



Minister of Social Protection Sanni Grahn-Laasonen, Finland

5.11.2025, World Social Social Development

Finland's National Statement

Thank you.

Mr./Madam Chair,

Excellencies,

Finland expresses its appreciation to Qatar for hosting this important summit and to Belgium and Morocco for their leadership in the negotiations toward the political declaration.

The pursuit of social justice for all lies at the heart of the United Nations' mission and the Sustainable Development Goals. It is closely linked with long-term peacebuilding and conflict prevention. A society's resilience to crises relies heavily on social cohesion and trust.

The Doha Political Declaration renews global commitment to social development and provides a strategic foundation for global solidarity and inclusive progress, recognizing that environmental challenges are social challenges.

Finland reaffirms its strong commitment to effective multilateralism, with the UN at its core. We fully support UN80 reform and envision a United Nations that is fit to deliver on its promises to people and the planet.



Finland is committed to human rights, including labour rights and non-discrimination. Finland stands firmly for advancing gender equality, with particular emphasis on sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Finland has pioneered social innovations, building its welfare state on universal services and equal opportunity.

Over the past century, Finland's investments in maternity care, free education, school meals, and public childcare have improved well-being and enabled women's full participation in working life. The family leave system promotes shared caregiving. These policies have strengthened both quality of life and economic growth, highlighting the synergy between social and economic policy.

For 8 years in a row now, Finland has been ranked as the happiest country in the world. We have a high-trust society built on whole of government and whole of society approaches.

True sustainability means protecting the wellbeing of future generations—starting with strong and universal social protection systems that ensure dignity, security, and opportunity for all.



As youth is the future, I now quote Cevor Tikerpuu, who is Finland's UN Youth Delegate, and is sitting right now behind the Finnish flag in this plenary hall.

Every social issue we face, today and tomorrow, is ultimately an issue of young people. When we are unable to make sustainable solutions today, it is young people - especially those socially disadvantaged - who pay the price tomorrow.

According to Cevor, we often speak of social inclusion, but rarely do we match these words with action. Promises without investments are empty promises. Young people cannot innovate without education or work in jobs that do not exist.

Social sustainability is about future generations. Cevor states that "Young people want to be hopeful, they want to be parents and have a meaningful life". He continues that our responsibility is to provide them with resources and means to realize a dream of a future without war or social instability.

Cevor concludes with clear message: "To succeed in finding solutions for social prosperity, do not only inspire young people, equip us. Listen to us. Even better, let us decide, to lead, to act".

Thank you.

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