



**Expert Group Meeting on  
“Eradicating Rural Poverty to Implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”**

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa Conference Center, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 27 February-1 March 2019

**Report of the Expert Group Meeting**



## I. Background

The General Assembly, at its seventy-third session, adopted a new resolution entitled “Eradicating rural poverty to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” (A/RES/73/244), which highlights the imperative to eradicate poverty in rural and remote areas to ensure that no one is left behind and reiterates the urgent need to accelerate the pace of rural poverty eradication. By that text, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to its seventy-fourth session a report on the status of the implementation of and follow-up to this resolution in order to identify the gaps and challenges faced in rural poverty eradication, especially in developing countries. In view of this, the Division for Inclusive Social Development (DISD) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs organized an Expert Group Meeting on the “Eradicating rural poverty to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. The meeting was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 27 February to 1 March 2019.

This objectives of the expert group meeting were to identify the gaps and challenges faced in rural poverty eradication, especially in developing countries; review key trends, patterns, and underlying drivers of rural poverty; reflect on progress toward ending rural poverty in all its forms everywhere; review lessons learnt from designing and implementing rural poverty eradication programmes, policies and strategies in various national contexts that can be leveraged to spur further progress in those countries or regions lagging behind and to contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and come up with key policy messages and recommendations for eradicating rural poverty. Around 25 experts drawn from member States, academia, think tanks, civil society and the United Nations system 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-fourth session of the UN General Assembly, particularly the preparation of the Secretary General’s report.

Materials from the expert group meeting can be accessed at the website of the Division for Inclusive Social Development:

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

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/egm-rural-poverty.html>

## II. Overview

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

- i. From a policy perspective, what are the main reasons for a separate focus on rural poverty?
- ii. How is the challenge of ending extreme poverty in all its forms everywhere understood?
- iii. What are the gaps and challenges faced in rural poverty eradication, especially in developing countries?
- iv. What are the key trends, patterns and underlying drivers in rural poverty eradication?
- v. What additional efforts are required to tackle the root causes of rural poverty?
- vi. Why should countries and the international community focus on rural poverty and what are its costs to society?
- vii. What are the gaps and challenges in promoting a shift in the composition of the non-farm economy that contributes to eradicating rural poverty?
- viii. What are the key gaps and challenges to improving opportunities in rural areas, particularly those related to schooling, jobs and wages?
- ix. How can the rural economy attract the right industries and be hitched to larger regional economies and global value chains in order to draw jobs and prosperity to rural areas?
- x. What are the data gaps and challenges in rural poverty eradication?
- xi. What is the role of agriculture in rural poverty eradication?
- xii. How can countries ensure implementation of appropriate social protection systems and measures in rural areas?
- xiii. How can countries leverage on infrastructure development for rural poverty eradication?
- xiv. How can the voice and participation of people living in poverty and people in vulnerable situations be central to all national actions to eradicate rural poverty?
- xv. What further actions can governments undertake to raise resources to finance inclusive rural development efforts and agriculture?
- xvi. How can countries tackle the urban-rural digital divide?

The experts reviewed progress in eradicating rural poverty, and identified gaps and challenges in this regard, especially in developing countries. They also shared country and regional experiences and perspectives on designing and implementing rural poverty eradication policies and strategies that have been shown to be effective. The meeting was concluded with the identification of key policy messages and recommendations for eradicating rural poverty.

In the deliberations, it was highlighted that extreme poverty continues to be overwhelmingly rural. Seventy-nine percent of people (580m) living on less than \$1.90/day live in rural areas. Using multi-dimensional measures, 83.5% of poverty is rural. Much of this poverty is concentrated in SSA (413m poor people). “Pockets” of rural poverty remain in Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and developed countries. People living in remote rural areas are more likely to be poor and their poverty is more likely to be long-duration, multidimensional and intersecting with other drivers of exclusion. Rurality intersects with other forms of marginalization and inequality and is often revealed through social marginalization and exclusion, different manifestations of malnutrition, poor living conditions and lack of access to basic services, resources and

employment opportunities. Often, the rural extreme poor are “hidden” in non-poor families due to intra-household dynamics and inequality, which is the case for many rural women and children. Experts further noted that when there is political will, entry-points for policies to enable rural people to benefit from emerging opportunities include: reconsideration of efficacy of direct public investment; exploration of institutional arrangements; adherence to good practices and guidelines on responsible governance of tenure of land; restructuring of investment policies/regulations and strengthening the integration of rural and urban economies. The need for due attention to agriculture and valorizing resources deriving from agriculture and forestry was emphasized. It was agreed that governments need to improve labor productivity and keep investing in infrastructure to create more and better jobs, especially for the export-oriented manufacturing industry. Poor households should be targeted more intensively with a combination of changing farm land use towards profitable crops, strengthening land user rights, providing microfinance, improving skills while at the same time securing their subsistence. Most important of all is to reform the education system for equal opportunity of poor and non-poor, preparing the young generations for off-farm opportunities which offer more stable income.

