**SDG 1 No Poverty**

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**Introduction**

Good afternoon and good evening we are launching the first lecture for the introductory lectures for youth engagement in the 2030 Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals.

**Speaker**

And it's really our great pleasure to have Professor Cecile Molinier to give this introductory lecture in terms of SDG 1.

Let me say a few words about her very distinguished career. She has worked for 15 years in the field as Deputy in Tunisia then as resident coordinator in Sao Tome and Principe ,Togo and Mauritania.  
As a resident coordinator basically she would have the responsibility to look at all UN related business in the country and coordinate their coherence as well as implementation.  
Later she was reassigned as director to the UNDP office in Geneva in August 2007 and she was instrumental in promoting the UN reform Agenda and developing innovative partnerships with sub-national authorities, meaning the local authorities such as municipalities or a province or a state and the academic community, civil society organizations and the private sector. So indeed she also pioneered the multi-stakeholder approach that is very much the center of UN 2030 Agenda implementation.

Since her retirement from the UN in 2012 she has been active as a lecturer on multilateral affairs and development issues and as member of the board of several associations focused on sustainable development. But it's also she's being the core faculty of CSEND summer course on global leadership development which is to promote SDGs.

**United Nations Development Programme**

So with these few words I would like to just say in addition is the UNDP.

UNDP as you know is the lead UN Development Agency working in 170 countries and territories to eradicate poverty and reduce inequality in support of Agenda 2030.

Its mandate is cross-cutting because poverty and inequality is not just a sector issue. Instead, they involve many different public services and institutions, and specifically UNDP focus on three areas.

One is about sustainable development, the second is about democratic governance and peace building and lastly, it's about climate and disaster resilience.

**Q1**

So with this few introduction words I would like to hand over the floor to Professor Molinier to address SDG Goal 1: End Poverty in all its forms everywhere and also to start with the first question: **Why we put the 2030 Agenda with poverty eradication? Why is this considered to be so important that we will label it as the first SDG goals?**

**The importance of SDG 1**  
Well thank you very much Professor Lichia Saner-Yiu for your very kind introduction and that very brief overview of what the UN development program has been doing and is trying to achieve in support of Agenda 2030.

Why is SDG1 so important? It has been identified actually since the major 1992-Rio conference on environment and development as the greatest global development challenge. As you will see it is directly interconnected with all of the other Sustainable Development Goals it is also intimately linked to the reduction of inequalities and it impacts directly on the dignity of each and every person on the planet which is why again we can say that SDG1 is the overarching most important Sustainable Development Goal.

It has to be said that significant progress has been achieved in reducing poverty globally and nationally but deeply entrenched structural inequalities remain and they constitute the biggest obstacle to the achievement of SDG 1.

**Linkages with other SDGs**  
I mentioned that SDG1 is intimately correlated with its interlinked with all of the other Sustainable Development Goals. It is intrinsically linked to SDG 10 which has to do with reducing inequalities within and among countries. Progress in the achievement of SDG1 correlates directly with progress in the achievement of all the other quote-unquote social all SDGs number 2 on Hunger, number 3 on Health, number 4 in Education, number 5 on Gender, 6 on Water and Sanitation and 7 on Energy.

Beyond correlating with SDG 5 on gender, progress on in the SDG 1 is the underpinning actually of progress in SDG 5 which has to do with Gender Equality and women's empowerment. But also progress in achieving SDG1 is contingent on progress in achieving SDGs 8, 9 and 11 which have to do with Decent Work and inclusive Economic Growth with Industry Infrastructures and Innovation and with Sustainable Cities and Communities given that way over half of the world population now lives in an urban setting. And progress in achieving SDG 1 impacts very strongly and it can impact positively or negatively on the implementation of SDG 13 to 15 which have to do with climate change with Life Under Water and with Life On Land.

