Draft Talking Points
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- It is an honor to participate in this event. I want to thank ECOSOC for inviting the World Bank to be part of this dialogue. I also want to thank UNDESA for inviting the World Bank and UN Trade and Development to co-host an Expert Group Meeting in May to prepare for this session.
- Today, we have the responsibility as a global community to review our progress toward achieving SDG1—the collective commitment we made in 2015.
- The difficult truth is that we are not on track to succeed. At our current pace of progress, around 7% of the world’s population will still live in extreme poverty in 2030. That is more than double our goal of 3%. Our calculations suggest that at this pace, it would take over three decades to eradicate extreme poverty. If we consider a slightly higher poverty line of $6.85, it would take over a century.
- We cannot wait that long. Over 700 million people around the world are living in conditions of poverty—waking up in precarious housing, unable to afford enough food to eat or school supplies for their children to study. We owe them solutions.
- I want to highlight three things that will be critical to getting back on track.
  - First: Inclusive growth is the engine that will accelerate progress. While growth is essential for poverty reduction, not all types of growth are good for the poor. It is not only about the quantity of growth, but it’s quality.
  - Second: The foundation of an inclusive growth model is investments in the productive capacity of the poor. For example, through improvements in education and health, alongside the creation of more and better-quality jobs. This expands opportunities for the poorest to both earn higher incomes and to contribute more proactively to the economy.
  - Finally: We must ensure these efforts are compatible with actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Progress on poverty reduction cannot be sustained if households remain vulnerable to falling back in the wake of shocks. Today we live in a world of increased uncertainty—with more frequent and more intense shocks. It will not enough to end poverty, if our planet is no longer livable. Any pathway forward must weigh carefully the trade-offs and synergies across these interlinked goals.
- We should all be deeply concerned by our lack of progress to date. However, there is still time to correct course. This will require ambitious domestic policies to prioritize poverty reduction in those settings where it is most entrenched as well as ambitious support from the international community to realize these objectives.