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

### **III. Key Challenges, Policy Messages and Recommendations**

- ❖ Globally, extreme poverty continues to be overwhelmingly rural. An estimated 79 percent of people (580m) living on less than \$1.90/day are in rural areas. Using multi-dimensional measures, 83.5% of poverty is rural. Much of this poverty is concentrated in sub-Saharan Africa (413m poor people) – linked to lack of structural transformation. Rural poverty is also found in other major regions. Rural poverty is still an important issue in Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. Developed countries also continue to grapple with issues of rural development and rural poverty, with rural dwellers still experiencing higher rates of poverty than those living in metropolitan areas.
- ❖ Rural poverty goes beyond income and includes social exclusion and marginalization. Need disaggregated data to fully capture the multidimensional nature of rural poverty. Multidimensional poverty measures such as the global MPI that capture both the incidence of poverty as well as its intensity should be adopted on a wider scale. Countries such as Mexico have adopted multidimensional poverty measures that link economic well-being and social rights.
- ❖ Living in a rural area increases an individual’s probability of suffering from poverty and deprivation, with people living in remote rural areas more likely to be poor and their poverty more likely to be long-duration, multidimensional and intersecting with other drivers of exclusion. Further, rurality intersects with other forms of marginalization and inequality and is often revealed through social marginalization and exclusion, different manifestations of malnutrition, poor living conditions and lack of access to basic services, resources and employment opportunities. Often, the rural extreme poor are “hidden” in non-poor families due to intra-household dynamics and inequality, which is the case for many rural women and children. The progressive ageing of rural populations is also a challenge.

- ❖ Remote rural areas can function as spatial poverty traps, with people living in such traps experiencing compound disadvantages that include low returns on investment, partial integration into fragmented markets, inadequate access to public services and social and political exclusion. Hence, these traps deserve attention as they constitute a key driver of poverty of a large proportion of the poorest people. Enabling sustained poverty escapes and equity requires policy and investments aimed at reversing spatial poverty traps, tackling chronic poverty, preventing impoverishment and reducing vulnerability to risks.
- ❖ The persistence of rural poverty and the extent of inequality, landlessness and unemployment in developing countries is also attributed to the patterns of colonial and post-colonial development, institutionalized discrimination and exploitation . There is a danger that some of the dynamics that have exacerbated and perpetuated rural poverty in countries such as South Africa may be replicated elsewhere in Africa. In particular, recent developments around the commercialization of agricultural land, capture of opportunities by international corporations and local elites and the design of rural investment opportunities lead to the prospect that rural landscapes may start to resemble those created by inappropriate and poorly conceptualized development visions in South Africa.
- ❖ Rural poverty cannot be understood separately from the dynamic of broad economic growth. Rural poverty should not be seen as an outcome of a growth deficit in the economy as a whole or the result of a disconnection between remote and outlying areas and cities. In many cases, rural and urban poverty are two sides of the same coin. Both rural and urban poverty are a result of growth that is not inclusive – a skewed and exclusionary form of development driven by core features of the economic structure and the regulatory environment.
- ❖ Eradicating rural poverty will require the universal inclusion of all rural dwellers into the rights and entitlements that had hitherto limited to urban dwellers. It also requires policy makers to have an in-depth understanding of the lived realities, actual capacities, material interests and livelihood strategies of the marginalized rural and peri-urban poor.
- ❖ The ability of rural-urban linkages to contribute to the alleviation of rural poverty depends on the spatial configuration of value chains, on the political economy of investment and on the nature of social and power relations. If these are not conducive, globalization or market integration will not benefit the rural poor. Value chains are more able to contribute to local employment if they are locally embedded, open to local regulatory influence and informed by local investment priorities. This can be aided by development policies that support smallholder agriculture and support forward and backward linkages with local enterprises, SMMEs and the informal sector. Similarly, care should be taken that the entry of large, centralised supermarket chains into rural economies do not disrupt local multipliers.
- ❖ It is also important to note that the rural poor have a demographic drag (large dependency ratio due to large numbers of children under 15 and older persons). Hence, there is vulnerable unemployment and self-employment, with women having a larger disproportioned share of unpaid family work. More importantly, this large demographic drag entails the need for transfers (social protection) to cover the needs of children and older persons.
- ❖ Rural poverty is linked to issues of lack of structural transformation, neglect of rural areas, political participation, exclusion and marginalization (rural women, youth, older persons, smallholder farmers,

indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities, landless workers), under investment in rural infrastructure (quality services, roads, affordable energy, irrigation systems, ICTs, markets, etc)

- ❖ Rural poverty eradication solutions cannot just be in rural areas but must also involve urban areas as well. Emerging opportunities to archive significant reductions in poverty in all its forms include linking rural people with opportunities in dynamic and expanding markets, particularly those linked to agri-food systems as well as those located in the manufacturing and service sectors. This includes smallholder farmers and related rural micro, small and medium-sized enterprises engaged in agri-food systems. Enhancing the participation of rural people in agri-food systems can contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda as a whole.
- ❖ It is therefore essential for governments to examine the implications of agro-food concentration for the non-farm economy. Upstream and downstream value chain concentration tends to undermine the formation of local multipliers, diminishing the ability of agricultural development to support local employment.
- ❖ Tackling rural poverty also hinges on land reform policies and programmes with a pro-poor focus, particularly providing security of tenure to subsistence farmers as well as agricultural support and access to markets, water, credit and extensions services. Land reforms should incentivize farmers to invest in their land and should be linked to improving access to agricultural inputs and markets. Land reform should not only support intensive forms of agriculture that are highly financialised and tightly integrated to commercial value chains but should also support less commoditised forms of peasant agriculture that contribute to safety networks and subsistence.
- ❖ Eradicating rural poverty also entails broadening the scope of agriculture for generating employment opportunities for the poor, including in fisheries and forestry.
- ❖ In developed countries, well-coordinated public rural and agricultural policies played a significant role in reducing rural poverty. This includes the promotion of policies geared towards increasing agricultural productivity, farm household income, extension services, basic infrastructure development (water, electricity, transportation, communication and markets). Today, several developed countries have moved towards a new multi-sectoral and bottom-up approach that focuses on promoting investments, rather than subsidies, to promote the local competitive advantages of rural areas.
- ❖ Greater attention needs to be paid to agriculture and to valorising local resources deriving from agriculture and forestry. This includes moving from agricultural perspective to agro-food perspective for reinforcing value addition in agriculture, building networks of enterprises (agro-agro, agro-processing, agro-retail), and combating exploitation of low-paid immigrants and women.
- ❖ Climate change, natural disasters, droughts, fires and conflicts disproportionately affect rural communities living in extreme poverty who lack resources and have low adaptive capacity to cope with the impacts of climate stresses and shocks. About 59% of the extreme poor live in vulnerable and fragile contexts due to climate change and conflicts, or both. Vulnerability to climate change results in high levels of food insecurity and conflicts over natural resources. In the Horn of Africa for example, drought is the single most destructive climate-related natural hazard and a major contributor to ongoing intercommunal conflicts over land, grazing areas and access to freshwater.

