Summing up and looking forward

International Conference on Social Cohesion and Development

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1. Social cohesion: topical, beneficial and multi-dimensional
   - Topical: rich countries (e.g. stress), emerging (e.g. transformation) and poor countries (e.g. conflict)
   - Beneficial: micro (risk and crisis management, re-conciliation,..) and macro (growth, reduce volatility,...) and lots of evidence of negative effects if social cohesion is missing (China elderly...)
   - Divers, cross-cutting, horizontal, - an end and a mean!

2. Social cohesion: concept, measurement and impact
   - No agreement on definition, nor measurement: do we need this in the first place?
   - Dashboard, traffic light and/or composite indicator - > purpose matters; within countries need to drill down – institutional context matters; local dimension and voice of people
   - Good – bad social cohesion? Depends on definition....
1. Social cohesion: policy design and implementation

- Poverty focus not enough → cohesion as additional objective
- Process, not a "steady state" - "nurture shared society"; needs time to improve
- Manage trade off’s (winners and looser’s)
- Means (leadership, role of communication, media)
The Social Cohesion “Triangle”

Social Mobility
- parent/child educational differences
- perceived ability to advance

Social Capital
- trust
- civic participation

Social Cohesion

Social Exclusion
- living standard
- distance from customary living standard
- satisfaction with living standard
1. **Shifting wealth accelerated, more stress on social cohesion?**
   - Poor countries: Persisting poverty
   - Converging countries: inequalities, facebook, social institutions
   - Rich countries: risk of becoming inward looking

2. **More data, more knowledge?**
   - Need to embed findings in theory
   - Combine SWB with traditional measures

3. **Is the SC “reference frame” moving?**
   - WEB 2.0 and emerging class middle-class
   - Mechanisms of accountability need to follow
   - More peer review, sharing lessons and south-south co-operation