

Message from Dirk Niebel,

**German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development,
on the occasion of the launch of the Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network
in Oxford, UK, on 6 June 2013**

Ladies and gentlemen,

Since the adoption of the Millennium Declaration in 2000 and of the Millennium Development Goals derived from that, we have been able to see progress all over the world on the reduction of extreme poverty. Between 1990 and 2008, the share of people living on less than \$1.25 a day fell from an estimated 47% to about 24%.

Notwithstanding all this progress, too many people are still living in poverty. The range of their opportunities in life is limited by severe constraints, as are their living standards. Inadequate income and food, low levels of education, illness, and a lack of job opportunities prevent the poor from taking their lives into their own hands. In many countries, it is especially poor people who suffer political and social exclusion and discrimination. Their voice and opportunities for participation are very limited. Poverty is often the result of human rights being denied.

So poverty reduction and efforts to fight the many underlying causes of poverty need to continue to be the central goal of development cooperation. I am therefore very glad that the Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network is starting its work today, after a period of hard preparatory work.

We are thus creating, for the first time, the prerequisites for the establishment of multidimensional poverty indices on a broad basis, and for their use and dissemination for political decision-making at the national level. The Network also provides a unique platform for putting the multidimensional poverty approach on an international basis, for instance as part of the drafting of a new post-2015 UN development agenda. And the Network's launch lays an important foundation for enhanced international development effectiveness.

I would like to thank all those very much who are supporting this joint Network in a variety of ways. My thanks also go to the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) for hosting this event.

I look forward to working with you in the future and I wish you forward-looking, results-oriented discussions in Oxford.

Dirk Niebel
Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany