

Measurement of Well Being and Development in Africa

Durban International Convention Center, South Africa, 12-14 November, 2015

Agenda

The Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi (SSF) Commission Report raised a number of questions about GDP, including its neglect of (i) non-market and social transactions, (ii) stocks and flows of physical, natural and human capital, and (iii) broad distributional issues. The OECD-hosted High Level Expert Group on the Measurement of Economic and Social Progress (HLEG) has been working on developing further the recommendations of SSF. In particular the suitability of GDP, and alternatives to it, for developing countries has been a focus of the discussion. At the same time, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) process has been put in train by the UN system and has proposed a number of goals and targets as successors to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) from 2015 onwards. All of this links to and feeds in to ongoing processes in developing countries to develop robust indicators of human, social and economic development.

With this background, the Government of South Africa, the OECD-hosted High Level Expert Group, Initiative for Policy Dialogue (Columbia University), Center on Global Economic Governance (Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs) and Cornell University are organizing a conference to bring together the best thinking and practice in going beyond GDP in the measurement of wellbeing and development in Africa. The conference is supported financially by these institutions, and by the OECD, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the International Labour Organization, the Roosevelt Institute and the Ford Foundation.

The focus of the conference will be on conceptual frameworks and on statistical systems for measuring human, social and economic development, and on tracking the evolution of multidimensional inequality and wellbeing. The agenda is structured around eight 90 minute sessions. The participants will be leading analysts and practitioners to facilitate a discussion between methods and frameworks on the one hand and the practicalities of implementation and monitoring on the other.

Participants are expected to arrive on November 11 and depart on November 15. The conference sessions will run from November 12 to November 14.

Thursday, November 12, 2015

14.30-16.00 Session I: Welcome and Setting the Stage

Chair: TBD

Ebrahim Patel, Minister, Economic Development Department, South Africa
Joseph Stiglitz, Nobel Laureate, Columbia University
Akinwumi Adesina, President of AfDB (TBC)
Martine Durand, Chief Statistician, OECD
JICA Representative (TBC)
Lorenzo Fioramonti, University of Pretoria

16.00-16.30 Break

16.30-18.00 Session II: Unemployment and Informality

Chair: TBD

Haroon Borat, University of Cape Town
Imraan Valodia, University of Witwatersrand
Murray Leibbrandt, University of Cape Town
William Baah-Boateng, African Center for Economic Transformation and University of Ghana
Frances Lund, WIEGO and University of Kwa Zulu-Natal (TBC)

Friday, November 13, 2015

09.00-10.30 Session III: Improving National Accounts in Africa

Chair: TBD

Rashad Casim, South African Reserve Bank
Alemayehu Seyoum Taffesse, International Food Policy Research Institute
Mark Orkin, former Statistician General, South Africa
Daniel Malsowa, National Bureau of Statistics, Tanzania

10.30-11.00 Break

11.00-12.30 Session IV: Income and Wealth Inequality

Chair: Ben Turok, Institute for African Alternatives

Jan Svejnar, Columbia University

Servaas Van Der Berg, Stellenbosch University

Luc Christiaensen, World Bank

12.30-14.30 Lunch

14.30-16.00 Session V: Multidimensional Deprivation

Chair: TBD

Sabine Alkire, George Washington University and University of Oxford

Gebrehiwot A. Kebedew, Ethiopian Development Research Institute

Luc Christiaensen, World Bank

Andreas Schlechter, OECD (TBC)

16.00-16.30 Break

16.30-18.00 Session VI: Gender Dimensions

Chair: TBD

Margaret Kakande, Ministry of Finance, Uganda

Grace Bediako, National Development Planning Commission, Former Chief Statistician, Ghana

Ngone Diop, UNECA

Jane Kabubo-Mariara, University of Nairobi

Saturday, November 14, 2015

09.00-10.30 Session VII: SDGs, Dashboards and Indexes

Chair: Akbar Noman, Columbia University

Pali Lehohla, Statistician General, South Africa

Adam Habib, University of Witwatersrand

Yaw Graham, Third World Network

Yaw Ansu, African Center for Economic Transformation

10.30-11.00 Break

11.00-12.30 Session VIII: Concluding Session and Overview of Main Messages

Chair: Ravi Kanbur, Cornell University

Ebrahim Patel, Minister, EDD, South Africa

Joseph Stiglitz, Nobel Laureate, Columbia University

Akinwumi Adesina, President of AfDB (TBC)

Martine Durand, Chief Statistician, OECD