

Concept Note

A New Policy Consensus to Accelerate Social Progress: findings from the World Social Report 2025

24 April 2025, 12:00-13:30

Bahá'í International Community Office at 866 United Nations Plaza, Suite 120, and on Zoom
Registration link: <https://forms.office.com/e/F9LybAF4z4>

Background

The world has seen extraordinary social and economic progress over the past three decades. Unprecedented gains in reducing extreme poverty and improvements in material well-being have demonstrated the transformative potential of collective action. Despite these gains, the world is in social turmoil. Inequalities remain stubbornly high and economic insecurity is on the rise. Many people struggle to earn adequate incomes in precarious jobs, and countless families remain one misfortune away from falling into poverty. Frustration with the status quo is fuelling distrust and straining the very foundations of global solidarity.

The evidence presented in the *World Social Report 2025: A New Policy Consensus to Accelerate Social Progress* underscores the need for urgent action: the risks of allowing the vicious cycle of economic insecurity, inequality and declining trust to persist are too high. A new policy consensus based on three guiding principles – equity, economic security for all, and solidarity – is needed to tackle today's social challenges at their roots and accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. The rationale and objectives of such consensus are set out in the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action and in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Renewed momentum is now needed to translate this collective vision of sustainable development into action.

The 2025 edition of the *World Social Report* is co-authored by the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and the United Nations World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER). The Report supports momentum towards the Second World Summit for Social Development by providing a survey of social progress since the adoption of the [Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action](#), reasserting that a strong social perspective on development is a must to accelerate and sustain progress towards the SDGs, beyond 2030.

Objectives

This event, organized by UN DESA in collaboration with UNU-WIDER, will give civil society organizations, experts, Permanent Mission officials and members of the press the opportunity to engage in a substantive discussion on the findings and recommendations contained in the *World Social Report 2025: A new policy consensus to accelerate social progress*.

The event will coincide with the online release of the Report on the [UN DESA](#) and [UNU-WIDER](#) websites.

Structure and format

The event will have in-person and online audiences. The WSR 2025 writing team will provide a presentation of the report's main findings and policy recommendations, followed by in-depth commentary from expert discussants. Finally, a Q&A session will provide audiences in-person and online the opportunity to engage in the discussion.

Programme

Speaker	Suggested speaking time
Opening remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome by Daniel Perell, Bahá'í International Community • Brief remarks by Charles Katoanga, Director, Division for Inclusive Social Development, DESA • Brief remarks by Patricia Justino, Deputy Director, United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research 	10 minutes
World Social Report 2025: a new policy consensus to accelerate social progress Presentation of the main findings and policy recommendations by DISD and UNU-WIDER writing teams	25 minutes
Expert discussion and audience Q&A Discussant remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shahrashoub Razavi, Director, Social Protection Department, ILO • Andrew Shepherd, Director, Chronic Poverty Advisory Network Q&A (questions taken from in-person and online audience)	10 minutes 25 minutes
Concluding remarks Daniel Perell, Bahá'í International Community	5 minutes