

## INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO POVERTY REDUCTION, SOCIAL COHESION AND PROGRESS IN THE POST 2015 WORLD

THURSDAY 4 APRIL - FRIDAY 5 APRIL 2013  
OECD CONFERENCE CENTRE • 2 RUE ANDRE PASCAL, PARIS, FRANCE

In light of the new economic world we live in, the **2013 Global Forum on Development (GFD)** is designed to promote a better understanding of what the shifting dynamics of poverty mean for the poverty reduction policies to be pursued by governments, international organisations and others in the post-2015 world.

The GFD will be the first in a series of three forums to be held over the next three years focusing on **“Preparing for the Post-2015 World”**. These events provide a venue for high-level policy makers, academia, civil society and the private sector to exchange perspectives and explore challenges, opportunities and lessons learned about current poverty reduction policies and methods for fostering social cohesion and progress. Perhaps the most important insight about poverty in the last twenty years is that the vision in the UN Millennium Declaration - of creating an environment conducive to the elimination of poverty - is achievable. These global fora held from 2013 through 2015 will focus on what this means to all those working toward this vision.

### BACKGROUND

The global economic landscape has changed, and with it, has altered the way we think about the issues of poverty reduction, social development and progress more broadly. Economic growth in developing and emerging countries has improved lives of many poor people and led to the emergence of a middle class. Yet, many people who have escaped absolute poverty would still be counted as poor when based on different - relative and country specific - thresholds of poverty. At the same time, income inequalities have been rising in many parts of the world, thus reducing the “pay-off” of economic growth in lowering absolute poverty. The emerging middle class is increasingly comparing itself to the living standards in the more affluent part of the world. Many remain vulnerable, however, to a range of economic factors, such as unemployment, sickness and old age, that could move them back to destitution. There also are still large numbers of people in poverty in middle-income countries.

### ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

Outputs from the UN-led meetings on the post-2015 development agenda to date are recommending **what** should be the focus of the new development framework to follow the current Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Recommendations include: eliminating poverty, reducing inequalities, and addressing the needs of people in poverty based on their perspectives, while also stimulating economic growth and better managing the environment. Indeed, these recommendations on what should become the new goals draw on lessons from the MDGs on the changing nature, distribution and evolving understanding of poverty, environmental sustainability and importance of economic growth.

The GFD asks **how** today's government policy makers and planners, bilateral and multilateral donors, civil society groups, and the private sector could transform these recommendations into policies and programmes that will impact people in poverty? With an expanded understanding of the multi-dimensional aspects of poverty, how and where have leaders and policy makers successfully pursued policies to reduce poverty? How are leaders integrating environmental sustainability into their development policies as requested by the Rio+20 Outcome Document? What policy approaches are proving promising in efforts to address poverty reduction and allowing developing countries to grow, while ensuring that natural assets continue to provide the resources and environmental services on which their well-being relies? Where is more attention needed to develop specific policies on poverty reduction that also account for the other key policy objectives policy makers are now expected to address? How will the new post-2015 development goals be transformed into specific policies and programmes that will shape their impact on the lives of the poor?

This GFD aims to assist government officials, civil society representatives and business leaders and practitioners in refining their poverty reduction policies and programmes, as they all face the task of integrating trends at global and national levels as part of the post-2015 development agenda. The challenge they face is to translate complex, interrelated issues into specific policies and development interventions. It can help to inform their positions on what and how poverty reduction goals at national and global levels could be formulated. It will seek to broaden understanding of the links between such changes and the types of policies and innovative approaches that are required to deal with them. In light of the growing recognition of the importance of many dimensions of development to poverty reduction, the GFD will also address what capacities need to be in place to be able to design and monitor policies.

The GFD will allow participants to discuss concerns about how **national level policies** are being affected by the evolving concept of poverty. Much has been learned in the past decade on the importance of economic growth for increasing the income of the poor and on the types of interventions that are more effective in reducing absolute poverty. Other measurement approaches, beyond absolute income, that capture the changing concept of poverty will be explored.

The GFD will consider how the **broader concepts of social cohesion**, well-being and progress could inform post-2015 approaches to poverty reduction. Inequalities are also increasingly understood as stretching beyond income to a number of other characteristics, such as gender, age, origin, caste and labour-market status. Together, these inequalities shape the extent of social inclusion (or exclusion) that is achieved in different countries. Other factors bearing on quality of life, aside from income based concerns, have been increasingly recognised as important for people around the world, in particular for providing opportunities for increased social mobility across generations. These factors include health, education, and the capacity for people to take informed decisions, act and participate as responsible citizens and improve their and their children's futures.

