

Summary note

Plenary Session: Our greatest challenge: Leave no one behind

1 December 2016 14:00-15:30

Speakers/Panelists:

Moderator: Mr Jonathan Glennie, Ipsos Mori and The Guardian UK

Opening and closing

H.E. Mr. Thomas Silberhorn, *Parliamentary State Secretary, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany*

Introductory presentation

Mr. Ed Hedger, *Acting Executive Director, Overseas Development Institute*

Speakers (Part I)

Mr Thomas Greminger, *Vice Minister of Development Cooperation, Switzerland*

Mr Joran Bjällerstedt, *Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador*

Mr Saroj Kumar Jha, *Senior Director for FCV Global practice, World Bank*

H.E. Abdullahi Sheikh Ali, *Deputy Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, Somalia*

Ms. Rita Martin Lopidia, *Director EVE South Sudan, CSPPS / CPDE*

1st Respondent from the floor: *Mr Christiaan Reebergen, Director General Ministry Trade & Aid, The Netherlands*

Speakers (Part II)

Ms. Gina Casar, *Executive Director, Mexican Agency for International Development, Mexico*

Mr. Yongsoo Lee, *Director-General for Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea*

Ms. Phyllis Kandie, *Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of East African Community, Labour and Social Protection, Ministry of Labour, Kenya*

Ms. Joanna Wronecka, *Undersecretary of State for Development Cooperation, Africa, Middle East and Human Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Poland*

Ms. Eni Lestari, *Chair International Migrants' Alliance, CPDE delegate*

1st respondent from the floor: *Hon. Dr. Jonas Chanda from the National Assembly of Zambia*

Key messages

- **International assistance needs to reach the poor everywhere.** More focus needs to be placed on countries that are affected by conflict and fragility while also addressing inequality within countries.
- **Reliable data on disadvantages groups is needed.** This can affect the way resources are allocated and enhance effectiveness of different development co-operation modalities.
- **To ensure that no one is left behind depends on an inclusive, ongoing national and international multi-stakeholder dialogue process.**
- **Development co-operation must align to country systems to ensure that no one is left behind.** This requires trust, risk-taking and innovative approaches.
- **People and countries are left behind because they are on the wrong side of development equations that do not fit our current realities.** Our development models need to adapt to the contextual realities.
- **Resolving active and preventing new conflicts is key to eradicating poverty everywhere.** To sustain peace, we need economic and societal resilience – which go hand-in-hand – and enabled by reformed development systems.
- **Leaving no one behind challenges existing models – from growth to poverty eradication.** While there are no easy solutions, it is important to draw on success stories, exchange good practices and develop solutions on how to address inequality as sustainable development progresses.

Overall Summary

- **Leaving No One Behind is about vulnerable or disadvantaged groups.** A false dichotomy governs the discussion, differentiating between implications in fragile and conflict affected situations and Middle-Income Countries. Inequality and marginalization is a big problem in both: Middle-Income Countries contain a range of countries, some with high poverty levels, facing fragility and conflict.
- **More and better data is required to generate knowledge about who is being left behind.** This requires greater clarity about definitions such as 'marginality' and 'vulnerability'.
- **Inequality is a blind spot.** If income levels are the basis for assessments, most people in fragile and conflict-affected situations are left behind.

Dealing with risk is creating the right incentives for countries to engage and provide opportunities and address inequality.

- **A two-pronged approach is needed.** This would entail leaving no country behind, while also focusing on creating incentives and conditions to address critical challenges in fragile and conflict affected situations.
- **Countries facing conflict and fragile situations have not been the focus of the Millennium Development Goals.** The g7+, together with their partners and civil society, created the New Deal and its principles and peacebuilding and statebuilding goals to respond to this shortcoming.
- **The New Deal principles must be implemented.** This requires greater emphasis on realizing the prerogative of being inclusive, carefully calibrated with the need to promote country ownership in ensuring no one is being left behind.
- **Putting leaving no one behind into practice requires greater focus on nation-building, not just state-building.** This hinges upon greater risk taking by governments and their partners and engaging in social dialogue with trade unions, NGOs, parliaments, local development committees etc. This effort requires adequate financial support and political backing.
- **Leaving no one behind also means looking at the root causes of conflict, even in active conflict situations.** This is important to shift from a fire fighting mentality and humanitarian interventions to creating opportunities as a means of preventing conflict.
- **Migrants should attract greater attention** given their increasing presence, also in fragile and conflict affected situations.
- **In Middle-Income Countries, leaving no one behind requires more targeted interventions and deliberate policies to invest in the poor.** This demands new approaches in development co-operation, combining different modalities, including South-South and triangular development co-operation.