

## Human Rights Council Social Forum

Negative impacts of economic and  
financial crisis on efforts to combat  
poverty

Francine Mestrum

### Negative impacts of economic and financial crisis

- The importance of social and economic rights, especially in times of crisis
- The importance of social security and cash transfers
- A human rights approach to illegal practices on financial markets
- The need to re-think global solidarity

## 1. Social and economic rights in times of crisis

- We are living in a severe social crisis
- Social rights and social policies are an important element in a stimulus package
- Redistribution of incomes is not incompatible with growth

## 2. Social security and cash transfers

- Social protection should go beyond poverty reduction and include income support and social services
- Civil and political rights cannot be fully enjoyed without social rights
- In a market economy, poverty is an income deficit

### 3. A human rights approach to illegal practices on the financial markets

- Poverty is a consequence of the violation of all human rights
- Illegal capital flows from developing countries exceed net legal inflows
- Developing countries should seek to bring states that hide illegal capital flows or stolen funds before the human rights organs

### 4. The need to re-think global solidarity

- Global social justice can be seen as a global public good
- The legal obligations of States to engage in international cooperation
- Re-organise social development cooperation at the global level
- Global redistributive mechanisms in order to defend global public goods and human rights