

Statement
by
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Protection
of
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Second World Summit for Social Development

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Please check against delivery

Thank you, Madam Chair/Mister Chairman.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour and pleasure to address you **on behalf of Austria** at the **Second World Summit for Social Development**.

Firstly, I would like to thank the State of **Qatar** for hosting this summit.

Secondly, Austria fully supports the **statement** on behalf of the European Union.

This summit is taking place at an important moment in time. It should help to advance our ambitions for implementing the **Sustainable Development Goals** with the aim of **leaving no one behind**.

Allow me to touch on some of Austria's priorities.

The eradication of **child poverty** is of the highest importance for us. **Investing in children and young persons from the very start**, with monetary as well as in-kind benefits, is a sustainable approach.

The Doha Political Declaration acknowledges that global social progress will not be achieved without **fair, secure, and dignified work for all**. Therefore, our **labour market policies** will continue to address the **sustainable inclusion of all vulnerable groups**,

so that no-one is left behind. It is crucial to invest in **skills and education, to support the green and the digital transition, to ensure fair wages, and to expand universal social protection.**

In this context, we reaffirm our commitment to achieving **gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.** We must address persistent gender inequalities and break down barriers, such as the gender-pay-gap, the unequal sharing of unpaid care work, and gender stereotypes.

Digitalization and artificial intelligence are a total game changer. In line with Austria's long and strong tradition of social partnership it is important that both employers and employees benefit from the use of new technologies.

To our regret, the goal of **renewing the social contract could not be firmly established so far.** Nevertheless, Austria appreciates the fact that several **contributions of the International Labor Organization** have been incorporated into the Declaration. However, **Austria would have liked to see the ILO play a prominent role** in the follow-up to this summit.

As population ageing affects many of our societies, Austria welcomes the follow-up process to the **Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing.** And we support the aim of developing a **binding instrument** to strengthen the rights of older persons and foster intergenerational solidarity globally. Moreover, Austria fully

supports the effective inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities in line with the UN Convention of the rights of persons with disabilities.

Achieving the highest standard of **physical and mental health** is not a privilege — it is a universal human right. To make this vision a reality, international cooperation is essential. In this global effort, the **World Health Organization** continues to play a central role.

In addition, Austria considers access to **adequate, safe, and affordable housing** to be fundamental to human dignity and social inclusion. To **address the issue of homelessness**, we have fortified our national framework for housing support.

And last but not least, we should not forget the role of **Culture** as a cornerstone of social inclusion and democracy.

Ladies and gentlemen:

Austria joined the United Nations seventy years ago, and we have been an active member ever since.

Vienna is the seat of one of the UN's headquarters and many other international organizations. As a host state and a small country, **we especially value a functioning multilateral system.**

This is why we are **running for a seat on the UN Security Council in 2027 and '28.**

We are ready to listen, to act and to serve in the best interest of the entire UN membership — and we hope that we can count on your most valuable support!

Finally, let me stress that this summit's Declaration provides a solid foundation for **future efforts to promote social development.**

Thank you very much for your attention.