

PS 1.1

**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



Moderator

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Dr. Piya Hanvoravongchai is a public health physician and expert in health policy and systems, with a particular focus on health financing and the development of equitable health systems. His career spans academic research, policy leadership, and capacity building, grounded in both global and local experience. He is currently associate professor at National University of Singapore, Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health, and senior consultant at CMB Foundation. He recently served as Secretary-General of the National Health Foundation in Thailand, and he has held academic positions as a lecturer in health policy at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and at the Faculty of Medicine, Chulalongkorn University. He was a founding Co-Director of the Equity Initiative, a regional leadership program supporting emerging leaders from ASEAN countries and China, and the first Coordinator of the Asia-Pacific Action Alliance on Human Resources for Health.