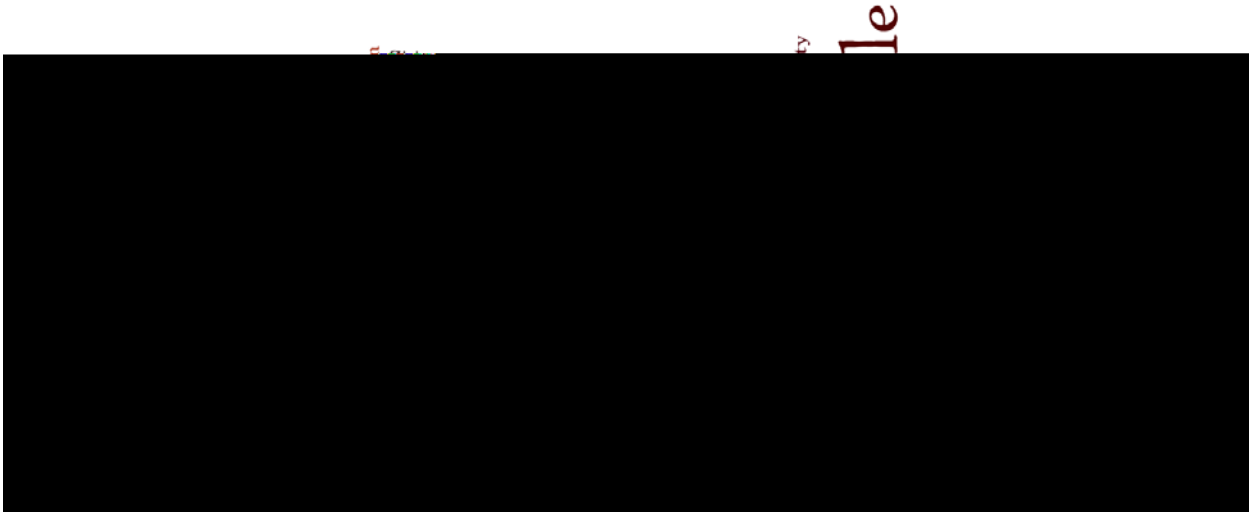


E-discussion: Addressing ongoing and emerging challenges for meeting the Millennium Development Goals in 2015 and for sustaining development gains in the future

**Summary report for Part II:
Sustaining development gains through inclusive development
17 February – 2 March 2014**



This word art is a creation based on a word cloud generated from the responses to this part of the e-discussion.

I. Introduction

The theme of Part II of the e-discussion was “
Part II was moderated jointly by Sarah Cook

demia, and the UN system in

Building on Part I, which focused on facilitators and enablers of development progress, particularly on institutional and policy frameworks that support progress, Part II turned to questions of how to generate and sustain gains that are While achievements and progress over recent years, particularly in relation to the MDGs, have led to gains for some of the most vulnerable population groups, significant disparities and gaps remain. Moreover, a context of rising income inequality compromises the inclusiveness of the development process.

Key elements of inclusive development would involve improvements in incomes and well-being which reduce disparities in critical outcomes, such as those related to health and education, along lines of income or other characteristics (for example, gender, race, age, disability). Progress on such dimensions rests on the capacity of states to deliver high quality basic services, such as health, education, water and sanitation, adequate housing and infrastructure, generate decent jobs, and extend social protection to all those in need in order to address contingencies and provide security across the life course. Inclusive development also

requires political inclusion, particularly for those trapped in poverty or otherwise marginalized through processes of economic and social exclusion.

Part II of the e-discussion sought to identify concrete strategies, policies and practices that have been particularly constructive in fostering inclusive development. Participants were invited to reflect on structural or institutional constraints to inclusion, illustrate the obstacles faced in implementing inclusive development strategies or policies, and identify the catalysts for more inclusive development processes. Participants were also invited to pay attention to the processes for priority-setting or decision-making and for implementation, at local and national levels, and the extent to which these involve broad engagement and participation –

iv. Services and policies which respond to the needs of the poorest. Service and policies that effectively

economic participation, especially among urban women. A more focused approach to the protection and advancement of women and to gender equity issues, including integrating various best practices and the adoption of tools for sustaining development involving all stakeholders, can open barriers to advance sustainable development.

