



Finland; Minister of Social Security Sanni Grahn-Laasonen

5.11.2025, at 10.00–13.00, Roundtable Room, QNCC; WSSD

Round Table 2: *Assessing progress and addressing gaps and challenges in the implementation of the commitments of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and its Programme of Action and giving momentum towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Advancing gender equality and equity is essential to achieving the SDGs.*

(3min + 1min)

Questions: *How do inequality, insecurity and distrust in institutions affect progress on the Copenhagen Commitment and the SDGs? What approaches are needed at the national level to address fiscal, institutional and capacity barriers?*

Your Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Finland strongly believes that trust is the greatest asset a society can have. Social protection builds resilience, helping people adapt without fear for their livelihoods. Trust grows when people feel secure and included.

In crises, whether conflict or disaster, upholding rights is difficult. Humanitarian aid, technical support, and accountability are vital to keep societies functioning. Over 690 million people still live in extreme poverty. A single shock—like job loss or illness—can push families into hardship.

The World Social Report's calls for a new policy consensus rooted in equity, economic security, and solidarity.



Finland sees rebuilding trust as a policy goal, not just a development outcome. Our own experience shows trust grows gradually through fairness, inclusion, and transparency. Universal social protection and health coverage, education, decent work and gender equality have strengthened institutional and interpersonal trust. Citizen initiatives, decentralized governance, open data, and a free press empower people to shape policies affecting their lives.

With decreasing development assistance countries must increase domestic resource mobilization—through fair taxation, contributory social protection, and by curbing illicit financial flows.

Taxation and social protection are linked: people support taxes when they see real concrete benefits in their lives, and governments need revenue to deliver them. Broadening the tax base and formalizing work strengthen the social contract.

In Finland, people trust the system because taxes fund universal services. This element contributes to Finland being considered as the happiest country in the World for the 8th time. We are committed to sharing this experience and supporting partners in building strong taxation and social protection systems.

Finland underlines the mutually reinforcing nature of wellbeing, gender equality and economic growth for better, healthier societies. The UN's Beyond GDP initiative rightly prioritizes wellbeing, equality, and resilience alongside economic metrics. The Human Development Index remains also a key indicator for tracking progress toward the SDGs.

(311 words)



Final comments (1min)

Advancing gender equality and equity is fundamental to achieving the SDGs. Finland remains firmly committed to advancing gender equality and particularly sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Considering the diminishing development landscape, we are pleased to see countries take charge of their own destiny and increasing domestic resource mobilization and investing in basic services.

One of the biggest SDG challenges is policy coherence. The goals are interconnected, so our actions must be too. Policy coherence must be central to UN reform on its 80th anniversary, or we risk fragmented solutions and slower progress.

(93 words)