

Special Side Event at the 71st UN General Assembly on I Measuring and Tracking Poverty in all its Dimensions, 22 September 2016, 1:15-2:30pm, Conference Room 7, UN Headquarters, New York.

A UNDP Perspective by Ayodele Odusola, Chief Economist, UNDP Africa.

The emergence of the Multi-dimensional poverty index (MPI) as a parameter for measuring the SDGs is a great achievement. A little historical perspective provides some illumination. In 2009 UNDP partnered with OPHI to enhance HDI computation based on requests from member states and other stakeholders. MPI was first introduced in 2010 Human Development Report by looking at poverty from *multiple deprivations lens at the household and individual level in health, education and standard of living*. But this was met with a serious backlashes from member states. Consultations and understanding however played the magic wand! Today, we are celebrating the MPI as an indicator that will shape poverty measurement in the next fifteen years. I therefore want to congratulate South Africa, Seychelles and other countries that are championing this course.

MPI has changed the landscape of poverty measurement from its original money-metric to a more holistic approach to human development. In the 2015 Human Development Report (HDR), we presented estimates for 101 developing countries with a combined population of 5.0 billion (75% of the world total). About 1.5 billion people in the countries covered—29% of their entire population—lived in multidimensional poverty between 2005 and 2014.

The Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network (MPPN) approach is creating a formidable platform for multi-dimensional poverty measurement at the national level, using a multi-partnership approach. To effectively shift the Frontier of poverty measurement, we need to:

- first, build the requisite capacity for MPI at the national and sub-national levels;
- second, we need to weave in MPI into the data revolution equation in partnership with national stakeholders (government, private sector, CSOs and other development partners); and
- third, R&D is an integral component of statistical development – heavy investment in statistics is therefore critical to development.

In **conclusion**, I encourage member states that are yet to join the MPPN to do so. When MPI is used a policy lens for the formulation and implementation of development plans and strategy, more people benefits from development outcomes. Therefore, a commitment to MPI is a commitment to *‘leaving no one behind by 2030’*.

Thank you.