

Poverty and Inequality Reduction as Politics

The Role of Consensus and
Coalitions

Politics

- Who gets what, when, and how
- Policies are important
- How do we ensure that political leaders remain committed to poverty reduction?
- The need for a broad cross-societal consensus

What does the Political Science literature have to say?

- Social movements & popular organizations
- Democracy
- The need for societal coalition
- The role of the Scientific community
 - Raise societal awareness
 - Policy consensus

What kind of Consensus?

- Contentious issues
- There is no magic bullet
- The exact combination of policies is likely to be context specific & contested

The Debate on Policy Prescriptions

- The Market and the Role of the State
- The need for innovative policies
- Distinguishing between the ideal and the possible

The Governance Issue

- Where does it fit in?
- The importance of advancing on a number of fronts

Poverty and Inequality reduction takes time

- Exclusion as a long-term historical process
- The importance of dialogue and consensus that is rooted in national history, context, resources, and needs, producing a strategy that is sustainable economically, environmentally, and politically