

Day 1 – April 2, 2019

Session 1 - Opening Panel

Objective: Set the context for the two-day discussion. The speakers will (i) take stock of where we are in terms of progress towards **SDG 10 – Reducing inequality**; (ii) share knowledge about success stories, good practices and challenges; and (iii) identify areas of concern.

Keynote: **Michelle Bachelet**, Former President of Chile and United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Chair: **Mahmoud Mohieldin**, Senior Vice President, World Bank Group

Panelists:

Pedro Conceição, Director, Human Development Report Office, United Nations Development Programme

Elliott Harris, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations

Carolina Sánchez-Páramo, Senior Director, Poverty & Equity Global Practice, World Bank

Mahmoud Mohieldin introduced UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet by saying that there is rising inequality among countries and this is not inevitable.

In her **keynote speech**, the High Commissioner said that her life's work has been dealing with these issues and that many trends we see today have a basis in inequality. Inequality can cut across generations and it strips people of voice and fundamental rights. To make progress on all other SDGs, we must achieve SDG10 and the High Commissioner expressed concern that we are not making progress on this goal. Countries need to work towards 2030 knowing who they are targeting. They need to identify vulnerable groups and the people who are lagging behind. Policymaking cannot assess the situation or develop appropriate responses without data.

There is an increasing backlash, not just against elites, but against the institutions of government. Inequalities stem from policy choices, not market forces. Structural adjustment and austerity have weakened the ability of societies to support the poorest and most vulnerable. Society is losing out on the productivity of all its citizens. Trillions of additional dollars would circulate in economies if women were fully empowered.

Today, inequality is as high as it was before the financial crisis. We need to strengthen the role and responsibility of the state, a fair and progressive tax system, the right to education and address all forms of discrimination and marginalization.

There needs to be a clear indicator of inequality so that we can measure progress. We cannot address inequality without also addressing the wealthiest 1% of the population.

On technology, we need to use emerging technologies to expand democracy. In medicine, technology can be fundamental to improving people's lives. On the other hand, we are victims of fake news and the misuse of information. Also, the gender bias in AI and technology, means that the fourth industrial revolution risks increasing the gender divide.

We must set priorities and be bold enough to confront challenges. We must put human beings and human rights in the center of policy - this takes leadership. To achieve the 2030 Agenda, we need to strengthen the role and responsibility of the state in social protection, ensure fair and progressive tax system, provide universal health coverage, secure quality education for all, and enable the participation and voice of all.

The world is changing today, many people are pursuing multilateralism but pushing back on human rights. Leaving no one behind is not a new declaration, it is one we just lost sight of. To achieve this ambition, we need to succeed in the SDGs.

Panel

Panelist Elliott Harris said that we have seen some improvements in incomes of the bottom 40%. Global growth is still positive but is not evenly distributed. These improvements are not enough to deal with reduction in poverty that has to happen. Some countries are constrained by heavy debts. Distinctions are based on group identity and these discriminations compound themselves.

Carolina Sánchez-Páramo said that income inequality between individuals has actually declined in past 25 years. This is driven by a reduction in inequality between countries. It also reflects improvements in within-country inequality. For every country where inequality increased, there are two countries where it declined.

Wealth inequality is also unacceptably high. There is nothing immutable about inequality – it is a policy choice. Reducing inequality has a larger impact on poverty than increasing growth. In fact, increasing inequality can hurt growth.

Without making further progress in the fight against inequality, we will not achieve the 2030 Agenda. SDG 1 on eradicating poverty and SDG 10 on reducing Inequality are therefore intimately linked. Reducing inequality has a larger impact on eradicating poverty than increasing economic growth. Inequality today breeds inequality in the future.

Pedro Conceição said that high levels of inequality make social mobility more difficult. The evidence is very strong that high levels of income inequality make social mobility in both health and education much more difficult, also known as the Great Gatsby curve.

We need to base our policies on data, and there has been a vast range of innovation in measuring inequality. Traditionally, we looked at household surveys, which do a good job of capturing income distribution but do not capture the top 1%. Examining administrative surveys and tax documents has dramatically changed our understanding about inequality.

During the open discussion, Harris said that we see globalization as positive, but not everyone benefits. That's why we see the turn to nationalist politics.

