

Background:

Understanding that the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development are not independent of one another, this working group will focus primarily on social issues.

The social pillar refers to, in broad terms, public policies that support social issues. These social issues relate to our wellbeing and include aspects like healthcare, education, housing, employment, etc. They ensure that individuals do have access to social services, do not suffer through lack of knowledge of their rights and exercise a responsible influence on the development of social policies and services, both locally and nationally.

Participants who responded to key regional issues mentioned: poverty eradication or alleviation; security of jobs versus contract labour without benefits; income inequality; health and health care; universal access to sexual and reproductive health services; access to education; biases against women; and need for gender equality (both economic opportunities for women and protection from gender based violence issues).

Different sessions of the PFD highlight how current levels of inequality worldwide calls upon urgent action to address social needs across the world, particularly in the most deprived areas. For that purpose, both the Post 2015 agenda and the SDGs offer a good basis for comparative analysis and collective action.

While the SDGs are cross cutting, several specific address social aspects, such as:

SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

Can you please discuss, from your own experience:

- Success stories or positive experiences amongst members/participants that should figure into the actualization of these SDGs? Any successful story related to inclusive growth at national level?
- Key factors that determine or impede advancement of the social pillar?
- What needs to happen to encourage these factors or turn the factors into practice (new policies, changes in policies, regulation, additional financing, different skills)?