



**Inter-Agency Expert Group Meeting on
“Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018-2027)”**

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa Conference Center, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 18-20 April 2018

Report of the Inter-Agency Expert Group Meeting



I. Background

The General Assembly at its seventy-second session proclaimed the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018-2027), within existing structures and available resources, in order to maintain the momentum generated by the implementation of the Second Decade and to support, in an efficient and coordinated manner, the internationally agreed development goals related to poverty eradication, including the Sustainable Development Goals and their objective of leaving no one behind and reaching the furthest behind first (A/Res/72/233). The Assembly also considered that the theme of the Third Decade, to be reviewed at its seventy-third session, shall be “Accelerating global actions for a world without poverty” in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Furthermore, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit at its seventy-third session a report that details the response of the United Nations system to the theme of the Third Decade, includes an inter-agency, system-wide plan of action for poverty eradication to coordinate the efforts of the United Nations system, and contains recommendations concerning how to make the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027) effective, in support of poverty-eradication related internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals, utilizing, as appropriate, existing expertise and poverty-related follow-up mechanisms and processes.

In view of the General Assembly’s request, the Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with the Social Development Policy Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), organized an Inter-Agency Expert Group Meeting on Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018-2027) under the theme “Accelerating global actions for a world without poverty”. The meeting was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 18 to 20 April 2018.

The objectives of the inter-agency expert group meeting were to review progress made in eradicating poverty; draw lessons learned in designing and implementing poverty eradication programmes and policies at the national, regional and global levels; share country perspectives for better support from the United Nations system; review the response of the United Nations system to accelerate global actions for a world without poverty; discuss the draft system-wide plan of action matrix for poverty eradication to coordinate the efforts of the United Nations system, and come up with policy recommendations on how the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027) can be made effective ensuring that no one is left behind. Over 35 experts drawn from member States, academia, the United Nations system and civil society participated and presented papers in plenary sessions. Interactive discussions were held following each session.

The key policy messages and recommendations from the experts’ presentations and the discussions at the meeting are summarized in this report. The results will be used to inform the preparations for the seventy-third session of the UN General Assembly, particularly the preparation of the Secretary General’s report and finalization of the system-wide plan of action for poverty eradication.

Materials from the inter-agency expert group meeting can be accessed at the website of the Division for Social Policy and Development:

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/>, at the following location:

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/2018-expert-group-meetings-and-panel-discussions/world-without-poverty.html>

II. Overview

The presentations made by the experts and the discussions held focused on several key questions that included the following:

- i. What are the key trends, patterns and challenges to eradicating poverty everywhere?
- ii. How can efforts to eradicate poverty be delivered globally while ensuring the principle of leave no one behind and reach the furthest behind first?
- iii. What additional efforts are required to tackle the root causes of poverty, including tackling adverse norms and all forms of discrimination routinely experienced by poor women and men?
- iv. How can countries ensure that everyone, including those most in need benefit fairly from current and future economic and social development?
- v. What needs to be done to ensure that vulnerable groups have access to programs and measures that enhance their resilience and prevent them from falling into extreme poverty?
- vi. How can the voice and participation of people living in poverty and people in vulnerable situations be central to all national actions to eradicate poverty?
- vii. What further actions can governments undertake to raise resources to finance inclusive development efforts?
- viii. How can countries be more attentive to and be better prepared for new forms of poverty related to emergent phenomena such as technological disruptions, environmental shocks, forced migration, and population ageing?
- ix. What actions can the United Nations system put in place to promote the implementation of the Third Decade in a coherent and coordinated manner?
- x. How can the Third Decade for the Eradication of Poverty be effective, in support of the internationally agreed development goals related to poverty reduction, including the Sustainable Development Goals?
- xi. How can UN country teams be empowered/strengthened and supported from the highest levels to support the implementation of the objectives of the Third Decade?
- xii. How can UN regional coordination mechanisms promote the establishment or strengthening of consultative mechanisms and platforms of dialogues in support of the objectives of the Third Decade as well as inform the operational activities of the UN Country Teams?

The meeting discussed the progress made and the challenges faced toward ending poverty in all its forms and dimensions. It was reaffirmed that reducing poverty and inequality requires better data, including demographic data and systematic statistical information on poverty and the different dimensions of inequality and research; understanding the impact and drivers; political commitment; multi ministerial and stakeholder collaboration; decent work creation and labour market interventions; equitable tax policies, and a human rights-based approach. The meeting noted that poverty is multidimensional and applying a multidimensional approach to its measurement holds superior promise to its eradication whilst retaining the money metric measures.

It was emphasized that economic diversification is a necessary but not sufficient condition for employment creation and poverty reduction. This requires, inter-alia, improvement of labour intensive production processes, strengthening linkages between activities and sectors, and to address constraints to employment creation (infrastructure, education and skills, social protection policies). The need for adequate policies to human capital, employment and investments to enhance productive capacities, entrepreneurship, and development was underlined.

The meeting also acknowledged the role of the private sector in advancing inclusive social infrastructure and in delivering key services such as education and job creation in order to build skills and knowledge, which are necessary for national economic competitiveness and development. The national perspectives of China, Mexico, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, and Indonesia on accelerating global actions for world a without poverty, and strengthening the UN system-wide plan of action were presented and discussed.

Further, the draft system-wide plan of action matrix was presented, and it benefited from the rich discussion. Inputs brought forward to enhance the draft matrix include the need for a narrative section that describes the theory of change and connects all the actions, and the inclusion of emerging issues such as poverty eradication in the context of green growth, a different pattern of the future structural transformation, and environmental change in view of the 10-year horizon in the Matrix. A number of agencies, funds, programmes, and regional commissions of the UN system made presentations on their efforts to accelerate global actions for a world without poverty. Besides, the regional commissions shared their regional perspectives and recommendations for making the Third Decade effective.

