**SDG 10 Reduced inequalities transcript**

2023.10 ver.

**Introduction**

Hello and welcome to the SDG series of the Center for Socio-Economic Development. Today's speaker is Dr. Lichia are you she is the president of the Center for Socio Economic Development, I'm Ramon Sana and professor at Bosley University and I'm also working with CSEND here in Geneva.

**Speaker**

Some background about Dr. Lichia Yu, she is the President of CSEND. CSEND is itself an ECOSOC accredited research center with special consultative status and she's also the founding professor of the Geneva Center on Global Business. she studied education and had the doctorate from Indiana University which also has been a postdoc fellow at Columbia University in New York and specializes in organization development and institutional transformation. Her expertise is on governance issues in the field of Sustainable Development. So as you know today's topic is SDG 10 and this SDG is about Reducing Inequalities Within and Among Countries.

**Lecture Overview**

We'll give an overview of what's happening with SDG 10 what are its targets, indicators to measure a treatment of the targets, the current state of implementation challenges that remain to be a something that our countries have to face up to and improve and also we have suggestions for the use to engage and contribute to a good successful achievement of the SDG 10.

**Q1**

**Starting with question one, what is SDG 10, why does it matter?**

**SDG 10: Reduce Inequality Within and Among Countries**

Thank you very much Professor Sana for your introduction, SDG 10 Reducing Inequality Within and Among Countries is it's calling all governments and individuals to reduce inequalities due to income discrimination based on age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, etc. It covers different forms of inequality from opportunities to outcomes which includes social, economic and political rights.

**Consequences of inequality**

Consequences of inequality can be very severe it is a life of deprivation and also loss of dignity starting from lacking human security to poor health, to reduce the work performance and disabilities and also inability to participate in the society or social lives.

**Why is Reducing inequality Important?**

Why reducing inequality is important because extreme inequality has social and political impact, it's not only on the individuals but also on the society as a whole. It can cause conflict, war and displacement and such vicious cycles of poverty could reinforce vulnerabilities and negatively affect those in greatest need with the potential to create further instability and conflict.

**SDG 10 (Source: UNDESA SDG Knowledge)**

SDG 10 therefore is here to reduce inequality and it could only be achieved through progressive policies over time and also it's about stronger in regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions, this is particularly important in addressing ways and means to reduce between country inequality.

**Q2**

Question two, **what does SDG 10 entail in terms of targets and indicators?**

**SDG 10 (Source: UNDESA SDG Knowledge)**

That they are all together, 10 targets and 40 indicators but three things to remember. The first it is about addressing the income needs of the bottom 40% so they could earn more through this, they will also have better opportunities in life to pursue you know fulfillment.

The second is about eliminating discriminatory loss, policies and practices and the third which is dealing at the international level between nations is to give more representation and voice to the developing countries especially in important international institutions.

**SDG 10 contains 10 targets**

So all together there are 10 targets as I mentioned already can be grouped into three clusters. The first cluster deals with domestic in equality, the governments are expected to do and achieve the following four targets. Let me give you one example Target 10.3 is about what government need to do to ensure equal opportunities for everyone and end discrimination. The second cluster deals with international target show to improve equality at the international level and the governments are expected to do three different things and then we take Target 10.7 as one example, governments are expected to develop responsible and well-managed migration policies and enforcing them. The last cluster deals with means of implementation that has to do with governance of international transactions and interactions, then we take one example is Target 10.c, it is together international community needs to ensure the transactional costs for migrants when they send money home will be staying at a reasonable level.

**SDG 10- 14 indicators**

So in order to achieve the 10 targets there are 14 indicators for SDG10 they are also grouped the same three groups so let me take the domestic inequality for example, the government is expected to reduce inequality in terms of opportunities so indicator10.3.1 it states proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination and prohibited under international human rights law.

