

Connecting Development and Human Rights in the eradication of extreme poverty: Strategies for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

Date/Time/ Venue: 30th January 2018 from 11.45am to 1pm at Conference Room D.

Context

Poverty is an urgent human rights concern in itself. It is both a cause and a consequence of human rights violations and an enabling condition for other violations. Not only is extreme poverty characterized by multiple reinforcing violations of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, but persons living in poverty generally experience regular denials of their dignity and equality. Persons living in extreme poverty are confronted by severe obstacles – physical, economic, cultural and social – to accessing their rights. Consequently, they experience interrelated and mutually reinforcing deprivations, cultural prejudice and discrimination – including dangerous work conditions, unaffordable housing, lack of nutritious food, unequal access to justice, lack of political power, and limited access to health care. These deprivations violate their rights and perpetuate their poverty.

Persons experiencing extreme poverty live in a vicious, mutually-enforcing cycle of powerlessness, stigmatization, discrimination, exclusion and material deprivation. Persons living in poverty often experience disadvantage and discrimination based on race, gender, age, ethnicity, religion, language or other status. Women frequently encounter greater challenges in accessing income, assets and services and are particularly vulnerable to extreme poverty, as are such groups as children, older persons, persons with disabilities, migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons, minorities, persons living with HIV/AIDS and indigenous peoples. Structural and systemic inequalities – social, political, economic and cultural – often remain unaddressed and further entrench poverty. Extreme poverty is not inevitable. It is created, enabled and perpetuated by many factors, including individual and corporate greed that can marginalize and exclude people living in poverty from being active participants in their own and their communities' development processes. The number of people living below a daily income of \$1.90 (702 million) is appalling.

The United Nations' 2030 Transformative Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are an excellent road map to transform poverty into prosperity for all. SDG 1, on "ending poverty in all its forms everywhere," sets target indicators to follow, such as the implementation of social protection floors, ensuring equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services. An additional important target to reach is building the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations, and reducing their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters. While some States have started to engage with affected communities in the implementation of the SDGs, more needs to be done if we aim on reaching these set targets by 2030.

Summary of the event and objectives

This side event will showcase success stories from impoverished communities on how their engagement in the SDGs has opened possibilities and hope for their communities, the challenges they experience, and how the governments can tap into their resilience and community resources to build a better society for all.

This side event aims to encourage UN Member States to take their international human rights obligations into account when formulating and implementing policies affecting the lives of persons living in extreme poverty.

Specific objectives of this side event include:

- *Facilitating a human rights approach in providing a framework for the long-term eradication of extreme poverty based on the recognition of persons living in extreme poverty as rights holders and agents of change.*
- *Identifying ways to improve grassroots responses, including stimulating international advocacy through a network for collaboration of efforts.*
- *Providing insight and perspectives that could enhance intergovernmental advocacy mechanisms in the various global governance processes.*
- *Stimulating greater collaboration among UN member states, Civil Society Organizations, Agencies and Private Sectors.*
- *Highlighting the role of faith based actors and organizations in effectively fighting to alleviate extreme poverty and affirming the dignity of all, especially the poor and marginalized.*



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