**Priority actions**

What are the priority actions to be taken towards the achievement of SDG1? The first one has to do with sustainable livelihoods in other words with income and it means generating more employment opportunities. The second equally important is providing universal, I emphasize universal access to basic social services which you find in SDGs 2 too.  
Seven the third has to do with progressively developing social protection systems. The fourth has to do with empowering people living in poverty and that is also linked with their dignity. The fifth has to do with addressing the disproportionate impact of poverty on women and you see now again the link between SDG 1 and SDG 5. And finally an equally important that has to do with what we call the means of implementation of SDG1, intensifying international cooperation for poverty eradication by allocating additional resources.

**Q2:**

Thank you very much for this very clear elaboration about the link between SDG 1 its significance and its linkages to other SDG goals. But tell us more **what does SDG 1 consist of in terms of targets and indicators?**

**Targets and indicators**

Well first of all what are targets? Targets are specific objectives that willing help translate a broader goal such as SDG 1 eradicating extreme poverty and reducing poverty everywhere into specific objectives which we call targets. And the achievement of each target is measured by a number of indicators.

Target 1 by 2030 eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere. Extreme poverty is measured in dollar terms used to be 1.25 dollars a day now it's 1.90 dollar a day. And the first indicator is connected with the proportion of the population living below the international poverty line.  
Second target has to do with reducing the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty. We are no longer talking about extreme poverty but we're talking about poverty according to National definitions. Two indicators, the first the proportion of population living below the national poverty line and the second

aims at disaggregating that proportion of population by men, women and children. The third target, remember the importance of social protection systems so it's to implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all including social protection floors and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of a poor and vulnerable. And the indicator will measure the proportion of population covered by social protection floors or systems and will disaggregate it to as much as possible by sex, children and so on.  
And fourth target has to do with empowering all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable so that they have equal rights and access to economic resources, access to basic services, ownership and control, over land and other forms of property, appropriate technology and financial services.

Again, two indicators, the proportion of population living in households with access to those basic services and the second the proportion of the total adult population with secure tenure rights property rights over land.

Fifth target building the resilience of the poor and of those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate related extreme events and other economic social and environmental shocks and disaster remember what I said the linkage between SDG 1 and SDG 13 that has to do with climate. Number of indicators which are all linked with the number of deaths we direct economic loss the number of countries having disaster risk reduction strategies and the proportion of local governments. Local action is essential when it comes to increasing resilience

and decreasing vulnerability to disasters and shocks.

Now we're talking now about targets that constitute means of implementation.

The five earlier targets aimed at translating a broad goal into specific actions.

The targets 1.a and 1.b explain what measures have to be taken, what means are necessary to promote to support the achievement of SDG 1.  
The first target obviously has to do with the mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, the importance of international development cooperation. Two indicators, one on the proportion of resources allocated by governments directly to poverty reduction programs. The second the proportion of total government spending on essential services.

Second target 1.b the quality of the policy frameworks that will help translate the objective of eradicating poverty into specific development policies the quality of those policy frameworks at all levels national, regional and international. And those policies have to be proper and gender sensitive in order to contribute sustainably to poverty reduction and reducing inequalities.

One indicator the proportion of government recurrent and capital spending to sectors that will benefit women the poor and vulnerable groups.

The question about poverty in SDG1 is comprehensive. I'm impressed to see that amongst the target address some of the core issues about properties and rights to economic resources and also with these indicators we are also looking at the consequences of the right action.

**Q3**

As you know as SDG1 is so comprehensive and touched on sort of the course of poverty and also the means to improve and eradicate the poverty especially among some of the most vulnerable groups including women. So **what do you see since the 2016 what has been the progress made in this area and what are the challenges that you have observed?**

