



United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Division for Social Policy and Development

**Strategies for Eradicating Poverty to Achieve Sustainable Development for All: The case of
Western Asia**

Side event during the ECOSOC Integration Segment

9 May 2017 1:15 pm – 2:30 pm

Conference Room 11, UN Headquarters in New York

In its resolution 2016/6, the Economic and Social Council decided that the priority theme for the 2017-2018 review and policy cycle of the Commission for Social Development is “[Strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all.](#)” In the resolution, the Council also affirmed that the Commission would contribute to the follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, within its existing mandate.

The 2017 ECOSOC Integration Segment is taking place from 8 – 10 May this year on the theme: “Making eradication of poverty an integral objective of all policies: what will it take?”, as a contribution to the main theme of the 2017 session of the Council, “Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions through promoting sustainable development, expanding opportunities and addressing related challenges.”

The ECOSOC Integration Segment serves as a platform for key stakeholders to identify and discuss opportunities and challenges in developing integrated approaches to tackle poverty in a sustained, inclusive and sustainable manner. The meeting considers best practices, lessons learned and recommendations at the national, regional and international levels, with a view to extract policy recommendations to guide integrated policymaking for poverty eradication.

In this regard, UNDESA/DSPD, in collaboration with the Permanent Mission of Malawi, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, and the NGO Committee on Social Development; is organising a side-event on “strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all: the specific case of Western Asia,” in order to highlight the specific conditions that prevail in that region of the world and lessons learned that can be shared widely with other regions and the international community.

Aim

By placing poverty eradication at the centre of the 2030 Agenda and pledging to “leave no one behind” and to “reach the furthest behind first”, the Agenda sets a powerful vision towards creating peaceful and inclusive societies based on universal respect for human rights and human dignity, the rule of law, justice, equality and non-discrimination. It seeks to ensure that all people, regardless of their background, can fulfil their potential in life, and lead decent, dignified and rewarding lives in a healthy environment. The agenda also recognises the necessity of multi-stakeholder partnerships,

including a leading role of civil society organisations, to deliver on its promise and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Given the diversity among developed, developing and the least developed countries, strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all cannot be of the one-size-fits all variety. Rather, strategies should reflect varying national contexts, priorities, capacities and fiscal constraints.

This side event will be an opportunity to consider national experiences, best practices and lessons learned on integrated policymaking for poverty reduction in Western Asia and provide a platform for key stakeholders to identify and discuss opportunities and challenges in developing integrated approaches to tackle poverty in a sustained, inclusive and sustainable way.

Format

Following welcoming remarks by DSPD, there will be presentations by panellists followed by a moderated interactive discussion, a brief summary by the moderator and concluding remarks. Member States, particularly those from Western Asia and members of the Commission for Social Development, will be invited to attend and participate in the interactive discussions. The panel will include a representative of a Member State who is also member of the bureau of CSocD, the UN System and civil society working on poverty eradication initiatives in the Western Asia.

Speakers

1. Ms. Daniela Bas, Director, UNDESA Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD) to provide opening remarks – 7 minutes.
2. Mr. Khalid Abu-Ismaïl, Chief, Economic Development and Poverty Section, Economic Commission for Western Asia will make the keynote presentation on strategies for poverty alleviation in the ESCWA region – 20 minutes.
3. H.E. Lot Dzonzi, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Malawi and member of the Bureau of the Commission for Social Development; linking the presentation with the work of the Commission for poverty eradication globally – 7 minutes.
4. Ms. Emily Coppel, Communications Manager, BRAC USA will give some examples of work being done by civil society for poverty alleviation in Afghanistan and Yemen – 7 minutes.
5. Interactive discussion moderated by the Chair, NGO Committee on Social Development – 30 minutes.
6. Closing remarks by panellists – 4 minutes.