Overcoming middle-income countries' challenges in advancing the 2030 Agenda.

July 13 - 3:00 - 4:15 PM EST

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Middle-income countries face significant challenges in advancing the 2030 Agenda, particularly in the last mile and marginalized communities. There are still less developed regions and pockets of underdeveloped communities. Indigenous peoples often reside in these less developed regions, lacking access to basic services and infrastructure, and face continued encroachment on ancestral lands and threats to cultural preservation.

In middle-income countries, there are also marginalized communities such as the urban poor, people with disabilities, and undocumented migrants. These communities often face significant challenges in accessing basic services such as energy, water, education, and healthcare. There’s also a widening digital divide due to limited access to the internet and information. Limited access to basic services hinders their progress and perpetuates cycles of poverty and inequality.

Reaching these communities poses significant challenges that require special assistance programs, direct financing to NGOs, and innovative approaches to bridge the gap in achieving the SDG 2030 targets.

Innovative approaches are essential to overcome the challenges faced by these communities. This involves exploring new models of service delivery, such as off-grid Mini Grid renewable energy solutions for remote areas, innovative water management systems, satellite internet access and mobile healthcare initiatives. By embracing technology and adopting context-specific innovations, we can bridge the gap and ensure that these communities receive the vital services they require to thrive.

Supporting and financing NGOs that work directly with these underdeveloped communities is crucial. NGOs play a vital role in implementing grassroots programs, raising awareness, and advocating for the rights and well-being of indigenous peoples and other vulnerable groups. Direct financing to these organizations enables them to scale up their efforts and reach more communities in need.

Given the limited availability of foreign development grants, middle-income countries must prioritize the needs of indigenous peoples and marginalized communities. This requires domestic resource mobilization through progressive taxation, revenue collection, and investments in local industries. Inclusive and participatory governance mechanisms should be established to ensure the voices of indigenous peoples are heard in decision-making processes.

Partnerships among governments, civil society, the private sector, and indigenous communities are essential. By leveraging the expertise and resources of various stakeholders, context-specific solutions can be developed and implemented at the local level.

Empowering indigenous communities involves preserving their cultural heritage, securing land and resource rights, and promoting intergenerational knowledge transfer. It also requires improving access to basic services, such as clean water, healthcare, education, and infrastructure development in remote areas.

By prioritizing the needs of underdeveloped communities, particularly indigenous peoples and employing innovative approaches while providing direct financing to NGOs, we can make significant strides in achieving the SDG 2030 targets. Through targeted interventions and collaborative efforts, we can bridge the gap, empower these communities, and ensure that no one is left behind in our collective pursuit of sustainable development.