



United Nations

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs

Expert Group Meeting

“Rethinking social development policies and frameworks”

In preparation of the Secretary-General’s report on the priority theme of the 62nd session of the Commission for Social Development

Division for Inclusive Social Development, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)

24 – 25 August 2023, UN Secretariat Building, Conference Room S-25MM4, New York

Draft Programme

Thursday 24 August (Day 1)

Opening Session

Welcome and overview of the EGM

9:00am – 9:20am (NYT)

Opening remarks: **Mr. John Wilmoth**, Officer-in-Charge of the Division for Inclusive Social Development, UNDESA

Objectives and expected outcomes of the meeting: **Ms. Isabelle Deganis**, Social Affairs Officer, Social Policy Analysis Section, Division for Inclusive Social Development, UNDESA

Session 1

Why have past and current policies not achieved inclusive, resilient and equitable societies?

Aim: This problem-oriented session will examine the shortcomings of past and current social, labour market, economic and redistributive policies in achieving inclusive, resilient and equitable societies in relation to poverty, hunger, education, health and other social dimensions of the SDGs. The session will discuss the effectiveness of past and current policies, how political priorities of social policies have transformed over the past decades and how policies have changed to reflect shifts in people’s needs.

9:20am – 9.40am (NYT)

Moderator: **Mr. Patrik Andersson**, Chief, Social Policy Analysis Section, Division for Inclusive Social Development, UNDESA

Key presenters:

Ms. Juliana Martinez Franzoni, Professor of Political Science, University of Costa Rica
“Inequality in Latin America and the role of social and redistributive policies”

Mr. Steven Rood, Fellow-in-Residence at Social Weather Stations in Manila, Visiting Fellow at the Australian National University
“Trends in social and economic policies and their impact on social development in the Philippines”

Ms. Despoina Afroditi Milaki, NGO Representative at the United Nations, International Presentation Association Chair of the 2024 Civil Society Forum, NGO Committee on Social Development
“A Renewed Social Contract: An Achievable Reality or an Unattainable Goal?”

9:40am – 11:00am (NYT)

Interactive discussion

15 minutes break

Session 2 **How should future social policies be designed and implemented to increase their effectiveness?**

Aim: This solution-oriented session will shift the focus of the discussion to the future to examine how the effectiveness of social policies could be enhanced. It will discuss how social policies can be better designed, implemented and financed to adjust to ongoing and emerging global trends and societal changes to deliver high-quality services to all.

11:15am – 11:45am (NYT) Moderator: **Ms. Isabelle Deganis**, UNDESA

Key presenters:

Ms. Shahra Razavi, Director, Social Protection Department, ILO “*Building universal social protection systems that contribute to equitable and inclusive societies and resilient economies*”

Mr. Haroon Borat, Director, Development Policy Research Unit (DPRU), School of Economics, University of Cape Town “*Future policies for jobs, growth and social protection in Africa*”

Ms. Bea Cantillon, Professor of Social Policy, University of Antwerp “*Adjusting social policies to a changing world*”

11:45am – 12:30pm (NYT) Interactive discussion

Lunch break

Session 2 (continued)

2:00pm – 4:00pm (NYT) Interactive discussion

Friday 25 August (Day 2)

Session 3 **Mainstreaming social considerations in development frameworks**

Aim: Social development is the foundation for peace and stability. It is also central for building inclusive and cohesive societies that promote consensus-building and a collective commitment to a sustainable future. However, social development cannot be effectively pursued through social policies alone. This session will examine how well social considerations are integrated in other development framework and policies, including economic and employment policies. The session will also discuss the importance of trust and solidarity for development and how governments and other actors can rebuild trust and strengthen solidarity.

9:30am – 10:00am (NYT) Moderator: **Ms. Marta Roig**, Chief, Emerging Issues & Trends in Development Section, Division for Inclusive Social Development, UNDESA

Key presenters:

Mr. Santosh Mehrotra, Professorial Fellow, Nehru Memorial Museum & Library, New Delhi; Research Fellow, IZA Institute of Labour Economics, Bonn; Visiting Prof, Centre for Development Studies, University of Bath “*How to mainstream social considerations into development frameworks and policies*”

Ms. Vidya Diwakar, Deputy Director, Chronic Poverty Advisory Network, Research Fellow, Institute of Development Studies “*Why social policies alone will not eliminate poverty*”

Ms. Yanchun Zhang, Chief Statistician, Human Development Report Office (HDRO), UNDP “*Uncertain Times, Divided Societies – findings from HDR2021/22*”

10:00am – 11:00am (NYT) Interactive discussion

15 minutes break

Session 3 (continued)

11:15am – 12:15pm (NYT) Interactive discussion

Lunch break

Session 4

Policy recommendations

Aim: This session will discuss policy recommendations for advancing social progress to counter the fragile and uneven progress witnessed in the past. It will also recommend actions for reversing the growing public sentiment of injustice and unfairness that breeds mistrust.

Moderator: **Ms. Wenyan Yang**, Chief, Global Dialogue for Social Development Branch, Division for Inclusive Social Development, UNDESA

1:30pm – 3:30pm (NYT) Discussion on the draft policy recommendations

3:30pm (NYT) Closing: **Ms. Wenyan Yang**, UNDESA