

*Statement on behalf of the Republic of Lithuania
by H.E. Ms. Jūratė Zailskienė
The Second World Summit for Social Development
Plenary meeting, United Nations,
Doha, Qatar
(TBC) November 2025*

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

*[Lithuania aligns itself with the European Union statement and
would like to add the following remarks in its national capacity.]*

It is an honour to be here. I would like to thank the State of Qatar
for hosting this historic Summit.

The **Doha Declaration** rightly calls for a new social contract
which **Lithuania supports**.

Policies must **work for people**, with close attention to how we
educate youth, care for the elderly, support families, create
opportunities for decent work, and reduce poverty in all its
forms.

By aligning **global ambitions** with **local realities** and balancing the digital world with everyday human needs we can build inclusive, resilient, and just societies.

Lithuania, as part of the **Nordic-Baltic region** and the **European Union**, builds on a social policy model where healthcare, education, and social protection are rights, not privileges.

We focus on reducing poverty, expanding quality education, and improving healthcare. Our investments in lifelong learning, care infrastructure, and social services align with the **Sustainable Development Goals** and the **Copenhagen Declaration**.

Yet, challenges persist. Demographic shifts, regional disparities, and workforce shortages continue to test our systems. *[Migration governance highlights the urgent need to strengthen policies that prevent forced labour and human trafficking and ensure victim protection and reintegration.]*

We fully support the **Doha Declaration's** call to recognize, reduce, and redistribute **unpaid care work** and to ensure **women's full and equal participation** in all areas of public life.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

There can be no true social development without peace and stability. **Russia's unprovoked war of aggression against Ukraine** and other conflicts around the globe have deepened poverty and hunger, disrupted global supply chains, and strained healthcare systems, hindering our collective efforts to achieve SDGs 1, 2, and 3. Russia's brutal war has caused great suffering and devastated Ukraine's social infrastructure.

Lithuania stands in solidarity with Ukraine, being among the top supporters relative to GDP, with one point six billion euros in total aid. Our strategic focus includes strong institutions, safe education, rehabilitation, and a resilient economy.

Through **initiatives** like **Create Ukraine, Ukraine2EU**, and solar energy projects for hospitals and schools, we are helping Ukraine rebuild and move closer to Europe. The opening of the Central Project Management Agency branch in Kyiv marks a new stage in Lithuania's support, enabling more effective coordination of these efforts on the ground and strengthening democratic governance.

In response to increasingly brutal Russian attacks, **Lithuania will contribute an additional 10 million euros to the World Bank's Ukraine Relief, Recovery, Reconstruction and Reform Trust Fund**, helping restore vital infrastructure.

Let this Political Declaration spark a new global social contract – based on solidarity, shaped by cooperation, and driven by real action to protect human and workers' rights around the world.

Thank you.