- ❖ The impacts of climate change could also reduce the contribution of agriculture to economic growth as exports of agricultural products diminish, households experience significant economic losses, and impacts on health.
- ❖ Environmental protection is an essential element for defending the economy and the well-being of rural populations. Greater coordination between countries at the international level is very important for implementing actions to reduce existing damage resulting from climate change.
- ❖ Presently, rural communities bear a significant proportion of the global burden of disease and are home to around 80% of the world's population living in extreme poverty, making them particularly vulnerable to climate change. Further, ill health may pull people and households into poverty or prevent them from moving out of it and, conversely, poverty may contribute to ill health in rural populations. These interactions pose significant challenges, particularly untangling the relations between climate change, sustainable development, poverty and health.
- ❖ The income of poor residing in rural areas, depends mainly on agricultural growth. Poor small-scale producers face multiple structural constraints, market failures and higher exposure to risks that prevent their agricultural livelihoods from being more productive, including lack of rights over natural resources, inputs, technical assistance, access to credit and insurance, as well as social protection. It is recommended to raise productivity in agriculture, giving appropriate prices to farmers, helping small and marginal farmers by reforming tenancy laws and bringing quick relief to farmers in times of natural disasters. The ultimate effort should be to ensure that the families become capable of earning and sustaining above-poverty level income within few years. Interventions that support the diversification of the rural economy are also required in addition to agricultural growth.
- ❖ In addition to agricultural growth we also need interventions that support the diversification of the rural economy.
- ❖ A large majority of the extreme working poor are in rural areas and extreme poverty rates of the employed are four times higher in rural areas than in urban areas. To promote employment for pro-poor growth in rural areas, it is essential to institute pro-rural employment macroeconomic policies, promote rural-inclusive employment policies, enhance continuous life-long skills development initiatives in the rural economy, and support formalization from informality to the formal economy.
- ❖ Rural-urban health inequities persist, compounding and intersecting with health inequities between income quintiles. These health inequities are the result of weaker health systems in rural areas and adverse social and environmental determinants experienced by the rural poor. Strengthening rural health systems and intersectoral action on health can contribute to rural poverty reduction.
- ❖ While there has been great global progress in increasing the number of children enrolled in primary school, children in rural areas are still less likely to go to school, particularly those living in extreme poverty, and dropping out remains a recurrent issue, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa. It is therefore critical for countries to continue expanding access to basic education to allow opportunities for children

from all backgrounds to have an equal chance to succeed, get quality tertiary education and build their skills for future jobs. Greater focus should also be placed on learning outcomes and not just enrolment.

- ❖ In low-income and lower middle-income countries, rural populations have limited access to social protection, insurance and other instruments which can help mitigate risks and build adaptive capacity. Extending social protection coverage to rural population requires attention to the risks, vulnerabilities and the peculiar conditions of different segments (including landless people, casual laborers, persons in forced labor and persons without access to informal networks or in disadvantaged power relations; and sectors e.g. fisheries, forestry, and pastoralist). Such diagnosis must also consider coverage barriers of different population segments and reasons for implementation gaps - to inform an appropriate policy mix, programme design and implementation.
- ❖ Although overall and primary responsibility for social protection lie with the State, the knowledge and resources of local municipalities and communities, cooperatives or community organizations that have organized membership, can enhance service delivery through decentralizing, registry systems and other local government structures. For fiscal sustainability and broader risk pooling, programmes can be integrated into existing schemes.
- ❖ Link social insurance to people not employment. To ensure that rural workers and their families are covered throughout the life-cycle, social protection needs to be linked to people. Make social protection more affordable and attractive to the rural population and enhance institutional capacity to deliver.
- ❖ Make social protection more affordable and attractive to the rural population. For contributory schemes, low contributory capacity of the rural poor is a significant barrier to coverage. Adjust contributory requirements to rural livelihoods through greater flexibility, for example adjusting the frequency and timing of contributions to income cycles of agricultural workers; or the introduction of subsidized pillars or contributions for income constrained workers. Programmes should include mechanisms to adjust benefit levels to food price trends and inflation.
- ❖ Enhance institutional capacity to deliver. Despite the rapid expansion of social protection coverage in many countries many of the poorest (mostly rural people) are still not reached, largely because of limited fiscal and institutional capacity. To effectively reach disadvantaged rural populations, additional investments are needed, and innovative delivery options must be explored.
- ❖ Ensure administrative burden is kept to a minimum. Set up efficient and reliable delivery system to reach rural areas ensuring that contributions can be easily paid by beneficiaries even in remote areas. Explore multiple context appropriate delivery channels including agricultural banks, post offices, shopkeepers, mobile ATMs, cell phones. Cost can be reduced through simplifying administrative procedures and ensuring that information and social protection services are readily accessible such that they do not place additional financial stress on rural participants.
- ❖ Rural populations face significant barriers in accessing credit such as distance from a bank. The financing gap is also more acute among rural women who benefit from only 10% of the credit to small farmers and less than 1% of total credit to agriculture. Evidence suggests that when people living in poverty - including those living in rural areas - have better tools to manage their money, their income and consumption improve. Hence, financial inclusion is a key enabler for reducing poverty and for achieving the SDGs.



