



Interregional Expert Group Meeting “Placing equality at the centre of the 2030 Agenda”

27-28 June 2018

Celso Furtado conference room, ECLAC Headquarters, Santiago, Chile

Objectives of the meeting

Understanding and addressing inequality in all its forms is necessary to promote the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and to ensure that “no one is left behind” in the development process. However, many challenges still exist to foster knowledge on the multiple dimensions of inequality, improve its measurement and strengthen the design of public policies for equality and that consider a rights-based approach.

This Interregional Expert Group Meeting marks the closing of the 9th Tranche United Nations Development Account project “Promoting Equality: Strengthening the Capacity of Select Developing Countries to Design and Implement Equality-oriented Public Policies and Programmes”, which is aimed at improving the awareness of the different dimensions of inequality, strengthening countries’ capacities to analyze and measure inequality, as well as at promoting the conceptualization, design and implementation of multidisciplinary public policies oriented towards greater socio-economic equality.

In line with the Development Account project, the main goal of this Interregional Expert Group Meeting is to promote equality as a key driver of the 2030 Agenda. It is hoped that discussions will contribute to promote and sustain a multisectoral approach to the United Nations’ analytical and policy work on inequality in the framework of the 2030 Agenda. In particular the EGM aims at:

- 1) Presenting and discussing a new report with regional findings and lessons learned in the conceptualization, design and implementation of public policies and programmes oriented towards greater equality.
- 2) Discussing and exchanging regional and country experiences on the contribution of public policies to greater socio-economic equality, in the framework of the 2030 Agenda.
- 3) Discussing and exchanging experiences and lessons learned on the measurement of socio-economic inequalities, taking into account its multiple dimensions.

The EGM will represent an opportunity for participants to present project findings as well as to discuss regional and country experiences. Participants are expected to be policymakers and senior officials from national governments, UN Staff from Regional Commissions (ECA, UNECE, ECLAC, ESCAP, ESCWA) and other United Nations agencies, as well as experts, academics and members of civil society organizations.

The EGM will count with English/Spanish/French interpretation.

Agenda

Day 1 (Wednesday, June 27: 9.30-18.00)

9.30 -9.45 Inauguration: Equality and the 2030 Agenda

Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary, ECLAC

Laís Abramo, Director, Social Development Division, ECLAC

9.45 - 10.30 Equality as the driver of development

Presentation of the document of the Thirty-seventh session of ECLAC, "The inefficiency of inequality"

Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary, ECLAC

10.30-11.00 Coffee break

11.00-13.00 Session 1: Regional views on inequality

The objective of this session is to present the report prepared in the framework of the "Promoting Equality" Development Account project and its regional findings and lessons learned in the conceptualization, design and implementation of public policies and programmes oriented towards greater equality.

Moderated by: Rodrigo Martínez, Senior Social Affairs Officer, Social Development Division, ECLAC

- Key messages of the report & Latin American and Caribbean view on inequality, Simone Cecchini, Senior Social Affairs Officer, Social Development Division, ECLAC
- Regional view on inequality, Adrian Gauci, Economic Affairs Officer, Employment and Social Protection Section, Social Development Policy Division, ECA
- Regional view on inequality, Patrick Andersson, Chief, Sustainable Socioeconomic Transformation Section, Social Development Division, ESCAP
- Regional view on inequality, Oussama Sefa, Chief, Participation and Social Justice Section, Social Development Division, ESCWA

Discussion

13.00-14.30 Lunch break

14.30-16.00 Session 2: Social protection, informality and inequality

The objective of this session is to present and discuss pro-equality social protection policies at specific stages of the life cycle (early childhood and old age) and for specific population groups of the population. The issue of informality and its linkages with inequality will also be discussed.

Moderated by: Raúl Holz, Social Affairs Officer, Social Development Division, ECLAC

- Report on the World Social Situation: Promoting inclusion through social protection, Maren Jimenez, Social Affairs Officer, Emerging Issues and Trends Section, Division for Inclusive Social Development, DESA
- Pension and income transfers for old age, Fernando Filgueira, CIESU, Uruguay
- Social protection for families and early childhood, Cecilia Rossel, Catholic University of Uruguay
- Social protection in rural areas, Natalia Winder Rossi, Social Protection Team Leader, FAO
- Informality and inequality in Africa, Saurabh Sinha, Chief, Employment and Social Protection Section, Social Development Policy Division, ECA

Discussion

16.00 – 16.30 Coffee break

16.30 – 18.00 Session 3: Country views on inequality (part 1)

The objective of this session is for policymakers and senior officials from selected governments to present country experiences and lessons learned in the conceptualization, design and implementation of public policies and programmes oriented towards greater equality.