We have to change the way we frame issue around technology. Many countries are not in a position to exploit technologies or to take advantage of those in the pipeline. This makes it harder for those countries to catch up and they lack infrastructure and skills to take advantage fully of policies that exist.

Sánchez-Páramo said that we need to know how income inequality is related to other forms of inequality. Wages are a function of our own productivity and access to markets. Our productivity depends on health and other social goods and she underlined the importance of human capital growth.

Parallel Session 2a - Income and Wealth Inequality

Objective: Shed light on the trends and drivers of income and wealth inequality within individual countries and discuss the progress toward SDG 10.1.

Panelists:

Gonzalo Hernandez Licona, Executive Secretary, National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy (CONEVAL), Mexico

Chiara Mariotti, Inequality Policy Manager, Oxfam GB

Marc Morgan, Research Economist, World Inequality Lab, Paris School of Economics

Ambar Narayan, Lead Economist, Poverty & Equity Global Practice, World Bank
(Moderator)

Gonzalo Hernandez Licona said that in Mexico and other LAC countries, there are serious problems with wealth distribution. The top 1% of the population in Mexico controls one-third of the wealth. The richest 10% of households hold almost 70% of the total wealth. This is due to discrimination, crony capitalism, imbalance of power, unequal justice systems, lack of competition and unbalanced fiscal policy. The minimum wage had been decreasing for 30 years before it started increasing three years ago.

Among good practices in Mexico, the country increased the minimum wage; brought equal participation of women in Congress due to a new law on gender parity; reduced school attendance gaps by gender and indigenous and non-indigenous communities; and better targeting in certain social programs. However, Mexico remains a very unequal country.

One challenge is that household surveys cannot accurately capture the highest income deciles. Additional data is required such as tax records. Where should we focus on? What type of indicators and policies that we should pursue? We should convince the new government to use the evidence and to reducing gaps between social groups and for indigenous women.

Chiara Mariotti said that among the bottom 50% of the population, wealth has declined by 50%. Gender plays a huge role in wealth inequality. Women's wealth is 40% of that of men. We do not have a clear idea of what is happening in low-income countries. SDG 10 does not have any indicator on wealth inequality. The agenda focuses on the bottom of the distribution and assigns sustainable development as a problem of the poor. But achieving SDG10 requires action at the top.

Marc Morgan said that SDG10.1 needs to be refocused. Three countries – France, Brazil and Russia – have achieved SDG10.1. However, there are a lot of tensions in France partly about the distribution at the top. Russia has exploding incomes at the top of the distribution. Brazil was a poster child of reducing inequality. The bottom 40% has grown a lot but if you look at the rest, there is collapsing income for the middle and exploding income at the top. SDG10 needs to be more comprehensive. One proposal is to have the share of total growth captured by each income group be at least proportional to their size in the population (e.g. the bottom 40% should capture at least 40% of total registered income growth). Another proposal is that the income growth of the bottom 40% (or 50%) should be greater than that of the middle 50% (or 40%), which itself should be greater than the top 10%.

All governments should be transparent and release administrative data. Otherwise, we will obtain erroneous results if we just focus on household surveys.

Parallel Session 2b - Inclusion

Objective: Assess the progress and challenges to reducing inequalities across groups and persistent patterns of discrimination – e.g. women, vulnerable migrants, refugees/IDPs, LGBT, indigenous peoples, rural people, people with disabilities.

Panelists:

Montshiwa Monty Montshiwa, National Coordinator, Poverty Eradication Coordination Office, Botswana

Frances Stewart, Professor Emeritus of Development Economics, Oxford

Daniela Bas, Director, UN-DESA's Division for Inclusive Social Development (Moderator)

Montshiwa Monty Montshiwa said that we have to break intergenerational aspects of inequality. Surely you can't vote and still have an undesirable life, without unemployment etc. Do we know the poor? How to devise strategies to help?

Daniela Bas said that to help those left behind, we need to understand who they are.

Frances Stewart said that social cohesion triangle comprises inequalities among groups, trust between people and groups and Identity. So people feel themselves to be primarily their own identity, religious or other groups, or do they have a national identity too?