- ❖ Countries should explore ways to leverage technology enabled financial services (fintech) to solve the problem of financial inclusion. Actions can include instituting protection for farmers by securing their land tenure, developing pilot buyer and food company-led value chain efforts, building transparent pricing platforms, and strengthening large-scale cooperatives. At the same time, there should be regulatory protection against financial capture of poor and vulnerable people's markets by predatory or extractive financial institutions.
- ❖ Policies for fighting against rural poverty should include social, agricultural and rural development policies. Social policies should aim to improve human capital in rural areas as well as ensure access to adequate social protection. Agricultural policies should aim to boost agricultural productivity while rural development policies should aim to foster the structural transformation of rural economies, improve access to quality of rural infrastructure, enhance the competitiveness of rural SMEs, and boost non-farm employment opportunities.
- ❖ Lack of policy integration and coordination hampers poverty eradication efforts in rural areas. Public policies must be better integrated and coordinated, in particular with regards to social and rural policies. A minimum set of investments in rural areas is required, focusing on basic infrastructure, basic services, education, health, etc. Countries should therefore undertake infrastructure investments that facilitate a structural shift from low to high value-added economic activities in rural areas as well as creating better jobs and economic opportunities in the rural non-farm economy.
- ❖ Generation of jobs and quality of jobs should be a policy priority. In situations where the working poor do not have social protection, the poor cannot afford to be unemployed, hence likely move to the informal economy.
- ❖ Tax Revenues are not enough to address poverty. It is therefore necessary to supplement them with increased investments to deal with poverty. This requires the active participation of the public, private and social sectors. It is also important to create a unified view on poverty from a business perspective.
- ❖ A fundamental precondition for ending extreme poverty is countries' commitment. A shared commitment – in other words, a strong social pact between citizens and government - throughout society is needed to address the root causes of extreme poverty, such as unequal access to resources, gender inequality, and social discrimination. Effective political leadership is a key factor in successful poverty reduction strategies. This entails providing clear policy direction and adequate means of implementation; strengthening and creating effective and democratic institutions; creating incentives for multi-sectoral coordination; as well as monitoring and evaluating progress to learn from experiences and improve strategies.
- ❖ Political commitment entails setting clear policy direction and adequate means of implementation as well as providing incentives for multi-sectoral coordination.
- ❖ Reaching all of the extreme poor requires specific approaches such as social assistance (cash transfers and other instruments), livelihoods interventions, microfinance, skills building, and nutrition interventions. There should be a focus on high level programs to alter perceptions of how rural development can be improved.

- ❖ It is essential to encourage State departments involved in rural development to make use of the private sector, combine forces with the private sector e.g. paying for capital expenditure required, make the land viable and leaving development to the private sector. It is also essential to encourage State departments to research unused farm land and advertise with investors.
- ❖ Support to local farmers should include providing basic training in bookkeeping, employing educated young people for training, encouraging local farmers associations and encouraging commercial farmers to mentor local farmers.
- ❖ Rural development is best achieved by piggy-backing on a profitable enterprise. Hence, engage with banks to be more flexible with emerging farmers if they have an equity partner. Consideration should be given to no payment of premiums for purchase of land the first few years, but emerging farmers should be encouraged to pay what they can or invest in fixed deposits in those years. It is important for recipients of rural development projects to put money into the enterprise even if they take a loan. Business plans should incorporate loans so making it possible for the emerging farmer to get a good credit rating. Business plans should incorporate finance for day to day running of the farm and for emergency breakdowns.
- ❖ Working poverty is widespread and affects rural workers disproportionately. In sub-Saharan Africa, working poverty affects three quarters of all workers. Further, a striking majority actually enter into the informal sector. The predominance of the agricultural sector means more people end up in this sector where productivity is generally low but also affected by seasonality.
- ❖ To create employment for pro-poor growth in rural areas, countries have to institute pro-rural employment macroeconomic policies, promote rural-inclusive employment policies (e.g. rural growth centres, local industrial development), enhance continuous (life-long) skills development initiatives in the rural economy, support formalisation from informality to the formal economy, institute interventions that support labour productivity in the rural sector (e.g. extension services), undertake direct and targeted interventions, expand social protection to rural workers, deepen SSTC to ensure sharing of successful experiences and learning, ensure deliberate FDI attraction to the rural sector (agriculture, resource extraction), and ensure rights at work are respected.
- ❖ Many developing countries also face the issue of the digital divide, the technological gap between the “haves” and the “have nots”. The digital divide is a major contributor to the persistence of poverty and rising inequality.
- ❖ Digital innovations have a direct and significant impact on poverty reduction and improving living standards in rural areas. Initiatives such as “Mobile for Development” aim to identify opportunities and deliver innovations with socio-economic impact in financial services, health, agriculture, digital identity, energy, water and sanitation, disaster resilience and gender equality.
- ❖ To enhance the impact of the digital revolution on rural poverty, countries need to address several dimensions to the digital divide. These include how to get greater access to devices for average citizens, how to improve the skills and training necessary to make use of the devices, how to foster a culture of innovation, especially in the development of local content, and how to overcome gender and other biases that are still present in many developing countries.

