



Remarks

by

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Vice-President

on behalf of

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President of the 68th Session of the United Nations

General Assembly

High Level Meeting on ‘Achieving Poverty Eradication through Full Employment and Decent Work for All in the Post-2015 Development Agenda’, part of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017)

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Excellencies,
Secretary-General,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to share this closing statement with you on behalf of the President of the General Assembly, who cannot be with us today.

Foremost, as we come to the end of this High-level meeting, I would like to thank all of the participants for their insightful interventions. Allow me in particular to express my appreciation to our guest panellists for their valuable and expert contributions. I hope you will agree that it has been a very engaging and fruitful day of discussions.

Eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge facing our world. Today, we heard a number of different examples regarding how to address this enormous challenge and give a final push to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Learning from these experiences will be central to building international support and boosting the commitment to poverty reduction and employment in the post-2015 development agenda.

In the coming days, a summary of the key messages from today's high level panel discussion will be prepared and shared with Member States, but allow me to briefly highlight some of the salient points that were brought forth today, during the General Assembly debate and the panel.

We heard clear messages that development and employment are interlinked and mutually reinforcing. Poverty can be tackled through employment policies that also promote decent working conditions. Many called for appropriate means of implementation, noting that there is a sense of urgency and that the most vulnerable should be given priority. The representative of the Least Developed Countries expressed that these countries are still struggling with poverty, while facing important demographic dynamics and, thus face the prospect of severe youth unemployment. There is need for more inclusive, equitable and sustainable economic growth that addresses inequalities at both national and international levels.

Many pointed to the need for industrial development and economic diversification, growth in agricultural productivity, and investments in infrastructure development and green economy to help create more and better jobs. Some noted the potential of micro-enterprises, cooperatives and youth and women employment schemes to boost entrepreneurship and innovation.

Quality education, training and skill development were underscored as enablers of desirable employment. The extension of social protection floors and access to health care were mentioned as means to tackle chronic poverty and protect the most vulnerable from external shocks.

We heard about the importance of labour rights, including freedom of association, the right to collective bargaining and equality, including gender equality as well as the necessity to eradicate child labour and forced labour.

Some called for a greater coherence among macroeconomic, trade, and social policies at all levels.

With regards to the post-2015 development agenda, full employment and decent work were mentioned as an important target, while the multi-dimensional nature of poverty and the inter-linkages between the goals were underscored. We also heard about good governance and the need for social, economic and political institutions that are inclusive, accountable, and engaged in transparent and participatory decision-making. Some recalled that the best solutions are coming from the most concerned constituencies.

Many of you have reminded us of the magnitude of the challenges still remaining to eradicate poverty and ensure full employment and decent work for all. However, looking at the progress we made under the umbrella of the MDG's and within the timeframe of this Second UN Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, I think we can all be optimistic for the future while remaining committed to the task.

Excellencies,

The post-2015 agenda calls for a holistic approach to tackle the multiple facets of poverty and our deliberations today will certainly form a useful contribution to the ongoing discussions towards its elaboration. This new development paradigm presents us with an invaluable opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to all members of our global society, in particular the most vulnerable, so that all can share in the benefits of sustainable development.

Thank you.
