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## 6<sup>th</sup> Annual High-Level Meeting of the Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network (MPPN)

30 October - 1 November 2018  
Johannesburg, South Africa

Hosted by the Minister in the Presidency for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation responsible for  
Statistics South Africa  
with the support of  
the Department of Social Development and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative

**Introduction:** Poverty is a complex and multidimensional phenomenon that goes beyond the simple lack of income. Target 1.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) clearly recognizes this phenomenon and calls on countries to reduce poverty in all its forms by half by 2030. It is now accepted that ending \$1.90/day poverty is unlikely to mean the end of the many overlapping deprivations faced by people living in poverty, including malnutrition, poor sanitation, lack of electricity, or poor education, among others. New measures and policies are used to accelerate progress in these areas.

This paradigm shift – recognizing the many forms and dimensions of poverty – has also arisen independently in the national development plans and conceptualizations of poverty by many national governments.

Motivated either by the SDGs or by national priorities, Governments are innovating rapidly. This High-Level Meeting will highlight what a number of Governments are doing to both measure and tackle multidimensional poverty. A growing number of countries have adopted an official national multidimensional poverty index (MPI) to provide the needed information to guide new policies. Others that have not yet developed their National MPI are using the existing Global MPI to tackle poverty. The Global MPI thus not only helps to compare across countries but also provides essential information in some countries to guide policy.

National MPIs have been used for targeting, for evaluation, for the coordination of policies, for more effective budgeting, for improved communication and governance. By showing how different dimensions of poverty overlap and interconnect, the MPI helps to break apart the silos of poverty policies. And because it shows which groups or regions are experiencing poverty most acutely, it draws attention to the poorest groups and places, helping to ensure that no one is left behind. It also provides political incentives to reduce the many different aspects of poverty together, because effective interventions can be easily monitored and celebrated. By bringing under one index a number of programs handled by different ministries, the MPI has been a powerful tool for helping to improve governance and policy coordination. Country experiences will be highlighted in this side event.

*“We are almost blind when the metrics on which action is based are ill-designed... For many purposes, we need better metrics.”* Joseph E. Stiglitz, Amartya Sen & Jean-Paul Fitoussi (2009)



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**The Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network (MPPN):** The MPPN was established in response to overwhelming demand from such policymakers for support in exploring, developing and implementing multidimensional poverty measures as tools of management and governance.

Founded in June 2013, the Network enables early adopters to share their experiences with newcomers to multidimensional poverty measurement. It provides peer-to-peer technical and policy support, as well as input into the design and institutional arrangements for successful multidimensional poverty eradication. Until the MPPN was established, policymakers had no such community of peers to turn to for advice, support and ‘South-South’ knowledge exchange. The Network supports policymakers to develop more effective poverty eradication efforts, grounded in multidimensional measures of poverty. Its vision is a world in which poverty in all its forms is measured, tracked over time – and eventually eliminated.

The MPPN was co-founded by the governments of Mexico and Colombia with the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) at the University of Oxford and with support from the German Federal Ministry of International Cooperation and Development (BMZ). OPHI was nominated by participants to act as the Secretariat of the Network, and its activities are steered by the network’s ‘Steering Committee’. The network met previously in the UK in 2013, Germany in 2014, Colombia in 2015, Mexico in 2016, and China in 2017.

#### *Who participates in the network?*

Participants in the Network are policymakers from national governments, as well as from regional and international agencies. Innovative subnational governments, such as Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam, are also participants. As of September 2018, the network has participants from 55 countries and 17 regional and international agencies.

The full list of members is as follows: Afghanistan, Angola, Antigua & Barbuda, Argentina, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil (and Minas Gerais State), Burkina Faso, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, eSwatini, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jamaica, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, St Vincent & the Grenadines, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Uruguay, Vietnam (and Ho Chi Minh City), African Development Bank, Commonwealth of Nations, Federal Ministry of International Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Government of Germany, Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLAC), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Islamic Development Bank (IDB), Organization of American States (OAS), Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the United Nation’s Children Fund (UNICEF), World Bank and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI).



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### *What are the network's goals?*

Network participants have pledged to work together to advance three interconnected goals:

**1. Advancing national, sub-national and regional multidimensional poverty measures.**

Through knowledge and resource exchanges; creating a shared micro-site; technical support and training courses; regular email updates, skype and telephone conferences; an annual meeting; and joint events and publications.

**2. Promoting multidimensional poverty measurement and reporting it for tracking the SDGs and the new development agenda.**

Target 1.2 of the SDGs seeks to halve poverty in “all of its forms and dimensions”. The MPPN now supports countries that are reporting multidimensional poverty reduction through National MPIs and the Global MPI as complementary to income measures.

Via dedicated working groups; joint advocacy, events and publications; and engagements and dialogue with key actors, such as the Open Working Group, the UN Statistics Commission, Sustainable Development Solutions Network and other UN bodies.

**3. Developing joint research and tools for measurement, policy design and analysis.**

Through jointly produced policy papers and publications that enhance knowledge and bring emerging issues and lessons learned to light.

### *Who can join the Network?*

Participant criteria defined by the Network Secretariat and the Steering Committee has outlined three categories of participants:

1. Government officials (Ministers or Vice-Ministers)
2. Senior representatives of regional bodies and international agencies
3. Senior officials from other country governments, including development assistance institutions.

### *How does the Network work day-to-day?*

The MPPN website provides access to resources, including an extensive library of resources from past conferences and events, videos of members, links to members' web resources on multidimensional poverty, a policy brochure of authorized descriptions of MPPN member activities, and, from November 2016, a magazine with authorized case studies of policy implementations of MPI. MPPN members also offer different kinds of support and training – from South-South interchanges involving multiple MPPN countries, to a bilateral visit from a country with an MPI, to training workshops, or technical support joint with OPHI. OPHI functions to connect participants to relevant expertise across the MPPN. The MPPN Secretariat also acts as a ‘clearing house’ for the latest policy innovations and academic research. The MPPN is an important bridge between academic and policy communities on a path-breaking area of work.



