

“Eradicating poverty and leaving no one behind”

E-Discussion on the 2017 ECOSOC Theme

20 Mar - 17 Apr 2017, Coordinated and Organized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

This e-Discussion being held from **20 March** to **17 April 2017**, is coordinated and organized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

This e-Discussion is on the ECOSOC theme *"Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions through promoting sustainable development, expanding opportunities and addressing related challenges."*

The purpose of the 2017 ECOSOC electronic discussion (e-Discussion) is to engage stakeholder groups, experts, practitioners and policy-makers from various regions in a global dialogue on specific aspects of the 2017 ECOSOC theme.

BACKGROUND

The Economic and Social Council's (ECOSOC) work in support of the implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes an annual main theme through which the Council advances the balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development.

The main theme for the 2017 ECOSOC session is *"Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions through promoting sustainable development, expanding opportunities and addressing related challenges"*. Through this theme, the Council and the whole ECOSOC system will facilitate global engagement in support of poverty eradication, bringing together Governments, the private sector, civil society, the United Nations system and other actors. The 2017 ECOSOC substantive session will provide

policy guidance, elaborate institutional and other requirements, and promote operational support for eradicating poverty.

ECOSOC ensures the alignment of its annual main theme and the corresponding annual theme of the high-level political forum (HLPF) under the auspices of the Council to foster coherence. The 2017 theme of the HLPF is "*Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world*". The HLPF also discusses a set of Goals and their interlinkages, including, if appropriate, with other Goals, at each session representing the three dimensions of sustainable development. The Goals to be reviewed in 2017 are SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 9 and 14.

In support of the 2017 session of ECOSOC, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will convene an e-Discussion on the 2017 ECOSOC main theme. The e-Discussion provides a unique opportunity for the wider development community to formulate critical policy messages and recommendations. Contributions made by e-Discussion participants will be channelled into various parts of ECOSOC, particularly the report of the Secretary-General on the ECOSOC main theme and the deliberations during the High-level Segment of the Council in July.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the 2017 ECOSOC electronic discussion (e-Discussion) is to engage stakeholder groups, experts, practitioners and policy-makers from various regions in a global dialogue on specific aspects of the 2017 ECOSOC theme.

The e-Discussion is expected to provide ECOSOC with ideas, suggestions and recommendations for building synergies for poverty eradication across actions in the economic, social and environmental dimensions. It is also expected to identify diverse strategies that could be taken by countries facing different challenges, as solutions to poverty eradication will vary depending on national contexts.

The e-Discussion will also consider the global landscape, identifying systemic challenges and opportunities that will require greater international cooperation and action. It will also address how the international community, including the General Assembly, ECOSOC the HLPF and other

policy making fora, could better support poverty eradication and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In this context, and with a view to realizing the 2030 Agenda, the discussion will focus on:

1. Eradicating poverty and leaving no one behind;
2. New evidence and innovations in poverty eradication efforts; and
3. Systemic challenges and opportunities in eradicating poverty.

ORGANIZATION AND FORMAT

The e-Discussion will take place during a four-week period in March 2017. DESA and UNDP will conceptualize and coordinate the e-Discussion and will provide joint substantive and technical support. UNDP will lend access to its networks and online platform. DESA and UNDP will facilitate outreach through their respective networks, including academia and think-tanks, as well as through contact lists of independent experts and resource persons for inclusion in the discussion.

The e-Discussion will be organized around a series of interlinked themes of relevance to implementation of the 2030 Agenda vis-à-vis poverty eradication and the transition from commitments to results. Questions will be formulated for each topic and made available in English, French and Spanish. To focus the discussion, the e-Discussion will consist of three concurrently running thematic windows, each to be led by a selected expert moderator and supported by a shadow facilitator from DESA or UNDP.

Members of relevant ECOSOC expert committees and subsidiary bodies, such as the Committee for Development Policy, will be invited to contribute through their active engagement in the discussion. The UN Department of Public Information and other stakeholder networks, including from the private sector (e.g., Global Compact) and civil society (e.g., United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS) and ECOSOC Civil Society Network (CSO-Net)), will be approached to publicize the e-Discussion and promote global participation of relevant stakeholders.

Upon completion of the e-Discussion, DESA and UNDP will prepare a summary report that: (a) describes the background and structure of the e-Discussion; (b) provides a general overview of participation; and (c) synthesizes key findings, messages and recommendations from participants on each of the topics of discussion. This summary report will serve as an input into the report of the Secretary-General on the 2017 ECOSOC theme. It will also be available on the ECOSOC website as a Conference Room Paper (CRP) for the ECOSOC High-level Segment.

STRATEGIC FOCUS

In line with the preparation of the Secretary-General's report on the ECOSOC theme, the e-Discussion will address the theme in the context of the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through the following three thematic windows and accompanying indicative questions to guide the discussion.