Social cohesion was measured in African countries using perception surveys. The results showed that Tanzania is very cohesive and Nigeria much less so. Regarding horizontal inequalities or inequalities between groups, people can be divided into multiple groups. If people are divided into groups and given unequal resources, they quickly become resentful. Inequalities among groups are completely unjust and are a cause of conflict. Unequal access to land in some countries is very provoking to particular groups.

Montshiwa said that inequality motivates people to migrate to urban areas, creating among other food and sanitation challenges. Inequality, poverty, and unemployment are the key determinants of happiness in any democracy.

Northern Ireland saw deep inequalities between Catholics and Protestants. The British government and the EU took policies to correct inequalities. They included anti-discrimination policies, good social policies on education and health, which resulted in eliminating inequalities. Catholics are now more educated than Protestants.

People are much less resistant to pre-distribution policies (before taxes) than redistribution policies which arouse a lot of resentment e.g. progressive taxes. A person can be trapped in a group if social mobility is harder because you're in a particular identity group due to discrimination and asymmetric social networks.

Bas closed with the key points of the session:

- Human dignity for all
- Immigration and migration, both within and between countries
- Life expectancy as the non-income side of inequality
- Poverty eradication program – making sure that the government doesn't help only some children but all children. Eradicating all forms of poverty from the beginning.
- Data needs to be disaggregated. First know the people you are proposing to help in order to help conceptualize, implement, and monitor. People should have a say.
- Intersectionality of poverty
- Intergenerational poverty or justice between generations. Some indigenous communities think about how decisions will impact seven generations.

Parallel Session 2c: Inequalities in Opportunities and Outcomes

Objective: Reflect on the key dimensions of inequality of opportunities and outcomes that are most important to address in a country, and the things that are needed to be done to achieve SDG 10.3.

Panelists:

Nicolas Depetris-Chauvin, Professor, HES-SO Haute Ecole de Gestion de Geneve

Kevin Watkins, Chief Executive, Save the Children UK

Bambang Widianto, Deputy for Human Development and Equality, Office of the Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia

Carolina Sánchez-Páramo, Senior Director, Poverty & Equity Global Practice, World Bank (Moderator)

Bambang Widianto shared Indonesia's experience in reducing inequalities:

- High inequality + high heterogeneity
- Inequalities in income are compounded by inequalities across demographic groups
- Main constraints for the poorest are access to education, health, and infrastructure
- Policy response:
 - Targeted cash transfers and other interventions
 - Free access to education, but the challenge is significant variations in quality
 - The importance of supply capacity for health
 - Private sector support for the development of infrastructure

Kevin Watkins talked about the need for accelerated growth with active redistribution. He suggested that international financial institutions and the UN systematically report on progress on opportunities. He supported the assessment of fiscal policy by the World Bank and IFM to directly report on distributional impacts.

Nicolas Depetris-Chauvin said inequality is driven by how markets are designed and work. A cross-country assessment of trade policy showed that policy itself is pro-male and favors male-headed households, or households with more males. There is a lack of data and analysis to inform policy debate and decisions.

The key points from the discussion included:

- Opportunities in education, health, infrastructure, access to markets (domestic and international)
- Opportunities for excluded groups who experience persistent inequalities in access to opportunities. This is frequently correlated with demographic characteristics and geographic location. Inequality of opportunity stems from and reinforces income inequality
- There are both demand- and supply-side constraints, particularly on service delivery.
- Human rights perspective

Policy priorities:

- Unlike income opportunity, where we can argue that some inequality is desirable, inequality of opportunity is unacceptable. The goal should be no inequality of opportunity.
- The associated trade-offs are the need to focus on the poor or those most in need.

Parallel Session 2d: Cross-cutting Issue: Institutions and Governance

Objective: Assess how institutions and governance can become more effective at reducing inequalities. Speakers will (i) take stock of the main institutional challenges to reducing inequalities in different contexts; and ways to circumvent them (ii) think about how non-government actors can contribute to reducing inequalities; and (iii) identify how social contracts may need to evolve to incorporate new actors and fit new realities to reduce inequality.

Panelists:

Nelia Barnard, Deputy Permanent Representative of the South African Permanent Mission in Geneva

Sarah Cliffe, Director, Center on International Cooperation, New York University

Mariano Tommasi, Professor, Department of Economics, University of San Andrés and Director of the Center of Studies for Human Development, Argentina

Jos Verbeek, World Bank Special Representative to the WTO and UN (Moderator)

Sarah Cliffe shared five emerging lessons on political governance.

