

**STATEMENT BY H.E. H.E. FEISEL ALIYI ABRAHIM
AMBASSADOR OF THE F.D.R OF ETHIOPIA TO THE STATE OF QATAR
AT
THE SECOND WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

HIGH-LEVEL ROUND TABLE 1:

**Strengthening the three pillars of social development: poverty eradication, full and productive
employment and decent work for all, and social inclusion**

DOHA, QATAR

04 NOVEMBER 2025

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I commend the organizers for prioritizing this important topic and making it a subject of this high level round table. Ethiopia is honored to contribute to this critical dialogue on strengthening the three pillars of social development.

Three decades after the First World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen, our world continues to grapple with persistent poverty, inequality and social exclusion.

Excellencies,

Poverty eradication, full and productive employment and decent work for all, and social inclusion are pillars of social development that reinforce each other. Their realization lays a foundation for a resilient society where social justice prevails.

Since the Copenhagen Summit, we have seen strides especially in developing countries. Our continent, Africa, has achieved remarkable success in promoting the three pillars despite formidable challenges. Across the continent, social protection has expanded to include millions of vulnerable people. Various programs, chiefly digital transformation, have empowered women and youth. The African Continental Free Trade Area is unlocking new markets and African nations are eyeing millions of potential jobs as a result. Programs implemented as part of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063, and national employment programs are boosting inclusive growth and productive employment.

Ethiopia, on its part, has prioritized inclusive social development in its strategic national plan. Aligning the national budget with people centered approach and expansion of social services. Our experience demonstrates that improvement in one

of the three pillars accelerates progress in the rest. While poverty reduction provides opportunities to participate in economic life, decent and productive employment empowers citizens to contribute to a nation's prosperity. Social inclusion on the other hand ensures that prosperity is shared and that no one is left behind. In Ethiopia's case, programs spanning sustainable agriculture, food systems, health and education have highly contributed to poverty reduction and productive employment.

Excellencies,

Yet, sustaining and scaling up these gains require strong multilateral cooperation in which all actors discharge their respective responsibilities.

For the successful implementation of the Doha Declaration on Social Development, and integrated implementation of the three pillars, we present the following three interlinked recommendations:

Primacy should be given for employment: currently 70 percent of Africa's population is within the age range of 15 and 34. The rate in increase is expected to rise by 74 percent in 2050. Five countries in sub Saharan Africa, including mine will add nearly half a billion populations within the same time period. This productive age is a demographic dividend for Africa and beyond. Employment strategies at the national level that target the creation of decent job is essential. Agriculture only, can hire well above half of the working age population. Furthermore, parts of the globe affected by demographic trends that affect the working age range should see this as an opportunity and open up employment opportunities. We see a great deal of potential for cooperation, which if tapped can lead to greater benefit to the economic and social wellbeing of all our countries.

Secondly, investment on education is the best expenditure nations can make. Full access to education, training, skills and technology are essential to enhance social wellbeing. As clearly indicated under the Doha Declaration, quality early childhood,

primary and secondary education; gender parity in education; and effective technical and vocational education and training with focus on science and technology are extremely critical. To this end, we shall redouble efforts to bridge the gap being faced in implementation of SDG 4 on education through reversing the stagnation in early childhood education, addressing teacher and learning infrastructure gaps, promoting the return of out of school children.

Third, Across the world, and particularly in Africa, unjust international financial architecture, unfair trade system and debt burden remain barriers to meeting social development objectives. These structural bottlenecks have perpetuated debt distress, limited development financing and fiscal space required for implementation of impactful social development policies. Addressing this structural and systemic challenge is supremely critical to resolve the protracted social development challenges.

Unlocking the full potential of social development policies demands a balance between crises management and structural injustices. In this regard, Ethiopia reiterates its call for renewed global solidarity for social development with emphasis on development oriented financing, technology transfer and fairer trade terms for the Global South.

Thank you!