Ulrich Becker, Frans Pennings & Tineke Dijkhoff (eds)

# International Standard-Setting and Innovations in Social Security



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Edited by

Ulrich Becker Frans Pennings Tineke Dijkhoff



Published by:
Kluwer Law International
PO Box 316
2400 AH Alphen aan den Rijn
The Netherlands
Website: www.kluwerlaw.com

Sold and distributed in North, Central and South America by:
Aspen Publishers, Inc.
7201 McKinney Circle
Frederick, MD 21704
United States of America
Email: customer.service@aspenpublishers.com

Sold and distributed in all other countries by: Turpin Distribution Services Ltd Stratton Business Park Pegasus Drive, Biggleswade Bedfordshire SG18 8TQ United Kingdom Email: kluwerlaw@turpin-distribution.com

Printed on acid-free paper.

ISBN 978-90-411-3728-9

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#### Preface

In several international instruments, it is laid down that everyone has a right to social security, and there are also instruments dealing with the standards that social security schemes should meet. Indeed, international organizations have accepted the responsibility of fighting poverty and encouraging their Member States to realize decent levels of social protection. A major role in this is played by the International Labour Organization, which has adopted a whole range of standards in the area of social security.

These standards have contributed to the development of social security systems in many countries in recent decades. However, it also appears that the enthusiasm for adopting social security conventions has waned considerably. One major reason that is often cited is that standards are not considered appropriate for dealing with new developments in developed countries, like privatization and activation measures in social security. The other major reason that is cited is that standards were developed in Western Europe in the 1960s and are not suited to deal with the (enormous) challenges in low-income countries.

In the past six years, several Ph.D. studies have been conducted at Tilburg University (Netherlands), funded by the *Instituut Gak*, on the impact of ILO Conventions on national social security systems. In recent decades the *Max Planck Institute for Social Law and Social Policy* (former Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Social Law) has also undertaken several studies on the international dimension of social security, and it has enabled many researchers from all parts of the world to work at the Institute. The cooperation of these research groups in this project offered a unique possibility to cover many aspects of the main challenges for international standards.

In order to ensure a structured approach, we started by identifying the issues to be addressed and the countries that could be good study areas for dealing with the issue concerned.

The selected experts were invited to write a paper in which they described their topic. These papers were discussed during a seminar, held in October 2009 in Lake Chiemsee (Germany). On the basis of the outcomes of the conference, and with

guidance from the project team, the papers were finalized and discussed during a second seminar in May 2011 in Munich.

For the organization of the project we are indebted to several organizations and persons. First of all, we would like to thank *Instituut Gak* that contributed to the costs of the seminar.

We are also indebted to Barbara Darimont and Mareike Kiy who organized the seminars and tried to keep all the contributors on track.

Fiona McGrath had the huge task of correcting the chapters of this book, which she kept doing enthusiastically and thoroughly. We are very grateful to her, and also to Christina McAllister, who contributed to the editing of some of the contributions. Lisanne van Kouterik was very helpful in supplementing information on references and in putting the bibliographical information into the right format.

Finally, we would also like to thank the authors who had to adjust their outlines and chapters to the structure and approach we had chosen for the book, and who were willing to attend and contribute to the seminars.

By discussing the present challenges to the international standards in the contexts of many different countries, we were able to present a book, not only on these standards, but which also paints a kaleidoscopic picture of current social security issues in the world, of which the experts know the full context. As such, it can serve as a handbook dealing with the strengths and weaknesses of social security standards and on present global social security issues.

During the completion of this project, the sense of urgency to set standards for the advancement of social security protection within the ILO has grown considerably, of which the adoption of Recommendation 202 on Social Protection Floors (June 2012) – with no votes against and only one abstention – is a convincing milestone. This book contains some issues similar to those raised in the Recommendation and its underlying considerations, and is very useful for clarifying its purpose and background and highlighting its limitations. The book can thus contribute to the discussion on the further development of standards and the realization of a right to social security for all.

Munich/Utrecht, October 2012 Ulrich Becker Frans Pennings Tineke Dijkhoff

#### List of Abbreviations

ADLs Activities of Daily Living

AFPs Administradoras de Fondos de Pensiones (Pension

Fund Administrators)

AIDS Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

APS Aporte Previsional Solidari (State Solidarity Contri-

bution)

AU Africa Union

AUGE Acceso Universal con Garantías Explícitas (Univer-

sal and Guaranteed Access to Health Care)

BIG Basic Income Grant BGB German Civil Code BLA Basic Living Allowances

**BGBI** Bundesgesetzblatt (German Federal Law Gazette) BGH

Bundesgerichtshof (German Court on Matters of

Civil Law)

BOB Bolivian Boliviano (Bolivian Currency) BPGG (Austrian) Federal Care Allowance Act.

