

Costa Rica



MISIÓN PERMANENTE ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS/PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**Intervención Presidente de la República
– Leído por Representante Permanente, Embajador Juan Carlos Mendoza-
Measuring and Tackling Poverty in All its Dimensions**

September 22, New York

Honourable Presidents and Prime Ministers,

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies & Gentlemen;

I am delighted to participate in this important interchange on multidimensional poverty. I congratulate my colleagues in South Africa and Seychelles for organizing this panel. Last year I hosted the MPPN panel and my team knows the work required - yet also the meaningfulness seeking to act with new force and determination on behalf of the disadvantaged in our countries.

Excellencies, we are meeting to share where we are, one year after the endorsement of the 2030 Agenda. For Costa Rica, it has been a momentous year.

Last October, we launched an official national multidimensional poverty index, or 'MPI'. Our MPI is reported alongside our monetary poverty metric, and makes visible the many men, women, and children who experience direct deprivations in aspects of life that public policy can address. So there are two public benefits to simply measuring multidimensional poverty. First, people whose conditions were overlooked by a monetary poverty measure feel that now we recognize and understand their situation. Second, reducing multidimensional poverty is not unpredictable. The MPI changes as a result of concerted action of public policy, corporate social responsibility, and NGO programming.

A new twist from Costa Rica is that actors in the business community supported the development of our MPI. They are using it for their own corporate social responsibility - whether to address multidimensional poverty among their employees or to invest in national policies.

We have historically invested in addressing all dimensions of poverty. So why do we need an MPI?

Let me explain. To be effective, resources to fight poverty must match the changing shape of poverty. Our national MPI helps us to make this match. But How?

The MPI is now part in our National Development Plan. We now use the MPI for policy and budgeting purposes. It has pinpointed where poverty is most severe. So we have begun to target those areas of the country, and to tackle the most pressing social deprivations among the poor.

Costa Rica has innovated in using the MPI for resource allocation. This year I signed a Presidential decree requiring the MPI to be used to set the budget for poverty programs. In this way the MPI is being used as a management tool, a way to streamline and improve the governance of poverty programs in the country.

But Costa Rica did not stop with a statistic and better budget. I invite people from all parts of government to think very practically about how better metrics energizes better policies. Our MPI enables ministers in different sectors to work together to solve a common problem, to think of new ways to fight poverty. By coordinating with each other they also synergise and find creative and innovative avenues of action.

Excellencies, in recognizing the many forms and dimensions of poverty, the SDGs opened an innovative space. Believing on the transformative power of the 2030 Agenda, we have launched the National Pact for the SDGs, with the intention to coordinate efforts from all the state institutions, including the Parliament, the Judiciary, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal and the Executive, along with the civil society, academia and the private sector. And the MPI will only add value added to our work.

We in Costa Rica are reporting both our national MPI and the global MPI for SDG target 1.2. The Global MPI is important to complement the national MPIs used for national policy purposes.

Let us, who are in a position to play our part in history, also use all of the tools in our disposal to move from vision to commitment, from idea to action.

Thank you.