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SOCIAL WELFARE SYSTEMS, SOCIAL PROTECTION, AND FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY

| BACKGROUND

In the context of global demographic transitions—marked by aging populations, changing family structures, and increasing inequality—social welfare systems face immense pressure to remain equitable, inclusive, and fiscally sustainable. While some countries have leveraged demographic dividends to expand social protection, others face growing coverage gaps, particularly among informal workers, caregivers, young children, and older adults. Rising healthcare costs, pension obligations, and evolving labor markets further complicate fiscal planning. A life-course and whole-of-society approach is essential to ensure that welfare and protection systems adapt dynamically to population needs. Ensuring the health, well-being, and social inclusion of people across all stages of life—from early childhood to old age—requires resilient, adaptable, and fiscally sustainable systems. This session explores innovative models, emerging challenges, and policy solutions to strengthen social welfare systems across diverse demographic contexts.

| OBJECTIVES

This session explores innovative models, emerging challenges, and policy solutions to strengthen social welfare systems across diverse demographic contexts and to explore how countries can design resilient and equitable social welfare systems that adapt to demographic changes, aging populations, and fiscal pressures—while leveraging innovation, intergenerational approaches, and global cooperation.

Key Issue:

- Aging and welfare pressures
- Life-course investments
- Equity and inclusion
- Innovative financing
- Digital and AI solutions



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