Sustainability needs to become a top priority in all development endeavours over time. This means acting to invest in and preserve assets which are critical for the well-being of future generations. This includes both global public goods and country-specific assets (e.g. local environmental assets, community ties and family relations) that are affected by the economic development of other countries and that are critical for taking collective action.

The **range and role of development actors** is also changing, with many actors beyond governments, such as NGOs, civil society, foundations, the private sector, organised labour, and people who have migrated for work and are remitting income back home, having grown markedly. They are bringing a new voice and new resources to the debates. Future policies and approaches to reduce poverty and foster development should seek ways to capitalise on this trend and the technological and scientific innovations they can stimulate.

## EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The GFD will help the OECD refine and better focus its development work under its new **Strategy on Development**. It will allow a range of actors to collectively identify issues requiring further examination and debate on new approaches to poverty reduction. The GFD will also inform the content of the forthcoming *Development Cooperation Report 2013* and the *Social Development Report*. A report will be prepared on the conclusions and outcomes from this GFD. Insights and proposals made on the website and via the hashtag of the GFD will also be incorporated ([www.oecd.org/site/oecdgfd](http://www.oecd.org/site/oecdgfd) and [#oecdgfd](https://twitter.com/oecdgfd)).

## HOSTS OF THE FORUM

The OECD's [Development Assistance Committee](#) (DAC), the [Development Centre](#), the [Statistics Directorate](#) and [PARIS21](#) (a global partnership of national, regional and international statisticians, analysts, policy makers, development professionals and other users of statistics) are hosting this GFD in co-operation with the [European Report on Development](#), [the Global Development Network](#), [Jeune Afrique](#) and [The Africa Report](#).

## THURSDAY 4 APRIL 2013

13:00 – 14:15

### WELCOME REMARKS AND KEYNOTE SPEECHES

The GFD will open with keynote speeches on the importance of and challenges to developing a set of policies based on a holistic approach to poverty reduction, environmental sustainability and inclusive growth. The role of domestic considerations in reaching a politically sustainable agreement on policies that affect the individual, the state (society), as well as the state's relationship with the rest of the world will also be highlighted.

Welcoming remarks:

- **Angel Gurría**, OECD Secretary-General

Keynote speaker:

- **Olusegun Obasanjo**, Former President, Federal Republic of Nigeria

Introduction by **Erik Solheim**, Chair, Development Assistance Committee, OECD;

Former Minister of Development and Environment, Norway

14:15 -17:30

## SESSION 1: THE POVERTY CHALLENGE - GLOBAL TRENDS, UNCERTAINTIES, AND NATIONAL POLICY FRAMEWORKS

Two high-level panels of policy makers and experts from different countries, regions and organisations will present their views on the key changes and trends that will influence their future efforts to reduce poverty. These will include global factors that affect domestic policy choices, such as the growing interdependencies between countries. They will also include national factors faced by governments in better defining and delivering on their own strategies. These include the roles played by others, including donors, the private sector and civil society and poor people themselves.

14:15-16:00

### Panel 1.1: The global-national nexus

The panel will highlight the trends that are challenges or opportunities to defining national policy frameworks and what role global uncertainties play. They will describe their perspective of poverty, how it is evolving and persists in the economies where they work.

Moderator:

- **Jon Lomoy**, Director, Development Cooperation Directorate, OECD

Panellists:

- **Gyan Chandra Acharya**, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) (UN-OHRLS)
- **Mok Mareth**, Senior Minister, Minister of Environment / Chairman of the National Council on Green Growth, Cambodia
- **Otaviano Canuto**, Vice President and Head of the Poverty Reduction and Economic Management (PREM) Network, World Bank
- **Sabina Alkire**, Director, Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), Department of International Development, University of Oxford
- **Abdalla Hamdok**, Deputy Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)

### QUESTIONS:

- How can national poverty reduction strategies respond to global challenges and opportunities?
- What should be the relationship between global and national goals, indicators and targets?
- How should poverty be defined and measured?
- What policies and frameworks have proven useful to country efforts? Are there gaps where additional analytical attention is needed?

16:00-17:45

**Panel 1.2: The multi-dimensional nature of poverty reduction approaches: Inter-linkages and Trade-offs**

This panel will focus on the insights emerging around the nexus of poverty, environment and growth and discuss new policy approaches that are both inclusive and green. Attention will be given to the inter-linkages between different areas, where trade-offs may need to be addressed, and where complementarities can be capitalised upon. Reconciling poverty-reducing strategies with environmental protection and sustainable resource management is a huge priority for developing countries, where a great part of their economy and society directly or indirectly depends on natural capital. This session will highlight the links between poverty reduction, natural resource management and growth as issues that are central to social protection and pro-poor growth in developing countries.