It was agreed that the UN system can make the Third UN Decade effective through improving the quality of policy research and knowledge products, improving the quality of technical assistance, strengthening national capacities, and mainstreaming the Sustainable Development Goals in national planning frameworks at the national level; strengthening institutional effectiveness, inter-governmental partnerships and resolutions, strengthening regional coordination mechanisms, improving policy coherence, and harmonizing the 2030 Agenda and regional development frameworks at the regional level, and through the Sustainable Development Goals advocacy and implementation mechanisms, including HLPF and the system-wide plan of action for eradication of poverty at the global level.

The key policy messages and recommendations are presented in the following section.

III. Key Policy Messages and Recommendations

Recommendations for countries

Data, Measurement and Research

- ❖ There is an urgent need to improve the collection of regular, reliable and robust disaggregated data for better monitoring and evidence-based policies. There is strong need to generate systematic statistical information on poverty and the different dimensions of inequality.
- ❖ Poverty is multidimensional, hence applying a multidimensional approach to its measurement holds superior promise to its eradication whilst retaining the money metric measures. The multidimensional poverty measures should not only be observation and monitoring tools but should also be transformed into tools of planning.
- ❖ Time series is a statistical information asset, therefore data that underpin global time series and baseline systems must be supported and financed in order to stay the course and cause of measurement.
- ❖ The International Comparisons Program (ICP) data should be used for informing trade and industrialization strategy and this is especially for Africa as the worst continent affected by poverty. Integration and addressing poverty through production and consumption, and value chains require the ICP. The ICP is the single most crucial global data product run simultaneously every five years.
- ❖ The System of Environmental and Economic Account (SEEA) is part and parcel of the national account system. However, in the way it was developed to the service of the SDGs, it is still remote from the planning systems. How production systems, labour, and natural capital interplay is part and parcel of the information architecture. Thus, this information architecture should come at the center stage and be used as a vital source of information.
- ❖ Whilst technology and big data hold promise, to the extent that poverty is a household phenomenon, technology can only serve turnaround time and quality of household survey programme but its big-data attribute holds limited promise for assisting in the construct concept of a household. Countries should therefore be cautious about the use of big data since it cannot replace household surveys.
- ❖ Evidence is the basis for planning, policy making, and political will. Technocracy, financing and politics should work together and in this regard regional institutions should play a very active role. The ability to raise the evidence and actively engage civil societies will solve issues of governance in multilateral systems.
- ❖ Databases help to analyze phenomena and describe it well, which gives the possibility of prediction. And planning itself is a function of prescription. Adequate prediction leads to prescriptions, which are subject to adjustments in view of possible changes. Therefore, there is a strong need for processes that link planning with statistics.
- ❖ Data is costly and inadequate in many least developed countries. Countries should make better use of existing data from various sources such as censuses, demographic and health surveys, multiple indicator cluster surveys, vital registration systems etc., and analyze them to learn more about the population and the demographic trends, and make projections.

- ❖ Those furthest behind are hardest to identify calling for better data. Data on forced displacement and its development imperative is key for visibility for the most vulnerable. Countries should have the capacity and mechanism to acknowledge and recognize the number of displaced people as a result of conflict, drought and development (mega) projects.
- ❖ There is lack of data on measures of poverty regarding racial discrimination and exclusion, hence countries need to disaggregate data and learn more about not only the absolute numbers but also the proportions to see the effects of discrimination. This calls the need for objectivity of the data, and independence of those who measure the data and the institutions to be able to present the facts to policy makers as these facts are critical for development.
- ❖ Satellite imagery and the like showing movement of people can be approximate measure of the level and extent of dissonance for countries in conflict such as Afghanistan and Iraq.

Education

- ❖ Quality of education plays crucial roles in changing norms and culture that lead people to poverty.
- ❖ Countries should accord the highest priority to increasing access to quality education and skills across location, gender and quintiles to increase job opportunities, reduce inequalities and promote inclusive growth.
- ❖ Technical and vocational education has shown high rates of return, and its curriculum should be aligned with labor market requirements.

Environment, Climate Change, and Natural Disasters

- ❖ During planning, countries should take into account the impact on the environment and natural disasters. It is important to make the case for poverty and environment relationships using economic evidence, for example, gender inequality in the agriculture sector has high cost for the economy.
- ❖ Poverty-environment and climate mainstreaming tools can strengthen understanding of linkages and policy coherence.
- ❖ Fiscal policy reform is necessary to attract investments for poverty-environment objectives and end perverse incentives.

Agriculture

- ❖ Many cross-country studies and country experiences show that agricultural growth has greater impact on poverty reduction - particularly for the poorest and most hungry.
- ❖ Agriculture should be well integrated in poverty reduction strategies in order to bring about the desired result.
- ❖ Proper diagnostics of the agriculture sector and its linkages to the rest of the economy should be made to allow a better articulation of agricultural and poverty reduction strategies.
- ❖ The articulation between agricultural policies and investment with those related to poverty reduction needs to be enhanced.

Social Protection

- ❖ Poverty reduction strategies should be coordinated with social protection systems.
- ❖ Lower income countries can afford universal social protection floors. Social Protection Floors are long term investments as in investment in health, education, etc., but have also immediate impact on poverty incidence as in through cash transfers.
- ❖ Access to and benefit from social protection services is a basic human right, which women/girls, men/boys must enjoy fully and equitably.
- ❖ More transformative social protection systems i.e., schemes that include capacity building and awareness raising for women and men on their social constructed roles, responsibilities and the implication of the latter on their respective risks and vulnerability should be promoted.
- ❖ Social protection systems do have the potential to address critical gender issues i.e. women's burden of unpaid care work. However, conventional social protection schemes may perpetuate gender stereotypes and women's unrecognised, un-der value and unpaid care work.
- ❖ Conventional social protection systems exclude de facto women, girls, the youth and the poor because of the conventional conceptualisation of labour participation and gender issues in the latter.
- ❖ Failing to understand and recognise that: (1) women/girls and men/boys are affected differently by risks and vulnerability and have differential resilience and scoping strategies; (2) that they are exposed to different types of risks will drastically limit the effectiveness of social protection interventions and results.
- ❖ Countries need to move away from a piece meal approach to a more holistic one i.e. macro-meso, sectoral approach that brings the gender issues related to social protection needs into the macroeconomic frameworks and policies including public finances.
- ❖ Current social protection systems need to be unpacked by costing their gender differential impacts and country economic growth impact.

