



United Nations

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs



**International
Labour
Organization**

Tripartite Solutions for Social Justice

Pathway to the World Social Summit / Second World Summit on Social Development

February 10th 1:15 – 2:30 p.m. New York

Venue: ILO Conference Room, 885 Second Avenue, 30th Floor, New York.

Jointly organized by the International Labour Organization (**ILO**) and the UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs (**UNDESA**) in collaboration with the State of **Qatar**

The ILO and UNDESA in collaboration with the Government of Qatar are pleased to convene this event during the 63rd session of the Committee for Social Development to build on the momentum of the preparations for the World Social Summit under the title Second World Summit for Social Development.

Background and Rationale

The Second World Summit for Social Development, to be held in Qatar from 4 - 6 November 2025, represents a critical juncture in the global push for inclusive and sustainable development. It builds on the legacy of the 1995 Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, which recognized the interconnected nature of poverty, full and productive employment and decent work, and social integration, as foundational themes of social development.

Despite strides since 1995, persistent structural challenges are compounded by contemporary crises including the COVID19 pandemic, the intensification of conflicts, the rise of debt burdens and the devastating impacts of climate change. In addition, societies are increasingly being transformed by the continuous effects of demographic shifts and technological innovation. If left unaddressed, these dynamics could threaten economic security, exacerbate inequalities, and hinder progress on the 2030 Agenda.

This side-event highlights the urgency of addressing these challenges through tripartite cooperation, which remains central to the ILO's mission. By mobilizing the voices of governments, workers, and employers, the event will strengthen the global narrative on the need for social justice as a driver of sustainable peace and prosperity. Moreover, it will advocate for the alignment of the outcomes of other pivotal global events—such as the 2023 SDG Summit, the 2024 Summit of the Future, and the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development—with the WSSD2.

The ILO's Governing Body, which includes representatives of governments, workers and employers' organisations, has made substantial contributions toward shaping the Summit agenda, calling for a renewed global social contract to address these multifaceted

challenges and advance social development. This side-event provides an opportunity to translate these contributions into actionable policies that are inclusive, forward-looking, and responsive to the complex realities of the global economy and society.

Expected Outcome

This event aims to enhance understanding of the interconnected themes of social development while emphasizing the critical role of tripartite collaboration in advancing these objectives. It will emphasise the objective of productive employment and decent work as one of the key aspirations of all peoples. By facilitating robust discussions and stakeholders' engagement, the event will identify practical recommendations to embed social justice principles into the Summit's preparations and outcome. Ultimately, the event aims to ensure that social development objectives are responsive to today's situation and remain on the top of the national and global agendas as essential contributor to the realisation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

Key Questions for Discussion:

1. How can we ensure policy coherence and alignment across the outcomes of the 2023 SDG Summit, the 2024 Summit of the Future, the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, and the Second World Summit on Social Development?
2. What mechanisms, best practices, and lessons from previous Summits can inform robust, actionable policy recommendations and drive progress in the three interconnected core themes of social development namely poverty reduction, decent work for all and social integration?
3. In the context of shifting labour markets due to rapid technological advancement, demographics and climate change, what comprehensive strategies and policy interventions linked to skills development can ensure the creation of full and productive employment and decent work for all, while, fostering social integration, reducing inequalities and managing key transitions?

Agenda:

Moderator: Ms. Laura Thompson, Assistant Director-General for External and Corporate Relations, **ILO**

Keynote: H.E. Ms. Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani, Permanent Representative of **Qatar** to the UN

Panellists: H.E. Mrs. Leonor Zalabata Torres, Permanent Representative of **Colombia** to the UN; Mr. Mario Nava, Director-General Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, **European Commission**, Ms. Paola Simonetti, Director, International Trade Union Confederation, **ITUC**
Ms. Shea Gopaul, Permanent Representative to the UN, International Organisation of Employers, **IOE**, High-level Representative, **UNDP [TBC]**

Closing: Mr. Navid Hanif, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, **UNDESA**