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Countries show support for an *International Panel on Inequality* at UN in "rare breakthrough for addressing global inequality"

*Leaders of South Africa and Spain, together with Brazil and Norway, were joined by the **Prime Minister of Barbados** and the **German** government, as representatives from **Mexico**, **Japan**, **Portugal, Iceland**, **Cabo Verde, and Bangladesh** took part in the landmark meeting.*

- **Brazil, Norway, South Africa and Spain** were joined by countries including **Germany** and **Barbados** backing an International Panel on Inequality. **The Prime Minister of Barbados, Mia Mottley,** called for a panel to "*put people at the center of the development process and solve this inequality issue that has become the new norm of our societies.*"

- **President of Brazil, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, President of the Government of Spain, Pedro Sanchez**, **President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa** this week urged nations to support the panel.

- The **United Nations Secretary-General** António Guterres, whose remarks were delivered by the Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed, said the proposed panel would "*provide objective, science-based analysis and evidence on the scale and drivers of inequality*".

- **Governments**, **experts** and **leading political figures** concluded in calling on member states to support the development of a **UN resolution to cement its establishment**.

Friday 25th September, New York - Governments at the 81st UN General Assembly High-Level Week came together to inform and build political support for the establishment of an International Panel on Inequality - brought forward by **Spain**, **Brazil**, **South Africa** and **Norway**, chaired by **Nobel Laureate, Professor Joseph E. Stiglitz.** The backing for the new Panel was described as a "rare breakthrough for addressing global inequality" by UN Under-Secretary General Winnie Byanyima.

President of South Africa, Cyril Ramaphosa, said:

"As the founding father of South Africa, Nelson Mandela reminded us that for long as poverty, injustice and gross inequality persist in our world, none of us can truly be free and be fully at peace.

"The task before us is a formidable one. To build a new multilateral frontier and expand our global coalition against inequality.

"It is time to accelerate the momentum – and to get the backing of a UN General Assembly for a resolution on an International Panel on Inequality.

"Inequality is not – and never has been – inevitable. It is a problem we can solve with evidence, analysis, political action and cooperation. Let us forge forward in the spirit of cooperation and common purpose. The time for an International Panel on Inequality is now."

President of the Government of Spain, Pedro Sánchez, said:

"Inequality is not an abstract concept. It is an awful reality. It is not just about the circumstances in which you were born, but also disaffection – whether people feel that the system is working against them. Few things are more unfair than the levels of inequality in our society.

"However, governments cannot address what they do not understand – and that is why an International Panel on Inequality is a must.

"Think of what the IPCC has done for climate change – bringing together the best available knowledge, independently assessing the evidence and giving governments around the world a scientific basis on which to act.

"We need something similar for inequality, and we need to do it now. Not ideology, but knowledge. Not another layer of bureaucracy but instead a tool for better policymaking. The moment for an International Panel on Inequality is now."

You can watch the video addresses of President Ramaphosa and President Sanchez on the IPI here.

President of Brazil, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, in his address to the General Assembly, said:

"Inequality and underdevelopment are the result of political choices.

"Change means moving forward toward a future of greater participation and greater achievements.

"It means creating and sharing effective public solutions to development challenges through a democratic, strong, efficient, and capable state. It means embracing the spirit of solidarity and cooperation with Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

Initiatives such as the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty and the International Panel on Inequality were born out of this political will."

You can watch the UN General Assembly address of President Lula here.

Prime Minister Mia Mottley of Barbados, advocated for a UN resolution to formalise an IPI's establishment. In her remarks, she spoke to the accelerating threats posed by AI, and worsening climate change. Prime Minister Motley said:

"*Greed is man made. The political choices that people make with their eyes wide open are insensitive to the people that will suffer from those choices.*

"Let's put people at the center of the development process. Let's solve this inequality issue that has become the new norm of our societies."

The **United Nations Secretary-General** António Guterres, whose remarks were delivered by the Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed, said:

"The proposed International Panel on Inequality would bring together governments, economists, civil society and academics to provide objective, science-based analysis and evidence on the scale and drivers of inequality".

Nobel Laureate, Professor Joseph E. Stiglitz said that "*inequality within and between nations is a collective threat to our economies and their ability to support human dignity. This kind of global stress is akin to the crisis of climate change and needs to be much better understood and studied in the same way*."

UN Under Secretary General and Executive Director of UNAIDS, Winnie Byanyima called the meeting a "rare breakthrough for addressing global inequality" and said the meeting was a key moment of momentum for an IPI that is core fulfillment of the UN charter and the 2030 agenda to leave no one behind.

The governments, inequality experts and leading political figures concluded by calling on world leaders to work towards the development of a **UN resolution to cement its establishment.**

The event follows **last week's intervention** from former world leaders, including **Chancellor of Germany, Olaf Scholz** and **Prime Minister of New Zealand Helen Clark** urging governments worldwide to swiftly back the initiative - and the voices of over **1500 experts and academics,** including **Nobel Laureates**, urging its creation.

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Please find more information on the proposal for an International Panel on Inequality here.

About an International Panel on Inequality
An International Panel on Inequality (IPI) would serve as the world's leading scientific authority on inequality, providing policymakers, the private sector and civil society with deeper insights and a stronger shared understanding of the scale of the inequality crisis and how to tackle it.

Inspired in part by the success of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), an IPI draws attention to the fact that high inequality is an issue of global importance, akin to climate change.

The proposed panel would be anchored in neutral, science-based and objective analysis. It would systematically track inequality trends, consolidate fragmented research on the drivers and consequences of inequality, identify critical gaps in our knowledge, and evaluate the impacts of policy choices at both global and national levels.