- 1) Change of power in national institutions: Deep changes in trade unions. Play big role in two ways: direct policymaking and support for political parties that may not come from elite backgrounds. Feminist organizations have a big role in getting women into power.
- 2) Changing power in local institutions: Access to housing is an underrepresented policy area but it is a potent source of inequality. Localities have big role to play.
- 3) Constitutional settlements and bills of rights: In many countries the insertions of provisions as rights have shifted the balance.
- 4) Political leadership: Narratives and norms built around inequalities can be dividing and uniting. Addressing people's emotions is important to address inequality. Need to have strong leadership that is unifying.
- 5) Broader political ownership: Lessons emerging on universal benefits and targeted benefits. Need to understand universal benefits (e.g. health care) to help build society.

Nelia Barnard outlined South Africa's structure in place to ensure cohesion. South Africa's constitution affirms fundamental rights which are subject to judicial enforcement. The national development plan - vision 2030 - feeds into regional and continental plans. South Africa has legacy of poverty and inequality due to apartheid. On income inequality, the government wants the bottom 40% to rise from 6% to 10%. Land distribution is a very important issue right now.

Mariano Tommasi said that we don't know exactly what needs to be done to mitigate inequality because lack of data is a huge issue. Permanent intergenerational inequality is structural. Need investments in human capital. Need to spend early. On trade unions, the number of workers in formal sector is a small fraction. Argentina is 45-50% informal economy. For other countries in Latin America the rate is even higher. Trade union constituents are not the poorest and there are many instances of trade unions being an obstacle. Another issue is that politicians have extremely short horizons.

In the moderator's wrap up, Jos Verbeek summarized the power that national politics play in the inequalities debate. There is also a tension between applying general principles and contextualizing those principles to specific country situations given the importance of politics. Further, that from the technical side we may know what needs to be done, but we may not have the data.

Session 3: Reporting Back and Perspectives of Civil Society

Objective: Representatives from civil society organizations share how they have worked to reduce inequality in their countries or internationally.

Panelists:

Judith Randel, Co-Founder and Special Advisor, Development Initiatives

Kate Donald, Director, Human Rights in Economic and Social Policy Program, Center for Economic and Social Rights

Rosina Pobee, Sightsavers

Ingo Ritz, Director, Global Call to Action Against Poverty

Daniel Perell, UN Representative for the Baha'i International Community (Moderator)

Kate Donald said there is a close connection between the resources that a state can collect through taxes and its capacity to realize human rights. We cannot hope to achieve rights to e.g. health, education, social protection without sufficient revenues from taxation. It is also the main tool that governments have for mobilizing domestic resources and for tackling inequalities. However, much more attention needs to be given to progressive taxation measures to tackle extreme wealth concentration, which is inimical to Goal 10. The global tax system also needs urgent attention — the current structure favors higher-income countries and increases inequalities within and among countries. For example, not enough is being done to tackle illicit financial flows and regulate tax havens — crucial given that an estimated 10% of global GDP is held offshore.

Rosina Pobee said that the advantages are set to persons without disabilities. High rates of unemployment and lack of social protection are in large part due to stigma of disability. Political participation ensuring that recent elections are inclusive of people with disabilities. This results in them being able to be part of the processes.

Judith Randel said that reducing inequalities is about political choices. SDG10 is about true inclusivity. She focused her remarks about politics. We must be able to answer the question of who benefits and how to measure that. It shouldn't be possible to say you are being inclusive without measuring who benefits.

Ingo Ritz said that excluded people need to be in the center and speak for themselves. They know their situation better than we can imagine. Human rights must be at the heart of policy choices. Look at the structural causes of inequality as well. Not just the poorest, but also the system that supports inequalities. This includes the private sector.

Inequality is a multidimensional issue and isn't only about money. SDG10 covers part of these dimensions, but not all. In terms of indicators on SDG10, they are quite weak (6 out of 11 are tier III). Gender inequality is a major concern as is violence against women. Same with education. Policy demands: a fair tax system and to end tax havens; decent employment; trade unions and political participation.

