



Speech of

H.E Ahmed Aboul Gheit- Secretary General
of the League of Arab State

Delivered by H.E Hayfaa Abu Ghazaleh,
Assistant Secretary –General, Head of Social Affairs Sector.

In the High-Level side event at the UN General Assembly
Call for action: using multidimensional poverty indices to lead
progress in the SDGs

New York :Wednesday 25th September 2019.

H.E Carlos Alvarado, Presidente of Costa Rica,

Your Excellences,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It's my honor to speak to this very important high level side event on behalf of H.E Ahmed Aboul Gheit- Secretary General of the League of Arab State, who was keen of the participation of League of Arab States to share with you the important experience of the Arab region using Multidimensional Poverty Indices within its efforts to implement the ambitious 2030 Agenda.

And let me start Mr. President by thanking Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), represented by our dear partner Professor Sabina Alkire the Director of this great initiative, she worked hardly with our development and social policies department for more than three (03) years leading to initiate the Arab (MPI).

As you all know, the Arab region faces sever challenges. Armed conflicts left a heavy humanitarian toll reflected in the unprecedented waves of refugees and displaced persons within the Arab region and beyond.

Despite such difficulties, Arab countries are determined to move forward to eradicate all dimensions of poverty, given that it is the greatest challenge facing the world today, and to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

This specialty needed a special new approach to take in consideration those changes. Based on that, the League of Arab states in cooperation with OPHI and UN specialized organizations worked closely to initiate the Arab MPI, and that of course needed to be backed up by political will, and here came the role of LAS and the Arab Social Ministers Council, through extensive consultative process which included a large number of regional and global expert advisor and focal points in the ministries of social affairs and other relevant government institutions of the Arab countries. That fruitful cooperation led to preparing the first regional report to be produced after adopting 2030 Agenda, on Multidimensional Poverty in the Arab Countries, that report was launched here in the UN sideline the high segment of the General Assembly 72nd session in 2017. Based on its recommendations, we launched two days ago, also in this building the Arab strategic Framework for the Eradication of Multidimensional Poverty to be the first Strategic Framework adopted by the Arab region on the Summit level (Beirut Jan 2019) to provide practical proposals for decision-makers in Arab countries to support their efforts to eradicate multidimensional poverty, and achieve the 2030 Agenda.

Your Excellency Mr. President,

We hope that our short intervention on LAS experience highlighted to your important event “Call for Action”, the importance of political leadership to end poverty, and leave no one behind, and we are looking forward for cooperation to make sure that people live in peace and in a framework of Social Justice.

Thanks.