

Time to Act on Inequality and Exclusion

Rising inequality and exclusion are universal concerns, and among the most pressing issues of our time. They are a formidable challenge to sustainable development and a source of political grievance which can undermine democratic gains. Inequality and exclusion affect our ability to create opportunities for all people worldwide, our hopes for global prosperity, our aims to achieve sustainable peace and to protect the planet from the threat of climate change, and our ability to forge partnerships.

Today we are coming together, here at the United Nations, to show that there are paths towards more equal societies for all citizens. We commit to working together to identify practical and politically viable solutions to the challenge of inequality and exclusion in our own societies and globally.

As leaders we can take actions to bring benefit to people in their homes, schools, jobs and communities. Policies should be underpinned by practical measures to increase political and social cohesion.

It is time to recognize that we can never achieve the sustainable development goals without combatting inequality and exclusion. Policies matter, and societies do not have to choose a path of ever-increasing inequality and exclusion.

We are responding to the UN Secretary-General's call for a decade of accelerated actions for delivery on the Sustainable Development Goals and coming together to affirm our commitment to promote equality and inclusion. We take these steps together, not as isolated countries, because it is through a collective effort as part of a multilateral system that we can make the greatest difference. We call on others to join with us in ending the scourge of inequality and exclusion.