In the moderator's wrap up, interdependence is a consistent outcome as is inclusion. We need to hear the voices of those affected by policy. SDG10 is relational, it is about tempering what we conceive of as success. Leave no one behind applies universally. Narratives matter and values impact the outcomes of inequalities. Trust and trustworthiness are necessary for a well-functioning policy process. Policies are proactive choices being taken and we need to ensure that these policies are reflective of our global interdependence.

Session 4: Cross-country Inequalities: Progress to Date and Challenges

Objective: Assess progress and challenges on meeting the SDG 10 targets that focus on reducing inequality among countries. These include regulating financial markets; enhancing representation at global institutions; facilitating safe migration; making trade and technology work for least developed countries and developing countries; increasing official development assistance and foreign direct investment to countries with the greatest needs; and reducing the cost of remittances.

Panelists:

Peter Chowla, Economic Affairs Officer, UN-DESA Finance for Sustainable Development

Mayumi Endoh, Deputy-Director, OECD Development Co-operation Directorate

Jill Helke, director of International Cooperation and Partnerships, International Organization for Migration

Bonapas Onguglo, Head, Trade Analysis Branch, UNCTAD's Division on International Trade

Ambar Narayan, Lead Economist, Poverty & Equity Global Practice, World Bank (Moderator)

Peter Chowla said that on SDG target 10.5, financial regulation:

- Agreed regulatory reforms alone are not enough to create sustainable and stable financial systems. Outside the traditional regulatory perimeter, technology companies and non-bank financial institutions are intermediating growing shares of credit.
- There are concerns about increasing risk-taking in credit markets with deteriorating underwriting standards, such as leveraged loans packaged into collateralized loan obligations.
- Agreed regulatory reforms need to be fully, consistently and transparently implemented.
- Regulators need to look at the underlying risks associated with the financial activity rather than the type of financial institution.
- International regulatory standards also need to adapt to the new landscape.
- The regulatory system needs to be congruent with measures to boost the sustainability of the private financial system, such as sustainability reporting and impact measurement.

On SDG target 10.6, voice and representation:

- World Bank made reforms in October 2018. After phase-in, developing countries: have just over 40% of voting rights at IBRD and just over 35% of voting rights at IFC.
- IMF 14th quota review was implemented in 2016. IMF 15th quota review & new quota formula will take place by the 2019 Spring Meetings and no later than the 2019 Annual Meetings.
- No negotiations on reforms planned at regional development banks .

Recommendations for action on 10.6:

- Complete IMF 15th quota review & new quota formula on time
- Initiate reforms in other bodies

Mayumi Endoh laid out her top 5 recommendations:

- Deliver on existing commitments for countries most in need: UN LDC target of 0.15 - 0.2% of GNI as ODA to LDCs.
- Provide smarter context-relevant policy support and ODA to middle income countries.
- Better and more granular tracking and analysis of the allocation and distribution of ODA
- Step up and support for increasing domestic capacity to collect revenue and boost their tax to GDP ratio.
- Provide predictable, long-term development investments in the countries most in need, which tend to be the most fragile states.

Jill Helke spoke about the migration of people (target 10.7), saying that progress has been made. Migration can play a catalytic role in minimizing inequality if governed by well-managed and planned migration policies.

The Migration Governance Framework has three principles: adherence to international standards and migrants' rights; evidence and whole-of-government approach; and partnerships. It also has three objectives: advance socioeconomic well-being of migrants and society; address the mobility dimensions of crises; and ensure that migration is safe, orderly, and dignified. IOM developed the MGI based on the MiGOF. One way to establish a baseline is to have an MGI assessment. 50 states have been assessed.

Bonapas Onguglo spoke about trade policy (target 10.8). He said international trade is a key mechanism for development, reflected in many of the SDGs. Trade has contributed to much of the growth. We can learn from key lessons as trade has led to sizeable increases in decreasing income inequality in some countries within and between countries. We need more trade, not less, to engage people

When we are dealing with inequality it is a multidimensional aspect, need to address it, needs to be accompanied by other policies such as financial measures investment technology, to make trade be an engine of growth, SDG10a - implementing special treatment. There's a group of countries that will not be able to benefit without special treatment they need special and differential treatment.

Is the access actually going to be utilized, these are the issues of trade policy issues, the measure of non-tariff measures.

