

INEQUALITY IN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT: AFRICA REGIONAL CONSULTATION FOR THE 2019 HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT (HDR)

Africa regional Forum on Sustainable Development, 20-26 March 2019, Marrakech, Morocco

BACKGROUND

Over the past half century there has been impressive progress on many fronts in human development. However, progress has been uneven, and human deprivations persist, even in very high human development countries. Progress has bypassed certain groups, communities, and societies. In designing the 2030 agenda, world leaders committed to a development path that leaves no one behind. In this context, UNDP decided to prepare its 2019 human development report on the theme of inequality in human development. Inequality is multi-dimensional, complex and dynamic. While many agree that inequality is a critically important issue, there is much less agreement on what to do about it, or – even – how to define and measure it. Inequality is often categorised in two broad groups namely inequality of opportunities (i.e., unequal access to education, health care, jobs, etc) and inequality of outcomes (i.e., income, wealth, consumption, health and so on).

The 2019 Human Development Report (2019 HDR), to be released towards the end of this year, will focus on understanding relevant dimensions of inequality to people’s wellbeing. Against this background, UNDP/HDRO and the UN Economic Commission for Africa’s Gender, Poverty and Social Policy division are jointly planning to organise a regional consultation for the 2019 Human Development Report (HDR) on the topic of inequality in human development as a side event of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, Marrakech, Morocco, 16-18 April 2019. The consultation is aimed at maximizing stakeholder engagement and ensuring inclusive preparation of HDRs. It will also help in sharpening focus of the Report, the analytical work programme, and the Report process.

OBJECTIVES

This consultation will specifically aim to: (i) hear stakeholder’s perspectives and experiences relating to inequality and related sub-themes, identify broad contours, and scope on the specific issues; and (ii) discuss key policy options and promote buy-in among the stakeholders.

STRUCTURE

The moderator will introduce the general theme of the session and pose some agreed-upon questions to each speaker, who will have initially approximately 5 minutes to respond. Once all panelists have spoken, there will an open discussion chaired by the moderator, who may also ask some follow up questions to encourage the debate followed by a Q&A with the audience. The provisional program is as follows:

15 minutes	Welcome Remarks (ECA, UNDP)
5 minutes	Official Opening Remarks by the Director of HDRO
45 minutes	Panel discussion among 6 panelists from senior government representatives, UNESCO, UNICEF, ILO, Director GPSPD/ECA, representative from civil society
20 minutes	Open discussion with participants
5 minutes	Closing remarks