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### *How is the MPPN structured?*

The MPPN is marked by a lean structure and high-levels of ownership over its work and over multidimensional poverty measurement from within its participant base. Its core governance instruments are: a Secretariat; a Steering Committee; periodic Participant Meetings, Thematic Working Groups; and an Annual Meeting.

The activities of the Secretariat are guided by a Steering Committee made up of a cross-section of participants. The Steering Committee also performs a key advocacy function, helping to bring multidimensional approaches of poverty measurement to the attention of key target audiences. Current Steering Committee members were agreed by the MPPN at the 2014 high-level meeting. The current members of the Steering Committee comprise representatives from the governments of Colombia, Mexico, South Africa and China, as well as OPHI.

A regular formal ('Annual') Network meeting (taking place every 12 to 18 months) will bring together participants at the Head of State, Ministerial and Vice-Ministerial level to share cutting-edge work. These meetings are essential forums for facilitating South-South dialogue and exchanging innovative work. They also provide an opportunity to review the overall progress of the MPPN and to chart the way forward for the next 12-18 months (including strategic focus areas, work streams and positions of the Network on key issues). The final outcome document of the meeting – the meeting Communiqué – will form the basis of the work plan of the Secretariat for the year ahead.

The MPPN uses small Working Groups to advance specific events and interchanges. For example, MPPN members have hosted side-events at the UN General Assembly since 2013; also, many MPPN countries participate in side-events to the UN Statistics Commission OPHI has organized on behalf of the MPPN. If the Working Groups address MPPN governance matters, all participants are given an opportunity to comment and amend the work that is proposed, and official Network documents are then made public.

### *What is the Staff of the MPPN?*

The MPPN at present has no core funding. However staff time is donated to the MPPN by OPHI for a Director, a senior policy associate, and three professional staff – technical, policy and communication staff. These are complemented by administrative, financial and web staff.

### *What is the MPPN's budget and how is it funded?*

In 2013-2015, MPPN core costs were funded by BMZ/GIZ, OPHI and participants. Since then costs of the MPPN have been covered by OPHI and participants. OPHI has donated staff time, travel and overhead; members have provided support through travel and costs of some south-south exchanges. In 2016, BMZ/GIZ supported some African participant costs for training and from 2017, some funding for MPPN activities has been generously provided by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). Although there is no secured funding, the MPPN is committed to finding a sustainable funding strategy to help cover its lean and high impact core costs for its future work.

**6<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the MPPN:** The 2018 Annual Meeting of the MPPN will be hosted by the Government of South Africa in Johannesburg on 30<sup>th</sup> October – 1<sup>st</sup> November with a set of pre-conference events on 30<sup>th</sup> October.

This 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting will seek to engage countries in reflections on how to tackle poverty in all its dimensions and to learn from experiences around the world in terms of multidimensional poverty measurement and use for effective policy design. Countries will provide updates on their measurement design or trends and/or how their measures are being used for policy. All will discuss powerful strategies for fighting multidimensional poverty and achieving the SDGs.

### *Structure of the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting*

The Meeting will be structured as follows:

1. **Optional Field Trip:** More information will be made available shortly.
2. **Plenary Sessions:** these sessions are intended for all MPPN members. During these sessions, countries will have the opportunity to share their experiences and discuss effective tools for poverty measurement and eradication.
3. **Parallel Sessions:** on the third day of the event, participants will choose among different parallel sessions, which will be spaces for open debate and discussions on the next steps of the Network.
4. **Side Events:** special side events will take place to discuss specific issues related to multidimensional poverty measurement.

5.

### *Plenary Sessions*

There will be five Plenary Sessions during the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the MPPN.

- (i) *Sharing of Practice on Multidimensional Poverty Measurement. Parts 1 and 2*  
These sessions will provide the opportunity for countries to present their own experiences on multidimensional poverty measurement, discuss how their measures were constructed and how they are used in practice for poverty eradication.
- (ii) *Sharing of Practice on Multidimensional Poverty Measurement. Part 3*  
Countries will present certain policy implementations of MPI in slightly greater detail, allowing time for interchange and Q/A, and OPHI will present the 2018 Global MPI and future plans.
- (iii) *Round-Table Discussions with South African Public Officials*  
Representatives from various ministries of South Africa will discuss concrete strategies and programs that have been implemented to tackle poverty in all its dimensions.
- (iv) *The SDGs target indicators and the windows they open: ending poverty in all its dimensions*



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This session will discuss the road ahead regarding the opportunities and challenges of the SDGs indicators and the different options for countries.

### *Parallel Sessions*

On the afternoon of the last day of the Meeting, participants will have the opportunity to participate in the following parallel sessions:

(i) *Session A: MPPN Plan of Work for 2019*

This session will review MPPN internal and external communications plans and MPPN work plans for the next year, including side events at the UN General Assembly, the United Nations Statistical Commission and other activities.

(ii) *Session B: MPPN Core Support and the SDG Process*

This session will address how the MPPN can grow, how it can best participate in the SDG agenda, and how agencies and governments can support the MPPN to advance national, and Global MPIs in the coming year in a coordinated fashion.

(iii) *Session C: MPPN Policy Relevant Research*

This meeting will seek to clarify key research priorities for member countries and discuss how to communicate findings on emerging research, for example, on the determinants of multidimensional poverty, and multidimensional poverty impact evaluation methodologies.

### *Side-Events*

More information on side events of the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the MPPN will be made available shortly.