

The UN tackles inequality in the 21st century

In 2019, the United Nations is redoubling its efforts to tackle inequality around the world. The Organization has been at the forefront of the fight against inequality and social injustice since its creation. Promoting inclusion, eradicating poverty and eliminating discrimination in their multiple forms are at the core of the UN's mandate. So is the shared endeavor of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), where the ideal of greater equality is a goal itself (SDG 10) as well as a fundamental pledge to ensure that, in a context of widespread and "enormous disparities of opportunity, wealth and power," no one is left behind.

To step up to the ambition, in the context of the High-level Political Forum's theme of "empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality", the UN is strengthening its thought leadership role, pushing the frontiers of knowledge about inequality in the world.

The enormity and complexity of inequality requires a coordinated effort across the UN system to measure and understand its many dimensions and their potential for change.

At this side event, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the UN (DESA), the UN Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat) and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) will present their approaches to inequality in the 21st Century and discuss what can be done to address them in a new and dynamic context. The event will include a presentation of some of the emerging messages of the forthcoming flagship publications of these entities (including DESA's World Social Report and UNDP's Human Development Report). The interactive debate and Q&A that will follow should allow for a forward-looking discussion on the new opportunities and challenges in the debate on inequality and policy action to address it.

Event Details

Date: 16 July 2019

Time: from 1:00 to 2.30 pm

Venue: United Nations S-2724

Moderated by:

Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations (TBC)

Panelists:

Elliott Harris, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist, UN-DESA (TBC)

Pedro Conceição, Director of the Human Development Report Office, UNDP

Eduardo Moreno, Director of Research and Capacity Building, UN-Habitat