Moderator:

- **Mario Pezzini**, Director, OECD Development Centre

Panellists:

- **Kim Sung-Hwan**, UN High Level Panel Member, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Korea
- **Emele Duituturaga**, Global Co-Chair, CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE)
- **Peter Moors**, Director General, Development Cooperation, Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, Belgium
- **Miguel Veiga-Pestana**, Vice-President Global External Affairs and Media Relations, Unilever
- **Xu Huaqing**, Deputy Director General, National Center for Climate Change Strategy and International Cooperation

**QUESTIONS:**

- What have been countries experiences with different policy instruments for reducing poverty and promoting sustainable development?
- What other policies are most promising in reducing poverty? Social protection, social insurance, social policy, jobs, regional development considerations?
- What other factors impact policy choices and achievement of poverty reduction objectives (e.g., fragility of the state, gender and other equalities, science and technological innovations, and government statistical capacities)?

17:45 – 18:00

**EMERGING THEMES**

Summary of themes from the speakers and panellists by **Erik Solheim**, Chair, Development Assistance Committee, OECD; Former Minister of Development and Environment, Norway

18:30 – 19:30

**RECEPTION: BRINGING GREEN GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT TOGETHER**



19:30

**DINNER** [By invitation only]

Keynote speaker:

- **Duncan Green**, Senior Strategic Adviser, OXFAM Great Britain; author of "From Poverty to Power"

## FRIDAY 5 APRIL 2013

09:15 – 10:00

### WELCOME REMARKS AND KEYNOTE SPEECH

Keynote speakers:

- **Heather Grady**, Rockefeller Foundation, Vice President
- **Ahmed Lahlimi Alami**, High Commissioner for Planning, Morocco

Welcome remarks by **Pawel Wojciechowski**, Chair of the Governing Board, OECD Development Centre; Former Minister of Finance, Poland

10:00-11:45

### SESSION 2: BEYOND POVERTY REDUCTION: THE CHALLENGE OF SOCIAL COHESION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Over the last two decades, both the number of people living in absolute poverty and poverty rates have fallen in the developing world. This is the result of rapid economic growth, but also of the adoption of active poverty reduction policies, in particular in the framework of the MDGs. Even though the objective of reducing poverty remains a priority, other social goals need to be tackled today. In this respect, social cohesion, by focusing on three complementary dimensions – social inclusion, social capital and social mobility – represents an important challenge for policy makers. The adoption and rapid propagation of institutional innovations, such as conditional cash transfers, employment guarantee schemes and social savings account, have helped to alleviate poverty in many developing countries, but have also contributed to creating fragmented social systems, which can deepen divisions in society.

Moderator:

- **Duncan Green**, Senior Strategic Adviser, OXFAM Great Britain; author of "From Poverty to Power"

Panellists:

- **Pierre Jacquet**, President, Global Development Network (GDN)
- **Alan Hirsch**, Professor and Director, Graduate School of Development Policy and Practice, University of Cape Town, South Africa
- **Shirin Sharmin Chaudury**, Minister of Women and Children Affairs, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
- **Trinh Cong Khanh**, General director of Ethnic Minority Policy Department, Committee of Ethnic Minority Affairs (CEMA), Viet Nam

## QUESTIONS:

- What should be the priorities of a renewed social cohesion agenda?
- What policy mix better addresses the multi-dimensional nature of social cohesion?
- What are the institutional innovations that have enhanced the social inclusion and mobility of vulnerable and discriminated populations?
- Is the implementation of universal social programmes achievable in developing countries?

11:45 – 14:00

## LUNCH TIME PRESENTATION: POST 2015: EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS FOR DEVELOPMENT IN A CHANGING WORLD

**NOTE: LUNCH BOXES WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AT 11:45 - 12:00, PRESENTATION WILL BE 12:00 – 13:30, A 30 MINUTE BREAK WILL TAKE PLACE FROM 13:30-14:00**

The authors of the European Report on Development 2013 (ERD 2013)<sup>1</sup> will offer a preview of some of the findings of the Report, which aims to contribute to the debate on the post-2015 development agenda. Based on the observation that the world we live in has gone through major changes since 2000 and looking at the likely trends and challenges for the next 20 to 30 years, the European Report on Development 2013 "Post 2015: Global Action for an Inclusive and Sustainable Future" attempts to identify key potential drivers of a global partnership for development post 2015, in order to tackle poverty in the poorest countries in an inclusive and sustainable manner. Three such drivers are highlighted: flows of money (development finance), flows of goods and services (trade) and flows of people (migration). The analysis of the Report is enriched by four country case studies prepared by local research institutes and a dozen background papers prepared by practitioners and academics. Building on this material and the illustrations it offers, the Report presents a series of policy recommendations for international collective action in a post-2015 development agenda, and also more specifically for the European Union.