BVerfGE Decisions of the Bundesverfassungsgericht (German

Federal Constitutional Court)

CCT Conditional Cash Transfer

Committee of Experts on the Application of Conven-CEACR

tions and Recommendations

CEE Member States from Eastern and Central Europe CERD International Convention on the Elimination of all

Forms of Racial Discrimination

CESCR UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural

Rights

CICLSS Centre for International and Comparative Labour

and Social Security Law & Institute for Development

and Labour Law

CLP Chilean Peso (Currency)
CoE Council of Europe

CRF Constitution of the Russian Federation

CZK Czech Koruna (Currency)

DB Defined Benefits
DC Defined Contributions

DRC Democratic Republic of Congo EAP Economically Active Population

ECHR European Convention on Human Rights

ECLAC Economic Commission for Latin America and the

Caribbean

ECR European Court Reports

ECSA European Community Ship Owners' Associations

ECSR European Committee of Social Rights
ECtHR European Court of Human Rights

e.g. For Example ed. Edited by

EJSS European Journal of Social Security EMA Education Maintenance Allowance

ESC European Social Charter

et seq. and following

ETF European Transport Workers' Federation

EU European Union

EUR Euro

FIDH International Federation of Human Rights

FONASA Fondo Nacional de Salud (National Health Care

Fund)

GDP Gross Domestic Product

GEAR Growth, Employment and Redistribution
GEPF Government Employees' Provident Fund
GCIM Global Commission on International Migration

GG Grundgesetz (German Basic Law)
HAART Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy

HDI Human Development Index
HIPC Heavily Indebted Poor Countries
HIV Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HMSO Her Majesty's Stationary Office

IACHR Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (of

(OAS))

IADLs Instrumental Activities of Daily Living

ICESCR International Covenant on Economic, Social and

Cultural Rights

i.e. *id est* (that is)

ILC International Labour Conference

ILO International Labour Organization (or: Interna-

tional Labour Office)

IMF International Monetary Fund IMSS Mexican Social Security Institute

INEI National Institute of Statistics and Informatics

INP Instituto de Normalización Previsional
IOM International Organization for Migration

IPC Consumer Price Index IPS Institute of Social Security

ISAPRE Instituciones de Salud Previsional (Health Insurance

Institutions)

ISSA International Social Security Association

ISSSTE State Employees' Social Security and Social Services

Institute

IVA (Dutch) Benefit for the Permanently Disabled

LAPF Local Authorities' Pensions Fund

MERCOSUR Mercado Común del Sur (Southern Common Market)

MOUS Memoranda of Understanding
NDLP New Deal for Lone Parents
NHS National Health Service
NSSF National Social Security Fund
OAS Organization of American States

OECD Organization for Economic Cooperation and Devel-

opment

OMC Open Method of Coordination PASIS Non-contributory Pension

PAYG Pay-As-You-Go

PEA Active Working Population

PBS Pensión Básica Solidaria (Basic Solidarity Pension)

PPF Parastatal Pensions Fund

PPS Poverty Threshold

PSPF Public Service Pensions Fund
PSS Protocol of San Salvador
RMB Renminbi (Chinese Currency)
RSA revenu de solidarité active

SADC Southern African Development Community

SAFP Superintendencia de AFPs
SBA (Dutch) Sickness Benefits Act
SGB Sozialgesetzbuch (Social Code)

SNSS Sistema Nacional de Servicios de Salud (National

Health Services System)

TACAIDS Tanzania Commission for AIDS
TEBA The Employment Bureau of Africa
TEU Treaty on the European Union

TFEU Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union

UIF Unemployment Insurance Fund

UK United Kingdom
UN United Nations

UNDP United Nations Development Programme

UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund

USA United States of America

VAT Value Added Tax

Vol. Volume

WAO Wet op de Arbeidsongeschiktheidsverzekering (Dutch

Law on Disability Benefits)

WDI World Bank World Development Indicators

WGA Werkhervattingsregeling Gedeeltelijk Arbeidsge-

schikten - Benefit Scheme for Partially Abled Per-

sons

WIA Wet Werk en inkomen naar arbeidsvermogen (Dutch

Act on Work and Income According to Work Capac-

ity)

WTO World Trade Organization

ZAR South African Rand

ZEF Zentrum für Entwicklungsforschung

ZIAS Zeitschrift für ausländisches und internationales

Arbeits- und Sozialrecht

### Summary of Contents

List of Editors and Contributors	V
Preface	xxxi
List of Abbreviations	xxxiii
CHAPTER 1 General Introduction Ulrich Becker and Frans Pennings	1
Part I Setting of International Social Security Standards	11
A Background	13
CHAPTER 2 Historical and Theoretical Background of Standard Setting in Social Security Frans Pennings	15
B Different Levels of Standard Setting	39
CHAPTER 3 Different Levels of Standard Setting: Introduction Frans Pennings	41
CHAPTER 4 Global Standards: The Policy of the ILO Kari Tapiola	43