[Shah Tasadduque Ali Khan](#) , Executive Director, Participatory Human Rights Advancement Society, Dhaka, Bangladesh, was Joined the e-discussion & Commented 13 April 2017 on the 2017 ECOSOC Theme **“Eradicating poverty and leaving no one behind”** Coordinated and Organized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Commented on the e discussion forum on the 13 April 2017 on the 2017 ECOSOC Theme **“Eradicating poverty and leaving no one behind”** is quoted bellow:

"Dear All,

Greetings!!

I would like to thank you all for giving me the opportunity to join & share my views with this discussion. My country is Bangladesh.

There are so many problems in developing countries. We have to face it in present & in future. Problems we face are our reality and wait for help in finding solutions to reduce future risks.

In my point of view I try to highlight the problems.

Population in our country increasing day by day but land not increasing parallel. They cut the green area specifically the agricultural land by building houses & making unplanned extremely big residential housing projects in different prominent places specifically the capital city as well as district town in the country. This unplanned use of agricultural land will lead to a shortage of agricultural crops in this region. As a result, increasing poverty & population rapidly with decreased agricultural food production.

People have to migrate for searching works in different cities & countries. In many family working people are living abroad for their work and sending foreign remittances for their families in village. Their family has to depend on purchasing everything for their daily family needs. Due to shortage of agriculture land they are not directly involved with agricultural production. Farmers are facing hard crisis for agricultural land for food production and on the other part aristocrat class & landlords has huge lands found in uncultivated, barren or partly cultivated. To eradicate poverty we need kind attention on it. We have to more caring for our poor farmers so that they can be able to find cultivable agricultural land or farmers can get adequate leased cultivable agricultural land from aristocrat class & landlords for increasing our agricultural production.

The world population is increasing so very rapidly and cultivable agricultural land is not enough so to eradicate poverty specifically developing countries need special care on highly technologically advanced & sophisticated agricultural production systems.

- 7.4 billion The world population in 2016.(reference: <http://www.prb.org/pdf16/prb-wpds2016-web-2016.pdf>)
- 526 Average global population per square kilometer of arable land — 239 in more developed countries, 697 in less developed. (reference: <http://www.prb.org/pdf16/prb-wpds2016-web-2016.pdf>)
- The world population will reach 9.9 billion in 2050, up 33 percent from an estimated 7.4 billion now, according to projections included

in the *2016 World Population Data Sheet* from the Population Reference Bureau (PRB).

Agriculture is the largest source of income and employment for poor rural families.

- 2.6 billion people depend directly on agriculture, but 52 per cent of the land used for agriculture is moderately or severely affected by soil degradation
- 74 per cent of the poor are directly affected by land degradation globally

Microcredit is sometimes is not suitable for all class of borrowers or farmers because all class of borrowers are not able to change their economic position because they don't know or they don't have proper skills how to use credit to generate income. Sometimes farmers are failing to pay the loan on time and they search for another loan to repay the high interest loan. Two factors limit the use of credit as an instrument for poverty eradication, credit cannot be easily targeted to reach the poor & the poorest of the poor cannot make use of credit because they are in no position to undertake an economic activity.

“The non-entrepreneurial poor do not know how to use credit to generate income.”...”The fact is that the vast majority of the most destitute and the "poorest of the poor" are likely to figure among the non-entrepreneurial poor although there is no conclusive evidence of a direct relationship between the level of poverty and the skills and willingness to run a business.”...” Yet while all poor people need to own more assets to generate more income, not all of the poor can express a viable demand for credit to finance the acquisition of these assets. In fact, as mentioned above, the poorest are the least likely to be in a position to express such a demand.” (p. 8)

Source: Garson, Jose. Microfinance and Anti-Poverty Strategies. A Donor Perspective. UNCDF. <http://www.undp.org/uncdf/pubs/mf/mf-chap1.htm#a>

“Two factors limit the use of credit as an instrument for poverty eradication: (a) credit cannot be easily targeted to reach the poor and (b) many poor people, especially (but not only) the poorest of the poor, cannot make use of credit because they are in no position to undertake an economic activity.” (p.

7) Source: Garson, Jose. Microfinance and Anti-Poverty Strategies. A Donor Perspective. UNCDF. <http://www.undp.org/uncdf/pubs/mf/mf-chap1.htm#a>

“Most of the people in the world are poor, so if we knew the economics of being poor we would know much of the economics that really matters. Most of the world's poor people earn their living from agriculture, so if we knew the economics of agriculture we would know much of the economics of being poor” (Shultz, 1979).

Finally, I would like to conclude my views with Shultz (1979) that, most of the world's poor people earn their living from agriculture, so if we knew the economics of agriculture we would know much of the economics of being poor.

Thank you all."