



Sixty-fourth Session of the Commission for Social Development

Multistakeholder Forum on “Partnerships that deliver: How to scale-up good practices at the local level to end poverty, create jobs and build inclusive societies”

Thursday, 5 February 2026, 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., Conference room 4, UNHQ

Concept Note



1. Background

The Doha Political Declaration, adopted at the Second World Summit for Social Development, underscores the urgency of pursuing a whole-of-government and a whole-of-society approach for addressing the challenges of eradicating poverty, promoting decent work for all, and fostering social inclusion. Achieving these action-oriented goals requires collaborative approaches that transcend traditional governance structures. The theme of this Multistakeholder Forum underscores the essential role of partnerships in accelerating social development outcomes at the local level. Across diverse contexts, community-driven initiatives, municipal innovations and public-private collaborations have demonstrated tangible results in reducing poverty, generating employment and strengthening social inclusion. By focusing on scalable and evidence-based practices, the Forum will highlight how stronger coordination among governments, civil society, the private sector and academia can translate proven solutions into wider impact, supporting Member States in implementing social development commitments.

The Political Declaration welcomes the outcome document of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, the Sevilla Commitment, and the importance of financing social development, further calling upon the multilateral development banks to pay greater attention to financing for social development. The Doha Declaration also recognizes cooperatives and actors in the social and solidarity economy (SSE) as key to addressing complex, interconnected social development challenges.

The Commission for Social Development will convene its sixty-fourth session from 2 to 10 February 2026. On 5 February 2026, two segments of the Multistakeholder Forum will be convened. The first one from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. will focus on Local innovations that reduce poverty and support livelihoods; and the second one from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. will focus on partnerships and financing models that enable scale-up.

2. Objective and structure

Both segments of the Multistakeholder Forum will provide an opportunity for participants to identify policies and actions that can create and strengthen partnerships to turbocharge progress towards achieving the sustainable development goals and deliver on the objectives of the World Social Summit at the national, regional and international levels.

Segment I: Local innovations that reduce poverty and support livelihoods

The panel will focus on innovative and transformative initiatives by local authorities, community activists, social networks that are making a difference. They will also highlight the networks, both national and international, that enable positive results at the local level. It will address questions such as:

1. The Doha Political Declaration called for bold, people-centred and integrated policies and approaches to overcome silos, deliver social justice and support just transitions to resilient economies. In your view, what will these policies look like to achieve results at the local level?
2. Whole of Society Approach recognizes the need for multistakeholder participation in policy-delivery. How can we strengthen collaboration among all stakeholders, including governments, to create a whole of society approach to social development?
3. Are there any examples of successful multistakeholder collaboration that you can cite as models to be scaled up?

Segment II: Partnerships and financing models that enable scale-up

The Doha Political Declaration reaffirms the importance of financing for sustainable development. With continuing pressure on both international and national sources for financing social development, the panel will explore options for financing from traditional and innovative sources. It will address questions such as:

1. In a period of declining overseas development assistance, what other options for financing do developing, particularly the least developed, have access to funds? Can multilateral development banks fill some of the financing shortfalls?
2. Accountability is essential in ensuring that promises made become promises kept. What policies and actions can support accountability within the framework of a whole of government and whole of society policy framework? Accountability from who to who?
3. Cooperatives social and solidarity economy organizations are often rooted in their communities and specifically include social progress as a main output of their operations. What actions do you think governments can take to include these enterprises in their overall social and economic agenda?

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

Proposed time allocation for each panel segment

Speaker	Suggested speaking time
Chair: Opening remarks	3 minutes
Moderator: Remarks and introduction	5 minutes
6 Panellists: Presentations and Q&A from the moderator	5-minute presentation per panellist, followed by one question each from the moderator with a one-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 remarks	2 minutes