

Reducing Inequalities: A Key to Social Development in the Contemporary World

A side event during the 53rd session of Commission for Social Development

Friday, 6 February, 1:15 pm – 2:30 pm
Conference Room A, UN Headquarters, New York

Moderator: Mr. Sergei Zelenev, Executive Director, International Council on Social Welfare

Speakers

- Representative of Her Excellency, Ms. Alicia Kirchner, President of the MOST Intergovernmental Council and Minister of Social Development, Argentina
- Representative of Her Excellency, Ms. Betty Tola, the Minister of Economic and Social Inclusion, Government of Ecuador and President of the Latin American Forum of Ministers of Social Development
Reducing inequalities: Outcome of the X MOST Forum of Ministers of Social Development for Latin America
- Ms. Sarah Cook, Director, UN Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)
Meeting the challenge of inequality: The role of transformative social policy
- Ms. Daniela Bas, Director, Division for Social Policy and Development (DPSD/UNDESA)
The role of social inclusion as a policy response: Reducing inequalities in the context of the post-2015 agenda
- Ms. Cecilie Golden, Programme Specialist, UNESCO's Management of Social Transformations Programme (MOST)
Strengthening the social and human sciences knowledge base for social justice and development including through the MOST Regional Forums of Ministers of Social Development

Commentator: Ms. Lynne Healy, Professor, University of Connecticut and Representative of the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW)

Inequality is increasingly recognized as a key factor of disempowerment, preventing people from realizing their full potential.

“Seven out of ten of the world’s people live in countries where income inequality has risen.”

—Note by the Secretariat on *Emerging issues: Contributions of social development to the transition from the Millennium Goals to the sustainable development goals* (E/CN.5/2015/6)

“Inequalities undermine poverty reduction, economic growth and social mobility.”

—Mr. Wu Hongbo, Under-Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs, referring to the *Report on the World Social Situation 2013: Inequality Matters*

“In a general context of growing inequalities, exclusion among social groups remains significant.”

—Report of the Secretary-General, *Rethinking and strengthening social development in the contemporary world* (E/CN.5/2015/3)

At this side event, high-level speakers will discuss why tackling inequalities is essential for progress in social development in today’s world, providing findings from social science research as well as policy recommendations. Social science research makes important contributions to formulating, implementing, monitoring and evaluating social policies.

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