Experience has also showed that investing in women across a broad spectrum of areas (social, political and economic) results in better human development outcomes at the household and national levels. Inclusive and independent monitoring mechanisms at the national level should be established to assess the progress of the institutions and policy framework in addressing the root causes of inequality.

An e-discussion participant underscored the

Another participant focused on Inclusion cannot be achieved without addressing the social constraints to inclusion. These constraints may not be formal or written in legislation; they are more usually social norms or the dominant moral code that structure the behaviour of individuals within a society. Education can be an important tool for ensuring that unequal societal structures are addressed so that it becomes unacceptable on a personal level to continue to accept forms of exclusion.

One contributor pointed to the importance of For example, while the Indian Government constructs housing for slum dwellers, it is often far away from the city and does not meet the needs of the poor. It is very difficult for women and girls to commute for work and education, and for women workers in the informal sector to juggle their unpaid work at home with paid work in the informal market. Institutional rules of not only the state, but also the community, markets and household are a constraint.

Some contributors also highlighted that the , such as a Right to Information Act and Public Interest Litigation, is essential in broadening and deepening political, social and economic participation of all.

Many participants focused on the key role of . A participant suggested the following measures as means to fostering citizen engagement and social inclusion:

- i. Do less harm policy: For example, legislation that curbs agricultural land acquisition in contexts where there is land and food shortage.
- ii. Focus on the poor and marginalized: i) Lower bank interest rates for the poor, without collateral, for starting business to earn livelihoods and for education and housing, ii) Strengthen asset base of the marginalized and of women.
- iii. Quota-plus strategies: While economic, social and political quotas are necessary for women and other marginalized groups, disadvantages also need to be addressed by putting the following on the development agenda: unpaid care, addressing identity-based harassment at schools, hospitals, the work place and political spaces, and infrastructure that takes into account diversity.
- iv.

was detailed by a few participants. Developing or obtaining new and more efficient technologies is an important factor for sustainable economic development. These include technologies for food and food security, energy and information and communications. Exchange in human ideas is necessary for advancing the state of the art, creating (inclusive) mechanisms for people to benefit from the utilization of specialized knowledge possessed by others.

A contributor focused on Government should take initiatives for a cleaner environment and greener and more inclusive economic growth. It is also important to change the mindset of waste-generating communities, making them more responsible regarding waste resource recycling and the green urbanization process.

Many participants highlighted that , as membership-based, autonomous, independent, democratic, collective institutional arrangements, are an effective means to enhance inclusive development, especially for those living in remote areas and in vulnerable communities. There is ample evidence from Africa to the Americas as to their effectiveness in improving access of small producers to markets and delivering a range of much needed services (financial, housing, social services). The key drivers of their success have been their needs-based nature - joint solutions to common problems for a group of people that create economies of scale and allow for negotiation through collective voice.

Unleashing the full potential of cooperatives requires, among other measures: recognition that cooperative enterprises are a well-suited model of business to deliver Sustainable Development Goals; inclusion of specific targets and indicators related to the promotion and development of cooperatives in member countries; access to specific implementation measures and programs including funding; and participation of co-operative structures in discussions and decision-making processes. Specific measures needed include an enabling legal and policy environment, integration of cooperatives in public and private procurement of services and the recognition of the cooperative business model in achieving development goals. dt dleÀ pC8A0rE%3A

A contributor highlighted the importance of intercultural dialogue can forge more inclusive, stable, peaceful and resilient societies. Development is

Respect for cultural diversity and

III. Issues for policy consideration

- i. Respect for huma

Contributions received with thanks from:

Moderators:

Sarah Cook, Director, United Nations Research
Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)
Donald Lee, International Committee for October
17 (United Nations Day for the Eradication of
Poverty)
Assisted by Esuna Dugarova, Research Analyst,
UNRISD

Participants:

Abhimanyu Arora, University of Namur, Belgium
Anand Karunakaran, Childcare consortium, India
Arnold Hagens, writer and researcher, Bolivia
Ayele Wansi Satchivi, Team Leader, Togo
Better Education for All (befa) Foundation,
Pakistan
Brian Geiger, Society for Public Health Education,
Washington DC, United States