

Global Policy UN Watch

Preparations for Second World Summit for Social Development

January 2025

Roadmap to Second World Summit for Social Development (WSSD2)

December 2024 | [Letter from President General Assembly on roadmap for the World Social Summit](#)

Preparations are underway for the WSSD2 to be held in **Qatar, 4 - 6 November 2025**. While extensive discussions on WSSD2 are yet to come, some developments indicate the direction and priorities for the forthcoming summit.

A [roadmap](#) issued by the Co-facilitators: Morocco & Belgium outlines the process:

- **Food for Thought paper** to be prepared prior to the circulation of the Zero draft of the Political Declaration
- **Member States to send inputs for the Food for Thought paper before 7 February 2025** — Delegations to focus their inputs on the main substantive elements of the Political Declaration as well as its structure; reflections on the timeline welcome
- Communication of the Food for Thought paper before the **21 February 2025**
- Informal consultation on this Food for Thought Paper **early March**
- The Zero Draft of the political declaration to be presented **before the end of March**
- Informal consultations on the Zero Draft will start **mid-April with an intention to finalize the negotiations early July**

Upcoming: 63rd Session of the Commission for Social Development

10 - 14 February 2025 | CSocD63 [website](#) | [Register](#) by 20 January 2025

The upcoming session of CSocD, a body of the ECOSOC, taking place at the UN Headquarters (10 - 14 February 2025) will be an important inter-governmental opportunity for exploring the issues of social development. More information on its themes and membership is below.

Priority Theme: Strengthening solidarity, social inclusion and social cohesion to accelerate the delivery of the commitments of the [Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action](#) of the First World Summit for Social Development as well as the implementation of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)

Organization of the Session:

- [Current Membership](#) (as of 16 December 2024)
- [Proposed Organization of Work](#) - as of 19 November 2024
- Provisional agenda and documentation for the CSocD63, [E/CN.5/2024/L.1](#)

Members of the Bureau:

Function	Name	Country
Chair	Krzysztof Maria Szczerski	Poland
Vice-Chair-designate	Oliver Gruenbacher	Austria
Vice-Chairperson	Paola Andrea Morris Garrido	Guatemala
Vice-Chair-designate	Joselyne Kwishaka	Burundi
Vice-Chairperson	AlMaha Mubarak Al-Thani	Qatar

Recommendations on the Second World Summit for Social Development 2025 from Olivier de Schutter, UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights

[Full statement](#)

- WSSD2 should reaffirm the need to **tackle poverty without depending on the increase of GDP**, by complementing efforts towards post-market redistribution by efforts to address pre-market conditions for reducing disadvantage and market inclusiveness.
- WSSD2 should reaffirm the **duty of States** to ground the fight against poverty in human rights, and the role of the prohibition of discrimination on grounds of socio-economic disadvantage in enabling the escape from poverty.
- WSSD2 should reaffirm the pledge, already included in in [ILO Recommendation \(No. 202\)](#) on **National Social Protection Floors** (R202) and in the Agenda 2030 for Development (targets 1.3 and 3.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals), to universal social protection floors. It should emphasize the need to move beyond rhetorical commitments and to close the gap between legal coverage and effective coverage of social protection, by (i) addressing the non-take-up of social benefits, by improving access to information and removing obstacles people in poverty face in having access to their rights, (ii) protecting the human rights of informal workers and gradually extending social protection to social workers, and (iii) consistent with paragraph 12 of ILO Recommendation (No. 2020), increasing the level of international support to low-income countries for the establishment of social protection floors, as a way to encourage the mobilization of domestic resources to that effect.
- WSSD2 should **reaffirm the duty of business enterprises** to comply with the **right of all workers** to a remuneration which is fair and ensures a decent living for themselves and their families, and to support that right in supply chains. The human rights due diligence companies are expected to carry out in order to identify, prevent, mitigate and account for how they address their adverse human rights impacts (Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, principles 15 and 17; Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, paras. 100-101), should include a review of their buying practices and of their relationships with their suppliers to ensure they encourage compliance with the right to a living wage.

