UNDP 50ᵗʰ Anniversary Ministerial Meeting

UN Conference Building, New York, 24 February 2016, 11.25h – 13:00h

SESSION OUTLINE

IV. Thematic Break-out Session

Eradicating Poverty – Leaving No One Behind

Introduction

With the adoption of the Agenda 2030 UN Member States recognized that progress in the most impoverished parts of the world enriches us all —not only because it generates new markets and greater stability, but because it is the right thing to do. At the heart of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a commitment "to eradicate poverty everywhere, in all its forms and dimensions by 2030". To achieve this, all countries will need to rise to Agenda 2030's central challenge - leaving no one behind.

This means ending all forms of discrimination against women and girls everywhere; ensuring women have equal rights to economic resources and equal access to financial services, inheritance, natural resources and to own and control land and other property. This means eliminating the discrimination and marginalization that excludes people from progress; delivering the services and new opportunities disadvantaged communities need; and overcoming the injustices, violence, environmental destruction, and capacity constraints that undermine progress.

Unprecedented gains under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), including in some of the poorest countries of the world, demonstrate what can be accomplished. With determined leadership, the right policies, broad participation and global collaboration, the SDGs can be achieved. Experience from the MDGs tell us the first steps are vital. To inspire the broad support and accountability that sustains progress, global goals must be made feasible and meaningful within in local contexts; reflect the problems people care about; and facilitate cross-sectoral solutions.

UNDP assisted 140 countries to define locally feasible MDG targets aligned to global goals. UNDP also helped countries to take increasingly strategic approaches to implement the MDGs, working

with diverse actors and stakeholders to identify binding constraints to progress and implement solutions across environmental, social, and economic sectors. The results have improved lives in communities previously cut off from progress and helped pave the way for concerted efforts to leave no one behind.

Objectives

- Helping to illuminate what it takes to eradicate poverty, highlighting ways to overcome "last mile" challenges such as social exclusion, mitigating violence, generating inclusive growth, etc.

- Providing Ministers the opportunity to share their plans and/or actions to eradicate poverty within the context of SDG implementation; highlight the relevance of MDG-related lessons learned; and reflect on ways to bring civil society and the private sector behind national and local efforts to eradicate poverty.

- Reflecting on next steps, in particular to advance and/or establish SDG-related partnerships at the global, regional, and local levels, which bring civil society, private sector, governments and other actors together to work for the SDGs. Suggest how UNDP can assist.

Guiding Questions

- What are countries doing, or planning to do, to eradicate poverty? What particular challenges or constraints are foreseen?

- Which groups are most at most at risk of being left behind in your country? Are there strategies or initiatives that were particularly effective at reaching excluded communities and/or marginalized groups?

- What are the perspectives on the role of civil society and the private sector, in complementing government efforts to eradicate poverty and deliver the SDGs? How best can the efforts of all relevant players be harmonised and connected?

- What efforts are being made to capitalize on the momentum and participation generated around the SDGs? What steps are envisioned to adapt the SDGs to national and/or sub-national contexts? How are countries planning to track, review and/or accelerate poverty reduction under the SDGs in keeping with their specific national context?

Expected Outcome

This session discusses what it will take to eradicate poverty, particularly to overcome "last mile" challenges, including social exclusion, preventing and recovering from violence and conflict, generating growth in remote and disadvantaged communities. It will provide Ministers an opportunity to share their countries' actions to date to implement the SDGs and discuss particular challenges they envision to achieving SDGs that leave *no one* behind. The panel will be asked to illuminate ways to drive progress at the speed and direction required – including through the use of policy multipliers, catalytic partnerships, greater coherence and engagement, and by taking aim at the bottlenecks and constraints preventing progress in the poorest and marginalized communities.

At the end of the session, participants will have exchanged experiences and plans, key challenges and constraints to achieving poverty eradication and reaching SDGs that leave no one behind. They will also have a better understanding on how UNDP can support their efforts, building on existing successes and lessons learned.

Format

The session follows a Davos-style discussion format. A moderator will provide a brief overview of the session objectives and pose questions to each of the panellists to respond, before opening the session for interventions from the floor.