Countries in the Latin American region have some of the highest levels of inequality in the world. This is particularly evident in the poverty numbers among the youngest members of their population. In 2019, around 45% of Latin American children below 14 years of age suffered moderate to severe deprivation. The effects of the COVID 19 pandemic crisis have only heightened the intergenerational poverty reproduction in Latin America.

To prevent the negative effects of poverty on children’s development, it is vital to implement comprehensive public policies. These should be tailored to the specific needs of children and adolescents, involving inclusive social protection schemes and education policies that are gender sensitive. Think tanks play a crucial role in making it possible to achieve this, through evidence-based decision making. By leading the needed research to inform policy action, think tanks can shape new agendas, promote open exchanges and enhance public policies that prioritize the rights and welfare of children in the world.

In this session, we look at the implications of the deprivations that children and adolescents experience in Latin America and the Global South. We will identify key priorities for action for the pandemic recovery. Based on the lessons learnt by Latin American think tanks to tackle child poverty during the pandemic, the panel will
discuss opportunities for regional integration. We will also analyse potential new paths for effective policy action at the local, regional and global levels.

**Moderator:**

- Rafael Rofman (Director, Social Protection Program, CIPPEC)

**Speakers:**

- Lorena Alcázar (Investigadora Principal, GRADE)
- Helga Cuéllar-Marchelli (Director, Social Studies Department, FUSADES)
- Ariel Fiszbein (Director, Education Program, Inter-American Dialogue)
- Monica Rubio (LAC Regional Chief of Social Policy, UNICEF)