Employment and Decent Work

- ❖ Countries should promote labor-intensive growth.
- ❖ Facilitate the employment of people living in poverty in productive and income-generating activities.
- ❖ There is need to keep retirees out of poverty and improve the labour market for older workers.
- ❖ Decent work and the construction and strengthening of universal social protection systems along the life course that are responsive to differences should be promoted.
- ❖ Adequate policies to human capital, employment and investments are important to enhance productive capacities, entrepreneurship, and development. Skills and the business environment are required to manage the information process.

Financing for Development

- ❖ Countries should harness domestic resources including by addressing the paradox of the plenty illicit finance and reallocate resources accordingly. There is currently a good momentum that needs to be seized fully.

- ❖ Countries need to mobilize resources in the context of the whole issue of fiscal policy and public financing.
- ❖ Fiscal space and domestic resource mobilization are key in the fight against poverty.
- ❖ Fiscal space depends on dependable export earnings, tax revenues, aid and debt relief, which require international and regional cooperation. Debt and inflationary financing should not be ruled out. Counter cyclical policy measures and social protection are essential to reduce vulnerability.
- ❖ There is an urgent need for a greater commitment to revenue generation in order to improve social protection, create employment and eradicate poverty.
- ❖ Donor countries should accede to the developing countries' desire for a full-fledged intergovernmental body for international tax cooperation under United Nations auspices for meaningful and inclusive inter-governmental discussions to enhance national tax capacities to stem illicit financial flows and tax evasions, as well as to prevent tax competition.
- ❖ There is need to protect social spending and boost progressive tax revenues.

Rights Based Approach

- ❖ The use of a rights based approach can help address discrimination/exclusion and access to natural resources as well as benefit sharing. Evidences have shown that systematic discrimination in terms of access to services etc. has contributed to poverty. In countries like South Africa, apartheid and racial discrimination have been the root causes for poverty.
- ❖ To overcome poverty, advances in rights-based public policies with an integrated perspective to overcome the multiple and intertwined dimensions of inequality are critical.

Partnership and Cooperation

- ❖ The potential for the contribution of the South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation to the achievement of the SDGs is enormous because there are various ways of addressing SDGs such as technical cooperation, economic cooperation, and policy cooperation. However, there is a need for rationalization of these interventions/tools, repositioning of south-south and triangular cooperation and careful management of competing interests not only within the global south but also between the south and OECD countries.
- ❖ Promote meaningful cooperation and inclusion of all partners (including the civil society and their networks as well as the private sector) to implement the SDGs and any other poverty eradication initiatives. To achieve the 2030 Agenda, coordination amongst a wide range of stakeholders will be required.
- ❖ "Triangle collaboration" is the key enabler in industrialization for Africa. The triangles are: enabling African governments to facilitate the economic transformation; global manufacturing know-how; and opening of markets for products made in Africa by western markets, retailers and traders.
- ❖ The role of the private sector in advancing inclusive social infrastructure and in delivering key services such as education and job creation is crucial to build skills and knowledge, which are necessary for national economic competitiveness and development.

Civil Society Engagement

- ❖ Countries should create and promote enabling environment (e.g., political, policy, legal) at all levels for encouraging and engaging civil society in addressing the structural causes of poverty.
- ❖ Civil society programmes should be strengthened and aligned with the SDGs at national level.
- ❖ Countries need to establish all-inclusive monitoring system in order to facilitate civil society engagement for effective results of the SDGs implementation.
- ❖ Meaningful and sincere participation of civil society and their networks should be strengthened at national and international levels.

Trade

- ❖ Although trade is an engine of growth and development, the realization of its potential benefits is not automatic. The potential for trade to improve productive capacities depends on initial conditions, as well as domestic policies and the macroeconomic environment.
- ❖ Achieving the SDGs will depend in part on the extent to which structurally weak developing economies can build and mainstream productive capacities into domestic trade and development policies. It will also depend on the role of development partners to effectively assist countries in lifting the binding constraints to growth and development. Special attention should be given to the role that development partners can play in making trade support the building of productive capacities in LDCs, SIDS and SSA countries to enable them to take advantage of the benefits that trade can bring.

Policies and Programmes

- ❖ Escaping poverty is not a one-way street. Several households escape poverty and return to it, experiencing a transitory escape from poverty. Some resources are shrinking, especially land, so alternative pathways out of poverty to agriculture are increasingly needed. In urban areas property ownership is a common pathway; in rural areas accumulating land, livestock and other assets are instrumental, but so is developing nonfarm occupations. Policy contributions to sustained escapes have been principally in the form of social policies; getting economic policies and programmes to work well for poor people is much tougher. Countries need to design policies and programmes that can effectively support sustained paths out of poverty.
- ❖ Having integrated policies requires having the institutional mechanisms that can integrate the policies, calling the need for building the capacity of institutions and linking them to the financing mechanisms.
- ❖ National coordination mechanisms, political leadership and mainstreaming of budgets are components of a successful integrated approach.
- ❖ There is need to improve policy coherence by mainstreaming the SDGs and core indicators in national plans and national visions.
- ❖ Strategy and programming must promote coherent actions, be aligned with global policy, foster complementarity, and consider the financial and resource requirements of planned actions.
- ❖ There is need to focus on productive engagement of young people by strengthening human capital throughout the life course through life-long learning and life-long health, including pre-

natal, newborn, child and maternal, sexual and reproductive, substance abuse, communicable and non-communicable disease.

