



Concept Note High Level Side Event at the United Nations General Assembly

Call for action: Using multidimensional poverty indices to lead progress in the SDGs

Wednesday 25th September 2019, 8:00am
Conference Room 1, UN Headquarters

Background and aims

With just over a decade left to meet the ambitious goals of the 2030 Agenda of ending extreme poverty and reducing poverty in all its dimensions by half, there could never be a more appropriate moment for the global community to unite behind a truly transformative development agenda and double the efforts in the fight against poverty.

This high-level side event hosted by the president of Costa Rica, with the participation of heads of state and international organizations, will constitute a “call for action” in the use of multidimensional poverty measures to lead progress in the SDGs. Most importantly, it will highlight the importance of political leadership to end poverty, reduce inequality and leave no one behind.

The discussion that will be generated in this side event aims establish an empirical framework enabling participants, through the governments or institutions they represent, to substantiate and craft policies beyond the conventional poverty measurement exercises. Most importantly, it seeks to galvanize action and foster collaboration among institutions and sectors to design sustainable solutions having a greater impact on people living in poverty.

The event is organized on behalf of the Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network (MPPN), a network of senior policymakers from nearly 60 countries and 20 international organizations focused on measuring and reducing multidimensional poverty. The Secretariat is hosted by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) at the University of Oxford.

Multidimensional Poverty

Measurements of multidimensional poverty can be used to make visible a small set of high priority deprivations that people who live in poverty are suffering. Measurements of this type reveal who is poor, in what way, and to what degree. Costa Rica officially adopted its Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) in 2015 and has since become an example in its innovative use for the design of more effective policies, budget allocation and targeting the poor. Costa Rica is part of a group of leading governments who are implementing multidimensional poverty measures. Many other countries recognize the need to implement these types of measures are in the process of developing them.

Format

This high-level event will have the form of a dynamic discussion between heads of state, international organizations and ministers. It will take place for a duration of two hours. The President of Costa Rica will give the opening remarks and then will open the discussion to the eminent panel of speakers.