

New perspectives on poverty eradication – insights for sustainable recovery

Joint meeting of the Second Committee and the Economic and Social Council

Conference Room 2, Tuesday, 11 October 2022, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Transforming political commitments into actions for sustainable recovery – rebuilding a sustainable future for all has been chosen as the theme for the Second Committee at its 77th session this year. The annual joint meeting of the Committee with the Economic and Social Council will examine this theme from the perspective of eradicating poverty - the bedrock objective of sustainable development.

It is estimated that in 2020-2021 the COVID-19 pandemic may have pushed large numbers of people into extreme poverty. Although global poverty has more recently resumed its pre-pandemic downward trajectory, between 75 million and 95 million additional people could be living in extreme poverty in 2022 compared to pre-COVID-19 projections, due to the lingering effects of the pandemic, the war in Ukraine, and rising inflation. In addition, over 1.3 billion people live in multidimensional poverty, facing deprivations in health, education, material standards of living and other areas.¹ The Human Development Report estimates that, “in the wake of the pandemic, and for the first time ever, the global Human Development Index (HDI) value declined—for two years straight”.

The lingering effects of the pandemic and, the continuing trends towards economic slowdown, inflation and the war in Ukraine, --with the attendant sharp increases in food, energy and fertilizer prices -- are expected to hit developing countries particularly hard, further increasing poverty and exacerbating food insecurity. Increasingly, large populations have also suffered from the various effects of climate change, such as devastating droughts, floods, and extremely high temperatures.

Within this complex setting and amidst a highly unpredictable policy environment, the plight of the poor should remain in the spotlight of policies and international development cooperation. Thus, a sustainable recovery addressing poverty eradication will be a *sine qua non* condition for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

The joint meeting will explore hidden dimensions and dynamics of poverty and their policy implications. Participants will discuss lessons from innovative policies to eradicate poverty in its multiple dimensions and how they can be applied amidst the on-going multiple crises. Discussions at the meeting will inform the work of the Second Committee on its various agenda items and resolutions. They will also be a contribution of both the Committee and the Council to the annual observance of International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (17 October).

The joint meeting will consist of a panel discussion by experts followed by interventions from Member States. The panel discussion will aim to:

- Provide insights into hidden dimensions of poverty and barriers to poverty eradication that are often overlooked when interventions, programmes and policies are developed;
- Take stock of the latest analysis and trends in multidimensional poverty;

¹ 2022 Human Development Report

- Discuss how these insights can help improve policy eradication policies against the backdrop of the impacts of the pandemic, the food and energy crises, the economic slowdown, the fiscal tightening and the brewing debt sustainability crisis;
- Highlight specific challenges that the most vulnerable countries have been facing in addressing extreme and multidimensional poverty;
- Learn from the experience of countries in dealing with various aspects of poverty and
- Discuss how international solidarity and reforms of national and international socio-economic systems can best help developing countries, including countries in special situation, in eradicating poverty.

Upon conclusion of the panel discussion, Member States will be invited to make interventions and ask questions.

The joint meeting will result in an official summary that can serve as an important contribution to the many relevant draft resolutions before the Second Committee at its 77th session, as well as the Economic and Social Council at its current session. It will also make important contributions to the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries to be held in Doha, Qatar on 5-9 March 2023.
