eradicate poverty and reduce inequalities – can be reorientated to reduce their dependence on economic growth. Discussions will explore alternative economic models, including the [human rights economy](#), which seek to place dignity, equality and well-being at the centre of policy and investment decisions, and to advance the effective realisation of human rights for all. Within this framework, the conference will highlight concrete pathways for transition, including the role of the [social and solidarity economy](#) in fostering forms of economic organisation oriented toward social value, care, and collective well-being. Together, these perspectives will inform discussions on how to support the creation of decent jobs of high social value, sustained investment in the care economy and robustly-funded public services and social security systems.

More broadly, the conference will situate these questions within wider debates on global justice and decolonial development pathways, examine the governance and institutional reforms required to steer the transition to a human rights economy, and explore how beyond-growth and wellbeing-centred approaches can inform the transition from the current Sustainable Development Goals to the post-2030 global development framework.

The event will also provide a key opportunity to engage with the [Roadmap for Eradicating Poverty Beyond Growth](#), co-constructed by a large number of UN agencies, NGOs, unions and academic experts, who have been collaborating since 2024 to agree on proposals intended to achieve social progress and improve well-being without relying on perpetual economic growth.

Eradicating Poverty Beyond Growth: A Global Roadmap for a New Economy marks a pivotal step for the Roadmap ahead of its formal presentation to the Human Rights Council in summer 2026. As international deliberations advance on shaping the post-2030 development framework, the event also signals a historic shift in the international community away from the false inevitabilities of growthism, and toward economic systems grounded in the effective realisation of human rights, well-being and ecological responsibility.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

09:00-18:30 CET | INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION, 4 ROUTE DES MORILLONS
1211 GENEVA (*SPEAKERS TO BE CONFIRMED*)

08:30-09:00 | REGISTRATION AND COFFEE

09:00–09:30 | WELCOMING WORDS

- **Gilbert F. Houngbo**, Director-General, International Labour Organization (ILO)
 - **Volker Türk**, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
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09:30–10:00 | KEYNOTE ADDRESS – *The Roadmap for eradicating poverty beyond growth: From vision to action*

- **Olivier De Schutter**, UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights
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10:00–11:15 | OPENING ROUNDTABLE – *Rethinking the fight against poverty and inequalities: The future of work and social protection*

This roundtable will revisit dominant approaches to poverty eradication and examine how welfare systems and labour markets can be reoriented to achieve social progress while reducing dependence on economic growth. Crucially, the discussion will consider how economies can tackle the mismatch between what sustains society and what labour markets reward, with a focus on the undervaluation of care work and better rewarding work of high value. It will explore how economies operating within planetary boundaries can finance public services and social protection systems while generating decent livelihoods in socially and ecologically valuable sectors, with fair and living wages.

Chair: **Shahra Razavi**, Director of the Universal Social Protection Department, International Labour Organization (ILO)

Speakers:

- **Akustina Morni**, Director of Policy, International Organisation of Employers (IOE)
- **Dani Rodrik**, Professor of International Political Economy, Harvard Kennedy School
- **Evelyn Astor**, Director of Economic and Social Policies, International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)
- **Olivier De Schutter**, UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights
- **Timothée Parrique**, Researcher at the University of Lausanne

11:15–11:45 | COFFEE BREAK

11:45–13:00 | SESSION 1 – *Postgrowth as a decolonial project*

This session will situate post-growth approaches within a decolonial and global justice perspective, examining how debt, trade and international finance shape development pathways in the Global South.

Chair: **Rebeca Grynspan**, Secretary-General, UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Speakers:

- **Ha-Joon Chang**, Research Professor at the Department of Economics, SOAS University of London
 - **Jason Hickel**, Professor of Economics, Autonomous University of Barcelona and Principal Investigator of the REAL Project
 - **Jayati Ghosh**, Professor of Economics, University of Massachusetts Amherst
 - **Mia Amor Mottley**, Prime Minister of Barbados
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13:00–14:30 | LUNCH

14:30–15:45 | SESSION 2 – *Governing the transition*

This session will explore the governance, policy, and institutional frameworks needed to steer the transition toward a new development model that moves beyond dependence on economic growth.