Moderated by: Pablo Faret, Consultant, FAO

- Juan Pablo Labat, Director, Evaluation and Monitoring, Ministry of Social Development (MIDES), Uruguay
- Gabriela Agosto, Executive Secretary of the National Council for Social Policy Coordination, Argentina
- Nguyen Thi Lan Huong, Director, Institute for Vocational Education and Social Protection, Vietnam Vocational Training Association and Vocational Social Worker
- Anis Zahraz, Resource Person from the Tunisian Public Administration, Tunisia

Discussion

Day 2 (Thursday, June 28: 9.00-18.00)

9.00-10.30 Session 4: Country views on inequality (part 2)

The objective of this session is for policymakers and senior officials from selected governments to present country experiences and lessons learned in the conceptualization, design and implementation of public policies and programmes oriented towards greater equality.

Moderated by: Simone Cecchini, Senior Social Affairs Officer, Social Development Division, ECLAC

- Ana Ortega, *Proyecto Tú Primero*, Vice-presidency, Dominican Republic
- Blanca Lilia García, Deputy Director General, International Relations, Ministry of Social Development, Mexico
- Nino Odisharia, Head of the Social Assistance Department, Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs, Georgia
- Mubarak Rahamtalla, Consultant on International Development Cooperation for the Ministry of Security and Social Development, Sudan

Discussion

10.30-11.00 Coffee break

11.00 – 13.00 Session 5: International perspectives on social protection and inequality

The objective of this session is to discuss social protection public policies that can contribute to reduce inequality, with a focus on the potential and challenges for a Universal Basic Income.

Moderated by: Laís Abramo, Director, Social Development Division, ECLAC (TBC)

- Armando Barrientos, Professor, University of Manchester
- José Florito, Coordinator, Social Protection, CIPPEC and Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors
- Pablo Yanes, Research Coordinator, ECLAC
- Ian Orton, Child Poverty and Social Protection Unit, Social Inclusion and Policy Section, Programme Division UNICEF
- Jurgen De Wispelaere, University of Bath

Discussion

13.00-14.30 Lunch break

14.30 – 16.00 Session 6: Measurement and analysis of poverty and socio-economic inequalities

The objective of this session is to discuss the measurement of poverty and inequality. In particular, the session will focus on the challenges and prospects for the measurement of income poverty, inequality of opportunities, the disaggregation of social indicators and the distributive impact of public policies.

Moderated by: Beatriz Morales, Research Assistant, Social Development Division, ECLAC

- Challenges and opportunities for the measurement of income inequality and poverty, Xavier Mancero, Statistics Division, ECLAC
- Tools for the study of socio-economic inequalities and the redistributive impact of social policies and taxation, Varinia Tromben, Economic Affairs Officer, Social Development Division, ECLAC

- Analyzing inequality of opportunity in Asia and the Pacific, Ermina Sokou, Social Affairs Officer, Sustainable Socioeconomic Transformation Section, Social Development Division, ESCAP
- Advancing the measurement of poverty and inequality in the UNECE region, Andres Vikat, Chief, Social and Demographic Statistics Section, UNECE
- Challenges and opportunities for the measurement of ethnic and racial inequalities, Vivian Milosavljevic, Social Development Division, ECLAC

Discussion

16.00 – 16.30 Coffee break

16.30 – 18.00 Session 7: Country experiences on measurement and analysis of socio-economic inequalities and the 2030 Agenda

The objective of this session is to share country experiences and challenges on the measurement of poverty and inequality.

Moderated by: Simone Cecchini, Senior Social Affairs Officer, Social Development Division, ECLAC

- Measuring inequality and poverty in the United States: challenges and opportunities in the international context, Trudi Renwick, Assistant Division Chief, Economic Characteristics, Social, Economic and Housing Statistics Division, U.S. Census Bureau, UNECE region
- Measuring poverty and inequality in Latvia: advantages of harmonising methodology, Viktors Veretjanovs, Senior Expert of Social Statistics Methodology Section, Social Statistics Department, Central Statistical Bureau, Latvia, UNECE region
- Functional distribution of income, Soledad Villafañe, ECLAC office in Buenos Aires, ECLAC region

Discussion

Wrap-up and closing remarks