<sup>1</sup> The ERD is the main outcome of "Mobilising European Research for Development Policies", supported by the European Commission and seven EU Member States. The Report, prepared by a research consortium of ODI, DIE and ECDPM, will be launched in Brussels on April 9<sup>th</sup> 2013.

The presentation of some of the key ideas and findings of the Report will be followed by a discussion.

Introduction by **Charlotte Bué**, Policy Officer, European Commission, DG Development and Cooperation-EuropeAid

Moderator:

- **Hildegard Lingnau**, Senior Counsellor, Strategic Analysis & Cross-Cutting Issues, Development Cooperation Directorate, OECD

Presenters:

- **James Mackie**, ERD 2013 Team Leader , European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM)
- **Stephan Klingebiel**, ERD 2013 Core Team, German Development Institute/Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE)
- **Claire Melamed**, ERD 2013 Team, Overseas Development Institute (ODI)

## QUESTIONS:

- How could finance, trade and migration policies be more supportive of inclusive and sustainable development and poverty reduction, thereby complementing further improvements in development co-operation policies?
- At which level (global, regional, national) might efforts to strengthen policy coherence have the most impact? And in what areas are they most likely to be accepted and implemented?
- How could more advanced countries contribute most usefully to global development post-2015?

14:00 – 16:15

## SESSION 3: INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO MEASURING POVERTY, WELL-BEING AND PROGRESS, AND IMPLICATIONS FOR STATISTICAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

In recent months, there have been growing calls to put the broad notions of well-being of people and progress in societies at the core of the post-2015 development agenda. For example, UN Resolution 65/309 calls for a “more holistic approach to development” based on the notion of sustainable happiness and well-being, and invites countries to develop measures capturing the importance of the pursuit of happiness and well-being in public and development policies.



**14:00 – 15:15 Panel 3.1: Measuring well-being and progress in developing countries**

The notion of well-being figures prominently in recent OECD work on measuring progress “Beyond GDP”. It is understood as a complex and multi-dimensional phenomenon, encompassing a range of economic and non-economic outcomes that impact people’s lives. The OECD’s Better Life Initiative, launched in 2011, is based on a framework involving 11 dimensions and featuring both average achievements and inequalities, both objective conditions and people’s own aspirations, both conditions today and tomorrow (*i.e.* sustainability). This framework is made operational through a set of indicators to benchmark countries’ performance and monitor progress.

Moderator:

- **Martine Durand**, Chief Statistician and Director of Statistics Directorate, OECD

Panellists:

- **Allister McGregor**, Vulnerability and Poverty Reduction Team Leader, Institute of Development Studies (IDS), United Kingdom
- **Gerardo Leyva Parra**, Deputy Director General for Research, National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI), Mexico
- **Khalid Soudi**, Head of research on poverty and inequality, Haut Commissariat au Plan, Morocco

**QUESTIONS:**

- Measuring well-being and progress in developing countries: does it make sense? Can it be done?
- What is the relationship between complex concepts such as poverty, social cohesion and progress?
- What are the most promising examples of developing statistical measures of these complex concepts?

**15:15-16:15 Panel 3.2: Statistical capacity development in an emerging post-2015 development agenda**

Setting goals without statistical systems in place to track progress against them is useless at best and counter-productive at worst. Development goals must reflect the realities and priorities of individual countries, but they also need to be measurable. This implies that statistical capacity development, which was widely neglected when the MDGs were first designed, should have crucial importance for any follow-up framework. Recent innovations in data production, dissemination and use suggest that there is a real possibility to “leap frog” stages of statistical capacity development. “Big” and open data, as well as new forms of public-private

engagement between data users and producers, offer unprecedented opportunities to overcome existing dichotomies and resource constraints in statistical production

Moderator:

- **Johannes Jütting**, Manager, PARIS21 Secretariat

Panellists:

- **Espen Pryzd**, Consultant, Cambodia
- **Gay Tejada**, National Statistical Co-ordination Board, Philippines

#### QUESTIONS:

- MDG's and statistical capacity development: what have we learned?
- How can statisticians take advantage of innovations in data production and dissemination to get information more quickly into the hands of users and policy makers, while maintaining quality and accountability standards?
- What country examples/good practices in statistical innovation are there, and how can they be replicated?

16:15-17:00

#### TAKING THE AGENDA FORWARD: Topics for further action and Forum conclusions

Closing Keynote:

- **Amina Mohammed**, Special Advisor of the UN Secretary-General on Post-2015 Development Planning

Major themes and insights from the GFD will be presented and follow-up actions proposed.

Concluding remarks:

- **Jon Lomoy**, Director, Development Cooperation Directorate, OECD
- **Mario Pezzini**, Director, OECD Development Centre
- **Martine Durand**, Chief Statistician and Director of Statistics Directorate, OECD