- ❖ Improving access requires government policies that encourage competition in domestic telecom markets, the removal of all taxes on mobile and other ICT devices, public-private partnerships to incentivise the spread of devices, ensuring minimal access to standards, developing broadband plans, careful spectrum policies, and increasing the numbers of local IXPs. It is also essential to improve skills and training by addressing digital literacy, promoting better understanding of the benefits of the internet, and a holistic approach to skills development strategy.

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# Annex 1

## Agenda

### Expert Group Meeting on Eradicating Rural Poverty to Implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa ▪ Addis Ababa

ECACC-AA, Conference Room 3

27 February-1 March 2019

#### DAY 1 – Wednesday 27 February 2019

8:30 - 9:00	Registration
<b>Opening Session</b>	<b>Welcome and Introductory Statements</b>
9:00 – 9:15	Introductory remarks - <b>Mr. Amson Sibanda</b> , Global Dialogue for Social Development Branch, DISD/DESA
	Welcome message - <b>Ms. Thokozile Ruzvidzo</b> , Director, Gender, Poverty and Social Policy Division, UNECA
	Self-introduction of the participants
<b>Session 1</b>	<b>Setting the stage: The nature and dynamics of rural poverty</b>
9:15 –10:00	<u>Facilitator:</u> <b>Mr. Amson Sibanda</b> , DISD/DESA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Presentation: <b>Mr. David Suttie</b>, IFAD – <i>Overview: Rural poverty in developing countries: issues, policies and challenges</i></li><li>▪ Presentation: <b>Ms. Paola Bertolini</b>, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia – <i>Overview of income and non-income rural poverty in developed countries</i></li><li>▪ Presentation: <b>Mr. Pali Lehohla</b>, OPHI - MPPN – <i>Identifying data gaps and challenges faced in rural poverty eradication</i></li></ul>
10:00 – 11:00	Interactive Discussion
11:00 – 11:15	<b>BREAK</b>
<b>Session 2</b>	<b>Challenges to eradicating rural poverty in developing countries</b>
11:15 –12:15	<u>Facilitator:</u> <b>Mr. Moazam Mahmood</b> , Lahore School of Economics
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Presentation: <b>Mr. Tassew Woldehanna</b>, Addis Ababa University - <i>The complexities of rural poverty in Ethiopia</i></li><li>▪ Presentation: <b>Mr. Andries du Toit</b>, University of Western Cape – <i>Explaining the persistence of rural poverty in South Africa</i></li><li>▪ Presentation: <b>Ms. Ngo Ha Quyen</b>, Mekong Development Research Institute – <i>Reducing rural poverty in Vietnam: issues, policies and challenges</i></li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Presentation: <b>Ms. Paloma Villagómez</b>, CONEVAL– <i>Rural poverty in Mexico: prevalence and challenges</i></li> </ul>
12:15 – 13:00	Interactive Discussion
13:00 – 14:00	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>
<b>Session 3</b>	<b>Agriculture and rural development</b>
14:00 – 14:45	<b>Facilitator: Ms. Kate Bird</b> , Overseas Development Institute
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Presentation: <b>Mr. Ruerd Ruben</b>, Wageningen University and Research – <i>Agrarian change and inclusive rural development: gaps and challenges</i></li> <li>▪ Presentation: <b>Mr. Kafkas Caprazli</b>, FAO – <i>The Role of Food and Agriculture in Eradicating Extreme Poverty</i></li> <li>▪ Presentation: <b>Mr. Jimmy Lonsdale</b>, Consultant, South Africa – <i>Gaps and challenges: mobilizing the private sector to fight rural poverty</i></li> </ul>
14:45 – 15:45	Interactive Discussion
15:45 – 16:00	<b>BREAK</b>
<b>Session 4</b>	<b>Social protection systems and measures for all</b>
16:00 – 16:30	<b>Facilitator: Mr. Lester Henry</b> , The University of West Indies
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Presentation: <b>Mr. Andrew Mundalo Allieu</b>, ILO– <i>Implementing nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all: gaps and challenges facing rural areas</i></li> <li>▪ Presentation: <b>Mr. Subhasish Dey</b> (Skype), University of Warwick – <i>Reducing rural poverty in developing countries: challenges and opportunities for microenterprises and public employment schemes</i></li> </ul>
16:30 – 17:30	Interactive Discussion
17:30	Close