Well that's a very important question and actually even before 2015, before the adoption of Agenda 2030 remember that there was a Millennium Declaration in 2000 and the Millennium Development Goals. And the first Millennium Development Goal had to do with reducing poverty by half in developing countries and countries in transition and that was actually achieved and it was achieved in fact more rapidly than expected by 2010 already. The proportion of people living in poverty compared with the benchmark in 1990 had been reduced by half. Now to go back to your question, since the adoption of Agenda 2030 according to the latest report on the SDGs that was published in July of 2021. And you'll find the link that report at the bottom of this slide. The share of a world's population living in extreme poverty had fallen from 10.1 percent in 2015 to 9.3 percent 2017 and 8.4 percent in 2019 but unfortunately

the COVID-19 pandemic struck and extreme poverty started increasing again

as of 2020 by significant numbers of people. Most of them in Southern Asia but also in sub-Saharan Africa, the extreme poverty rate increased therefore from 8.4 percent in 2019 to 9.5 in 2020, and currently it's estimated that by 2030 it will fall back slightly but it will remain stuck around seven percent.

Again, we see a progress that had been achieved since 2015 that was suddenly and considerably reversed because of the COVID-19 pandemic which had a disproportionate impact on the most vulnerable informal workers worldwide. The share of workers living in extreme poverty had fallen by more than half between 2010 and 2019. Unfortunately, as of 2020 that chair started increasing again and another worrying element is that the gender gap in working poverty. It has been reduced but it is reduced a lot less quickly for women than it is for men and it's also reduced a lot less quickly for young people than it is for older workers.

**Progress achieved?**

By 2020 when the pandemic struck it was observed that less than 50 percent of the world's total population was covered by at least one social protection cash benefit. what do we mean by a social protection cash benefit?

We talk about unemployment insurance, we're talking about health insurance, we're talking social security disability benefits, parental leave and so on. Less than 50 percent of the global population has access to at least one of his benefits. The COVID-19 crisis demonstrated very glaringly the importance of social protection systems to mitigate the impact of economic shocks and many new measures were adopted starting in 2020. But most of those measures are short term none of them has been in incorporated on a sustainable basis into a government long-term programs.

**Key challeges**

What are the key challenges as I mentioned significant progress had been achieved in reducing poverty between 2000 and 2015 but that was essentially due to the very rapid emergence and economic growth of a few major developing countries. China of course India but others Indonesia Malaysia, Mexico and so on the rise of these major emerging economies was directly linked to the intensification of what we call Global value trade, a value chain and also translated into a very significant increase in global trade in goods and services.

However the first shock occurred in 2008 because of the global financial crisis which significantly slowed down on that economic growth and of course the COVID-19 pandemic coming a few years after that major financial crisis struck a very strong blow to global trade. It disrupted global value chains, it closed down borders, locked down workers informal workers women and young people being the most marginalized were also the most affected. And we see now in the context of the recovery from the pandemic that global trade and global value chains remain considerably disrupted so that raises a number of issues about the prospects of continuing to significantly decrease global and national poverty.

So the progress was made in terms of reaching the poverty reduction goal, we will see it by 2030 if everything goes on as today we will see maybe seven percent left so that is already with such a large world population is a great success. But the challenges that you mentioned is actually quite worrying. It's not just a sort of short term that might have midterm implications, especially if we factor in the disruption caused by the Ukraine war and also the world reaction in terms of sanction against Russia that is already causing a rising of prices for food for example but also continued Covid challenges in China is also causing increasingly the logistic bottleneck.

**Q4**

So in this context, I wonder what can you give us an example since the topic of this module is really trying to help and motivate younger people to come and contribute their talents, their energy and their innovative capacity to the achievement of SDGs. So **can you give us example in terms of where use has been successfully or effectively engaged in the process and making a contribution**?

**Good practices**

Yes of course we want to end this short lecture on a note of hope and opening towards the future. Before giving you a specific example that pertains to youth, I would like to illustrate one good practice you will find the link below.

You will find many more good practices in the website of the UN (www.sustainabledevelopment.org) that is an example of a partnership between the government of Egypt and the World Bank, a major development partner aimed at developing local government capacities.

