



COMMISSION for SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

United Nations Headquarters, New York



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

High-level panel discussion

on

Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development, in view of the World Social Summit under the title “the Second World Summit for Social Development”

Monday, 10 February 2025, 11.30–13.00, Conference room 4, UNHQ

Concept Note



1. Background

Remarkable progress has been achieved in the ten commitments of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen in 1995, including eradicating poverty, promoting full employment, promoting social integration and reducing inequality. It is however concerning that more than 25 years after the convening of the Summit, progress has been slow and uneven, and many of the social development gains have lately stalled or reversed, as exemplified by the increasing numbers of people in extreme poverty, including among those who are working.

Changes in the world of work, globalization and technological breakthroughs have benefitted many people but also put millions at a disadvantage. Moreover, multiple intersecting crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic, escalating conflicts, geopolitical tensions and climate change, are eroding progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. The interplay of these interrelated and overlapping trends and shocks are challenging current policy frameworks and exacerbating existing divides.

At the same time, trust in Governments is in decline in many countries, weakening social cohesion and limiting the effectiveness of social policies. Strengthened trust and solidarity must be at the centre of policy reforms to implement effective and inclusive social policies that promote income security, decent jobs, access to quality education and healthcare, nutrition, sanitation and electricity, anchored on a fair tax system. Over time, such policies support a virtuous cycle of inclusive economic growth and greater trust in Government.

Building on the outcomes of the SDG Summit, Summit of the Future and the forthcoming Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, the Second World Summit on Social Development in 2025 is a timely opportunity to deliver on agreements to invest in human capabilities and increase access to fundamental services and opportunities to end poverty, reduce inequality and leave no one behind. By forging concrete commitments to promote inclusive societies based on human rights and equality, the 2025 Summit would lay a solid foundation for accelerating social progress to realise the objectives of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action of 1995 and the 2030 Agenda.

The Commission for Social Development will convene its sixty-third session from 10 to 14 February 2025. On 10 February 2025, a high-level panel discussion will be held from 11.30 to 13.00 to focus on “*Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development, in view of the World Social Summit under the title the Second World Summit for Social Development*”.

2. Objective and structure

The panel’s main objective is to identify key gaps and opportunities to deliver on the commitments of Copenhagen and the 2030 Agenda, and to discuss how the Second World Summit for Social Development can support a new global consensus around social policies that leave no one behind and promote resilient and equitable societies. Panellists will discuss questions such as: How to accelerate progress towards social development goals? In a context of overlapping crises, what actions and policies will help regain momentum towards the inter-related and mutually reinforcing three core objectives of social development identified in the 1995 Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action namely, poverty eradication, full and productive employment and decent work for all, and social integration? What are some good practices for promoting participation and transparency in policymaking to increase trust in Governments and solidarity? What issues and priorities should be considered by the Second World Summit for Social Development? How can the Second World Summit for Social Development mobilize political will and international cooperation to meet the unfulfilled promises of Copenhagen?

Panellists are invited to structure their 10-minute presentations around solutions and strategies for addressing gaps in the implementation of the Copenhagen Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda, with a view towards shaping a new consensus for the Second World Summit for Social Development which can safeguard progress in the long run. 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, the 2025 High-Level Political Forum and the Second World Summit for Social Development.

Proposed time allocation for the panel discussion

Speaker	Suggested speaking time
Chair: Opening remarks	3 minutes
Keynote speaker and moderator	10 minutes
Panellists: Interventions	5 minutes per panellist
Q & A: From the floor	30 minutes
Panellists: Concluding remarks	2 minutes per panellist
Moderator: Summary and conclusion	5 minutes