

## **Second Committee Side Event**

### **Panel discussion on “Follow-up to the outcome of the High-level Plenary Meeting relating to MDG 1, and an introduction to the Multidimensional Poverty Index”**

**Friday, 22 October 2010**

**10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

**Economic and Social Council Chamber (NLB)**

#### **Concept Note**

##### **[Background]**

Although the world is on track to halve the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by 2015, progress is uneven. Without additional efforts, many countries are likely to miss the Millennium Development Goal 1. Last September, at the High-level Plenary Meeting on the MDGs, Governments recognized that inequalities between and within countries in various social and economic dimensions remain a significant challenge, and thus addressing the needs of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable households and groups is a prerequisite to achieving the MDGs. The continuing effects of the global and economic financial crisis suggest that poverty rates are likely to be slightly higher in 2015 than they would have been had the world economy grown steadily at its pre-crisis pace. The loss of jobs triggered by the crisis has pushed many vulnerable individuals and households into poverty, and delays in job recovery remain a major challenge to poverty reduction in the years to come.

While the MDG 1 poverty target is based on an income measure, poverty has multiple dimensions. Hunger and malnutrition, lack of access to health, education and other basic services, inadequate housing, social discrimination and exclusion and, more broadly, lack of participation in decision-making and social and political life, also characterize poverty and deprivation, and the progress achieved across these different dimensions has been uneven. The need to look at poverty through a gender lens is also critical, since gender inequalities remain strong.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), together with the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative of Oxford University, have launched a new poverty measure, the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), that combines several of these dimensions or deprivations, including health and education outcomes and access to key services. The MPI assesses poverty at the individual level, with poor persons being those who are multiply deprived, and the extent of their poverty being meas