- ❖ Countries need to support gender equality by eliminating gender-based violence and discrimination, including early, forced and child marriage, promoting participation in economy and society, and closing pay gap.
- ❖ Investments in universal health care are not only an investment in a healthier and fairer future, but they're also a bulwark against epidemics that can have potentially catastrophic social and economic consequences. Therefore, countries should invest in universal health coverage, based on strong health systems and primary care.
- ❖ Economic diversification is a necessary but not sufficient condition for employment creation and poverty reduction. This requires, inter alia, improvement of labor intensive production processes, strengthening linkages between activities and sectors, and to address constraints to employment creation (infrastructure, education and skills, social protection policies).
- ❖ Strengthen national capacities on the design of pro-equity public policies based on both monetary and non-monetary expressions of poverty and inequality.
- ❖ Adopting a resilience-building approach to strategy and programming mitigates the damaging effects of shocks and stressors, thereby minimizing human suffering. Resilience building interventions should be multi-level and systems-based, multi-sector, multi-stakeholder and context-specific. Recognition of the humanitarian-development-peace and security nexus is also important for resilience building. The key challenges in the area of resilience are related to resilience measurement in terms of getting a consensus on tools and methods - giving different contexts and activities - issues of complementarities and attribution, and resilience funding.
- ❖ The role of the State is critical in advancing equality-centred development.
- ❖ Countries need to ground high-quality (effective, efficient, sustainable and transparent) social policy in stronger institutions and social compacts. They also need to strengthen institutions.
- ❖ Creative/cultural economy is a vehicle to promote social inclusion, diversity, and sustainability, and integrate and transform vulnerable countries into the global economy.
- ❖ The inclusions of refugees, IDPs, returnees and stateless persons should be promoted in national development plans.
- ❖ African countries have made progress, but need to do more to translate their political commitment into greater actions/equitable results.
- ❖ The compounding factors of multiple inequalities, as in poor rural women, call for inter-ministerial and multi-stakeholder collaboration.
- ❖ Economic growth alone is not enough, leverages have been increasing, but it has not been lifting all the boats. There are still those furthest behind who have not seen much benefit with that increase, thus calling the need for social protection and investment in quality services.
- ❖ Reducing poverty and inequality requires better data and research; strong political commitment; public support and trust in institutions; multi-ministerial and stakeholder collaboration; strong social protection systems; decent work creation and labour market interventions; equitable tax policies; understanding the impact and drivers and who those furthest behind are, and human rights-based approach.

Recommendations for the UN system

- ❖ In the quest to eradicate poverty, the UN system should support countries first by looking more systematically at the correlations between income poverty (consumption based poverty estimates) and other features of poverty (food insecurity etc.). The system can run some analysis to look at causalities and based on that provide guidance in terms of what are the policy priorities are in the fight to attack poverty.
- ❖ The SDGs provide an opportunity for the UN system to combine the economic, social and environmental issues together, and systematically plan on how to assist countries in the achievement of the SDGs based on the existing knowledge among the different entities.
- ❖ The SDGs have introduced a new dimension, which is the link between poverty eradication and the environment. The UN system should provide guidance on how to create/promote poverty reduction while protecting the environment.
- ❖ The UN system should take into account region specificity approach instead of a one size fits all approach.
- ❖ There is need for the UN system to come up with a very strong and powerful narrative and approach reiterating the combined rights and equality based approach that can cut across and inform what it has been doing.
- ❖ Whole of society and greater inter-agency collaboration and partnerships should be promoted.
- ❖ The UN system should support countries to harness and unlock their internal resources.
- ❖ In order to ensure the achievement of the SDGs by countries, the UN system should work towards bridging the gap between indicators and actual optimal, practical, evidence based and implementable set of policies; promote the sharing of experiences and peer learning among countries; promote a study of causal relationships between indicators, identifying the priorities not in terms of normative and political processes, but in terms of what works best.
- ❖ The UN system should be able to promote the implementation of development programmes for displaced persons or refugees in countries such as South Sudan where there is instability but are still safe areas to undertake certain interventions.
- ❖ The UN system needs to revisit the poverty social impact assessment to promote use of the information.
- ❖ The UN system should develop the capacity of the civil society to achieve results. Civil societies are present everywhere and hence also help the UN system towards achieving the desired results.
- ❖ The UN system should have special programmes to support low-income Least Developed Countries.
- ❖ At global level, the UN system can make the Third Decade effective through the SDG Advocacy and Implementation Mechanisms, including HLPF and the SWAP for Eradication of Poverty.
- ❖ At regional levels, the UN system can make the Third Decade effective by strengthening institutional effectiveness; strengthening inter-governmental partnerships and resolutions; strengthening regional coordination mechanisms; improving policy coherence; harmonizing the 2030 Agenda and regional development frameworks, and mainstreaming SDGs in national planning frameworks.
- ❖ At national level, the UN system can make the Third Decade effective through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, which are developed based on national priorities. The

system's support to countries to address poverty in all its forms can be enhanced by improving quality of policy research and knowledge products; improving quality of technical assistance, and strengthening national capacities.