#### Summary of Contents

CHAPTER 5 The Guiding Role of ILO Convention No. 102 Tineke Dijkhoff	53
CHAPTER 6 Social Security Standards in Latin America Laura C. Pautassi	73
CHAPTER 7 Social Security Standards in Southern Africa Marius Olivier	89
CHAPTER 8 Social Security Standards in Europe Matti Mikkola	107
Chapter 9 Different Levels of Standard-Setting: Analysis Frans Pennings	123
Part II Material Scope: Uncovered and New Risks	131
A Poverty	133
CHAPTER 10 Poverty: Introduction Barbara Darimont	135
CHAPTER 11 Poverty Policy, Development and the State: Toward a Typology of Strategic Approaches James Midgley	139
CHAPTER 12 Poverty Reduction in South Africa: The Old-Age Pension Edwell Kaseke	159
CHAPTER 13 Poverty Reduction in Bolivia: The Universal Pension Lorena Ossio Bustillos	171

CHAPTER 14 Poverty in the United Kingdom Simon Roberts	183
CHAPTER 15 Poverty: Analysis Barbara Darimont	199
B New Social Risks	205
CHAPTER 16 New Social Risks: Introduction Bernd Schulte	207
CHAPTER 17 HIV and AIDS in Southern Africa Letlhokwa George Mpedi	215
CHAPTER 18 HIV and AIDS in Tanzania Tulia Ackson	229
CHAPTER 19 HIV and AIDS in Russia Olga Chesalina	241
CHAPTER 20 Long-Term Care Insurance in Japan Katsuaki Matsumoto	255
Chapter 21 Long-Term Care in Austria Walter J. Pfeil	267
CHAPTER 22 New Social Risks: Analysis Bernd Schulte	275

#### Summary of Contents

Part III Personal Scope: Informal Sector and Migrants	281
A Informal Sector	283
CHAPTER 23 Informal Sector: Introduction Letlhokwa George Mpedi	285
CHAPTER 24 The Informal Sector in Mexico Angel Guillermo Ruiz Moreno	295
CHAPTER 25 Social Protection for Informal and Low-Paid Work in Germany Eberhard Eichenhofer	305
Chapter 26 Informal Sector: Analysis Letlhokwa George Mpedi	313
B Migrants	319
CHAPTER 27 Migrants: Introduction Lorena Ossio Bustillos	321
Chapter 28 Migrants in South Africa Ockert Dupper and Marius Olivier	327
CHAPTER 29 Social Protection of Migrants in China Barbara Darimont	345
Chapter 30 Social Protection of Migrants in Spain Cristina Sánchez-Rodas Navarro	361

483

	ounning or ouncino
Charter 31 Migrants: Analysis Lorena Ossio Bustillos	371
Part IV Methods and Tools: Privatization and Activation	379
Chapter 32 Privatization and Activation: Introduction Ulrich Becker and Frans Pennings	381
CHAPTER 33 Privatization of Chile's Pension and Health Care Systems Carmelo Mesa-Lago	387
CHAPTER 34 Protection of Old Age in Chile Pablo Arellano Ortiz	415
Chapter 35 Voluntary Pensions in the Czech Republic Kristina Koldinská	429
Chapter 36 Privatization and Activation in the Netherlands Frans Pennings	443
Chapter 37 Privatization and Activation: Analysis Ulrich Becker	457
Part V Conclusions	469
CHAPTER 38 Final Conclusions Frans Pennings and Ulrich Becker	471
Bibliography	483

### Table of Contents

List of l	Editors	and Contributors		V
Preface				xxxi
List of .	Abbre	ations		xxxiii
Chaptei Genera <i>Ulrich</i> 1	I Intro	uction and Frans Pennings		1
		f the Book		1
	[A]	Starting Points		1
	[B]	Underlying Assumptions a	and Concepts	2
	[C]	Outline	and concepto	3
§1.02			Standards in a Globalized World	4
3.4.5.6	[A]		ards as an Element of a Global	
	[]	Social Order	arat as an Element of a Gropm	4
	[B]	Normative Approaches		5
			d and Human Rights-Related	
		Approaches	Ö	5
		[2] Social Security and	Social Protection	6
		Total Control of the	despite Different Starting Points	6
§1.03	Nati	nal Innovations and Interr		7
3	[A]	Methods		7
	[B]	Innovations in Social Secu	urity	8
	[C]	Possible Reactions at the		0