

United Nations Nations Unies

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: NEW YORK. On 20 January 2014, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, a **UN Roundtable with Prof. Joseph Stiglitz** will be held in the ECOSOC Chamber (United Nations) to discuss *The Threat of Growing Inequalities: Building More Just and Equitable Societies to Support Growth and Sustainable Development*. The event is hosted by the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations, with the Italian Cultural Institute and the International Development Law Organization, in cooperation with the UN Department of Public Information.

The root causes of conflict, instability and socio-economic crises and dysfunction are currently being discussed in different international fora. At the United Nations, Member States are increasingly committed to crafting a new development agenda for the post-MDGs/post-2015 period, based on a new, broader set of global goals (the “Sustainable Development Goals - SDGs”). Through this roundtable, the organizers wish to engage the scholarly and academic communities in a dialogue with the UN diplomatic corps on the impact of growing inequalities, with a focus on:

- their political and security implications, including links to civil rights movements;
- their impact on progress in the economic, social and environmental dimensions and on the sustainability of development;
- the role of the United Nations and its capacity to address, through the concerted action of its political, socio-economic and operational arms, the threats posed by growing inequalities;
- the importance that the drive towards greater justice and equity should be given in the new Development Agenda.

Participants in the roundtable will be welcomed by the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations, Ambassador Sebastiano Cardì, with opening remarks by Professor Riccardo Viale, on behalf of the Italian Cultural Institute.

Professor Joseph Stiglitz, Nobel Laureate and most recently the author of the groundbreaking book, *The Price of Inequality*, will give the keynote address.

The ensuing panel discussion will have as its starting point the comprehensive vision of development launched by the Rio Conference and embodied in the concept of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Panelists will address the political (Fabrizio Barca, Director-General, Italian Ministry of Economy and Finance), economic (Jose Antonio Ocampo, Chairman of the UN Committee on Development Policy), social/civil rights (Irene Khan, Director-General, IDLO) and environmental (Elliot Harris, Director, UNEP) dimensions of inequalities, setting the stage for an interactive debate engaging senior UN diplomats, foundations, think tanks and representatives of civil society and international agencies.

Professor Michael Doyle of Columbia University will serve as moderator and UN Assistant Secretary-General, Amina Mohammed, will wrap up the discussion.

The event will be webcast live: <http://webtv.un.org/>  Hashtag: #EndInequality

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