

Promoting policy coherence and
system-wide actions for a world
without poverty

Stephen Pursey

The UN at its 75th Anniversary

- Crisis of multilateralism and what UN can do about it
- Connection between need to accelerate progress on 2030 Agenda and system-wide plan of action for Third UN Decade
- Plan of action helps mobilize potential of UN network of expertise on multidimensional poverty

UN and crisis of multilateralism

- “Multilateralism is under fire precisely when we need it most”
- “Permissive domestic environment” for multilateral system eroded since around 2008
- Anaemic recovery, continued globalization and automation left many communities in industrialized countries feeling left behind while knowledge hubs prospered
- Consequent political cleavages led to election of governments sceptical of multilateralism
- UN action to support poverty eradication and narrowing of inequalities now both urgent and difficult

Accelerating UN action on poverty eradication in decade ahead

- S-G's global call for a decade of action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030
- Logic of 3rd Decade action plan is to encourage collective action across UN system to create multiplier effects that accelerate progress
- Operational objective is integrated programmes that combine expertise, multiply impact and demonstrate value of UN

Mobilizing UN network of expertise on poverty eradication

- Integrated and coherent policies reinforce emphasis in 2030 Agenda on interconnections between SDGs
- Multidimensional poverty calls for integrated programmes
- Harsh reality little or no extra resources so UN needs to show networking can accelerate progress
- Action plan can add to integrated policy tools available to strengthened UN country teams

Means of Action

- Joint research
- Monitoring and reporting on indicators for poverty goals
- Dissemination of information through a system portal
- Promoting integrated programmes
- Decade focal points in each organization
- Capacity-building for national and UN officials
- Incentivizing planning for integrated programmes

Policy Themes for Poverty Eradication

- Productive employment and decent work
- Expanding social protection
- Human capability development: addressing non-income forms of poverty
- Future of food and sustainable agriculture
- Reducing inequalities
- Climate change and intensified natural hazards
- Fragile and humanitarian contexts

Practical steps for enhanced UN policy integration

- Communications strategy to improve accessibility of dispersed UN knowledge
- Support for national statistical capacity
- Progress reports based on SDG indicators
- Policy-oriented joint research
- Develop teamworking skills
- Network of focal points

Looking ahead

- SDGs even more daunting challenge after slow progress since 2015
- Demonstrate well-functioning UN at apex multilateral system for collective and thus more effective action in an interdependent world
- Action plan complements SDG implementation and strengthened UN country presence
- Plan helps UN grasp opportunity to turn tide and get on course to eradicate poverty and realize SDGs