



SDG 10 Progress and Prospects
1:15 – 2:30 pm UN Secretariat, Conference Room 2
Friday, 19 July 2019

SDG 10 has brought unprecedented attention to inequality. This comes at a time when, despite important gains made since 2000 in lifting people out of poverty, inequalities and large disparities remain in income and wealth, and also in access to food, health care, education, land, clean water, political representation, and other assets and resources essential for living a full and dignified life. Such inequalities can reduce social mobility and become self-perpetuating across generations, thus hindering progress toward one of the central objectives of the 2030 Agenda – that of leaving no one behind. SDG 10 targets cast a wide net to capture the multiple drivers of inequality across social, economic, and political dimensions aiming to expand prosperity, inclusion, and social protection.

Women, young people, people with disabilities, indigenous peoples, people living in rural areas, and others are consistently at the bottom end of the distributions of income, wealth, and opportunities. In addition to a constant decline in real wage growth since 2015, a warming climate, demographic shifts, decent work deficits, political crises, technological changes, and conflict will all exacerbate inequalities if actions are not taken toward equality in both opportunities and outcomes.

Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in 2015, there has been some positive movement as measured by SDG 10 targets. In 64 percent of the countries with data, the incomes of the poorest 40 percent of the population grew faster than the national average. The global average cost of sending remittances has declined in recent years although rates are still more than double SDG targets. And tariffs faced by Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) have been falling. This progress has been mixed across countries and regions. At the same time, indicators attached to five of the targets in SDG 10 fall under Tier III status, meaning that regular reporting against these indicators is not yet fully developed and tracking of progress at global, regional and national levels

is limited. This includes indicators for monitoring discrimination and disaggregated income deprivations, which are important for informing inclusive policies.

The objective of the side event will be to take stock of progress toward SDG 10; to share success stories, good practices and challenges; to identify particular areas of concern; and to suggest ways forward in terms of policies, partnerships and coordinated actions at all levels that are helping countries to develop concrete strategies for addressing leaving no one behind.

Guiding questions

- What are the key trends and drivers of inequality in different dimensions of well-being? Where are the biggest challenges?
- What is the state of inequality of opportunity (e.g. access to services, productive assets, credit, access to justice, etc.) and its implications for economic mobility, long-term growth, and poverty reduction?
- How do inequalities vary across regions, and different areas (e.g. spatial inequalities such as urban-rural spectrum) within countries?
- What are the most effective means of including groups who are being left behind — gender, sexual orientation, religion, ethnicity, family or parental income and education, geographic origin, rurality, age, sexual orientation?
- What are some of the most promising actions that can be taken to reduce inequalities in both the short-term and long-term in multiple areas — income and wealth; political participation; access to services like health care, education, water and sanitation; legal representation; the right to own property; and economic opportunities, including access to productive assets, finance, and employment? Self-exclusion (behavioral factors)?

Draft program

- 1.15– 1.20 Opening remarks by Mahmoud Mohieldin, Senior Vice President, World Bank Group
- 1.20-1.27 Keynote address by William Maloney, Chief Economist, Equitable Growth, Finance and Institutions
- 1.27 – 2.10 Panel discussion (*Moderated by Mahmoud Mohieldin, Senior Vice President, World Bank Group*)
 - H.E. Ms. Hala Helmy Elsaid Younes, Minister of Planning, Administrative Reform and Follow-up, Government of Egypt

- Ms. Jacqueline Ebanks, Executive Director for the Commission on Gender Equity, New York City
- Elliot Harris, Assistant Secretary-General and Chief Economist, UN-DESA
- Ulrika Modeer, Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP
- Sarah Cliffe, Director of the Center of International Cooperation, NYU

2.10 – 2.25 Q & A