Concept Note

MPPN Side-Event to the
General Assembly of the Organization of the American States (OAS)

The Multidimensional Poverty Index as a Policy Tool for Leaving no one Behind

20 June, 10.30-12.30hs – Cancun, Mexico

Hosted by the Government of Mexico, with the support of
SEDESOL, OAS, MPPN and OPHI

Introduction: Poverty is a complex and multidimensional phenomenon that goes beyond the simple lack of income. Target 1.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) clearly recognizes this phenomenon and calls on countries to reduce poverty in all its forms by half by 2030. It is now accepted that ending $1.90/day poverty is unlikely to mean the end of the many overlapping deprivations faced by people living in poverty, including malnutrition, poor sanitation, lack of electricity, or poor education, among others. New measures and policies are used to accelerate progress in these areas.

This paradigm shift – recognizing the many forms and dimensions of poverty – has also arisen independently in the national development plans and conceptualizations of poverty by many national governments.

Motivated either by the SDGs or by national priorities, Governments are innovating rapidly. This Side-Event will highlight what a number of Governments in the Americas are doing to both measure and tackle multidimensional poverty, and leave no one behind. A growing number of countries have adopted an official national multidimensional poverty index (MPI) to provide the needed information to guide new policies. Others that have not yet developed their National MPI are using the existing Global MPI to tackle poverty. The Global MPI thus not only helps to compare across countries but also provides essential information in some countries to guide policy.

> *"We are almost blind when the metrics on which action is based are ill-designed... For many purposes, we need better metrics."* Joseph E. Stiglitz, Amartya Sen & Jean-Paul Fitoussi (2009)

National MPIs have been used for targeting, for evaluation, for the coordination of policies, for more effective budgeting, for improved communication and governance. By showing how different dimensions of poverty overlap and interconnect, the MPI helps to break apart the silos of poverty policies. And because it shows which groups or regions are experiencing poverty most acutely, it draws attention to the poorest groups and places, helping to ensure that no one is left behind. It also provides political incentives to reduce the many different aspects of poverty together, because effective interventions can be easily monitored and celebrated**.** By bringing under one index a number of programs handled by different ministries, **t**he MPI has been a powerful tool for helping to improve governance and policy coordination. Country experiences will be highlighted in this side event.

The **Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network (MPPN)** was established in response to overwhelming demand from such policymakers for support in exploring, developing and implementing multidimensional poverty measures as tools of management and governance.

Founded in June 2013, the Network enables early adopters to share their experiences with newcomers to multidimensional poverty measurement. It provides peer-to-peer technical and policy support, as well as input into the design and institutional arrangements for successful multidimensional poverty eradication. Until the MPPN was established, policymakers had no such community of peers to turn to for advice, support and 'South-South' knowledge exchange. The Network supports policymakers to develop more effective poverty eradication efforts, grounded in multidimensional measures of poverty. Its vision is a world in which poverty in all its forms is measured, tracked over time – and eventually eliminated.

The MPPN was co-founded by the governments of Mexico and Colombia with the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) at the University of Oxford. OPHI was nominated by participants to act as the Secretariat of the Network, and its activities are steered by the network's 'Steering Committee'.

Participants in the Network are policymakers from national governments, as well as from regional and international agencies. Innovative subnational governments, such as Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam, are also participants. As of April 2017, the network has participants from 53 countries, and 16 regional and international agencies,[1] one of which is the Organization of American States.

MPPN Side-Event in the framework of the OAS' General Assembly: This Side-Event will be hosted by the Government of Mexico in the context of the upcoming 47th General Assembly of the Organization of American States under the theme "Strengthening Dialogue and Concertation for Prosperity" to be held in the Mexican capital from June 19-21, 2017. The 2-hour event will be opened by OAS Secretary General Luis Almagro, and representatives from countries in the region are expected to participate and share their countries' experience in multidimensional poverty measurement.

This Side-Event will seek to engage countries in reflections on how to tackle poverty in all its dimensions and to learn from experiences across the Americas in terms of multidimensional poverty measurement and its use for effective policy design. Mexico will share in particular how it has institutionalized its national multidimensional poverty measure, which is based on a human rights framework, and also how it shares its metrics openly and swiftly with many levels of government and with other actors. Countries will provide updates on their measurement design, share lessons on the political implementation of this measurement, as well as experiences in how their measures are being used for public policy design and implementation.

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[1] The full list of members is as follows: Afghanistan, Angola, **Antigua & Barbuda**, **Argentina**, Bangladesh, Bhutan, **Bolivia**, Botswana, **Brazil**, Burkina Faso, Chad, **Chile**, China, **Colombia**, **Costa Rica**, **Cuba**, Djibouti, **Dominican Republic**, **Ecuador**, Egypt, **El Salvador**, **Grenada**, **Guatemala**, **Honduras**, India, Iraq, **Jamaica**, Malaysia, **Mexico**, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, **Panama**, **Paraguay**, **Peru**, Philippines, Rwanda, **Saint Lucia**, **St Vincent & the Grenadines**, Senegal, Seychelles, South Africa, Sudan, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, **Uruguay**, Vietnam (and Ho Chi Minh City), BMZ-Germany, ECLAC, IADB, IDB, OAS, OECD, OECS, OPHI, SADC, SESRIC, Sida, UNDP-Latin America and Caribbean Bureau, UNDP Africa Bureau, UN-ESCWA, UNICEF, and The World Bank.

Expected Outcomes

<u>Outcome 1:</u> Presentation and discussion of specific ways to use an MPI as an indicator at the national and global level to support the monitoring of SDG target 1.2.

<u>Outcome 2:</u> Presentation and discussion on how an MPI can be used as a governance tool to inform policymaking towards achieving the SDGs

<u>Outcome 3:</u> Exchange on the successes and lessons of developing and implementing a national MPI