The second group is the leading to measure progress made internationally and the example here is indicator 10.7.1 recruitment costs borne by employees as a proportion of monthly income earned in country of destination, this is applicable for the migrant workers in many host countries and therefore host countries governments are expected to monitor and regulate this to in order to prevent the very poor working conditions and discriminating against the migrant workers who are equally contribute to the society.

The third one in terms of means of implementation the governance issue we talked about increasing the voices of the developing countries in international organizations so it will be measured also as well.

**Equality also Stands for “Leaving No One Behind”**

All in all the concept of “Leaving No One Behind” is really at the core of SDG 10 so it emphasized to lift the button, the weakest, the most behind first and this is a key value eventually it should everybody should be on board and this is a solid leveraged pledge to achieve fair and just world.

**Q3**

Question number three, **how much progress have we made concerning SDG 10 since the launching of the 2030 agenda in 2015.**

**SDG Dashboard (SDR 2022)**

From the previous description you could see SDG 10 is not an easy goal to achieve so let me share with you some of the measures or the tools that has been used in order to create comparative data.

The first one is SDG dashboards and I'm taking this particular table out of the SDG report 2022 to look at how far we have come in terms of different goals and indifferent areas so on the top there are 17 goals and then on the side you can see you know the bottom is the income, on the top is geographic location so let's look at SDG 10.

If you look at SDG 10 you see different colored dots, these colors represent this the progress or lack of progress and how serious such lack of progress could be. So the rather it got, it gets that means it's more problematic. And the first look you can see in terms of SDG 10 there's no green dots, the green dots meaning it has been achieved and then on the side you will see there are some arrows, the arrows represent the status whether it's decreasing or stagnating or actually increasing so increasing in this context meaning that the inequality has been increasingly reduced. Unfortunately for SDG 10 there are many gray dots on over here, it means that there's no data so you could see except in the high income country for example the stat a the rest the low income, the lower middle income and the middle upper middle income countries there's no data available so we cannot measure and the governments are not informed in terms of what's actually going on nor the population could know how well the government is doing regarding SDG 10.

**SDG Trackers (**[**https://sdg-tracker.org/**](https://sdg-tracker.org/)**)**

The second useful set of database is SDGs Trackers. I take some examples the income is a very important factor in terms of achieving equality and on this chart you're basically looking at what is happening with 50% of the population in terms of income. The median income means 50 percent of the population is either above or below and so this map indicates what the world looks like in terms of percentage of people living below the country's median income. First to start you'll see that there's a lot of a gray area no color but stripes that means these kind these areas and countries have no data, perhaps they are not reported but anyway it's not transparent at the international stage. And the second thing to look at is that the year 2020 however the data has been collected since1967 so you can go back to the database and to compare 10 years ago, 15 years ago and 20 years ago and can see how on equal each society is at the moment and compared to where they come from so if you look at the very red area like in South America and that means here the more than 25 to 30 percent of the population are living below the median income of the country. The red, the darker orange for example the USA and Mexico there also has about 15-20% of the par… no 20-25% excuse me percent of the population living below in medium income that means these countries from the income point of view are pretty unequal trend or the current trend.

**Income Inequality: Trends**

If we look at the data we could see the trend is actually very worrisome, inequality has increased especially in terms of income. Look at the chart on the right the chart compares three groups of people population around the world in terms of their income and wealth. So the red stands for 10% compared to the green middle 40 percent and the blue the bottom 50%. So let's look at the income inequality, here it shows that the bottom 50% of the population earns 8.5% of the global income compared to the top 10 percent of the world population and they earn 52 percent of the global income. On the other hand in terms of savings or other wells generated over time the bottom 50 percent only have two percent of the wells global wealth while the top 10% has 76% of the global wealth. The inequality is dramatic.

And let's look at between countries second chart on the left compares global income inequality between countries and within countries and the data has been accumulated from 1820 to 2020. And if you look at taking the in total inequality as a hundred and then you could see the red means within country inequality and blue stands for between country inequality, what stands out is things is the change, the reversal of trend starting from 1980 between country inequality has declined while within country inequality has increased by 2020 so you could see that by 2020 between country inequality stands at 30 percent while within country inequality is at 70 percent. There is a lot of work the government needs to do in order to make progress about SDG 10.

