The Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network (MPPN)
July 2014 Berlin Communiqué

The network and its participants endorse Multidimensional Poverty Indices (MPIs) as a powerful policy tool for enhanced poverty reduction at the regional, national and subnational level, with the ability to illuminate the state and progress of marginalised groups.

Poverty is unacceptable. It is often defined by one-dimensional measures, such as income. But no one indicator alone can capture the multiple aspects of poverty. A rapidly increasing number of policymakers and statisticians around the world are now working to establish multidimensional poverty measures. Many are using the Alkire Foster (AF) methodology and the related set of empirical techniques developed by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI).

The Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network (MPPN) is an international network of senior policymakers from nearly 30 governments engaged in exploring or implementing multidimensional poverty measures. The network connects policymakers who have already implemented such innovative measures with those considering or designing such measures. It invites other governments to join the network, take advantage of South-South exchanges and be part of this growing number of countries exploring and adopting rigorous yet simple multidimensional poverty measures to guide policy effectively.

Within governments, the network supports policymakers in proactively communicating these new poverty measures between government and statistical agencies, as well as to citizens, civil society and the private sector. It provides a forum for dialogue between data producers and data users. The network welcomes the participation of Small Island Developing States and recognizes their need to adapt multidimensional poverty measures to the particularities of these contexts. The network also welcomes regional bodies that are using, advocating and advancing multidimensional measures. The network aims to support members as they strive to energise and strengthen actions that eradicate poverty in all its forms, and to reduce the promulgation of policies that invest in producing and reproducing poverty.

Given the cutting edge nature of this work, MPPN and its participants will continue to develop powerful tools of measurement, evaluation, policy design and analysis.

One of the strengths of the MPI methodology is its rigour and robustness. The network will facilitate academic and applied research in order to generate more tools for policy analysis and for data collection. It will advance research on a number of essential areas such as the practical linkages between poverty reduction and: environmental sustainability, information and communication technology, and wellbeing. It will also develop tools and processes that facilitate the communication of regional, national and/or subnational MPIs both to citizens and to policy actors.

The network and its participants endorse multidimensional poverty as an overall goal of the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and endorse the establishment of a new MPI 2015+ measure of extreme poverty in the post-2015 development context.

Poverty is now widely recognised as multidimensional. The network and its participants strongly recommend that the post-2015 development agenda track multidimensional poverty. They endorse a Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) to help measure success. An improved headline indicator of multidimensional poverty – at present termed MPI 2015+ – can reflect a set of interconnected deprivations that batter poor people's lives at the same time. The network has developed and revised draft survey modules to focus the discussion on data needs to implement the MPI 2015+.

An MPI 2015+ can play a critical role in ensuring no one is left behind. It can be easily broken down to show how people are poor (what disadvantages they experience together) and the inequalities between those living in poverty. An MPI can show which groups are poor (for example by gender, ethnicity and region), data permitting. This information can strengthen policy. An MPI can be catalytic because it provides political incentives to reduce poverty by reflecting changes swiftly, and can be used to monitor inclusive growth and to map linkages between poverty and environmental threats. Yet an MPI 2015+ requires regular and high quality surveys covering key indicators. So the MPPN calls for short term investments in data collection and long term investments in transforming statistical systems.

Since its launch in 2013, the network has grown considerably. It now draws together Ministers and senior officials from nearly 30 governments and a growing number of international institutions. The network has decided to organise a joint side event at the 2014 UN General Assembly, and a side event at the 2015 UN Statistical Commission Meetings. The network is proud to launch a new website to share the work of participants with a wider global audience: www.mppn.org.

Participants in the Berlin meeting included:

- **Hon Prime Minister Dr Kenny Anthony** of St Lucia;
- **HE Margarita Cedeño de Fernández**, Vice President of the Dominican Republic;
- **HE Ana Helena Chacón Echeverría**, Second Vice President of Costa Rica;
- **Sonam Tobgyal**, Senior Research Officer, Gross National Happiness Commission of Bhutan;
- **Dr. Paulo de Martino Jannuzzi**, Secretary of Evaluation and Information Management; Ministry of Social Development and Fight Against Hunger, Brazil;
- **Heidi Berner**, Vice Minister of Social Evaluation, Ministry of Social Development, Chile;
- **Dr. Xiaolin Wang**, Director of Research Division, International Poverty Reduction Center in China;
- **Gabriel Vallejo López**, Director, Department for Social Prosperity, Colombia;
- **Carlos Andrés Alvarado**, Minister of Human Development and Social Inclusion Affairs, Costa Rica;
- **Gisela Pifferrer Campíns**, Head of the Department of Social Development; Centre of Population and Development Studies, Cuba;
- **Dr. Nicholas Taylor,** Head of Sector for Employment, Social Inclusion and Social Protection; EC Directorate for Development;
- **Dr. Heike Kuhn,** Head of the Division "Sectoral and thematic policies; poverty reduction and social protection", Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany;
- **Zoila Cruz**, Undersecretary of Development and Social Integration, Honduras;
- **Dr. Rocio Izabel Tábora Morales**, Presidential Director of Strategic Planning, Budget and Public Investment, Secretary of General Management of the Government and Secretary of Finances, Honduras;
- **Dr. Musa Jega Ibrahim**, Senior Economist, Islamic Development Bank;
- **Dr. Felix Povel**, Economist, KfW Development Bank;
- **Enrique González Tiburcio**, Advisors' Coordinator, Social Development Secretariat, Mexico;
- **Dr. Gonzalo Hernández Licona**, Executive Secretary, National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy (Coneval), Mexico;
- **Cristina Matusse Manuel**, Deputy National Director, Ministry of Planning and Development, Mozambique;
- **Dr. Oyeyemi Kale**, Statistician General of the Federation and Chief Executive Officer, Bureau of Statistics, Nigeria;
- **Dr. Hildegard Lingnau**, Senior Counsellor in the Development Cooperation Directorate;
- **Alexandra Barrantes**, Social Protection Specialist, Inter-American Social Protection Network Coordinator, Organization of American States;
- **Dr. Sabina Alkire**, Director, Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI);
- **Professor James Foster**, Research Associate, OPHI;
- **Dr. Naeem Uz Zaffar**, Member, Social Sector, Planning Commission Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform, Government of Pakistan;
- **Dr. Lisa Grace Bersales**, National Statistician and Head of Philippine Statistics Authority, Philippines;
- **Dr. Rosemarie Edillon**, Assistant Director General of the National Development Office, National Economic and Development Authority, Philippines;
- **Stephen O'Malley**, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative for Barbados;
- **Ayodele Odusola**, Development Policy Advisor, UNDP Bureau for Africa;
- **Paola Caram**, Poverty Officer, UNDP Dominican Republic;
- **Shakeel Ahmad**, Policy Specialist, UNDP Pakistan;
- **Professor Savaş Alpay**, Director General, Statistical Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries;
- **Marie-Josee Bonne**, Special Advisor on Social Development to the Designated Minister, Ministry of Social Affairs, Community Development and Sports, Seychelles;
- **Pali Lehohla**, Statistician General, South Africa;
- **Eva del Hoyo-Barbolla**, Head of Unit for Aid Effectiveness and Policy Coherence, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Spain;
- **Fayçal Masmoudi**, Director of Human Resources, Ministry of Development and International Cooperation, Tunisia;
- **Meral Daskiran**, Head of Labour Force and Living Conditions Department, Turkish Statistical Institute;
- **Truong Thi Ngo**, Director of the National Steering Committee for Poverty Reduction's Coordination Office, Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, Government of Vietnam;
- **Nobuo Yoshida**, Senior Economist, World Bank