ECOSOC Partnership Forum

2024 ECOSOC Partnership Forum
30 January 2024

SDG Action Segment

Goal 1 - No Poverty

03:00 PM – 04:00 PM
ECOSOC Chamber, UNHQ

Summary

Organized by **UN Development Programme, Special Advisor to the UN Secretary-General on Public-Private Partnerships and Islamic Social Financing, Local Authorities Major Group, Women's Major Group, Business and Industry Major Group, NGO Committee on Financing for Development**

SDG Action Segment for Goal 1

Organized as part of the 2024 ECOSOC Partnership Forum

Summary and recommendations for action

Background and objectives

Across the globe, over 1 billion people are living in multidimensional poverty in 110 countries.[1] The COVID-19 pandemic has halted decades of poverty reduction progress, leading to the first rise in the number of people living in extreme poverty in a generation and the largest surge in between-country inequality in three decades. The impacts of the climate crisis, increased war and fragility, a weak global economy, and the lingering effects of the pandemic have revealed weaknesses and hindered progress towards the 2030 Agenda, with the world's poorest and most vulnerable experiencing the worst effects of these unprecedented global challenges.[2] If current trends continue, 575 million people (of which 342 million women and girls[3]) will still be living in extreme poverty, globally, and only one-third of countries will have halved their national poverty levels by 2030.[4]

The SDG 1 Action Segment of the 2024 ECOSOC Partnership Forum focused on the theme of "Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions". The objective of the session was to spark discussion along three key major trends, 1) Concentration of poverty and geographical disparities; 2) Growing fragility and conflict; and 3) Demographic transformation. Beyond these trends, the SDG1 Action Segment reflected on the key enablers and actionable strategies, such as financial mechanisms (considering issues such as debt sustainability, taxation, financial flows etc.), inclusive partnerships, technological advances and innovation, policy development, and improved public services, to advance SDG1 globally.

Key issues, messages, and policy recommendations

The Action Segment brought together a dynamic mix of thought leaders to discuss and promote effective and resilient solutions to eradicate poverty by 2030. The discussion highlighted the significance of financial inclusion, leveraging technology for social equity, and the crucial roles of education, healthcare, and infrastructure in poverty alleviation. It also covered the need for systemic changes in global financial systems to better address 21st-century challenges and the importance of global cooperation in achieving significant reductions in poverty levels.

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[1] 2023 Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) – Unstacking global poverty: Data for high impact action

[2] The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2023: Special Edition

[3] Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The Gender Snapshot 2023

[4] The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2023: Special Edition. New York: United Nations

Key messages and policy recommendations delineated in the discussion included:

- Prioritizing investment areas with potential to catalyze poverty reduction include: ensuring universal access to education, healthcare, energy, water, sanitation, and public infrastructure driven by public investments; providing affordable housing for low-income families; facilitating access to decent jobs, sustainable livelihoods, and productive assets; and leveraging digital technologies, such as AI, to reach marginalized groups.
- Strengthening local public service provision as crucial for reducing poverty and inequalities, and for achieving equality and care. Local and regional governments are not only providers of these vital services but also facilitators of partnerships on the ground, that ensure participatory and democratic policymaking that strengthen multistakeholder governance.
- Investing in digital transformation by leveraging generative AI is a powerful cost-effective tool for enabling vulnerable groups and other key stakeholders to share their experiences and learnings widely, fostering collective resilience and prosperity.
- Harnessing digital public infrastructure (DPI) to help tackle pockets of poverty and associated challenges, including climate change and gender inequalities.
- Prioritizing innovations that specifically address the needs and challenges faced by women and girls through an intersectional lens of education, healthcare, and economic opportunities.

The enormity of investment required to create substantial change in lifting people out of poverty cannot be overstated - whether it is for education, health services, housing, infrastructure, or social protection systems. As we strive to innovate in the field of financing, the exploration of diverse funding sources, from international financial institutions to private sector engagement and public-private partnerships, becomes essential. The UN Secretary-General proposal on the SDG Stimulus is pivotal.

Key messages to inform the 2024 HLPF thematic review

The SDG1 Action Segment emphasized the following partnerships as especially promising for advancing the implementation of SDG 1 and supporting synergies with other Goals and Targets:

- Partnerships involving financial technology (FinTech) solutions (e.g., Sunduk in South Sudan), which facilitate financial inclusion and access to credit, especially in rural communities.
- Collaborations with private sectors, such as cross-border trade organizations, that integrate local solutions to de-risk investments and offer lower interest credit to non-banked populations.
- Multi-stakeholder partnerships that include local and regional governments, civil society, private sector, academia, and youth, aimed at creating jobs, advancing social protection, and supporting just and green energy transitions.

To strengthen, scale up, or replicate these partnerships in other countries or sectors, the session proposed the following:

- Tailoring solutions to specific community's needs and ensuring responsible engagement of the private sector.
- Leveraging digital innovations to support the creation of quality jobs, skills development, and robust social assistance measures.
- Ensuring that partnerships reconcile national ambitions with sustainable development goals, particularly through financing models that combine efforts from international financial institutions, the private sector, and public partnerships.

To support deeper collaboration among governments, civil society, the private sector, and international organizations to accelerate SDG 1 progress, the session outlined:

- The need for reforms in global financial architecture to enable more equitable and targeted funding, especially for communities most affected by poverty and inequality.
- The importance of targeted funding for community solutions led by frontline groups such as women, youth, indigenous people, and persons with disabilities.
- The necessity of quality education, technical and vocational training, and apprenticeships to unlock economic opportunities for youth.
- The use of technology and data to efficiently aid and maintain the dignity of those seeking help, while ensuring that interventions are precisely targeted and that local and regional governments are empowered to implement SDG-driven policies.

These partnerships and strategies are underscored as vital for meeting the ambitious targets set for poverty reduction under SDG1 and achieving broader sustainable development goals.