

SOCIAL COHESION IN AFRICA

Experts' meeting
Rabat, Morocco, 13 April 2011



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Social cohesion, a new development paradigm

The recent protests in the Arab world and North-Africa but also in other parts of the world like in Thailand, China and India suggest that a development model primarily focusing on growth and poverty reduction, risk to fail if it lacks social inclusion, wider participation and a minimum sharing of common goals and visions. Rapid growth in Africa has lifted millions of people out of poverty, but is also associated with persisting vulnerability and high inequalities putting social cohesion under threat and risking undermining long-term development prospects. This situation calls for an examination of development paradigms and the policy options for more equally shared progress. New policy solutions are needed to promote and foster social cohesion in a changing Africa if it is to meet its new development challenges. The OECD Development Centre has undertaken to produce a major contribution to the international dialogue on progress by examining the role of social cohesion in development.

The Perspectives on Global Development 2011

Social cohesion will be the topic of the next edition of the *Perspectives on Global Development* report which every year, identifies analyses and provides workable policy solutions for a pressing global development challenge. Having focused on major macroeconomic changes occurring in the world economy – what we call “Shifting Wealth” – in 2010, the PGD report now turns to the challenge of how we can build more cohesive societies in the new global context.

As part of this initiative, the OECD Development Centre organises a series of policy dialogue activities at the regional level to examine the range of existing policies and foster the exchange of national experiences.

Experts’ meeting on social cohesion in Africa

In this respect, the OECD Development Centre organises, in cooperation with the Haut Commissariat au Plan of Morocco, a one-day seminar with the purpose of identifying key policy questions on social cohesion and social cohesion policy in Africa. This event will pave the way to the 4th OECD World Forum on Measuring the Progress of Societies that will take place in India in autumn 2012. It will be in particular an essential first step towards the related regional event on the measure of progress in Africa that will be held in Morocco in April 2012.

Agenda

Wednesday 13 April 2011	
8.45-9.00	<p>Opening remarks</p> <p>Ahmed LAHLIMI ALAMI, Minister, Haut Commissaire au Plan, Morocco Mario PEZZINI, Director, OECD Development Centre</p>
9.00-10.30	<p>Session 1 – Social cohesion and development</p> <p>Social cohesion: why do we care? Does social cohesion matter for growth and development? How to articulate social cohesion and development?</p> <hr/> <p>This first session will set the stage conceptually, and highlight the main findings from major recent works on social cohesion in the region and beyond. It will be notably the occasion to present the preliminary results of the <i>Perspectives on Global Development 2011</i> report.</p> <p>The session will particularly highlight the link between development and social cohesion within the African context. Indeed, if Africa has recorded high levels of growth in the past decades which significantly contributed to reducing poverty, inequality has been generally on the rise within countries. Increasing inequalities combined with a persisting vulnerability of large shares of the population are putting social cohesion under pressure. This shows that the sole objectives of growth and poverty reduction are not enough to meet the development challenges of countries and that other considerations need to be taken into account.</p> <p>Moderator : Ahmed LAHLIMI ALAMI, Minister, Haut Commissaire au Plan, Morocco</p> <p>Presentation of the <i>Perspectives on Global Development 2011</i> report “Shifting wealth: is social cohesion at risk?”</p> <p>Johannes JÜTTING, Head of Unit, Poverty Reduction and Social Development, OECD Development Centre</p> <p>Discussants</p> <p>Noureddine EL AOUI, Professor of Economics, Faculté des Sciences Juridiques, Économiques et Sociales, University of Mohammed V-Agdal, Rabat</p> <p>François FARAH, UNFPA representative, Romania</p>
10.30-11.00	Coffee break

11.00-12.30	<p>Session 2 - Measuring social cohesion in the African context</p> <p>How to measure social cohesion? Shall there be a composite indicator to measure social cohesion? Through which process ensuring the legitimacy and relevance of a measure?</p>
	<p>This session will be dedicated to the identification of the dimensions of social cohesion and corresponding measurement instruments. Particular attention will be given to the dimensions of trust and perceptions of social cohesion, an important dimension in building social cohesion. The session will also examine the possibility of defining a composite indicator to measure social cohesion. It will finally be the opportunity to analyse the process of construction and validation required to ensure the legitimacy of an indicator. The conclusions of this session will contribute to the preparation of the regional conference on measuring progress that will take place in Morocco in April 2012, a preliminary step towards the 4th OECD World Forum on Measuring and Fostering the Progress of Societies.</p> <p>Moderator : François FARAH, UNFPA representative, Romania</p> <p>Speakers</p> <p>Madior FALL, Social Statistics Expert, Afristat</p> <p>Robert TORTORA, Regional Research Director for Sub-Saharan Africa, Gallup</p> <p>Mohamed DOUIDICH, Director, Observatoire des conditions de vie de la population, Haut Commissariat au Plan, Maroc</p>
12.30-13.30	Lunch

13:30 – 15:30	Session 3 – Analysis of a specific economic policy in Africa through the lenses of social co-hesion : youth employment and social cohesion
	<p>The first afternoon session will focus on how to integrate social cohesion dimensions in the definition of public policies in Africa and how to measure their efficiency. The session will examine a specific economic policy through the lenses of social cohesion.</p> <p>The theme selected for this session: youth employment reflects the continent's priorities. According to ILO, the young represent 43.7% of the global unemployed population while they only represent 25% of the active population. The issue is particularly acute in the case of Africa where 62% of the population is under 25 with 50% of them affected by underemployment and more than 70% living with less than 2 dollars a day. The issue of educated youth unemployment is another aspect of the employment crisis in Africa.</p> <p>What policies should be implemented to favor youth employment? What employment policies can be considered to meet social cohesion objectives? How to ensure a better adequacy between the education system and the needs of the labour market?</p> <p>Moderator : Mario PEZZINI, Director, OECD Development Centre</p> <p>Speakers</p> <p>Couty FALL, Coordinator, UNDP Regional Programme for Social Cohesion and Youth Employment in Sub-Saharan Africa, UNDP Regional Office in Dakar</p> <p>Said HANCHANE, Director General, National Evaluation Instance, Higher Education Council, Morocco</p> <p>Tendai PASIPANODYA, Sub-Regional Coordinator, Youth Employment Network, West Africa Office</p> <p>Joao CUNHA, Economist, Human and Social Development Department, African Development Bank</p>
15.30-16.00	Coffee break

16.00-18.00	<p>Session 4 – Experiences and good practices in public policy making towards improving social cohesion in Africa</p> <p>Should social cohesion be set as a policy objective? Is it just a matter of social policy? Which reforms for better social cohesion?</p> <p>The last session will be dedicated to the sharing of experiences and the exchange of good practices in public policy making for fostering social cohesion. It will gather policy makers and experts who will analyse the challenges facing African governments and the reforms required to meet these challenges.</p> <p>Moderator : Mohamed CHERKAOUI, Research Director, CNRS (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, France)</p> <p>Speakers</p> <p>Ahmed LAHLIMI ALAMI, Minister, Haut Commissaire au Plan, Morocco Mario PEZZINI, Director, OECD Development Centre Milly ODONGO, Commissioner, National Cohesion and Integration Commission, Kenya Innocence NTAP NDIAYE, Minister for Labour and Professional Organisations, Senegal *</p>
18.00-18.30	Conclusion

* to be confirmed