



Second World Summit for Social Development

Harnessing the Leadership of Asia-Pacific for Future-Fit Social Development Policies

Thursday, 6 November 2025, 13.15 – 14.30, Exhibition Hall 5, Room 4

Organized by: Indonesia (Ministry of National Development Planning); Philippines (Commission on Population and Development); ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

Background on the event

The event builds on two regional preparatory multistakeholder events convened by ESCAP to identify priority challenges and policy tools relevant to tackle the challenges of today and tomorrow in Asia and the Pacific. The event shares examples of innovations and good practices on critical areas for transformational change that contribute to productive work and decent employment, including universal and inclusive social protection, intergenerational solidarity and lifelong well-being, and social justice.

Key Issues discussed

- Climate change, demographic transitions and digitalization were highlighted as critical trends that need to be addressed to develop future-ready policies. The importance of adopting adaptive approaches to government was stressed to help governments better respond to these risks and opportunities. Indonesia shared its efforts to develop an Adaptive Social Protection roadmap to foster cooperation across ministries and ensure it is more inclusive and comprehensive.

- Data was an integral component towards successful policymaking. Indonesia had embarked on a unifying digital database DTSEN to promote data coordination and standardization across line ministries. Digitalization was transforming delivery of social protection.
- The importance of policies to support different stages of the life course was stressed. In Sri Lanka, a National Social Policy strategy had been adopted to protect households across the life course. The strategy provided non-contributory social assistance through a unified social registry and graduation pathways. A national social care service provided training for formal and informal care workers. There were plans to transition towards contributory social insurance schemes. Active Labour Market Programmes were being strengthened, with a focus on entrepreneurship.
- Issues related to decent jobs and economic empowerment were discussed. The importance of addressing informal workers, especially female informal workers and linkages between employment generation and gender-sensitive reforms was emphasized. In addition, there was a need to ensure portability of entitlements, extension schemes for rural workers and loans for SME informal workers to address continuing informality in the region.
- Risks continued to face communities and small and medium sized enterprises in climate dependent work, such as fisheries and agriculture. Indonesia noted their partnership with ESCAP to promote climate resilient and inclusive social protection to foster policy innovation and dialogue in the region and identify solutions that smoothen disruptions caused by climate change or other shocks.
- The critical importance of intergenerational solidarity was highlighted, especially as countries undergo demographic transitions towards an ageing society. Good practices from the Philippines were shared on a whole-of-society approach to promote intergenerational solidarity. Given its youthful population, Mongolia was also investing in the wellbeing and rights of children and parental engagement.
- The issue of financing was discussed and the importance of raising government revenue highlighted. Tax revenue in the region was often below 10 per cent, far below the threshold needed to run high quality public services. The need to build trust in society to encourage populations to pay taxes to foster higher quality public services, including public access to decent healthcare or education. was stressed. The value of providing a universal social protection system would help strengthen the social contract and solidarity within countries. The case of Mongolia was highlighted in their commitment to providing universal social protection.

Key recommendations for action / [commitments for the Doha Solutions Platform for Social Development](#)

- Participants stressed the importance of an Intergovernmental regional development platform, such as ESCAP, to help foster regional cooperation and discuss ways to promote human security and social development. Through such regional platforms, a new form of solidarity could be defined for Asia and the Pacific that speaks to the realities and values of the region.
- It was critical that people be put at heart of development and investments made to promote universal social protection, intergenerational solidarity and lifelong well-being, social justice, decent work and employment.
- The urgency to act was emphasized. Solutions were available if there was political will to invest in, and implement, change. The lack of trust and solidarity in and across countries was highlighted, and the provision of social protection and decent jobs was regarded as a vital way to regain this, which can be done in ways that support economic growth as well as climate goals.
- The importance of raising government revenue was highlighted. Sustainable financing mechanisms could be identified and these should be viewed not as a cost but an investment in building more resilient and prosperous societies.