



ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission
for Asia and the Pacific



Concept Note

Beyond 2030: Renewing the Global Commitment to End Poverty in All its Dimensions *High-Level Side Meeting on the margins of the UN General Assembly*

22 September 2026, 15:00-16:30

UN Headquarters, New York

Background

The Kingdom of Bhutan, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the [Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network \(MPPN\)](#), with its Secretariat, the [Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative \(OPHI\)](#) at the University of Oxford, are honoured to co-host a high-level discussion on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, to be held on Tuesday 22 September 2026, 15:00-16:30.

As the international community enters the final years of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, attention is increasingly turning to the future of global development cooperation and the priorities that will guide action beyond 2030. While significant progress has been achieved in many parts of the world, poverty remains one of the defining challenges of our time. Progress has been uneven, and recent years have been marked by multiple and overlapping crises, including conflict, climate-related disasters, economic uncertainty, displacement, and social fragmentation, all of which threaten to reverse hard-won gains.

In this context, there is an urgent need not only to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), but also to begin reflecting on how the international community can renew and strengthen its commitment to poverty eradication in the decades ahead. Poverty must remain at the centre of global development efforts beyond 2030.

This high-level discussion will convene Heads of State, senior government representatives, leaders of international organisations, and development partners to examine how multidimensional approaches to poverty and leaving no one behind can contribute to this objective. The discussion will provide a platform to reflect on lessons learned, showcase successful country experiences, and initiate a forward-looking dialogue on the role of multidimensional poverty in shaping future international development priorities.

Why Multidimensional Poverty Matters Beyond 2030

Poverty is inherently multidimensional. People experience poverty not only through inadequate income, but also through overlapping deprivations in areas such as health, education, housing, sanitation, nutrition, energy access, security, and opportunities for participation and inclusion.

These deprivations are often interconnected and mutually reinforcing. As a result, poverty cannot be fully understood or effectively addressed through isolated interventions. Instead, it requires coordinated policies that reflect the complex realities people face.

At the same time, many of the defining challenges of the twenty-first century (including climate change, conflict, forced displacement, demographic change, food insecurity, and growing

inequalities) contribute to and are reinforced by multidimensional poverty. These challenges increase vulnerability, deepen existing deprivations, and risk leaving millions further behind.

As countries seek more integrated approaches to development and resilience, multidimensional poverty offers a practical framework for understanding who is being left behind, how disadvantages overlap, and where policy interventions can have the greatest impact. It provides an important bridge between poverty reduction, resilience-building, social protection, human development, and sustainable development more broadly, making it highly relevant in informing future global development frameworks beyond 2030.

Multidimensional Poverty Indices (MPIs): From Measurement to Action

Multidimensional Poverty Indices (MPIs) provide a robust and policy-relevant tool for identifying overlapping deprivations and supporting evidence-based decision-making. Complementing monetary poverty measures, MPIs offer a more comprehensive understanding of poverty and reveal the specific combinations of disadvantages affecting individuals, households, and communities.

Over 50 countries have developed national MPIs tailored to their own contexts and policy priorities. These measures are increasingly being used to inform national development strategies, social protection programmes, targeting mechanisms, territorial planning, budget allocation, and coordination across government institutions.

The Global MPI, produced annually by OPHI and the Human Development Report Office (HDRO) of UNDP, complements national efforts by providing internationally comparable evidence on poverty trends across more than 100 developing countries, covering over 6 billion people.

Experience across the MPPN demonstrates that MPIs can serve not only as measurement tools, but also as practical instruments for policy coordination, accountability, and action. As countries look beyond 2030, these experiences offer valuable lessons for designing more integrated and effective approaches to poverty reduction.

MPIs can inform policies not only at international and national levels but also at the local level, as they can be disaggregated to explore differences in poverty prevalence within countries. In this context, ESCAP's flagship Leaving No One Behind Platform complements MPIs by identifying the furthest behind groups in all dimensions of MPI and bridge multidimensional poverty with inequality of opportunity. Both MPI and LNOB results are widely used in the Voluntary National Reviews when countries take stock of their progress in SDGs.

High-Level Dialogue

The discussion will feature remarks by His Excellency the Prime Minister of Bhutan DASHO Tshering Tobgay. It will also include interventions from distinguished leaders representing countries and institutions that have demonstrated strong commitment to poverty reduction and multidimensional approaches to development. During the discussion, attendees will hear about an innovative gendered, individual-level analysis using global MPI data revealing disparities within the household, including children, allowing for further tailored policies and programmes targeting the most vulnerable

High-level speakers will be invited to reflect on three broad questions:

- In today's context, how are governments and institutions working to reduce multidimensional poverty during the implementation of the 2030 Agenda?
- How can multidimensional approaches strengthen policy responses to the interconnected challenges of poverty, inequality, conflict, climate vulnerability, and social exclusion?
- What role can multidimensional poverty measurement and policy frameworks play in informing future international development priorities beyond 2030?

The Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network (MPPN)

The Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network (MPPN) is a South-South platform through which countries exchange experiences, knowledge, and innovations related to the measurement and reduction of multidimensional poverty.

The Network has played an important role in advancing the use of national MPIs around the world and continues to support efforts to ensure that poverty eradication remains central to global development discussions.

As of August 2026, ministers and senior officials from 66 countries participate in the MPPN: Afghanistan, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, eSwatini, Gambia, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jamaica, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sudan, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam.

A growing number of institutions also participate in the MPPN: African Development Bank (AfDB); CAF Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean; Commonwealth Secretariat; Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ); Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); Inter-American Development Bank (IDB); Islamic Development Bank (IsDB); Organization of American States (OAS); Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS); Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI); Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA); Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida); Southern African Development Community (SADC); Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC); the Pacific Community (SPC); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA); United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA); United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP); United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF); World Bank; and World Food Programme (WFP).