PAN-AFRICAN CONFERENCE ON INEQUALITIES IN THE CONTEXT OF STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION

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in partnership with:
IDENTIFYING POLICY ACTIONS ON INEQUALITY

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BACKGROUND

- The Economic and Social Council of the UN (ECOSOC)
- Addressing Inequality at the Global level
- Sustaining development gains
- Drivers of Inequality
- The Way Forward
Role of ECOSOC

- Intergovernmental body under the UN Charter
- Millennium Summit 2005 to track progress in development
  - Annual Ministerial Reviews
  - Development Cooperation Forum (biennial)
- Rio+20 Conference (June 2012)
  - Integrate the Economic, Social, Environmental dimensions
  - Establishment of the High-level Political Forum on sustainable development
- Link National, Regional, Global levels of development
- Discussions for a Post-2015 Framework to replace MDGs
Theme for the 2014 AMR

“Addressing ongoing and emerging challenges for meeting the Millennium Development Goals and for sustaining development in the future”

Focus of theme/report

• Institutional, policy and other enablers of development
• Inclusion, equity and participation
• Measuring development progress
Global Inequality

- Growing inequality within countries
- Progress in reducing poverty in almost all countries
- Inequality between countries is both historical and the result of policies:
  - Multilateral rules
  - Globalization
  - Markets versus role of government
  - Inadequate attention to fairness and a rights-based approach
Sustaining development gains

- Build strong institutions
- Institutionalize successful practices
- Tackle the domestic drivers of inequality – sharing the cake more fairly
- Tackle the constraints to growth and sustainable development
External drivers of inequality

• Addressing the external drivers of inequality is critical to domestic expansion

• The key focus should be on:
  • Policy space
  • Trade
  • Finance
  • Technology
  • Investment
  • Others
Policy space

• Strong role of Government/institutions:
  • Policy choices that are pro-poor
  • Policies that regulate markets and its agents
  • Provision of services giving equal access to opportunity and outcomes
  • Promote transparency, inclusion and accountability
Trade

• Preferential market access for LDCs, Africa and other vulnerable economies, including small island developing States

• Address subsidies and support, especially in agriculture

• Trade-related technical assistance (Aid-for-Trade)

• Commodities – considerations beyond trade rules, including:
  • Value chains
  • Fair trade
  • Vertical diversification
Finance

- Aid still important; look beyond to effective development cooperation
- Durable solutions to debt problems (external and domestic)
- Financial flows, including illicit flows (net transfers)
- Voice in multilateral financial and monetary coordination decisions
- Role of remittances: argued in terms of the need for balance in treatment of capital and labour
Investment

- Need for a fair multilateral investment regime
- Consider pitfalls of bilateral investment agreements
- Increase Corporate social responsibility
- Strengthen private sector accountability beyond *status quo*
- Promote domestic investment and industrial policy – a policy space issue
Technology

- Intellectual property regime and technology generation and transfer
- Intellectual property and external trade
- ICT and infrastructure challenges
Other areas

- International migration
- Cooperation on tax matters
- Environment, including implications for trade negotiations
- Investment in data and statistics
The Way Forward

- Tackling inequality requires deliberate policies at the national and global levels
- Transformative change calls for a radical paradigm shift:
  - A rights-based approach at all levels
  - Careful balance of the role of markets and government (services and regulation)
  - Inclusive governance and effective institutional guarantees
  - A renewed global development cooperation partnership
The Way Forward (cont.)

- SDGs and post-2015 should reflect both ambition and commitment in agreed development agenda
- Emerging focus encouraging – but negotiations unpredictable
- National responsibility for development outcomes
- Strong accountability framework at national, regional and global levels
The Way Forward (cont.)

- Progress must be measured and monitored
- There must be stronger accountability at all levels (national, regional, global)
- Strengthen institutions and dialogue processes for consensus building
Thank You