COMMISSION for
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
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United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Division for Inclusive Social Development

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63ʳᵈ Session of the Commission for Social Development

Panel discussion on Emerging Issues
on
Policies to bolster social resilience in the context of more frequent and complex crises
and
Universal rights-based social protection systems that adapt to evolving risks and support social resilience

Wednesday, 12 February 2025, 10.00–13.00, Conference room 4, UNHQ

First and Second Panels

Concept Note

1. Background

Three decades after the first World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen, its goals remain as pertinent as ever, despite significant shifts in the global landscape. Shocks and crises are becoming more frequent and complex, spreading rapidly across climate, health, and financial systems. Likewise, societies are seeking to adapt to the transformative impacts of major trends, including the accelerated pace of digital transformation and ageing populations. As countries prepare to convene for the Second World Summit for Social Development in 2025, there is a need to explore how to reflect contemporary challenges and priorities.

Social resilience offers a valuable prism through which to examine the new risks caused by these major structural transformations and more frequent and complex crises. Social resilience refers to the capacity of individuals and societies to prevent, resist, absorb, adapt, respond and recover positively, efficiently and effectively when faced with a wide range of risks, while maintaining an acceptable level of functioning without compromising long-term prospects for sustainable development, peace and security, human rights and well-being for all. This includes building systems that reduce vulnerabilities, foster inclusion and promote social development to ensure that no one is left behind.

The Commission for Social Development will convene its sixty-third session from 10 to 14 February 2025. On 12 February 2025 two panel discussions will be held. The first one from 10.00 to 11.30 on *Policies to bolster social resilience in the context of more frequent and complex crises* and the second one from 11.30 to 13.00 on *Universal rights-based social protection systems that adapt to evolving risks and support social resilience*.

2. Objective and structure

Both panels will examine the major structural transformations and widespread crises that are impacting social resilience and jeopardizing gains in social development. They will discuss policy actions to help recover lost ground and strengthen progress toward social resilience amid a turbulent and uncertain future. Such efforts could play an important part for the upcoming Second Summit for Social Development and accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Panel 1 on "Policies to bolster social resilience in the context of more frequent and complex crises" will discuss such questions as: what are the building blocks of social resilience at the level of both the individual and society? Can a country's governance-related characteristics and capabilities affect its resilience? What can be done at the international level, including within the UN, to improve foresight and preparedness? Are domestic resource mobilization and global solidarity up to the task of ensuring adequate financing for social resilience?

Panel 2 on "Universal rights-based social protection systems that adapt to evolving risks and support social resilience" will discuss such questions as: how can universal, comprehensive, and rights-based social protection systems adapt to an evolving risk landscape to bolster resilience? How can social protection systems serve as a policy level for a just transition towards a green and digital economy?

Panellists are invited to structure their 7-9 minute presentations around these questions, with a particular emphasis on the focus of the panel. The outcome of the discussion will be reflected in the Chair's summary as part of the inputs from the Commission for Social Development to ECOSOC's high-level segment and the 2025 High-Level Political Forum.

Proposed time allocation for each panel discussion

Speaker	Suggested speaking time
Chair: Opening remarks	3 minutes
Moderator: Remarks and introduction	5 minutes
Panellists: Presentations	7 – 9 minutes per panellist
Q & A: From the floor	20 - 30 minutes
Panellists: Concluding remarks	3 minutes per panellist
Moderator: Summary and conclusion	7 minutes
Chair: Closing	1 minute