Special Side-Event at the 71ˢᵗ UN General Assembly

Measuring and Tackling Poverty in All Its Dimensions

22 September 2016, 1:15-2:30pm

Conference Room 7, UN Headquarters, New York

Opening Remarks by Hosts and Special Speakers

· *H.E. Jerry M. Matjila, Ambassador of South Africa to the UN*

· H.E. Jeff Radebe, *Minister in the Presidency for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, South Africa*

· *H.E. Juan Orlando Hernández, President of Honduras*

· *H.E. Ralph Gonsalves, Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (through Sir Louis Straker, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister)*

· H.E. Juan Manuel Santos, *President of Colombia (through Director of the Department for Social Prosperity of Colombia, H.E. Tatyana Orozco de la Cruz)*

· H.E. Luis Guillermo Solis, *President of Costa Rica (through Ambassador to the UN, H.E. Juan Carlos Mendoza)*

· *H.E. Joel Morgan, Foreign Affairs Minister of Seychelles (through Ambassador to the UN, H.E. Marie-Louise Potter)*

Ministerial Discussion by Ministers Present

· *H.E. Shamsul Alam, Member (Senior Secretary) of the General Economics Division, Planning Commission of Bangladesh*

· H.E. Ernesto M. Pernia, *Secretary of the National Economic Development Authority of the Philippines*

· *H.E. Gabriela Rosero, Minister of Social Development of Ecuador (through Ambassador to the UN, H.E. Horacio Sevilla)*

· *H.E. Anna Mwasha, Director of the Poverty Eradication Department of Tanzania*

Interventions from the floor

· Dr. Ana Revenga, *Senior Director of The World Bank's Poverty and Equity Global Practice*

· *Dr. Savas Alpay, Chief Economist of the Islamic Development Bank*

· *Dr. Noel Gonzalez Segura, General Director at the Mexican Agency for International Cooperation (AMEXCID)*

· *Dr. Attila Hancioglu, Acting Chief of UNICEF's Data & Analytics Section*

· Dr. Ayodele Odusola, *Chief Economist at UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa*

Closing Remarks

The Moderator, Dr. Sabina Alkire, Director of OPHI, will make closing remarks to wrap-up of the discussion and draw a few conclusions.

Background:

Poverty is a complex and multidimensional phenomenon that goes beyond the simple lack of income. Target 1.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals clearly recognizes this phenomenon and calls on countries to reduce poverty in all its forms by half by 2030. It is now accepted that ending $1.90/day poverty is unlikely to mean the end of the many overlapping deprivations faced by people living in poverty, including malnutrition, poor sanitation, lack of electricity, or poor education, among others.

This paradigm shift has called for innovation on the part of national Governments. This side event will highlight what a number of Governments have done to both measure and tackle multidimensional poverty. A growing number of countries have adopted an official national multidimensional poverty index (MPI) to provide the needed information to guide new policies.

To date, the governments of Bhutan, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Pakistan, South Africa, and Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam, have adopted *official* multidimensional poverty measures. A rapidly increasing number of new countries, including the Dominican Republic, Panama, Paraguay, the Philippines, Senegal, Tunisia, Vietnam, the countries in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, and many others are developing their own MPIs. At the United Nations, the Human Development Report Office (HDRO) along with the Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative (OPHI) has been releasing annual updates of the global MPI since 2010.

The presentations and discussions on "Measuring and Tackling Multidimensional Poverty in All its Dimensions" will be hosted by the Government of South Africa on behalf of the Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network (MPPN) The MPPN is a South-South network of senior government officials from over 45 countries. It endorses the use of the global MPI for monitoring SDG target 1.2. It also promotes the design and use of national MPIs as powerful policy tools for both the eradication of poverty and better governance. The Steering committee includes South Africa, Mexico, Colombia and China as well as OPHI. MPPN members include, besides the countries listed above, Afghanistan, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Honduras, India, Iraq, Jamaica, Malaysia, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Seychelles, Sudan, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkey, Uruguay and Vietnam.

Expected Outcomes:

Outcome 1

Presentation and discussion of specific ways to use an MPI as an indicator at the national and global level to support the monitoring of SDG target 1.2.

Outcome 2

Presentation and discussion on how an MPI can be used as a governance tool to inform policymaking towards achieving the SDGs.

Outcome 3

Discussion of reporting national and global MPIs or both for indicator 1.2.2 in the SDGs.

Format:

The High-Level Event will take the format of an interactive meeting, hosted by the Government of South Africa. Participation is expected to be at the highest level possible from representatives of national governments. The side event will take place on Thursday, 22nd September 2016, from 1:15-2:30 pm during the 71st United Nations General Assembly in New York, in Conference Room 7.