- ❖ The partnership between the five UN regional commissions can be strengthened through the development accounts so that each of the regions gets informed and learns from the experiences of other countries in different regions.
- ❖ The UN system should be careful in presenting the number of people living in extreme poverty vis-a-vis the shift in poverty measures and definitions in order not to take the focus away from countries where extreme poverty is still a major problem. Failing to present the reality, undermines the institutions, economies etc. of countries where the majority of the population is living in extreme poverty. As MPI is an index, it should not be used for comparison with the global poverty line, which is a measure for international comparison. The global poverty line should not be converted at the exchange rate to the local currency for a specific country in order to get the poverty threshold. National poverty lines should rather be used. Policy making should be based on the national poverty line. National poverty lines are political lines while \$1 a day is a technical line.

Recommendations for the System-wide Plan of Action

- ❖ The Third Decade inter-agency system-wide plan of action should draw on experience to strengthen policy integration within the 2030 Agenda framework. Key issues include targeting human and financial resources on countries requesting integrated policy advice; identification of key objectives and core principles for collaborative interagency action; joint integrated research and analysis of impact on jobs and incomes of policies e.g. environmental sustainability, infrastructure investment, health care and educational services; joint work by multidisciplinary UN teams with national teams from ministries and civil society; improved staff training on integrated policy-making and implementation; new approaches to planning and budgeting that incentivize collaborative work and ensure funding lines nationally and internationally to implement integrated programmes.
- ❖ The system-wide plan of action should be developed based on the following principles: (i) demographic data, projections and analysis must inform all people-centered goals and targets, as well as policies and programme; (ii) life-course perspective must inform development of human capital, including learning and health, as well as social protection; (iii) Gender quality in the economy and society is essential, and demands elimination of gender-based violence.
- ❖ The plan of action provides a very good stock taking of the tools that the UN system can offer around poverty eradication on various themes, and is useful for countries, UN country teams as well as donors. It is however large and difficult to use in its current form. It should be converted into a webpage to be seen in a more layered way and needs a more strategic layer. It should include key strategic issues such as what is new and different for the Decade and how it relates to the 2030 Agenda. Thinking about the 10-year horizon, emerging issues such as poverty eradication in the context of green growth, a different pattern of the future structural transformation, and environmental change should be considered. Research and analysis should be included as part of the plan for the Decade. The Plan should point more towards the operational and reflective sides.

- ❖ The system-wide plan of action has both policy guidelines and advocacy tools. Whether to focus on one or both and categories needs to be determined. If the plan of action is to serve as a campaign, there is need to clarify the distinction with the 2030 Agenda and the selections that are to be made are elements of the 2030 Agenda, which most closely are related to poverty eradication and which are most closely related to transformation. A campaign is dynamic while a document is static. It is therefore better to convert the system-wide plan of action into a website.
- ❖ The UN system should think about a theory of change that can connect all the actions in the system-wide plan of action, preferably in the narrative section. The plan of action should have a short narrative section at the beginning, explaining what is going to be done before going into the details of the plan of action.
- ❖ There seems to be confusion in the system-wide plan of action in terms of what the thematic and policy areas are versus ways of engagement, capacity building and advocacy etc. Thematic areas 8 and 9 can form part of the transformative effects as an umbrella area rather than thematic areas. To give more focus on structural transformation and so ... the thematic area on productive employment and decent work could be re-conceptualized under pro-poorest growth focusing on promoting growth for the poorest to target poverty reduction. This can include pro-poorest growth measures, which include employment quality measures, infrastructure, energy, support to internal migrants, access to financial services, savings and insurance. Very important issues such as anti-discrimination, affirmative action and access to justice could fall under the inequality theme or as a standalone for tackling chronic poverty and ultimately reaching those furthest behind. Issues such as climate change, disasters, conflicts, fragility, geo-political instability, volatility, and pandemics on different levels of the society and are systemic can be conceptualized under risks informed development. There are cross cutting policy areas such as tackling chronic poverty, preventing impoverishment and sustaining escapes, and those that were identified based on many years of research include social protection, non-income dimensions such as education, universal access to sexual and reproductive health services and pro-poor growth measures. There should be an acknowledgement on these points of context in the narrative section. Disaster risk management is important if environmental disasters are frequent, and anti-discrimination measures are necessary if certain social groups are persistently being affected and if that is the cause of impoverishment poverty.
- ❖ The system-wide plan of action should include a section on data and evidence that will lay the foundation emphasizing the use of data that are available and are not made use of. The data revolution should first make use of the sources that are already available, including censuses, surveys, and vital statistics.
- ❖ The system-wide plan of action should include sections on economic, including structural transformation, and systemic issues. Frontier issues should also be included.
- ❖ Gender equality as a critical pathway towards poverty eradication should be considered as a key action area.
- ❖ Current issues such as social justice, racism, poverty and climate change should be included. The plan of action should also set achievable goals.
- ❖ The system-wide plan of action needs to have a section on financing for development.
- ❖ Freedom of movement and access to work for refugees and internally displacement persons are missing from the system-wide plan of action matrix.
- ❖ The UN system needs to reconceptualize work and labor force

