



POVERTY ERADICATION: FROM POLICY TO LOCAL ACTION

Tuesday 6th Feb. 2018: TIME 1:15 – 2:30pm: Conference Room 7

KEYNOTE SPEECH BY

Her Excellency Ms. Amina J. Mohammed
Deputy Secretary General United Nations.

PANELISTS:

- ✚ Mr. Yahaya Hamza, Deputy Director & Head of Sectors, OSSAP- SDGs, Nigeria.
- ✚ Mr. Vince Chipatuka, Program Manager Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Zambia
- ✚ Ms. Rosario Diaz Garavito, Executive Director The Millennial Movement, Peru.
- ✚ Mr. Enemona Adaji, Researcher University of Nottingham, United Kingdom

MODERATOR: Dr. Mrs Amina Smaila

Former Vice- Chair, UN Commission on Social Development

FACILITATOR: Dr. Ify Ofong,

Representative to UN, Worldwide Network Nigeria: Women in Development and Environment



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CONCEPT NOTE

The theme for the 56th Session of the Commission on Social Development is “Strategies for Eradicating Poverty to Achieve Sustainable Development for all”. If nations must eradicate poverty to achieve sustainable development for all, we must move beyond policies and strategies to local actions.

The former UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon, in his report of 2017 noted that “Maintaining the policy status quo will not get the job done, particularly the principle of ensuring that no one is left behind. Given the diversity among developed, developing and the least developed countries, strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all cannot be of the One size- fits all variety”. He advised that strategies should reflect varying national contexts, priorities, capacities and fiscal constraints.

In some developing countries, governments and their agencies have focused their efforts on designing winning policies and programmes to eradicate poverty. Despite the numerous poverty eradication policies and strategies, about half of the population of the world still lives in poverty. They live in homes with-inadequate water, poor sanitation facilities and no electricity. They lack access to good schools, health care, modern transport facilities, and employment opportunities. Many are malnourished as they cannot afford adequate nutrition.

We are taking action to fight poverty. But are we taking the right action? Experience shows that policies that have worked in Europe or Asia may not necessarily work in Africa. Indeed, what worked even in a country or region in Africa may not necessarily work in another country or even in different zones within the same country. We need to ask ourselves who are the key players in our actions towards poverty eradication? Who have we included and recognized as a key player and who have we neglected and not included as a key player? What can they bring to the table to aid the fight against poverty?

What is the place of community leaders, traditional and religious institutions as well as civil society in poverty eradication? We know that they are key stakeholders who should be engaged, but have we fully engaged them in the process?

Have we done enough to empower and re-orientate the youths, with a view to engaging them in the war on poverty? Crucial to poverty eradication is a shift from a culture of ignoring the youths in strategies and decision making to a culture of inclusion of the youth perspective and the drive to strengthen the participation of the youth. The youth of any country and community should be a key part of its growth.

The side event will present an opportunity for stakeholders to exchange views on these and other relevant issues related to the contributions of targeted financing and public expenditure to poverty eradication.

In the context of sharing experiences and best global best practices, success stories and lessons learned from Asia, Africa and Latin America in the war on poverty will be brought into focus at the event.