Remember I emphasize the importance of local action. Now in upper Egypt which is one of the poorest areas, in Egypt a partnership was developed aiming at strengthening the capacity of local authorities to develop and implement policies and programs that would have a significant impact on reducing the poverty of populations. And that goes through developing the capacities of those local governments in organizing community consultations in a participatory public capital expenditure and local investment planning, planning being an essential part of course of any action taken to eradicate poverty. Procurement and contract management environmental and social risk management and the results in a short period have been significant in terms of an improved environment for inclusive economic growth, improve connectivity industrial infrastructure, improving services related to water, which is a key ingredient for sustainable poverty eradication and at least half of the 5 million beneficiaries are estimated to be women. And as a result poverty fell by a significant levels in urban and in rural Upper Egypt respectively, compared to recent levels so it is a program which was relatively easy to implement at the local level and which has had significant impact already.

**Q5**

Let me show you another example of what young people can do that was the essential part of your question.

**Youth involvement**

Another example now unfortunately the link will take you to a more detailed description of initiative but it is in Spanish so all of your interlocutors may not understand the Spanish so let me tell you that it has to do with developing entrepreneurial skills among young people in Latin America and the Caribbean who are interested in working in a forest management. And that initiative brought together education and vocational training centers in the region, adding economic and social entrepreneurship skills to the usual technical skills that were taught traditionally in those schools and that initiative was developed with the active participation of a number of private sector entities. And it also translated into the development of a number of business incubators and accelerators a number of young persons were trained through that initiative as we're trained a number of their teachers because teachers of course trainers of trainers. And 625 projects were selected for support in the business incubators and accelerators.

Now what can young people do and why is it so important that young people like you should be involved in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals?

The first thing I would like to say is that you should be all aware and I'm sure you are pretty much aware already that’s the sustainable development is achieved also through individual and collective action. And that initiative taken at the community level at the Grassroots level in particular when it pertains to poverty reduction and to empowering poor people and improving their resilience. Those initiatives are particularly important, it's not only the actions that governments will take at the central level and it's not only the action that will be taken globally the local level is extremely important.

When working in economic fields always remember the importance of promoting a social and solidarity economic development. Model the importance of education for sustainable development and when I say education, I do not mean only formal education, I mean also lifelong learning. As young people you should not be shy , speak up, organize and challenge decision makers. Remember the most famous example maybe the action taken by young people for climate action.

Remember that when Greta Thunberg from Sweden started, she was alone she went on strike alone in front of the Norwegian, Swedish (in Norwegian or Swedish I'm confused now) parliament in her capital and she was successful gradually in mobilizing young people all over the world in favor of climate action. And finally at the level of the United Nations, it is now fully recognized that young people should be more than enough to for than a token recognition they deserve to be included as full-fledged participants in the discussions but also in the decision making. That a number of measures are promoted by the UN in the Secretary General's report called “Our Common Agenda” to promote a better political representation to radically transforming education, skills training and a lifelong learning. Just on to end on a cheerful note the Secretary General appointed recently a special envoy on youth, she's a young woman from Sri Lanka and she's extremely articulate and effective.

Thank you very much and I hope that this has helped you become more aware of the importance of SDG 1 and crucially overall that you can all play in supporting its achievement.

Well thank you very much Professor Molina because I think you covered really a huge ground and also give some very interesting information and also insights in terms of SDG1 and also how young people can get involved. And then particularly taken by your suggestion of speaking up, organizing and challenging the business as usual.

We need to look at some of the social phenomenon and challenges people around us facing and not to accept it and say what can we do to make a difference. And I think with that spirit that SDG1 would not only sort of be able to eliminate the minimum that many people living below extreme poverty or living with no dignity and live with precarity. We need to choose their daily activities but we could see that all people could have enjoyed some minimal level of quality of life.

So with that note I want to thank you because I know there are many questions still related to your lecture and the require further elaboration. So we look forward for our conversation in the future more and then come back to you about the question of poverty reduction around the world. And once again we thank you very much for your lecture.

Thank you very much it's been a pleasure.