- ❖ The system-wide plan of action should consider the human rights based approach framework as poverty is a gross violation of human rights. Economic growth is also missing from the Plan of action.
- ❖ Nine thematic areas are too many, so should be shorter and should be much more generic to get flexibility in terms of focusing on various issues. Issues of policy, objectives, and means of implementation should not be mixed. A research component such as issue briefs that can be discussed in various forums shall be added to the implementation of this plan of action.
- ❖ The actions under each thematic area should be reorganized on the basis of categories that are based on the core functions. Under thematic area 1, category on policy support can be added as there is no policy support in the draft. This kind of reorganization would help to understand the policy support, capacity building etc. that are available. The current draft has the core activities of each agency, but by reorganizing the actions, duplications will be avoided and the matrix will become compact.
- ❖ To simplify the system-wide plan of action matrix, thematic areas 4 and 7 could be combined as adaptive social protection as there have been discussions on the need for accommodating the needs of migrants and IDPs for social protection. It is also possible to combine thematic areas 8 and 9 since advocacy and awareness raising relate to the development of strategies for communication and engagement. Productive inclusion should be included to ensure that no one is left behind. The role of the private sector should also be viewed with market linkages.
- ❖ The national development strategies of Ethiopia can serve as an example to categorize and cluster the issues in the system-wide plan of action matrix.
- ❖ There is need to link the elements of the system-wide plan of action to the SDGs and their targets.
- ❖ The UN system can only support governments and processes to be led by governments. This should be taken into account during the development of the system-wide plan of action.
- ❖ Through the system-wide plan of action, the UN should change the current narrative at the global level, hence making it a narrative making exercise.
- ❖ Human rights, climate change and environment need to be better mainstreamed into the plan of action since the UN uses a human-rights based approach to development.
- ❖ DESA should carefully design the follow-up mechanism especially in the way inputs are requested from other UN entities, and craft the SG report with what is being proposed. The UN system should focus on big trends, associated risks, opportunities that circumscribe the system's efforts in poverty eradication moving forward such as in analytical contribution, youth and youth bulge, environmental protection, jobs, economic growth etc. The SG report should also be designed in a way it can be used for fund raising.

Annex 1

Agenda

ACCELERATING GLOBAL ACTIONS FOR A WORLD WITHOUT POVERTY

Inter-agency Expert Group Meeting on Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018-2027)

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa • Addis Ababa
ECACC-AA, Conference Room 3

18-20 April 2018

DAY 1 – Wednesday 18 April 2018

8:30 - 9:00	Registration
Opening Session	Welcome and Introductory Statements
9:00 – 9:15	<u>Facilitator:</u> Ms. Wenyan Yang , DSPD/DESA
	Welcome message from Mr. Liu Zhenmin , Under-Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations
	Welcome message from Ms. Thokozile Ruzvidzo , Director, Social Development Policy Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
	Introductory remarks by Ms. Wenyan Yang , Chief, Social Perspective on Development Branch, DSPD/DESA
	Self-introduction of the participants
Session 1	Setting the stage: poverty, employment and inequality
9:15 – 10:15	<u>Facilitator:</u> Ms. Wenyan Yang , DSPD/DESA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Presentation: Ms. Sabina Alkire, OPHI, Oxford – <i>Progress in eradicating non-income dimensions of poverty</i>▪ Presentation: Ms. Vidya Diwakar, Chronic Poverty Advisory Network – <i>Understanding and supporting sustained pathways out of extreme poverty</i>▪ Presentation: Ms. Amber Barth, ILO – <i>Global employment Trends: Meeting the Jobs Challenge</i>▪ Presentation: Mr. Saurabh Sinha, ECA – <i>Addressing challenges to poverty eradication through tackling informality and inequality in Africa</i>
10:15 – 11:00	Interactive Discussion
11:00– 11:15	BREAK
Session 2	Accelerating global actions for a world without poverty
11:15 – 12:00	<u>Facilitator:</u> Ms. Amelia U. Santos-Paulino , UNCTAD
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Presentation: Mr. Matt Liu, Made in Africa Initiative – <i>The role of the private sector in generating new investments, employment and financing for development</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presentation: Mr. Daniel Drache, York University – <i>Leveraging innovation and interconnectivity for employment creation and poverty eradication</i> ▪ Presentation: Mr. Stephen Pursey, Policy Consultant – <i>Accelerating global actions towards decent work with special focus on youth</i>
12:00 – 13:00	Interactive Discussion
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH BREAK
Session 3	Accelerating global actions for a world without poverty, continued
14:00 – 15:00	<u>Facilitator:</u> Ms. Sabina Alkire , OPHI, Oxford
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presentation: Ms. Tsung Ping Chung, UNIDO – <i>Promoting structural transformation through industrialization</i> ▪ Presentation: Ms. Amelia U. Santos-Paulino, UNCTAD – <i>Enhancing national productive capacities for job growth and poverty eradication</i> ▪ Presentation: Mr. Anis Chowdhury, University of New South Wales and Western Sydney University – <i>Mobilizing financial and non-financial resources for development</i> ▪ Presentation: Mr. Sarba Khadka, Rural Reconstruction Nepal – <i>Accelerating global actions for a world free of poverty through partnerships: the role of civil society</i>
15:00 – 15:45	Interactive Discussion
15:15– 16:00	BREAK
Session 4	Country-led, country-owned: National perspectives on accelerating global actions for a world without poverty and strengthening UN system-wide plan of action (SWAP) to promote coherence and accelerate implementation of 2030 Agenda
16:00– 17:15	<u>Facilitator:</u> Mr. Joseph Atta-Mensah , ECA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presentation: Mr. Tan Weiping, International Poverty Reduction Center, China – <i>Accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in China</i> ▪ Presentation: Mr. John Scott, CONEVAL, Mexico – <i>Accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Mexico</i> ▪ Presentation: Mr. Sultan Toure, Ministry of Planning and Development, Côte d'Ivoire – <i>Accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Côte d'Ivoire</i> ▪ Presentation: Mr. Habtamu Takele, National Planning Commission, Ethiopia – <i>Accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Ethiopia</i> ▪ Presentation: Ms. Vivi Yulaswati, Ministry of National Development Planning, Indonesia – <i>Accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Indonesia</i>
17:15 – 17:45	Interactive Discussion
17:45	Close

DAY 2 – Thursday 19 April 2018

Session 5	Inter-agency System-wide Plan of Action for Poverty Eradication
9:00 – 9:20	<u>Facilitator:</u> Ms. Wenyan Yang , DSPD/DESA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presentation: Mr. Amson Sibanda, DSPD/DESA – <i>Draft Inter-agency system-wide plan of action for poverty eradication</i>
9:20 – 10:15	Interactive Discussion

