



Leaving No-One Behind: African Perspectives

Side Event at the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 18 July 2016, 18:15-19:15

Background

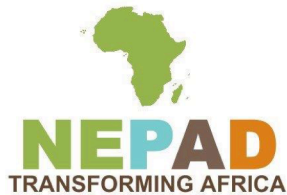
As a global community, we have committed to achieving an ambitious agenda for sustainable development by 2030, promising that we will leave no-one behind in doing so. Our greatest challenge is to achieve sustainable development for everyone, everywhere, for all countries and for all groups, particularly the most vulnerable in our societies. This side event reflected on what leaving no-one behind means in Africa and drew conclusions on the recently-published analytical work *African Economic Outlook 2016*, co-published by the African Development Bank, the OECD and UNDP, and on research undertaken by the Overseas Development Institute (ODI).

Summary

The side event was co-hosted by the Government of Malawi as Co-Chair of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Planning and Co-ordinating Agency and was moderated by H.E. Macharia Kamau, Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations. It showcased actions being taken to address the challenge of leaving no-one behind in Africa and discussed ways in which all actors can work together to achieve sustainable development for everyone.

There is a very short period of time to deliver the ambitious 2030 Agenda. Basic challenges still remain including access to health, education, and infrastructure, among others. Challenges of ensuring efficient and effective development co-operation remain important to reach those who are farthest behind. To that end, development co-operation needs to be flexible to respond to country priorities. Thus, actions need to respond to the multi-dimensional characteristics of poverty and solutions must be country-driven. In this context, the principles of effective development co-operation remain relevant and need to be deepened to maximise their impact. The Global Partnership uses data and country-level evidence to bring multiple stakeholder groups together to discuss how development co-operation and smarter investment can reach those that are left behind.

The side event was moderated by **H.E. Ambassador Macharia Kamau**, Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations and later in the session by **H.E. Ambassador Jeroen Verheul**, Ambassador at Large for Foreign Trade and International Development of the Netherlands. Speakers included: **Ms. Betty Ngoma**, Assistant Director for Debt and Aid Management, Ministry of Finance, Malawi; **Ms. Florence Nazare**, Head of the Capacity Development Division, NEPAD; **Mr. Noel González Segura**, Co-ordinator for Multi-lateral and Regional Development Co-operation Fora and Mechanisms, AMEXCID, Mexico; **Ms. Brenda Killen**, Deputy Director, Development Co-operation Directorate, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; **Ms. Angela Lusigi**, Economic Advisor, Regional Bureau for Africa, United Nations Development Programme; **Ms. Romilly Greenhill**, Team Leader, Development Finance, Centre for Aid and Public Expenditure, Overseas Development Institute; **Mr. Vitalice Meja**, Executive Director, Reality of Aid Africa Network and representative of the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness; **Ms. Heather Grady**, Vice President, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors.



Key Messages

- **As a global community, we have committed to achieving an ambitious agenda for sustainable development by 2030, promising that we will leave no-one behind.** In addition, not only should we leave no-one behind, but we should prioritise those groups who have been marginalised thus far. In this context, the Global Partnership has a key role ensuring that development co-operation encompasses all actors in society, particularly the most vulnerable groups.
- **Implementation of the SDGs requires flexibility, taking into account national priorities.** Development co-operation is country driven, based on priorities of recipient countries, reflecting their context and should also demonstrate the greatest impact for those who are furthest behind.
- **The Global Partnership's monitoring framework is unique** in that it provides a mechanism for measuring progress in implementing development effectiveness commitments. The framework is a means to help achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by bringing all stakeholders involved in development co-operation to the table.
- **Achieving the SDGs requires inclusive partnerships and collaboration at the local, national, regional and global levels.** 'Leaving no-one behind' refers to least developed countries, fragile states and landlocked developing countries, but also to vulnerable and marginalised groups such as women and children.
- The achievement of the SDGs requires a **multidimensional approach that encompasses several social, political and economic processes.** These entail focusing on education and skills in tandem with economic and productive changes, diversifying the means of production, expanding international trade and facilitating the flow of goods and people across borders. In this context, the Free Trade Area and the pan-African passport were presented as important examples of citizen-led development.
- Mexico highlighted the **challenges facing Middle Income Countries (MICs)**, which include difficulties in accessing ODA and other types of development finance (the 'Middle Income trap'). More than half of African countries are MICs and projections show that that number will grow as Lower Income Countries move into this bracket.
- **Development is not only about income**, it's also about access to services; overcoming inequality, gender gaps and vulnerabilities; and building resilient societies. In this context, Mexico's multi-dimensional poverty index measures poverty not only in regards to income, but also based on different dimensions such as access to education, health, social security and habitat. This methodology has been shared with African counterparts.
- The global environment is becoming less favourable for Africa's commodity-based economies. Following impressive growth over the past fifteen years, in the past two years, growth has been more moderate, mostly due to sluggish global growth and falling commodity prices. There's a **need to transition out of a commodity-based production model into a producer of higher-value goods and services.** This requires greater regional integration and deeper domestic policy reforms. **Urbanisation in African countries presents an opportunity** to foster such industrial development and social integration.
- **In Africa, domestic growth is now the main driver of most economies**, supported by private consumption and investment in construction. In addition, remittances from the diaspora have continued to grow with migrants sending around \$65 billion USD home in 2015.



- The *African Economic Outlook 2016* also focuses on the **linkage between urbanisation and structural transformation**. Africa is urbanising at a fast pace, which presents economic opportunities the continent and its partners. Cities could increase the consumer base for African food producers and could create enabling conditions for industrial development and foster social integration. Africa needs to design and implement better and more sustainable urbanisation policies and to mobilise finance for infrastructure from public and private sources.
- There would be value in looking at the **partnerships and policies required to better implement development effectiveness principles**. It is important to identify the policies and financing that can be effective in different contexts – in fragile and conflict-affected states, LICs, MICs etc.. How do we **rethink the principles using the lens of leaving no one behind**?
- Inequality is not a natural phenomenon; it is made by people. **What transformative structures need to be put in place** to ensure that we leave no one behind?
- **Philanthropy has a role to play in leaving no one behind**, but UN processes and governments need to be more open to engaging foundations. When governments identify their own priorities, this facilitates the engagement of philanthropy.

Conclusion

The 2030 Agenda and the SDG framework require that no-one is left behind. Improving conditions for those who are the furthest behind will require strong policy action and inclusive partnerships and collaboration at the local, national, regional and global levels to promote faster and more inclusive growth. The Global Partnership plays a key role in bringing stakeholders to the table and drawing on an evidence-based monitoring process.

The 2nd High-Level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation, to be hosted by the Government of Kenya in Nairobi on 28 November – 1 December 2016, will aim to further address these topics and all partners are encouraged to attend the event.

Contacts

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A complete recording of the side event can be found at: <http://effectivecooperation.org/event/global-partnership-side-event-at-the-high-level-political-forum-on-sustainable-development-leaving-no-one-behind-african-perspectives/>