SOME FINAL REMARKS
ON CHALLENGES ABOUT DEVELOPMENT, GOVERNANCE AND SOCIAL PARTICIPATION

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• It is about putting together different elements in a coherent way

• Each country struggles to achieve a satisfactory answer

• Success is reflected in development: dynamic, inclusive, equitable, safe, sustainable
A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT

LESSENING SYNDROME:
- Low or poor living conditions
- Insufficient assets and income
- Poverty, inequality
- Vulnerability, marginalization, exclusion, inadequate policies

DEVELOPMENT:
- Better living conditions
- Assets accumulation
  - Income growth
  - Permanent
- Safe, equitable, inclusive, and sustainable

- Economic and social processes are intimately interrelated in development
- Poverty and inequality are not just a result from inadequate distribution of assets and productivity problems; they come also from from diverse social processes embedded in society (including exclusion from participation in public affairs geared to development itself)
- This fact should not be overlooked by public policy: action on all fronts is necessary, including enhanced social participation
• 1.4 billion people living under $1.25 USD/day in developing countries in 2005 (vs. 1.9 billion people in 1981)
  ▪ Even though population increased in these 25 years
  ▪ A 1% yearly decrease in the proportion of extreme poor people relative to total population, from 52% in 1981 to 26% in 2005
  ▪ This is on track with the Millenium Development Goals established by the United Nations (50% reduction of people in poverty between 1990 and 2015)
  ▪ By 2015 there will still be 1 billion people living under $1.25 USD a day, and those that have crossed that international poverty line will still be poor considering many other standards

*World Bank*: Ravaillon, M. and Sh. Chen (2008), “The developing world is poorer than we thought, but no less successful in the fight against poverty”. With 1993 data original estimates were 985 million people living under $1 USD a day in 2004, down from 1.5 billion in 1991.
Poverty reduction has been territorially uneven

- Absolute declines have only occurred in East Asia and Pacific (due to impressive results in China)
- Poverty reached many additional million people in other regions:
  - 182 more millions in Sub-Saharan Africa
  - 38 more in South Asia (most of them in India)
  - 17 million more in Europe and Central Asia
  - The number of poor has been constant in the Middle East and North Africa
  - Latin America registered large transitory augment because of major macroeconomic crisis, but has returned to pre-crisis levels

- This does not include increases in poverty occurred between 2005 and today from very high raises in food and energy prices.
• **Access to safe water**
  
  - The highest coverage for both urban and rural areas occurs in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, where the gap is also the narrowest (95% and 82%, respectively, a 13 percent points difference).
  - In the middle range are East Asia and Latin America, with similar coverage and disparities in both regions (around 93% and 67%, thus a 26 percent points gap)
  - The lowest indicators are observed in Sub-Saharan Africa (83% and 44%, a 39 percent points disparity)

* According to the World Bank
Access to sanitation

- The highest urban and rural coverage and smallest disparities are in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (91% and 81%, respectively, a gap of 10 percent points), followed by the Middle East and North Africa in all indicators.
- Latin America comes next (86%, 52%, and a 34 percent points gap), followed by East Asia (73%, 35% and 38 percent points). In both regions, a marked urban bias is thus observed.
- Sub-Saharan Africa records low coverage rates in both areas but narrower disparities (73% and 43%, a 30 percent points gap)
- The lowest coverage and widest disparities are found in South Asia (67% and 22% of access in urban and rural areas, respectively, reflecting a gap of 45 percent points).

* According to the World Bank
IMPLICATIONS

• The large extent of poverty and deficiencies in access to public services reveal the huge magnitude of lagging populations, and marked inequalities, around the world and in all major regions.

• This occurs at a time when mankind has reached historical records in population, income, human capital and technology.

• This is worrisome in several ways:
  – On moral grounds, it challenges fundamental values.
  – On social grounds, it weakens social cohesion.
  – On economic grounds, it lowers credibility and support about policies.
  – On political grounds, it risks conflicts.
FOR CONSIDERATION

• How is social participation contributing so far (or may contribute in the coming years) in different countries, to the achievement of the several Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)?

• What experience can be gathered about good practices in this regard, to be offered to interested countries to further advance towards the MDGs?
How can MDGs be accomplished not only as national averages, but also at subnational levels throughout the diverse regions and localities of a country? How can rural and urban lenses help?

How can countries be helped in this field to bring forward their own efforts to achieve the MDGs?

How can ICT be efficiently applied in this context?
Successful advancement to establish social participation as a useful permanent function within public administration in interested countries is without doubt to contribute to State reform and government modernization, in terms of:
- more responsiveness to citizens’ aspirations
- higher efficiency in the use of public resources
- enhanced inclusion
- greater transparency and accountability
- permanence of sound public policies
- democracy
POSSIBLE WAYS FORWARD

– Expand a publicly available knowledge base on good practices and indicators around social participation, about diverse public policies, programs, projects or activities

– Foster networks of knowledgeable or interested actors, including practitioners from different levels of government, universities, civil society organizations, international organizations, etc.

– Promote capacity building for social participation among actors in the public, private and social sectors of interested countries, to enhance their work on relevant matters (including MDGs and CCIs) at the local, regional, national and global levels
THANKS

END OF PRESENTATION