Next steps: create equality of opportunities for firms to participate in global markets, not only tariffs, address the more important problems of non-tariff measures, to create equal opportunities for the workers, encouraging the youth in production processes, equal opportunities for all countries and level the playing field.

DAY 2. April 3, 2019

Session 5: Policies and Partnerships

This panel will focus on the implementation of SDG 10 – reducing inequalities; highlighting concrete steps for attaining greater equality and reducing exclusion and discrimination. The speakers will assess the types of policies, partnerships and coordinated actions needed to reduce inequalities moving forward; and share knowledge about success stories and good practices.

Panelists:

- **Sarah Cliffe**, Director, Center on International Cooperation, New York University
- **Cécile Duflot**, Executive Director General, Oxfam France
- **Bambang Widianto**, Deputy for Human Development and Equality, Office of the Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia
- **Nadine Umutoni**, Permanent Secretary, Rwanda Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion
- **Shantanu Mukherjee**, Chief, Policy and Analysis Branch, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (Moderator)

Key Takeaways:

Sarah Cliffe talked about how poverty is connected to housing. Bad housing is a sort of a poverty tax that contributes to other health and safety issues. To mitigate spatial inequality, investment in urban areas and facilitation of their transformation is critical. Innovative social protection gives dignity, and not only material access benefits to people. Don't make social protection "humiliating" in design.

Cécile Duflot said inequality is not just a question of dignity. It is a question of how wealth is used. If it is used to buy elections, influence tax laws and to make sure that wealth begets more wealth. Strong accountable institutions are key. Donors need to support governments in their fight against inequality, help to adopt targets, and help assess and close the gaps. Need stronger leadership toward SDG 10 and monitoring and implementation of goal 10.

Bambang Widianto shared Indonesia's experience in education. He said access to education is not enough. Must improve performance of the teacher by trying to empower the community. The problem of teacher absenteeism is high and the community needs to be involved. Challenge of low levels of trust in government.

Nadine Umutoni said in Rwanda, after the genocide against the Tutsi, women and girls lacked education and the right to own property. Today, 24% of land is owned only by women, 14% owned only by men and 58% owned by married couples (with a 50-50 equal ownership). Rwanda repealed gender-exclusive bank account and land ownership laws. Women's land ownership contributed to 38% of women's access to credit, as women can use land as a collateral to obtain credit.

Parallel Session 6a - Fiscal Redistribution

The session will discuss fiscal, wage and social protection policies that are successful in promoting greater equality and economic and political stability while minimizing trade offs and the impediments to designing and implementing such policies.

Panelists:

Elliot Harris, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist for DESA

Imraam Valonia, Dean, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa

Patrick Belser, Senior Economist, ILO

Carolina Sánchez-Páramo, Senior Director, Poverty & Equity Global Practice, World Bank (Moderator)

Key Takeaways:

Elliot Harris spoke about how many developing countries have limited domestic revenue mobilization due to a limited tax base, tax loopholes, tax evasion and illicit financial flows. Tax policy challenges are significant when direct taxation can negatively affect employment and is relatively ineffective in environments with high informality. There is limited room for progressivity when informality is high in an economy. There is potential for the use of wealth taxes, "sin" taxes or capital gains taxes.

Focus on a social protection system that provides a minimum level of protection to all. It can be complemented with additional (targeted) support to those who need it most. Future challenges include taxation of the digital economy and the changing nature of work.

Imraam Valodia spoke about how SDG indicators of inequality could be a Shared Prosperity Premium or the proportion of people living below 50% of median income. However, both indicators can be met while the income (and wealth) share of top 10% is increasing.

Patrick Belser talked about increasing wage inequality in developed countries. In developing countries, wage inequality is declining, while overall inequality is declining further due to social transfers. Social transfers are useful but do not address the root cause of inequality which are access to productive assets, access to markets and distributional forces in labor markets such as wages and labor or capital.

Policy tools could be:

- 1) Minimum wage is effective in the formal sector and can have a lighthouse effect in informal sector. It balances protection and competition concerns, it requires frequent adjustments and extends broad coverage and requires a consultative process.
- 2) Collective bargaining is complementary to a minimum wage (which sets a floor). It helps balance distribution of income between labor/capital.
- 3) Applying equal pay for work of equal value would need adequate legislation and more data and information.
- 4) Reduce levels of informality in the economy. There are high levels of informality in most developing economies.