10:15 – 10:30	BREAK
Session 6	Working Session 1: Inter-agency System-wide Plan of Action for Poverty Eradication: Action Areas
10:30– 11:45	<p><u>Facilitator:</u> Mr. Khalid Abu-Ismaïl, ESCWA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presentation: Mr. Pali Lehohla, OPHI - MPPN – <i>Establishing a baseline for monitoring and evaluating progress, 2018-2027</i> ▪ Presentation: Dr. Ruediger Krech, WHO – <i>Promoting universal health coverage, equitable access to quality health services and affordable and quality service delivery</i> ▪ Presentation: Mr. Michael Herrmann, UNFPA – <i>The potential contributions of major demographic shifts to contribute to accelerated economic growth and poverty eradication</i> ▪ Presentation: Ms. Isabell Kempf, UNEP – <i>Accelerating actions to eradicate poverty through climate change adaptation and mitigation</i> ▪ Presentation: Ms. Tsung Ping Chung, UNIDO – <i>Promoting structural transformation</i>
11:45 – 13:00	Interactive Discussion with focus on sharpening the SWAP
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH BREAK
Session 7	Working Session 2: Inter-agency System-wide Plan of Action for Poverty Eradication: Action Areas (continued)
14:00 – 15:00	<p><u>Facilitator:</u> Mr. Pali Lehohla, OPHI - MPPN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presentation: Mr. Chris Toe, WFP – <i>Resilience building to combat hunger and malnutrition</i> ▪ Presentation: Mr. Pascal Annycke, ILO – <i>Implementing social protection floors based on national priorities</i> ▪ Presentation: Mr. Francois Ekoko, UNOSSC – <i>South-South and Triangular partnerships in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda</i> ▪ Presentation: Ms. Amelia U. Santos-Paulino, UNCTAD - <i>Enhancing productive capacity, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation</i>
15:00 – 15:45	Interactive Discussion
15:45 – 16:00	BREAK
Session 8	Working Session 3: Inter-agency System-wide Plan of Action for Poverty Eradication: Action Areas (continued)
16:00 – 17:00	<p><u>Facilitator:</u> Ms. Vidya Diwakar, Chronic Poverty Advisory Network</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presentation: Mr. Allehone Abebe, UNHCR – <i>Promoting durable solutions for protracted displacement and the inclusion of refugees, asylum seekers, stateless persons and conflict affected IDPs in the spirit of leave no one behind</i> ▪ Presentation: Ms. Ngone Diop, UNECA - <i>Securing women’s rights to social protection: policy messages and recommendations</i> ▪ Presentation: Mr. Ervin Prifti, FAO – <i>Supporting the rural farm and non-farm economy</i> ▪ Presentation: Mr. Simone Cecchini (Video Conference), ECLAC – <i>Regional perspectives on existing poverty-related follow-up mechanisms and processes to make the Third Decade effective in support of internationally agreed development goals related to poverty, including the SDGs</i>
17:00 – 17:45	Interactive Discussion with focus on sharpening the SWAP
17:45	Close

DAY 3 – Friday 20 April 2018

Session 10

Working Session 4: Recommendations on how to make the Third Decade effective in support of internationally agreed development goals related to poverty, including the SDGs

9:00 – 10:00

Facilitator: **Mr. Anis Chowdhury**, University of New South Wales & Western Sydney University

- Presentation: United Nations development system perspectives on making the Third Decade effective in support of internationally agreed development goals related to poverty, including the SDGs
 - Presentation: **Mr. Haile Kibret**, UNDP Ethiopia
- Presentation: Regional perspectives on existing poverty-related follow-up mechanisms and processes to make the Third Decade effective in support of internationally agreed development goals related to poverty, including the SDGs
 - Presentation: **Ms. Thokozile Ruzvidzo**, UNECA
 - Presentation: **Mr. Khalid Abu-Ismael**, ESCWA
 - Presentation: **Mr. Predrag Savic**, ESCAP

10:00 – 10:30

BREAK

10:30 – 12:45

Interactive discussion and summary of key policy messages: **Ms. Wenyan Yang**, DSPD/DESA

12:45 – 13:00

Closing of the meeting: **Ms. Wenyan Yang**, DSPD/DESA

Annex 2

List of Participants

Inter-Agency Expert Group Meeting on “Implementation of the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018-2027)”

18 -20 April 2018

Conference Room 3

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa Conference Center ▪ Addis Ababa ▪ Ethiopia

Experts	
<p>Ms. Sabina Marie ALKIRE Director, Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and Associate Professor University of Oxford Oxford, United Kingdom E-mail: ophi@geh.ox.ac.uk</p>	<p>Mr. Anis (Anisuzzaman) CHOWDHURY Co-editor, Journal of the Asia Pacific Economy and Adjunct Professor, University of New South Wales and Western Sydney University Sydney, Australia E-mail: anis.z.chowdhury@gmail.com; A.Chowdhury@westernsydney.edu.au</p>
<p>Ms. Vidya DIWAKAR Senior Research Officer Chronic Poverty and Research Centre Overseas Development Institute London, United Kingdom E-mail: v.diwakar@odi.org.uk</p>	<p>Mr. Daniel A. DRACHE Senior Research Fellow, Robarts Centre for Canadian Studies and Emeritus Professor Department of Political Science York University Toronto, Canada E-mail: drache@yorku.ca</p>
<p>Mr. Sarba Raj KHADKA Senior Adviser, Rural Reconstruction Nepal (RRN) and Member, South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication-SAAPE Kathmandu, Nepal E-mail: sarba_khadka@hotmail.com; jajarkot@gmail.com</p>	<p>Mr. Pali Jobo LEHOHLA Research Associate Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network (MPPN) Oxford, England E-mail: palij01@gmail.com</p>
<p>Mr. Matt LIU Deputy Investment Promotion Director Made in Africa Initiative Beijing, China E-mail: matt.liu@madeinafricainitiative.com</p>	<p>Mr. Stephen PURSEY Economic and Social Policy Consultant Former Director of Multilateral Cooperation, ILO Echenevex, France E-mail: skpursey@gmail.com</p>
<p>Mr. John SCOTT Commissioner National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy of Mexico (CONEVAL) Mexico City, Mexico E-mail: john.scott@cide.edu</p>	<p>Mr. Weiping TAN Deputy Director General International Poverty Reduction Center Beijing, China E-mail: xuliping@iprcc.org.cn; mu_xiaodong@mfa.gov.cn</p>

