COMMISSION for SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

United Nations Headquarters, New York

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Division for Inclusive Social Development | #CSocD #SDGs #GlobalGoals WEBSITE: social.un.org/csocd

Sixty-fourth Session of the Commission for Social Development

**High-level panel on
"From promise to progress: Advancing social justice
through coordinated action"**

Monday, 2 February 2026, 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., Conference Room 4, UNHQ

Concept Note

1. Background

Building on the renewed political momentum generated at the Second World Summit for Social Development, held in Doha in 2025, the sixty-fourth session of the Commission for Social Development represents a key moment to advance the translation of the Summit's commitments into concrete policy guidance. The Doha Political Declaration reaffirmed that bold social policies must be coordinated across institutions, equitable in their outcomes and inclusive in their design to deliver lasting social justice and contribute to just transitions.

The Secretary-General's report for the session underscores that equity and inclusion define the destination, while coordination is the bridge to reach it. Coordinated approaches allow governments to reconcile competing priorities, reduce duplication, align financing and ensure fairness in outcomes. They enable intersectional inequalities - relating to gender, age, disability, income, ethnicity or migration status - to be addressed through integrated responses across social protection, health, labour, education, housing and other sectors. Such coherence not only strengthens efficiency, reinforces equity in outcomes and supports inclusion, but also builds public trust in institutions by ensuring that policies are transparent, participatory and people-centred.

The Commission for Social Development will convene its sixty-fourth session from 2 to 10 February 2026. On 2 February 2026, two segments of the high-level panel discussion will be convened. The first segment, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., will focus on *Coordination and Governance, Equity, Inclusion and Participation* while the second segment, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. will focus on *Coordinated Financing and Digital Public Infrastructure for Social Development*.

2. Objective and structure

Discussions will focus on two distinct but complementary dimensions of the theme with the aim of articulating practical pathways for strengthening coordination while promoting equity and inclusion.

Panellists are invited to structure their presentations around these guiding questions, focusing on lessons learned and actionable recommendations. The outcome of the discussions will be reflected in the Chair's summary.

Segment I: Coordination and governance, equity, inclusion and participation

This panel will examine institutional models for coordination and explore how inclusiveness, participation and accountability can reinforce public trust and fairness in outcomes. It will address questions such as: What institutional arrangements are most effective in aligning action across ministries and levels of government? How can coordination mechanisms better address intersecting inequalities linked to gender, age, disability, income, ethnicity or migration status? How can integrated planning and medium-to long-term frameworks embed social priorities across policy cycles? What mechanisms best institutionalize whole-of-society participation and strengthen accountability - including through parliaments, audit institutions and civil society - to reinforce transparency, inclusion and fairness in outcomes?

Segment II: Coordinated financing and digital public infrastructure for social development

This panel will explore financing and technological enablers of coordination. It will discuss questions such as: How can countries overcome fiscal compartmentalization and adopt integrated financing approaches - such as programme-based budgeting, pooled funds or Integrated National Financing Frameworks - to ensure predictable investment in social development and timely support in periods of shock? What practical steps support interoperable, secure and inclusive data systems that improve coordinated service delivery?

Proposed time allocation for Segment I

Speaker	Suggested speaking time
Chair: Opening remarks	3 minutes
Keynote speaker: in Segment 1 only	15 minutes
Moderator: Remarks and introduction	5 minutes
3 Panellists: Presentations and Q&A from the moderator	5-minute presentation per panellist, followed by one question each from the moderator with a 1–2-minute response per panellist
Q & A: From the floor	25 minutes
Panellists: Concluding remarks	1 minute per panellist
Moderator: Summary and conclusion	3 minutes
Chair: Closing	2 minutes

Proposed time allocation for Segment II

Speaker	Suggested speaking time
Chair: Opening remarks	3 minutes
Moderator: Remarks and introduction	5 minutes
4 Panellists: Presentations and Q&A from the moderator	7-minute presentation per panellist, followed by one question each from the moderator with a 1–2-minute response per panellist
Q & A: From the floor	25 minutes
Panellists: Concluding remarks	1 minute per panellist
Moderator: Summary and conclusion	3 minutes
Chair: Closing	2 minutes