Parallel Session 6b - Human Capital and Elimination of Discrimination

This session will put forward policies and actions that will eliminate discrimination and help enable all individuals to achieve their life potential. Speakers will (i) share knowledge of policy designs and engagement strategies that make resources and services more accessible, especially for groups that have been historically marginalized; (ii) share success stories in building new partnerships toward policy implementation; and (iii) identify ways to monitor policy impacts toward building human capital and inclusive behavior.

Panelists:

Parfait Eloundou-Enyegue, Professor; Department Chair; Associate Director; Cornell Population Center

Jamele Rigolini, Program Leader for Human Development and Poverty, World Bank

Cornelia September, Former South Africa Minister of Human Settlements and Chairperson, Portfolio Committee on Higher Education and Training

Pedro Conceição, Director, Human Development Report Office, UNDP (Moderator)

Key Takeaways:

Pedro Conceição talked about how legislation is not enough to ensure no discrimination. We need to dig deeper into the roots, particularly social norms, and policies that can help.

Parfait Eloundou-Enyegue stressed the need to focus on short, medium, and long-term policies. Human capital policies have a medium-term effect and make sure inequalities in this generation are not passed on to the next.

The top quintile will have 10-15 times more resources than the bottom, even before children enter the school system. What happens within and outside classroom has an impact. Recognize the inadequacies of school system to prepare students for the needs of the job market, give underprivileged children opportunities for internships and community service. Many children don't have food, therefore provide a child support grant.

Jamele Rigolini suggested to separate human capital and discrimination discussions. Inequality can be addressed in two ways: redistribution via taxes as in Europe and labor markets and human capital. Early childhood development is critical because vast amount of inequality begins in childhood. In many countries, there is an inverse relationship between the number of children and income.

Cornelia September urged to equalize opportunities and build capabilities to enable all to be in an equal society. Must provide basic services, access to health and education. Build infrastructure to make people capable and equalize society. Involve private sector to be part of social investment and to supplement and complement the efforts of the state.

Parallel Session 6c – Economic Opportunities

This session will discuss progress in and impediments to designing and implementing effective laws, regulations, and policies to promote economic opportunities that are equitable.

Panelists:

Martha Chen, Lecturer in Public Policy, Harvard University

Vincent Chetail, Director of the Global Migration Centre and Professor of International Law, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva

Andrew Shepherd, Director, Chronic Poverty Advisory Network

Marco Sanchez Cantillo, Deputy-Director, Agricultural Development Economics, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (*Moderator*)

Key Takeaways:

Martha Chen mentioned how economic opportunities include protecting existing livelihoods, more than just job creation. 61% of all workers are informally employed. Important to realize that vast majority are self-employed, creating economic opportunities for themselves. The rights of workers involve many SDGs, including SDG 10, SDG11, and SDG8. Look at linking SDGs in the implementation phase. Another is the organization of the workers who need to be represented in the policy processes affecting their lives. The state will not necessarily protect the rights of the workers.

Vincent Chetail talked about migration's huge potential in terms of economic opportunities. Migration related SDGs do not offer comprehensive approach to migration, but offer aspects that ensure sustainable development, such as remittances, protection of labor rights and facilitation of regular migration. There needs to be a regular pathway for labor migration, which must be aligned to countries' destination, qualifications and labor market of country of origin. More collaborative approach between countries of destination and origin can create more pathways for labor migration and growth in both countries.

Andrew Shepherd focused on how boosting growth in agriculture, rural farming economy and internal migration will likely have an impact on reducing poverty. Social protection is clearly important. It can be targeted to people who are slightly less poor to prevent them from falling back into poverty. Need to get greater investment in village infrastructure, education, and enhance labor market. Focus aid on countries that are most severely challenged in relation to education, social protection and health. Many countries are severely under-resourced in SDG implementation.

Chen said that her recommendations are based on economic opportunities for the working poor. Must change the political mindset and the models of how we think about labor, employment and migration. Concrete changes need to be sector specific. Planning, policymaking, and rule making process need to be participatory.

