



Economic Commission for Africa



Economic Policy Research Center

Pro-Poor Growth Strategies in Africa

Annotated Agenda

**Expert Group Meeting
Munyonyo Speke Resort
Kampala, Uganda
23-24 June 2003**

Annotated Agenda Expert Group Meeting

“ Key components of pro-poor growth strategies”

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Kampala , Uganda
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Organized jointly with the Economic Policy Research Centre,
Kampala Uganda

The number of people living in absolute poverty in Africa is projected to increase from 380 million in 1998 to 451 million in 2015. Reversing this trend will require accelerating the rate of economic growth. Many countries have recognized this and continue to pursue sound macroeconomic policies consistent with high rates of growth. However, there is increasing recognition that high rates of growth alone will not be sufficient for rapid poverty reduction. What is needed is *pro-poor growth*---defined as high quality growth that enables the poor to actively participate in and significantly benefit from economic activities. Pro-poor growth is predicated on policies that are deliberately biased in favor of the poor so that the poor benefit disproportionately. It also involves the removal of institutional and policy induced biases against the poor. This Expert Group Meeting brings together senior policy makers, researchers, experts and academics from across Africa to examine these issues. It is envisaged that the outcome of this meeting will be a deeper understanding of the scope and nature of policies conducive for pro-poor growth. The proceedings will appear as a monograph in ECA's Policy Research Series.

FIRST DAY-- JUNE 23 2003

09:00-09:30 **Opening Session**

Opening Address: Hon. Isaac Musumba, Minister of State for Finance, Planning and Economic Development, in charge of Planning, Kampala, Uganda

Dr. John Okidi, Executive Director, Economic Policy Research Center, Kampala

Patrick Asea, Director, Economic and Social Policy Division---Economic Commission for Africa

09:30-10:30 **Session 1: Uganda- --Setting the stage**

This session will set the stage for the workshop by reviewing Uganda's performance in poverty reduction and economic growth. The Ugandan economy has registered solid growth rates ---averaging .6.5% over the past 10 years. The solid growth has been accompanied by substantial poverty reduction – lifting more than 4 million people from poverty (22% of the population) in a decade. But there is no room for complacency. One Ugandan in three still lives below the poverty line. More disturbing: the national poverty numbers mask vast regional disparities. The central and western areas of the country have grown more rapidly than the northern and the eastern, with the high and increasing levels of poverty in the northern region of grave concern. Uganda's economic performance may thus be a tale of two economies, with excellent national growth and poverty numbers masking huge swaths of the economy that have not enjoyed the benefits.

Chair: Dr. Ngila Mwase, Senior Economist, UNDP

Papers:

Uganda: A Tale of Two Economies?

Patrick Asea, Economic Commission for Africa

Growth and Poverty in Uganda, 1999-2000: Panel Data Evidence,

Dr. John Okidi, Executive Director, Economic Policy Research Centre and Klaus Deininger, World Bank

Discussant: Governor Emmanuel. Tumusiime.-Mutebile, Bank of Uganda (tbc)

10:30-10:45 **Coffee Break**

10:45:13:00 **Session 2: Measuring pro-poor growth**

Measuring the extent of pro-poor growth across countries is critical for determining appropriate policies and evaluating their impact on economic development. In this session a new measure of how well countries are doing in delivering pro-poor growth ---the poverty equivalent growth rate (PEGR)--- is introduced and applied to the growth experience of several developing countries. The session will also examine trends in income distribution and its links with economic growth and poverty reduction in order to deepen our understanding of the prospects for pro-poor growth in Africa.