<p>Mr. Sultan Abdoul Karim TOURE Economist Statistician Engineer Ministry of Planning and Development Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire E-mail: sultan.toure@gmail.com</p>	<p>Ms. Liping XU Associate Professor, Research Division International Poverty Reduction Center Beijing, China E-mail: xuliping@iprcc.org.cn</p>
<p>Mr. Habtamu T. YALEW Team Leader, Economic Model Preparation and Research Perspective Plan Preparation and Research Directorate National Planning Commission Addis Ababa, Ethiopia E-mail: yalewhabtamu@gmail.com</p>	<p>Ms. Vivi Yulaswati YULASWATI Director, Poverty Reduction Ministry of National Development Planning Jakarta, Indonesia E-mail: vivyulaswati@bappenas.go.id</p>
<p>United Nations System</p>	
<p>Mr. Allehone ABEBE Senior Legal Officer United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Addis Ababa, Ethiopia E-mail: abebe@unhcr.org</p>	<p>Mr. Khalid ABU-ISMAIL Chief, Economic Development and Poverty Section Economic Development and Integration Division United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (UN-ESCWA) Beirut, Lebanon E-mail: abu-ismail@un.org</p>
<p>Mr. Pascal ANNYCKE Social Protection Specialist International Labour Organization (ILO) Cairo, Egypt E-mail: annyckep@ilo.org</p>	<p>Mr. Joseph ATTA-MENSAH Principal Policy Adviser Capacity Development Division United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UN-ECA) Addis ABABA, Ethiopia E-mail: atta-mensah@un.org</p>
<p>Ms. Amber BARTH Senior Programme Officer International Labor Organization (ILO) Office for the United Nations New York, USA E-mail: barth@ilo.org</p>	<p>Mr. Simone CECCHINI Senior Social Affairs Officer Social Development Division United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-ECLAC) Santiago, Chile E-mail: Simone.CECCHINI@cepal.org</p>
<p>Ms. Tsung Ping CHUNG Chief Office of Strategic Planning and Coordination United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) Vienna, Austria E-mail: T.CHUNG@unido.org</p>	<p>Ms. Ngone DIOP Chief Gender Equality and Women in Development United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UN-ECA) Addis Ababa, Ethiopia E-mail: ndiop@uneca.org</p>
<p>Mr. Francois EKOKO Regional Coordinator for Africa United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation in Africa (UNOSSC) Addis Ababa, Ethiopia E-mail: francois.ekoko@undp.org</p>	<p>Mr. Michael HERRMANN Senior Adviser Economics and Demography United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) New York, USA E-mail: herrmann@unfpa.org</p>

<p>Ms. Isabell KEMPF Co- Director Joint UN Environment-UN Development Programme Poverty - Environment Initiative United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Nairobi, Kenya E-mail: isabell.Kempf@un.org</p>	<p>Mr. Haile KIBRET National Economist United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Addis Ababa, Ethiopia E-mail: haile.kibret@undp.org</p>
<p>Dr. Ruediger KRECH Director Health Systems and Innovation Office of the Assistant Director-General World Health Organization (WHO) Geneva, Switzerland E-mail: krechr@who.int</p>	<p>Mr. Asegid Adane MEBRATU National Programme Officer United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) Addis Ababa, Ethiopia E-mail: A.MEBRATU@unido.org</p>
<p>Mr. Ervin Prifti Economist Social Policies and Rural Institutions Division (ESP) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Rome, Italy E-mail: Ervin.Prifti@fao.org</p>	<p>Ms. Thokozile RUZVIDZO Director Social Development Policy Division United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UN-ECA) Addis Ababa, Ethiopia E-mail: ruzvidzo.uneca@un.org</p>
<p>Ms. Amelia U. SANTOS-PAULINO Economic Affairs Officer United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Geneva, Switzerland E-mail: amelia.santos-paulino@unctad.org</p>	<p>Mr. Predrag SAVIC Associate Social Affairs Officer Social Development Division United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) Bangkok, Thailand E-mail: predrag.savic@un.org</p>
<p>Ms. Meron SHERIF Social Affairs Officer Social Perspective on Development Branch Division for Social Policy and Development United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA) New York, USA E-mail: sherif4@un.org</p>	<p>Mr. Amson SIBANDA Senior Social Affairs Officer Social Perspective on Development Branch Division for Social Policy and Development United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA) New York, USA E-mail: sibanda@un.org</p>
<p>Mr. Saurabh Sinha SINHA Chief Employment and Social Protection Branch Social Development Policy Division United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UN-ECA) Addis Ababa, Ethiopia E-mail: ssinha@uneca.org</p>	<p>Mr. J. Chris TOE Senior Advisor Policy and Programme Division World Food Programme (WFP) Rome, Italy E-mail: chris.toe@wfp.org</p>
<p>Ms. Chiara VILLANI Communication Consultant Strategic Programme to Reduce Rural Poverty Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Rome, Italy E-mail: chiara.villani@fao.org</p>	<p>Ms. Wenyan YANG Chief Social Perspective on Development Branch Division for Social Policy and Development United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA) New York, USA E-mail: yang@yahoo.com</p>