

Tackling Inequalities Beyond 2015 through Social Protection

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**Intervention by H.E. Ivar Asjes
Prime Minister of Curaçao**

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honor for the Government of Curaçao to be part of this dialogue on the future of social protection and its role in addressing poverty and inequality.

Curaçao is a small island developing state within the Kingdom of the Netherlands. During the last decade Curaçao has made significant strides in realizing the Millennium Development Goals. Although by international standards considered to be a middle-income country, Curaçao nonetheless faces inequality issues.



With a general unemployment rate of more than ten per cent and a youth unemployment rate nearing twenty per cent, my country's Government is more than conscious of its responsibility to provide safety nets for its population. Therefore the Government of Curaçao decided to implement a short and middle term development program based on:

- nation building;
- sustainable economic recovery and investment;
- a better quality of life;
- promotion of good governance;
- and responsible and prudent fiscal policy.

The overall aim of this development program is to provide better health and educational services to the citizens of Curaçao.

Already the Government has introduced a basic health care system with near universal coverage. Educational reforms and improved labor market access measures are also under way.

Curaçao is in its second year of having introduced a free secondary education program.

At the beginning of my presentation I mentioned that Curaçao is a small island developing state. The vulnerability of SIDS and



their special status has for decades been recognized by the international community. It is my hope that the post 2015 development agenda will duly take into account the challenges of SIDS in the area of social protection. The role of partnerships in this area must also be underlined. In this regard Curaçao is ready and willing to partner with third countries and international agencies in securing the needed adequate social protection services for its citizens and for the countries of the wider Caribbean.

I thank you for your attention.