**Q4**

Question four, **what are the key challenges in implementing the SDG 10.**

**Challenges**

There are many challenges to implement as SDG 10, it requires a more deliberate strategy in order to achieve to reach the furthest behind first, meaning the poorest first and you will take solidarity, unconditional respect of Human Rights and changing mindsets and long-held beliefs

**Challenges 2**

If we look at the challenge we were recognize that inequality actually starts when one is born what kind of families where which country the location all determine whether there will be a good or start or worse start. And starting point actually decide in terms of access to opportunities and ability to realize one's full potential and so and compounded by discrimination based on age, gender, ethnicity and disability so on and so forth, it prevails the society in many invisible ways and the pattern of inequality gets passed on from generation to generation it forms a vicious cycle.

**Challenges 3**

You could see the demographic change over time so there are two groups were compared, under five group in 1950 it stands about 13 percent of the population but by 2020 it's about nine percent and it's projected will reach only about seven percent in 2050. While the other group in comparison in 1950 the 65% and over group stands about five percent of the total population but by 2020 it is equal to the age under five group and projected to grow to more than 15.5% of the world population by 2050. And older people need to have the right to have autonomy and self-determination so how do we tackle this subtle ageism and discrimination based on age will be critical because by then we will have even more older people than today.

**Q5**

Question five, **are there good examples of SDG 10 implementation give us some example where young people have contributed to the achievement of the SDG 10 goal.**

**Good Examples: States**

Yes there are some good examples by governments for example the Head Start Program provided to low-income children in the U.S that deals with early childhood education, health and nutrition and has been very successful that helps to eliminate or reduce some of the lottery, the negative impact of the lottery of births and second is the implementation of social protection floors which guarantees some basic social career security matters and that has been helpful in terms of for the poor people to get health care and some basic income security such as in countries like India, Thailand, Burkina Faso, Cambodia and Chile. There are also development for better monitoring and measurement tools and I give you two examples, Indices of Social Development and the second one is Social Progress Index.

So this in the index of tools give government very useful information when they compare from the past to the present but also with other countries and there are also many active promotion of anti-discriminatory policies available around the world.

**Youth Actions Against Discrimination**

What can young people do? Young people nowadays are doing a lot. Let me just give you a few examples first is the “Black Life Matters” movement in the U.S the March 2020 for example millions of views participated around the world.

And the second program like in France for example and there are also other countries too, is the “Young Ambassadors for Rights” program that young people are trained and supervised by defender of rights to raise awareness of their rights to other young people. There're “European Youth Forum”, young people get together to discuss in terms of what they can do and their experiences in terms of Human Rights. And the “Hague Youth Declaration on Human Rights in Action” is very meaningful and there's also program in Asia and Pacific such as youth lead.

**Q6**

**What actions do you suggest for young people how could they engage and participate in order to help SDG 10 implementation?**

**Agency of the Youth**

Here I have a few thoughts, a few recommendations I think the first thing is to start with oneself therefore to be informed of once your universal human rights and discuss them with your peers will be a good start.

Second is don't be a bystander but speak up when seeing injustice or discrimination being done to yourself or others, volunteer your services to support the less well-off persons and vulnerable groups to make a difference and also useful is to promote good practices of inclusion and solidarity by using social media and one's own social networks. And of course it is also recognized that youth have a lot talent to contribute so how about working with your friends to create practical solutions in reducing inequalities and exclusion in your own environment and communities.

Thank you very much Dr. Lichia Yu for giving us these insights and explaining what SDG 10 is all about. I think the main message is very clear is poverty and inequality is not just a matter of unfairness or moral indignation but it was also clearly demonstrated that by not improving inequality, a large part of the population suffers from being in unequally treated in terms of their health, in terms of their access to good paying jobs, in terms of just bringing their families into the societies so they are not excluded but they become an important part of the society's development. Thank you very much and thank you for listening.