

Declarations to advance Social Development and Social Justice through Coordinated, Equitable, and Inclusive Policies for All”

1. Background & Rationale

The Commission for Social Development (CSocD) remains the primary forum within the UN system for global policymaking on social development. As the Commission prepares for its 64th session in 2026, civil society plays a critical role in shaping dialogue, sharing grounded experiences, and ensuring that commitments translate into real change for communities.

The Civil Society Forum is organized to bring together civil society organizations, social partners, youth groups, academia, and community networks to provide coordinated input to Member States.

Anchoring in Foundational Frameworks:

Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development (1995)

The Forum reaffirms the three historic Commitments:

1. Eradication of Poverty
2. Promotion of Full Employment and Sustainable Livelihoods
3. Fostering Social Integration to Create a Society for All

These pillars remain the normative and moral foundation of global social development.

Doha Political Declaration (2025)

Building on Copenhagen, the Doha Declaration:

1. Renews global commitments to universal social protection,
- 2.Emphasizes decent work and just transitions,
- 3.Prioritizes inclusive and resilient societies,
- 4.Calls for strengthening civil society participation, data systems, and financing for social development.

CSocD64 Priority Theme (2026)

Advancing Social Development and Social Justice through Coordinated, Equitable, and Inclusive Policies. This priority theme directly aligns with both Copenhagen and Doha, emphasizing convergence of accountability and implementation through policy.

2. Purpose of the Civil Society Forum

The Forum aims to:

development.

3. Identify civil society recommendations and actionable pathways for Member States ahead of CSocD64.
4. Strengthen multistakeholder partnerships, ensuring maximum voices - are fully represented.

3. Objectives

1. Link Frameworks: Demonstrate the continuity and evolution from Copenhagen (1995) → Doha (2025) → CSocD64 (2026) as a unified policy pathway for people-centered development.
2. Highlight Evidence-Based Solutions: Showcase scalable civil society and community-driven solutions across: Poverty eradication / Decent work and livelihoods / Social inclusion and protection
3. Promote Integrated Policies: Discuss how governments and partners can develop joined-up social policies, bridging the three pillars to respond to global crises (economic shocks, climate impacts, conflict, pandemics).
4. Strengthen Participation: Ensure civil society voices shape global processes with concrete recommendations for a) financing social development b) inclusive governance c) rights-based approaches d) monitoring and accountability mechanisms

4. Forum Structure

A. Opening Plenary

UNDESA / Bureau of CSocD / Civil society keynote

B. Two Thematic Sessions (Aligned with the Pillars of Social Development)

Session 1 — Eradication of Poverty

“Universal Social Protection and Community Resilience for a Future Free of Poverty”

Framework: Copenhagen Commitment 2; Doha commitments to social protection floors and resilient communities.

Session 2 — Employment & Decent Work

“Advancing Full and Productive Employment: From Informality to Dignified Work”

Framework: Copenhagen Commitment 3; Doha priorities on just transitions, informal worker protections, and youth employment.

migrant rights, and inclusive institutions.

C. Interactive Dialogue: Voices from Communities

Community leaders, advocates, and grassroots networks share stories of change and barriers to implementation.

D. Closing Plenary

Presentation of Civil Society Key Recommendations to the CSocD Bureau and Member States.

5. Expected Outcomes

1. Civil Society Declaration for CSocD64

A consolidated set of community-driven recommendations aligned with:
Copenhagen / Doha / Agenda 2030 / CSocD64 priority theme

6. Guiding Questions for the Forum

1. How can Copenhagen's original commitments guide today's social development challenges?
2. What policies from Doha are most urgent to implement at national and local levels?
3. How can integrated strategies across the three pillars strengthen resilience in a world facing overlapping crises?
4. What financing innovations can accelerate social development outcomes?
5. How can civil society be empowered as an equal partner in implementation and accountability?

9. Conclusion

The Civil Society Forum for CSocD64 presents a unique opportunity to bridge historical commitments and contemporary realities, ensuring that the world delivers on the promise of a society for all.

By grounding its work in the Copenhagen Declaration, building momentum from the Doha Political Declaration, and aligning with the 2026 priority theme, the Forum positions civil society at the center of shaping a more just, inclusive, and sustainable social development agenda.