

# POVERTY STATISTICS SIDE EVENT DURING THE 49TH SESSION OF THE UN STATISTICAL COMMISSION

Lunchtime seminar

March 7, 2018, 1.15 pm - 2.30 pm

Organized by The World Bank

Venue: Conference Room 7, UN Headquarters, NY.

Because reducing poverty is a goal in both national and international development agendas, poverty statistics are central to monitoring development progress. This seminar will present the **Report on poverty statistics** prepared by the World Bank for the 49<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Statistical Commission, as an item for information. The paper highlights the importance of poverty statistics in the Commission's work and focuses on the following topics:

- i. Identifying concepts, definitions, methods and data requirements commonly utilized in government measurement of national poverty;
- ii. summarizing the history and foundation of international poverty measures and to explain how international poverty statistics rely on national data, methods and definitions;
- iii. assessing the availability of poverty statistics, highlight data gaps, and review the challenges associated with comparability and disaggregation; and
- iv. outlining means of improving national and international poverty statistics so as to better report progress towards achievement of the SDGs.

Following a presentation of the paper, discussants will provide perspectives on the role of poverty statistics for policy purposes at the national level, and data and measurement challenges. Discussants will also discuss implications and provide recommendations on how the Commission may focus on improving the quality and harmonization of poverty data and statistics for assessing progress under the SDGs.

**Haishan Fu** (Director of the Development Data Group, World Bank) will moderate the seminar. **Dean Jolliffe** (Lead Economist) of the World Bank will introduce the paper. Confirmed discussants include **Julio Alfonso Santaella Castell** (President of the Governing Board of INEGI, Mexico), **Mercy Kanyuka** (Commissioner of the National Statistical Office of Malawi), **John Pullinger** (United Kingdom National Statistician), **Zahidul Hoque Sarder** (Director, Census Wing, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics), **Sabina Alkire** (Director, Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and Secretariat of MPPN), and **Andres Vikat** (Chief, Social and Demographic Statistics Section, UNECE).

**Run of show:**

**1:15-2:30 pm**

1:15-1:20 pm: Introduction by **Haishan Fu**

1:20-1:35 pm: Presentation of the Poverty Statistics Report by **Dean Jolliffe**

1:35–2:15 pm: Responding remarks by:

**Julio Alfonso Santaella Castell**

**Mercy Kanyuka**

**John Pullinger**

**Zahidul Hoque Sarder**

**Sabina Alkire**

**Andres Vikat**

2:15-2:30: Open discussions