Empowering Communities:

Tackling Inequalities in the SDGs Era

6th May 2016 - 09:00-10:45 hrs.

I.   Background

Inequality is persistent characteristic of the world we live in today. It exists across countries, within countries in the different economic standards between rural and urban communities; across gender line division in the labor market and other area's such as education and health; and across division imposed on people with disabilities.

CT's as a tool enables the dissemination of those divisions, and as such there is a myriad of success stories where the intervention of various public, private sector, and civil society actors enabled the empowerment of those communities that suffer the most from the existence of those dividing lines. However further momentum is needed in project dissemination and expansion to address the needs of sustainable resolution of some of the core issues that contribute to the agglomeration of the issue at hand.

The Innovation for Development team at the United Nations Development Programme in Egypt works to provide innovative solutions with the aim of supporting youth and empowering local communities. The programme enables the growth of small and medium enterprises (SMEs), fosters entrepreneurship and social innovation, in addition to job creation and employment. Several other projects target illiteracy eradication, e-health and socio-economic empowerment of women in rural areas and people with disabilities in Egypt. It continuously works with various actors ranging from public and private sector, civil society organizations and young entrepreneurs.

Egypt ICT Trust Fund (ICT-TF) - since almost 12 years - has been constantly promoting, adapting and using innovative tools for sustainable development. ICT-TF is consolidating its role in knowledge sharing, capacity building. It is also building bridges, aiming to support young men and women, people with disabilities and to work closely with several partners from public and private sector, civil society and young individuals.

II.   Objectives

The session will highlight the vital role of ICTs in enlarging the impacts of the SDGs programs on citizens' livelihood especially in developing countries. In addition it will shed the light on how ICTs have come to play the foremost important role in tackling income inequality; focusing on some best practices in this regards, shedding light on how

ICT's was used in attaining inclusive empowerment for marginalized segments of the population.

III. Keywords

Policies and operations towards citizen inclusiveness, Innovative ICT solutions for tackling inequality, the SDGs, Development Gaps, Women Empowerment, South-South Cooperation Empowerment, Communities..

IV. Major Outcomes

Creation of a forum for policy exchange among various actors, with North- South dialogue on best practices.

Discussion on how various actors - such as governments, private sector and civil society - can contribute towards furthering the benefits of ICT tools for Inclusive Development.

V. Target Group

Policy makers, business leaders, governmental official, and entrepreneurs especially from developing countries, who are involved in creating, designing, and implementing innovative solutions in the various developmental fields, such as education, health, SME's, poverty alleviation, agriculture, energy and food security.

VI. Preparation and Arrangement

- **Organizers:** UNDP Egypt and ICT Trust Fund MCIT,
- **Date & Time:** 6 May 2016 @ 09:00-10:45 hrs.
- **Venue:** Popov Room 2 at International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Place des Nations, 1211 Geneva, Switzerland
- **Language:** English

VII.   Moderator and Panelist

Moderator

Dr. Eun-Ju KIM, Chief, Innovation and Partnership Department (IP) & Administrator for ICT Development Fund (ICT-DF), ITU

Speakers / Panelists

1.   Sherif El Tokali, Assistant Resident Representative and Innovation for Development Team Leader, UNDP Egypt.

2.   Dr. Cae-One Kim, Chairman and CEO, World Economy Research Institute

3.   Anthony David, co-founder of Impact Hub Kuala Lumpur, Director of Impact Projects & Intrapreneurship at Scope Group and consultant to UNDP Egypt on social entrepreneurship

4.   Hani Eskandar, ICT Applications Coordinator at the ICT Applications and Cybersecurity Division, ITU

5.   Mosharraf Hossein, Director of Global Policy, Influencing & Research, ADD International