

PERMANENT MISSION OF DENMARK  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



PERMANENT MISSION OF NORWAY  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**Elements for Intervention on Poverty Eradication on behalf  
of Denmark, Norway and Ireland at the  
Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals**

**by Ambassador Anne Anderson,  
Permanent Representative of Ireland**

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*Check against delivery*

- In this intervention for Norway, Denmark and Ireland we will try to give preliminary responses to the excellent Issues Paper. We will also draw from some relevant messages that emerged from an international conference hosted in Dublin this week on Hunger, Nutrition and Climate Justice.

*Qs a. and b.: US\$ 1.25 and the Multi-dimensional Nature of Poverty*

- The current poverty line measure of US\$1.25 per day is precisely that, a tool for measurement. As such it remains a useful tool. But we fully agree with the many speakers yesterday who expressed the need to go beyond this now and reflect the multi-dimensional nature of poverty in order to tackle poverty eradication. We need the paradigm shift that so many have talked about.
- We subscribe to Prof Banerjee's view yesterday that to identify and eradicate poverty we need to leave behind outcomes that are chosen for their bureaucratic ease of measurement and focus on the multi-dimensional nature of poverty. For example we need to move from access to basic education to quality of education. As Jomo Sundaram (FAO) told us yesterday, when the poverty line is addressed it does not necessarily eradicate the hunger line. As highlighted by Benin, India and others agriculture production is also relevant here with even a 1 % increase yielding significant benefits.
- On Question B, let me repeat again, that to address poverty eradication, each SDG should integrate the three dimensions. As so many of us have said in the conceptualisation discussion, this is the essence of sustainability.

*Qs. c. and e.: How goals can take account the needs of vulnerable countries? How goals and targets can be designed in meaningful ways for marginalized or excluded groups?*

- Step one is to listen. We are very keen to listen to countries in vulnerable situations and those who are conflict affected. Our colleague from Palau, for example, raised the interesting question of indicators to measure vulnerability. The conflict-affected states have been meeting and developing their own perspective and these views should help shape how the SDGs are formulated.
- In the coming months, we need to ensure that we listen to the views of countries and people who have made progress in eradicating poverty and who possess important knowledge of how to build solutions. A key transferable message from the Dublin Conference is that we need to put people at the centre – because they know what they need and want. The urgency felt locally needs to be felt internationally and trigger action. It is an injustice to put the burden of dealing with poverty eradication, sustainable development and climate change on local people - we all have a role.

- I am not comfortable with raising the women's empowerment issue under a heading of marginalised or excluded groups. Clearly, there is no way that half of humanity can be considered as marginalised. But nevertheless the reality of women's lives in so many countries is that they are marginalised. So once again we need to spell out the message clearly. It will be impossible to eradicate poverty and spur sustainable development without ensuring that the rights of women and girls are respected and they are empowered to engage in decision making on an equal footing with men. A key message from the Dublin Conference was – 'don't keep half the people outside the door'!
- The issue of women's access to economic resources is absolutely critical to the eradication of poverty. Significant gender inequalities persist and are major obstacles to poverty eradication – For example, we learned at the Dublin Conference that if women farmers were to have the same access as men to inputs including fertilizers, maize yields would increase by almost one-sixth in Malawi and Ghana. Eliminating barriers that discriminate against women working in certain sectors could increase labour productivity by as much as 25% in some countries.

*Qs d, f, g:*

*Should some means require separate goals and targets?*

*What is needed to make goals for economic growth and poverty eradication consistent with more sustainable use of natural resources and environment?*

*How should goals for sustainable management of the natural resource base and eco-systems be translated into national action?*

- As to whether the means suggested in the paper require stand alone goals, we feel it would be premature to present a view at this stage. As our US colleague observed it is not something that can be decided ex ante. However it is clear that there are key cross-cutting issues. In this regard we appreciated Olaf Kjørven's sum up yesterday, recognising the effect the goal on poverty had for other goals as well.
- A key message we are taking from the interventions of colleagues and panellists is how sustainability and poverty eradication are two sides of the one coin. This view will inform our thinking on the development of the SDGs. This emerges very clearly for example in the discussions around energy and ideas which integrate access, efficiency and the uptake of renewable.

- We reiterate that there must be a clear and strong reinforcement between global and national goals. Having national goals in no way exempts us from having global goals and fulfilling our global responsibilities. At the same time, we will be contributing to the achievement of global goals by undertaking specific national responsibilities.