Chair: Dr. John Okidi, Executive Director, Economic Policy Research Centre, Kampala

Papers:

Growth, Poverty and Inequality in Ethiopia: Which Way for Pro-poor Growth? -

Prof. Alemayehu Gedda and Prof. John Weeks
University of London

Poverty Equivalent Growth Rate: with applications to Korea and Thailand

Prof. Nanak Kakwani, Shahidur Khandker and Hyun H. Son, World Bank (Washington DC)

Discussant: Professor Augustin Fosu, Director of Research, African Economic Research Consortium (AERC), Nairobi, Kenya

13:00-15:00 **Lunch Break**

15:00-18:00 **Session 3: What works in reducing gender inequality?**

Poverty deepens gender disparities and hinders sustainable development. Dealing with inequalities between girls and boys in access to schooling or adequate health care and inequalities of women in access to productive resources such as land and credit is critical for a country's ability to grow sustainably, to govern effectively and to reduce poverty. This session will

review the types of policies and strategies required to promote gender equality and foster more effective development including development of country-specific gender aware macroeconomic models.

Chair: Ms. Angela Farhat Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, Accra, Ghana

Papers: *Gender and Growth in Africa: A Review of Evidence and Issues*
Mr. Sudarshan Canagarajah World Bank (Kampala)

A Gender Aware Macroeconomic Model
Alfred Latigo, African Center for Gender and Development, Economic Commission for Africa

Discussant: Ms. Barbara Barungi, Regional Poverty Expert, UNDP, South Africa

Cocktail Reception---18.00 -19 00

SECOND DAY--- JUNE 24 2003

09:00:10:45 Session 4: Strengthening human capabilities for poverty reduction---Health and Education

Improving human capabilities --- good health, nutrition and education---is one of the key ultimate goals of development. Poor health, malnutrition, illiteracy, powerlessness, and social or physical isolation are direct measures of the low levels of well-being that characterize a large portion of the population in Africa. But these capabilities can also be considered as human capital, which have an enormous potential to raise incomes and economic living standards. This session will focus on methods to finance health interventions and improve the quality of educational demand as key components of any pro-poor growth strategy.

Chair: Mr Getachew Adem, Head Economic Policy and Planning Department, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Papers:

Financing Pro-Poor Health Policies

Maite Lopez Iruzun, Economic Commission for Africa

Pro-poor educational policies and the demand for labor

Aissatou Gueye and Adrian Gauci, Economic Commission for Africa

Discussant: Terry Mckinley, UNDP, Regional Coordinator, New York

10:45-11:00 **Coffee Break**

11:00-13:00 **Session 5: The Macroeconomics of Poverty Reduction**

This session will examine the macroeconomics of poverty reduction, analysing both the poverty impact of standard economic policies (fiscal, monetary and exchange rates) as well as adjustment policies. The empirical evidence presented will inform practical policy options for faster growth and poverty reduction.

Chair: Mr Vincent Karega, Director, Strategic Planning and Poverty Reduction, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Rwanda

Papers:

The Macroeconomics of Poverty Reduction, Initial Findings of the UNDP Asia-Pacific Regional Programme-:How Relevant for Africa?-

Terry Mckinley, UNDP, Regional Coordinator, New York

The Prospects for Pro-poor Growth in Africa

Prof. Arne Bigsten and Abebe Shimeles, University of Gothenberg, Sweden

Discussant: Dr. Michael Atingi-Ego, Director of Research, Bank of Uganda

13:00-15:00 **Lunch Break**

15:00-18:00 **Session 6: Tourism---a much overlooked area for pro-poor growth**

Tourism ---based on Africa's unique flora, fauna and and unspoiled natural attractions ----has great potential to be an engine of pro-poor growth For instance, in 2001, tourism receipts totaled US\$ 11.7 billion about half of total aid flows to Africa. While this is impressive it represents a mere 2.5% of global tourism receipts leaving open the possibility of Africa taking a greater share of this market in the future. This session will explore the potential that Tourism has to be an avenue for pro-poor growth , identify obstacles and highlight strategies for tourism to realize its potential.

Chair: Mr Pedro Coueto, Director of Strategic Studies Ministry of Finance, Mozambique

Paper:

Tourism: a viable option for pro-poor growth in Africa?,
Vittorio Gerosa, Economic Commission for Africa

Discussant: Judith Voermans, Technical Advisor, Uganda Community Tourism Association

18:00 **Closure of the Meeting.**