



55TH COMMISSION for SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

“Strategies for the eradication of poverty to achieve sustainable development for all”

The United Nations Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD),
in partnership with Club de Madrid,
cordially invites you to attend a high-level panel discussion:

THE ROLE OF A SHARED SOCIETY AS A STRATEGY TO REDUCE POVERTY

WEDNESDAY, 1 February 2017
13:15-14:15 – CONFERENCE ROOM 12
United Nations Headquarters
New York, NY



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President of the Kyrgyz Republic (2010-2011),
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Topic: THE ROLE OF A SHARED SOCIETY AS A STRATEGY TO REDUCE POVERTY

Format: PANEL DISCUSSION

Concept

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes that the eradication of poverty is the greatest global challenge. In its resolve to end poverty and hunger in all their forms and dimensions and to ensure that all human beings can fulfil their potential in dignity and equality and in a healthy environment, the new Agenda presents social development as both a driver and a result of other dimensions of the development process.

In the Ministerial declaration of the High-Level Segment of the 2016 session of the ECOSOC on the annual theme “Implementing the post-2015 development agenda: moving from commitments to results”, Member States pledges that no one will be left behind in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Despite the enormous progress in reducing extreme poverty in the past two decades, more than 836 million people were still living below the extreme poverty line in 2015. Progress remains uneven across regions and among countries. It is now evident that the poorest are being left behind. Research shows that the life of the people living in extreme poverty has seen little change, not only in terms of their income, but also in other dimensions, such as education and health outcomes and access to decent work. They remain poor as development gains have not reached them, due partly to high and often rising inequality, but also because they face multiple barriers - economic, social, cultural, geographical, political, etc.

Poverty afflicts different people at different times in the life cycle. People move out or fall into poverty (relative poverty), while many are trapped in chronic/intergenerational poverty (absolute poverty). Certain groups and communities are particularly vulnerable to poverty and deprivation, including women, persons with disabilities, older persons, indigenous peoples, migrants, ethnic minorities and people living in rural and remote areas.

The Shared Societies Project of the Club de Madrid - the network of over 100 former democratically-elected Presidents and Prime Ministers - offers a concept of a truly inclusive society that can contribute to social economic and environmental wellbeing. A Shared Society is, by definition, one in which everyone, the whole society, not only share the benefits that accrue to that community but share - and are allowed to share - the responsibilities of planning and building the future of that community. In too many parts of the world, too many people are excluded from shaping and contributing to the development process and as a result their needs and concerns are accorded lower priority than those of others.

Purpose of the Session

The starting point of the session is recognition that current anti-poverty programmes are not impacting positively on the lives of many of those in greatest need, and will explore why that is the case and what are the obstacles and sources of resistance. Any progress will have to address the factors that have hindered previous efforts and develop more appropriate alternative approaches.

It will consider lessons that can be drawn from current successes and failures and propose specific steps that governments and others can take to implement a Shared Societies Approach that targets the eradication of poverty in the context of the 2030 agenda.

Discussion Questions

- What are the factors that have hindered the eradication of poverty for many?
- How would a more integrated policy approach be effective in eradicating poverty?
- Specifically, how would an inclusive Shared Societies Approach be most effective in eradicating poverty?
- What lessons can be drawn from more successful and less successful efforts to alleviate poverty?
- What conclusions can be drawn to guide future anti-poverty policies and programmes?