

**Expert Group Meeting on “Developing supplementary targets
and indicators to strengthen social inclusion, gender equality and
health promotion in the Millennium Development Goals”**

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Closing Remarks

By

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Ladies and Gentlemen

First, I salute all of you for participating in this workshop. You have worked hard these past two days. And we can take pride at what we have done. For we can be nothing but encouraged by you the experts in the field adding your insights and stories of your experiences on the subject of social exclusion and the MDGs.

As was indicated on the first day of this meeting, the objectives of the meeting were to: Critically review the draft report and make suggestions to improve the draft document; Identify key issues, in the selected thematic areas of social exclusion and suggest, prioritize and recommend supplementary MDG targets and indicators that can help foster the monitoring of the inclusion of the marginalized groups, gender equality and health equity into mainstream development; and Identify constraints and opportunities faced by countries in adopting these suggested additional indicators.

I am pleased that the deliberation in this workshop was vibrant, intellectually rich and also lively. You have managed to fulfill all these objectives. You have provided important suggestions on how to improve the draft report. You have identified the key issues on social exclusion and I am very impressed that your discussions were broader than the thematic areas that the report had suggested. You suggested additional socially excluded groups such as orphans and vulnerable children, and indigenous groups. You have clearly shown how the socially excluded suffer exclusion due to discrimination and poverty and emphasized the need to have the MDGs reflect these causes of exclusion.

Your country presentations were very rich and showed the extent of social exclusion in the countries, the initiatives that have been adopted and the possible supplementary MDG indicators. The discussions have highlighted the major challenges faced by governments in implementing these new indicators and you have offered guidance on how to address these constraints.

We will put the key documents on the website of the Division, which is http://www.uneca.org/eca_programmes/acgd/

Let me now talk about follow up.

First I would like to let you know that the report of the workshop will be produced and disseminated to all of you and widely to relevant partners.

I would like to tell you that we will take all your comments on the draft report seriously. The draft report will be revised taking into account your valuable input and send to you for comments. After incorporating your comments, the report will be widely disseminated to all partners who might find this information important to their work.

I also would like to urge you to participate in the knowledge and experience sharing component of this project. As noted in an earlier presentation, there is an ongoing electronic discussion on ***Promotion of Social Inclusion of Women and Gender Equality in the MDGs*** that is being extended to facilitate your participation. I do hope that you will be able to participate in this discussion and the other topics that follow. The information emerging from these discussions will enrich the final report.

Towards the end of the year, all the United Nations Regional Commissions are going to meet in Bangkok for an interregional meeting where the suggested indicators from all the continents will be presented and compared. Based on the outcome of this meeting global recommendations will be forwarded to the Inter-agency and Expert Group (IAEG) on MDGs.

In conclusion, let me congratulate you all job well done.

For now, I wish you all a safe journey back home.

Thank you for your attention.