

Soroptimist International

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Nov. 4, 2025

Madam Chair, Excellencies, Representatives,
colleagues.

We are excited to be here at the WSS2, where world leaders convene to redefine strategies for social progress and give new momentum to implementation of previous commitments

Soroptimist International was present at the Copenhagen World Summit of Social Development, where my predecessor took the floor to advocate for universal access to girls' education, including equal access to higher education for women and girls. Thirty years later, we gather again, proud of the enormous progress achieved, yet mindful of the distance still to go.

Today our call for universal education for women and girls continues with a broader vision that involves digital inclusion and life-long learning, acquiring the

skills that will empower them to lead fuller, more participatory and productive lives.

We advocate for genuine gender equality- a world where every woman and girl can realize her full potential in dignity, free from all forms of violence and discrimination.

We call on member states

- to combat human trafficking and sexual exploitation,
- to eradicate poverty by ensuring social protection and decent work for all
- to recognize the value of both paid and unpaid care work.
- Inclusion must be at the heart of economic and social reform: informal workers must be fully integrated into social protection systems.

We further call on governments

- to ratify all ILO Conventions pertaining to Decent work, including Ratification of ILO C-190 for the Eradication of violence and harassment in the world of work.

- To re-focus on Copenhagen commitments 5 and 6, universal and equitable access to quality education and primary health care,
- To prioritize resources for social development.
- To combat age discrimination and
- Extend protection across women's life course.

It is imperative that after Doha, full implementation of women's social, economic and political inclusion in national frameworks be achieved so that societies can become more productive, more peaceful and more resilient.

Let us work together so that Equality is not just an aspiration but a reality for present and future generations, making Doha a truly memorable and historic summit.