Chair: **Magdalena Sepúlveda**, Executive Director, United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)

Speakers:

- **Kate Raworth**, Senior Teaching Fellow at Oxford University and Co-Founder of the Doughnut Economics Action Lab (DEAL)
- **Luis Felipe López-Calva**, Director for Poverty, Global Department, World Bank
- **Naila Kabeer**, Emeritus Professor at the London School of Economics and Member of the High-Level Expert Group on Beyond GDP
- **Romina Boarini**, Director of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) WISE Centre

15:45–16:15 | COFFEE BREAK

16:15–17:30 | SESSION 3 – *Creating the momentum: Post-growth and the 2030 development goals*

This session will explore how post-growth and wellbeing-centred approaches can shape the transition from the current Sustainable Development Goals to the post-2030 global development framework, highlighting concrete avenues, such as the social and solidarity economy, to accelerate momentum for change.

Chair: **Marcos Gómez Martínez**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations in Geneva

Speakers:

- **Adriana Abdenur**, Co-President of the Global Fund for a New Economy
- **Juwang Zhu**, Director of the Division for Sustainable Development Goals, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)
- **Kate Pickett**, Professor of Epidemiology in the Department of Health Sciences, University of York
- **Özge Aydoğan**, Director of the Beyond Lab
- **Simel Esim**, Head of the Cooperatives and Social and Solidarity Economy Unit, International Labour Organization (ILO); Chair, UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy (UNTFSE)

17:30–18:30 | CLOSING ROUNDTABLE – *The road ahead*

This closing roundtable will reflect on the key insights from the day and look ahead to the political, social and institutional shifts required to translate the Roadmap into action.

Chair: **Olivier De Schutter**, UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights

Speakers:

- **Lebohang Liepollo Pheko**, Co-Chair of the Wellbeing Economy Alliance (WEAll)
- **Marina Silva**, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change of Brazil
- **Sandrine Dixson-Declève**, Executive Chair of Earth4All and Global Ambassador for the Club of Rome
- **Sunita Narain**, Director General of the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE India)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: A ROADMAP FOR ERADICATING POVERTY BEYOND GROWTH

In July 2024, the Special Rapporteur presented his report [Eradicating poverty beyond growth](#) (A/HRC/56/61) to the Human Rights Council, calling for a decisive shift away from growth-dependent development strategies and towards a human rights economy that places the well-being of people and the planet at the centre of economic transformation.

The report set out the *why* (why such a shift is needed) and the *what* (what such a shift entails). Building on that foundation, the [Roadmap for Eradicating Poverty Beyond Growth](#) now provides the *how*: a comprehensive set of concrete measures to operationalise this shift. Its recommendations are structured around five pillars – economic systems transformation; labour market policies and the care economy; universal social protection and essential services; climate, environment and resource management; and trade, finance, debt and global solidarity – underpinned by a transversal focus on governance and participatory democracy. These proposals are currently being translated into a multi-level toolbox of short-, medium- and long-term actions tailored to global, regional, national and local contexts.

The Roadmap aims to support international efforts towards reducing inequalities and ending poverty within planetary boundaries. It will be instrumental in shaping discussions leading up to the adoption of the next generation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the SDG Summit in September 2027, ensuring a development trajectory for the full realisation of human rights that decentres GDP as the leading measure of progress.

The Roadmap is being co-constructed with a broad alliance of UN agencies, Member States, civil society organisations, trade unions, grassroots movements, and academic experts, including in close collaboration with staff from the ILO and other partners of the Global Coalition for Social Justice.

The Roadmap will be presented at the event on 22 April in Geneva, and included as part of the UN Special Rapporteur's report to the Human Rights Council in summer 2026. It is hosted online by [New Economies for Eradicating Poverty Beyond Growth \(NEEP\)](#), an initiative led by the Special Rapporteur to advance alternative development pathways that end poverty and inequality on a liveable planet.

CONTACT INFORMATION

- Kate Holmes (Communications Advisor to the Special Rapporteur)
kate.holmes@srpoverty.org
- François Denuit (Senior Advisor to the Special Rapporteur)
francois.denuit@srpoverty.org
- Praachi Khera (Beyond Growth Advisor to the Special Rapporteur)
praachi.khera@srpoverty.org



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