

Statement by the President of the Republic of Armenia
H.E. Mr. Vahagn Khachaturyan

Your Highness,
Mr. Secretary-General,
Mr. President of the Economic and Social Council,
Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

It is a great honor to address this distinguished gathering as we reaffirm our shared commitment to the principles of the Copenhagen Declaration. Thirty years after its adoption, the message remains clear and powerful: people must stand at the very center of development.

For Armenia, this conviction has guided our national transformation since regaining independence. Our vision of progress is founded on human dignity, equality, human rights and social justice. We believe that a just, peaceful and inclusive society is one that empowers its people - where every individual has the opportunity to learn, to work, to live in peace, and to contribute to the common good.

Over the past decades, Armenia has pursued comprehensive social and economic reforms aimed at building an inclusive, resilient and people-centered state. Through our National Development Strategy, Employment Strategic Plan for 2025-2031 and Social Protection Strategy, we continue to expand opportunities for decent work, strengthen social safety nets and ensure that essential services are accessible to all - especially the most vulnerable to ensure that no one is left behind.

Our ongoing efforts emphasize the creation of high-quality employment, the economic empowerment of women and the inclusion of young people and socially disadvantaged groups in the labor market. By investing in human capital, Armenia is building the foundation for sustainable and inclusive growth.

Establishment of the Social Emergency Support system has introduced new transformative approaches to social protection aiming at empowering the most vulnerable to graduate from social dependency to self-sufficiency through income generation.

Quality, inclusive and affordable education is a prerequisite for human capital development and a key priority of the Government of Armenia. Highly educated and talented people have always constituted the competitive advantage of our country and foundation of our economy. With this in mind, the allocation of resources to education has registered more than 25% in the past years. The programme of “300 schools and 500 kindergartens” aims at constructing and

renovating educational institutions by 2026. To ensure sufficient nutrition and health of schoolchildren the Government has nationalized and is successfully implementing “School feeding programme” in all the regions of Armenia, while the capital Yerevan will be covered by the programme in cooperation with the World Food Programme.

At the same time, we recognize that peace and security are the essential preconditions for social development. A peaceful regional environment and good neighbourly relations enable a free movement of ideas, goods, and people - opening new paths for shared prosperity.

The “Crossroad of Peace” initiative of the Government of Armenia is aimed at promoting not only transport connectivity and trade, but connecting societies, advancing people-to-people contacts.

Armenia’s democratic transformation and commitment to good governance and rule of law continue to guide our policies. We are working to make our institutions more transparent, our decision-making more participatory, and our governance more accountable. In this way, we seek to ensure that economic progress translates directly into social well-being and justice for all citizens.

Excellencies,

The global challenges we face today - inequalities between and within societies, poverty, pandemics, climate change - remind us that social progress cannot be achieved in isolation. It requires collective efforts, solidarity, and trust among nations. Armenia values the role of the United Nations system and its development partners in supporting inclusive social protection, employment generation and education initiatives in our country.

Social development is both a moral obligation and a strategic investment in a peaceful future. The success of our societies will not be measured solely by economic growth, but by how well we uphold the dignity and rights of every person.

Thank you.