**DAY 2 – Thursday 28 February 2019**

<b>Session 5</b>	<b>Employment for pro-poor growth in rural areas</b>
9:00 – 9:45	<b>Facilitator: Ms. Paola Bertolini</b> , University of Modena and Reggio Emilia
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Presentation: Mr. Ken Shawa</b>, ILO – <i>Key challenges in promotion of decent rural employment for poverty eradication</i></li> <li>▪ <b>Presentation: Mr. Moazam Mahmood</b>, Lahore School of Economics, Pakistan – <i>Challenges and gaps to creating jobs and economic opportunity in rural areas</i></li> <li>▪ <b>Presentation: Mr. Saurabh Sinha</b>, ECA – <i>Reducing poverty through employment in Africa</i></li> </ul>
9:45 – 10:30	Interactive Discussion
<b>Session 6</b>	<b>Rural infrastructure development</b>
10:30 – 11:00	<b>Facilitator: Mr. Andries du Toit</b> , University of Western Cape

- Presentation: **Ms. Kate Bird**, Overseas Development Institute – *Addressing spatial poverty traps*
- Presentation: **Mr. Lester Henry**, The University of West Indies – *Bridging the urban-rural digital divide and mobilizing technology for poverty eradication: challenges and gaps*

11:00 - 11:30

**BREAK**

11:30 – 13:00

Interactive Discussion

13:00 – 14:00

**LUNCH BREAK**

### Session 7

#### Financial inclusion

14:00 – 14:15

**Facilitator: Ms. Ritu Chandra**, Shri Ramswaroop Memorial University, India

- Presentation: **Ms. Angela Hansen**, Global Knowledge Initiative – *Rural financial inclusion and poverty eradication: challenges and gaps*

14:15 – 15:15

Interactive Discussion

15:15 – 15:30

**BREAK**

### Session 8

#### Addressing climate change and natural disasters

15:30 – 16:15

**Facilitator: Mr. Pali Lehohla**, OPHI - MPPN

- Presentation: **Mr. Simon Lloyd**, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine – *Challenges and gaps in assessing impacts of climate change on health in rural areas*
- Presentation: **Ms. Grace Gondwe**, Consultant, Malawi – *Reducing the vulnerability of the rural poor through adaptation and mitigation*
- Presentation: **Mr. Gutu Tesso Boka**, Ambo University, Ethiopia – *Climate change, natural disasters and rural poverty in Ethiopia*

16:15 – 17:30

Interactive Discussion

17:30

Close

**DAY 3 – Friday 1 March 2019**

### Session 9

#### Promoting socioeconomic development

9:00 – 9:45

**Facilitator: Ms. Angela Hansen**, Global Knowledge Initiative

- Presentation: **Ms. Ritu Chandra**, Shri Ramswaroop Memorial University, India – *Education and the poverty trap in rural areas*
- Presentation: **Ms. Theadora Koller** (Skype), WHO – *Rural poverty and health services: challenges and gaps*
- Presentation: **Ms. Thokozile Ruzvidzo**, ECA – *Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls*

9:45 – 10:30

Interactive Discussion

## Session 10

### Financing rural development

10:30 – 11:00

**Facilitator:** Mr. David Suttie, IFAD

- Presentation: **Ms. Kei Otsuki** (Skype), Utrecht University, Netherlands– *Implementation of effective rural policies and practices for poverty eradication: challenges and gaps faced by public-private partnerships*

11:00 – 11:30

**BREAK**

11:30 – 12:30

Interactive Discussion

12:30 – 13:00

Summary of key policy messages: **Mr. Amson Sibanda**, DISD/DESA

13:00

Closing of the meeting: **Mr. Amson Sibanda**, DISD/DESA

## Annex 2

### List of Participants

#### Expert Group Meeting on Eradicating Rural Poverty to Implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa ▪ Addis Ababa

ECACC-AA, Conference Room 3

27 February-1 March 2019

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