Parallel Session 6d - Equality Through Empowerment

This session will provide examples of how different actors and groups are being empowered to shape policy to promote greater equity considering that tackling inequality is not the same as poverty reduction. Curbing inequality requires addressing disproportionate access to power and resources by elites; bringing transparency to disparities in relative capabilities and opportunities; and countering discrimination and stigma through advocacy and coalition building.

Panelists:

Socorro Flores Liera, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations Office in Geneva

Rachel Gisselquist, Senior Research Fellow, UNU Wider

Katja Hujo, Senior Research Coordinator, United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

Emelie Weski, Vice President, National Council of Swedish Youth Organizations

Torben Nilsson, Senior Global Engagement Specialist, International Fund for Agricultural Development (Moderator)

Key Takeaways:

Ambassador Socorro Flores Liera pushed the need to not only measure poverty in terms of resources but also as living conditions that impede integration to society as Mexico is doing. Programs designed for cash transfers can help if they ensure that kids are in school and receive medical services. Reductions in poverty have stagnated recently and this is because the indigenous population is being left behind. Even with the conditional cash transfers, the deprivations for this group remain. Include the SDGs in national planning and match the budget to the actions and goals.

Rachel Gisselquist said that addressing inequalities is political. We can't just focus on technocratic approaches. We need to think and work differently given the context. We need to establish relationship between legal empowerment and group-based initiatives. Formal identification is a start which helps to bring rights within and outside home country. Constitutional reform might be needed to recognize the multi-ethnic nature of societies.

Katja Hujo focused on the need for social mobilization and alliances but also look at more powerful actors, power asymmetries and shifts in power balances to achieve greater equality. Studies show that perceptions and influence around redistribution vary across countries and between economic and political elites. There is a pro-rich bias in industrial countries across policies, but we also see encouraging examples of collective action claiming rights and decent work conditions, from Uber drivers in Nigeria to domestic workers' associations in Latin America. To overcome inequalities, we need to build and sustain fair institutions, design and implement equality-enhancing policies, reform the global economic system, and create broad-based coalitions for transformative change.

Emelie Weski talked about how the face of poverty in so many contexts is a child. It is because some groups have less access to healthcare, have lower grades in school, drop out of school and have higher suicide rates. There are some initiatives to build opportunities for children from more vulnerable populations. It is important to increase dialogue among youth to generate suggestions for policies. We need to think about how to organize the voice of youth so that it represents the whole range of youth and not just an individual perspective.

Session 7 – Contribution to Communique – An Interactive Session to Gather Individual Takeaways/Inputs

Facilitator: Nina Joyce

Who are the actors and enablers for actions to decrease inequality?

- Governments, local cities, policy makers, business community, civil society, and international development partners.
- Governments – Different ministries and departments. Transnational actors
- People who are marginalized economically or socially excluded. Networks and alliances that they have formed through CSOs and membership-based organization.

What actions and solutions are needed?

- Social and human development opportunities. Political and cultural opportunities.
- Laws are an important mechanism to tackle inequality. Eliminate discriminatory laws.
- Policies needed to be tough on the gaps of inequality and also address the causes for those gaps.
- Targeted and universal measures and the need for combination wherever appropriate
- Focus more on inequality among groups more than inequality among individuals
- Pre-distributed policies – income flows, minimum wages, increase wages of informal workers, need for transition for formality.
- Financial inclusion with protection and regulation to prevent exploitations. Redistributive policies – Progressive taxation, balance between direct and indirect tax. Include wealth and asset taxes. Social transfers and social protection. Increasing tax administration capacity. Tackling tax evasion and illicit flows.
- Create processes and platforms for participation. Have them at the local, international, national, and regional levels
- Build capacity for the excluded and marginalized to engage effectively. Enhance role of other stakeholders like academics in building legal policy literacy about groups and what they are entitled to.

What's needed to make those solutions happen?

- Migration and addressing the concerns of urban informal sector. Change mindsets where the prevailing narratives are hostile.
- Need to have comprehensive, reliable disaggregated data for bottom 40 and top 10.
- Need to change power relationships. Need international cooperation around issues like tax, trade, and investment
- Fulfillment of human rights
- Identify network, build alliances, and strengthen organizations and networks of excluded and marginalized. For that we need funding. Funding for voice and empowerment