26 May 2017

Dear Professor Libanova,

I am writing to you on the Advisory Panel for the 2017 Human Development Report (HDR). I am pleased to inform you that addressing some of the measurement perspectives suggested in the 2016 HDR for ensuring human development for everyone and resonating the notion of no one left behind in the 2030 Development Agenda, the theme of the 2017 HDR is *Recasting the Human Development Measures.*

Universal human development requires that everyone benefits equitably from the human development progress and that everyone enjoys quality human development. Universality also requires that gender disparities need to be closed, and deprivation in richer societies are identified. In these contexts, it is important to pursue a disaggregated approach in assessing human development; to suggest evaluate quality of human development, and not only quantity; to come up with indicators of multidimensional derivations in richer societies; and to have appropriate and relevant measures for gender-related issues. All these would critically hinge on robust and quality data, the landscape of which is quickly changing with Big Data, real-time data, open data.

Finally, as the development discourse for the next nearly one and a half decade would be informed and influenced by the 2030 Development Agenda, it is equally important to see how the human development indicators and data can be aligned to SDGs.

In the context of all these, the major focus of the 2017 HDR would be to look at some of the measurement perspectives, as described above, that would facilitate analysis and understanding of human development and deprivations beyond averages, beyond quantity, beyond poor societies, and beyond simple gender parity. It will also allow us to explore new information and data and examine the possibilities of potential of the new data, with their strengths and weaknesses, as to how they may contribute to human development measurements. All these will help formulating appropriate policies so that universal human development can be achieved.

Given your commitment and your extensive work towards the cause of human development and your stature as a leading development thinker and practitioner, it is my pleasure and privilege to invite you to serve as a member of the 2017 HDR Advisory Panel.

Prof. Ella Libanova
National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine
Kyiv

The role of the Advisory Panel is to provide overall advice and guidance as we move forward with the preparation of the HDRs. In particular, the meeting of the Panel gives an opportunity for intellectual guidance and insights in articulating and sharpening key messages and recommendations that shape the Overview and the final chapter of the report, which are essential to the positioning and outreach of the publication. Throughout the report preparation process, we also solicit active engagement by panel members through occasional bilateral conversations.

The Human Development Report Office (HDRO) and I personally extremely value your insights and advice and we shall be honoured and privileged if you kindly accept our invitation to serve as a member of the 2017 HDR Advisory Panel. I am pleased to share with you, for your information, a list of eminent personalities whom we have approached to be part of the esteemed panel. We shall be in touch with you in due course in terms of necessary documentation, focusing both on substantive as well as operational issues such as the meeting date and other logistic concerns.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

Selim Jahan
Director