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MR. LIU ZHENMIN  
UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS,

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**Message**

**On the occasion of the Inter-Agency Expert Group Meeting in support of the Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018-2027)”**

**Addis Ababa, 18 April 2018**

*Delivered by Ms. Wenyan Yang, Chief, Social Perspective on Development Branch, Division for Social Policy & Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs*

**Excellences,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Welcome to this inter-agency expert group meeting, on “Accelerating Global Actions for a World Without Poverty” in support of the “Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018-2027)”.**

**I would like to extend my appreciation to the Economic Commission for Africa for hosting this meeting.**

**On behalf of DESA, I congratulate you all for the efforts you have already put into preparing the draft system-wide plan of action on the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018-2027).**

**Your commitment towards the shared objective of eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions everywhere, is deeply appreciated.**

**Your task over the next three days is to finalize the inter-agency system-wide plan of action, in response to General Assembly resolution 72/233 which proclaimed the “Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027).**

**The General Assembly also has considered that the theme of the Third Decade, to be reviewed at the 73<sup>rd</sup> session of the General Assembly, shall be “Accelerating global actions for a world without poverty” in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.**

**Furthermore, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to its 73<sup>rd</sup> session, that details the response of the UN system to the theme of the Third Decade.**

**This report will include the inter-agency system-wide plan of action for poverty eradication.**

**The system-wide plan of action will bolster efforts by the United Nations to help Member States to eradicate poverty through the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.**

**To date, the United Nations system is helping countries to formulate economic, social and environmental policies that address multidimensional**

**poverty, looking at not only income but access to quality education and health, clean water and sanitation, affordable energy and other basic services.**

**Further, the United Nations system is building the capacity of countries to implement the 2030 Agenda by strengthening national statistical capacity and monitoring systems to ensure access to disaggregated data which are of high quality, accessible, timely and reliable.**

**The report will also contain recommendations concerning how to make this Third Decade effective, utilizing, as appropriate, existing expertise and poverty-related follow-up mechanisms and processes.**

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

**It is also my desire to submit this plan of action to the United Nations Chief Executives Board next year for endorsement.**

**Therefore, we must ensure that the plan of action fosters greater inter-agency convergence and collaboration in the key policy areas underlying the 2030 Agenda.**

**The plan of action should also aim to improve cooperation with and between Member States, build partnerships with civil society and the private sector, and raise awareness about the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.**

**I am confident that with the collective expertise gathered at this meeting, we will be able to produce a plan of action that is realistic, ambitious, and goal oriented.**

**UN DESA stands ready to provide full support to your work.**

**I wish you a very fruitful and productive meeting and I look forward to learning about the outcome of your deliberations.**

**Thank you.**

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