

Side-Event at 49th UN statistical commission
MPI Tunisia

I am pleased to be with you today to talk about the Tunisian experience in terms of multidimensional poverty measurement.

We have developed in collaboration with OPHI and UNDP a National MPI – multidimensional poverty index - for Tunisia. In this regard I would like to thank very much The OPHI's Director Prof. Sabina Alkire and her team who have been working with us throughout the whole process. My thanks also go to our privileged partner UNDP for its continuous support and assistance in completing this work.

We are happy to be part of this global effort of multidimensional poverty measurement practices and to be an active member of the MPPN.

Why, did Tunisia develop a national MPI to complement its income poverty measure?

In fact, Since the revolution, in January 14, 2011, development policies been shaped by its reflections and demands – which means more attention to employment, living standards and poverty, and listening to their voice. I think, Tunisia's MPI helps us to respond to these voices.

- Our MPI provides a strong tool to inform, monitor and evaluate progress towards people told us mattered – which included employment alongside living standards, health and education.

We incorporated these priorities into our development plan 2016 – 2020 and the MPI is designed to monitor it.

- Our MPI complements the monetary poverty measure, particularly in the identification and targeting of the poor, and fulfills the poverty related SDG, target 1.2.

Let me share a bit more information: Tunisia MPI has four dimensions: education, health, living conditions and employment. It has also 16 indicators (6 education, 3 health, 5 living conditions and 2 employment). The dimensions and indicators were defined through a long process of consultations and negotiation with policymakers, experts, civil society and universities. Together we designed a robust measure using the existing data (2014 census) that is aligned with our policy planning needs.

The MPI tool will be used to monitor, evaluate and adjust the national plan and its related socioeconomic programmes, by targeting the mostly poor and vulnerable in an efficient way.

These consultations have reinforced our conviction that, the MPI is a suitable and proven tool enabling Tunisia to measure poverty in all its dimensions. The dynamic analysis performed with

the Tunisia MPI will allow us to monitor the SDG objective of halving the proportion of MPI poor people by 2030 so we are reporting our MPI for SDG indicator 1.2.2. The ministry of social affairs has incorporated the MPI in their strategy to identify and eradicate the poverty in the country. Also we have presented this work in many seminar and universities and we have a program to communicate the results to 3 ministries (education, social affairs and health).

Tunisia strongly recommends the use of the MPI as the SDG indicator 1.2.2. and we stand ready to share our experiences with our other friends and to support them in implementing their multidimensional measures.

Thank you.