



Concept Note: E-Discussion on Inequality for HDR 2019 on the South-South Global Thinkers Network

Proposal: A 2 week e-discussion, followed by an HDRO side event with select participants at the sidelines of the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in July 2019 in New York.

I. Background:

The Human Development Report 2019 (HDR) will tackle the issue of inequality in Human Development. Inequality in Human Development – deep imbalances in the opportunities and choices people have – goes beyond income recognizing the dynamic and complex interactions between inequalities in education, health, voice, access to technology, and exposure to risk among many other dimensions that affect individual well-being. The Report aims for the most comprehensive global analysis of inequality in human development to date, built upon the longstanding leadership of HDRO in tracking development beyond income and a new Partnerships with global leaders in the field. The main innovations will be:

- A new framework of analysis that embraces the complexity of today's world, able to identify new trends and forms of inequality.
- The use of new sources of data and the assessment of the role of the Technological Revolution.
- A policy-oriented analysis of the causes and consequences of inequality, leading to forward-looking action at the global and national levels.

The new HDR adapts and expands the human development framework to the analysis of inequalities. This enhanced framework goes:

- **Beyond income (and monetary variables):** following the human development approach, the Report emphasizes a multidimensional assessment of inequality, taking a set of key dimensions, starting with the traditional ones (education and health, as in the Human Development Index), but extending the analysis to cover highly sensitive issues in the coming decades: such as access to frontier technologies and exposure to external shocks, in particular to natural disasters. This list is not exhaustive, they are simply an entry point to the broad space of human development.
- **Beyond averages.** First, Inequalities are often explained by differences among cultural groups (horizontal inequalities). Second, inequalities can be explored beyond a single summary indicator (like the Gini Coefficient) to better reflect the change in dispersion across heterogeneous populations.



- **Beyond Today:** The Report aims for a characterization of inequality today, but also for a dynamic long-term view, identifying trends and making projections, to visualize the path from now to 2030, and scenarios for the mid-21st century.

II. E-Discussion Proposal:

This e-discussion is intended to elicit inputs and discussions which are able to contribute to the regional consultations that are being undertaken for the HDR 2019. In particular, the effort will use ongoing opportunities for discussion to address the **different regional experiences and historical pathways that have created current patterns of inequalities**. This e-discussion is an opportunity to get inputs and insights from Southern-based think tanks and NGO networks on the issue of inequality.

The e-discussion will focus on the following questions:

1. What are the key challenges that place inequality as development priority in the global South?
2. What impact will current global trends have on existing inequality and what can be done to mitigate them?
3. What good practices in new data, policy interventions and innovations are available that can be shared within the framework of South-South learning and cooperation?
4. What are the challenges and opportunities of including Northern countries in triangular cooperation arrangements, considering the current patterns of inequality between and within countries?

Moderation: The e-discussion will be moderated by HDRO and facilitated by UNOSSC.

III. Follow-Up Side Event (more details to follow):

The proposed follow-up side event at the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in July 2019 will provide an in-person opportunity to present the current work undertaken for HDR 2019, and to elicit insight and inputs from the participants representing governments, private sector, civil society and think tanks.