

Berlin, 4 November 2025

Speech by Dr. Carsten Stender
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in the plenary session of the Second World Summit
for Social Development of the United Nations
in Doha on 4 November 2025

Speaking time: 5 minutes

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Madam President,

Mr/Madam Chair

Excellencies,

Mr Secretary-General, thank you very much for the idea to hold a second World Summit for Social Development. It is a great pleasure and honour for me to exchange views with you today.

A big thank you also to our hosts here in Doha!

Germany explicitly aligns itself with the statement of the European Union.

This summit stands for building mutual trust. Learning that no country can solve the social problems on this planet alone, just as no country can solve the consequences of man-made climate change on its own. Knowing that no country can create peace on its own.

Realising that we are dependent on each other, but that we can also make changes -

International solidarity and trust must grow.

And I hope that our meeting here in Doha will provide fertile ground for exactly that to happen.

On behalf of the German Federal Government, I say clearly: we do not merely hope for social development, we *want* social development and we promote social development.

We want to make progress in the global fight against poverty here and now.

We want decent work for all. We want equality, including gender equality. And a decisive boost for the United Nations' sustainability goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Because it is true that social development will only happen if it takes our planet and its natural limits into account.

Excellencies,

On Tuesday, we adopted the final political declaration of the Second

World Summit for Social
Development.

The Federal Government was in close
contact with all of you during the
preparatory work.

And with the International Labour
Organisation, we have another
important partner at our side who is
helping to implement it.

Unfortunately, we are seeing how
crises and conflicts are
overshadowing social issues and
pushing them to the margins.

That is why it is imperative for us to put social justice back at the top of the global agenda.

For it is social rights that make social cohesion possible in the first place. And without social rights, there can be no lasting peace.

The following points are of central importance in this context:

- The protection of and the respect for human rights.

- The commitment to rule-based, multilateral cooperation.
- The fight against poverty and inequality
- The establishment of social security systems that also work in times of crisis.
- Labour and social standards to promote or even enable decent work, and corporate social responsibility.

We are convinced that peace among ourselves and with the planet requires social justice.

And social justice can only be achieved through social dialogue.

Germany has a long tradition of strong social partnership. Our experience is that solutions that suit all sides are best negotiated together.

Fair wages and good working conditions can only be achieved with a strong social partnership.

This also includes the dialogue between generations. Only if the needs of every generation are taken

into account can there be a socially just future for all.

Above all, this applies to pensions, which we in Germany are currently working to make stable and future-proof also for the young generation.

But this also applies to the inclusion of persons with disabilities, as we demonstrated at the Global Disability Summit in Berlin in the spring.

Excellencies,

I would like to thank you all for your joint work on the political declaration. For your willingness to engage in dialogue and understanding each other!

Remaining in dialogue with one another, allowing solidarity and trust to grow – that is the great opportunity presented by Doha.

Let us seize this opportunity! Thank you very much.