Discussions on social development issues in the Third Committee

[C3 3rd Plenary \(UN WebTV\)](#) | [GPW Round Up #8 on WSSD2](#)

[DESA's 2024 World Social Report](#) released 17 October takes stock of the state of global social development and lessons learned since the first World Summit on Social Development (Copenhagen, 1995). It explores the impact of the confluence of crises such as COVID-19, the climate crisis and rapid digitalization on the central goals of Copenhagen – poverty eradication, employment generation and social inclusion. It also highlights the synergies between the **SOTF, FFD4 and WSSD2**, noting their intersecting and mutually reinforcing aims to drive people-centered development in the age of digital transformation and green transition.

UNGA **Third Committee** (C3) - Social, Humanitarian & Cultural Issues - had a session where Member States discussed social development issues, including their priorities for the summit and the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and the upcoming WSSD2.

Uganda on behalf of the G77 and China: “[T]he upcoming Second World Summit for Social Development should address the gaps and recommit to the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action and its implementation and give momentum towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda... We emphasize the urgent need for international cooperation and increased investment to **bridge the digital divide**, particularly for people living in poverty and disadvantaged communities. Ensuring **affordable and meaningful digital connectivity**, along with access to **digital skills training**, will be crucial for inclusive development. Furthermore, **digital tools** must be designed with users in mind, reflecting the needs and realities of developing countries, while protecting privacy and ensuring data security. The Group calls for enhanced international cooperation to, inter alia, eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions to ensuring that no one is left behind in this digital age.”

Switzerland: “The Social Summit and the Global Coalition for Social Justice represent unique opportunities for the international community to reinvigorate its collective efforts to achieve sustainable social development. At the heart of these efforts lies the **need for a new social contract rooted in human rights**, which prioritizes the well-being of all, especially the most vulnerable. A strong and inclusive social fabric, founded on the principles of social justice, equality and human dignity, is essential for sustainable development... Switzerland is convinced that social justice must become an anchor for the entire multilateral system. We believe that it is only by applying a holistic and coherent approach that we can truly achieve social justice on a global scale. Faced with today’s **two major transitions – the green transition and the digital transition** – it is essential that we ensure that the framework conditions for these transitions also enable them to leave no one behind.”

Grenada on behalf of CARICOM: “[The] commitments which were made at the World Summit for Social Development nearly 30 years ago remain very much relevant today as they were at their adoption in 1995... Notwithstanding, implementation of the Pact for the Future is the key to advancing our common objectives for the future that we want... We therefore stress the need for **North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation**, to support national efforts aimed at, inter alia building resilience, reducing inequalities and alleviating poverty, and to realize the commitments made in the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, and those contained in the 2030 Agenda. Additionally, CARICOM reiterates the **call for urgent action from the international community to reform the international financial architecture** and ensure an enabling environment for developing countries to actively participate in and benefit from the global economy.”

Norway: “When the Copenhagen Declaration was announced at the brink of the 20th century, it reflected a shared sense of hope, commitment and action among the international community. There was optimism for the future, and a belief that social development could lead to a better world for everyone. Today, we must remain committed to the conviction that there can be no true social development without peace and security. It is the foundation upon which all social progress is built. **Peace and security are not merely goals in themselves; they are prerequisites**. To reiterate from the Report on Social Development following the 1995 Summit; social development and social justice cannot be attained in the absence of peace and security, or in the absence of respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms.”

Antigua and Barbuda: “In these times, the role of this committee takes on even greater significance as we work to **safeguard human rights and advocate for social response measures** for developing countries and those who are most vulnerable... For countries like Antigua and Barbuda, characterized by limited resources and heightened vulnerabilities due to climate change and economic fluctuations, the consequences are profound. **Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)** exact a heavy toll not only on our healthcare systems but also on the well-being and productivity of our citizens. Similarly, **mental health issues**, often stigmatized and overlooked, demand urgent attention, especially in times of crisis when stress and anxiety levels are at all time highs...”

The **Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS or the ABAS**, an outcome of SIDS4, serves as a comprehensive 10-year framework and sustainable development plan for SIDS. The ABAS underscores the critical need to address the vulnerabilities of specific groups within SIDS, including women, youth, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. **Antigua and Barbuda, therefore, urge the Third Committee to champion relevant aspects outlined in the ABAS.**”

Brazil: “It is crucial for the international community to collectively address social development with a comprehensive, pragmatic, and cooperative approach. It encompasses the fight against poverty and hunger, combatting racism and racial discrimination, promoting gender equality, access to healthcare and education, the creation of quality jobs, fair wages, as well as the universal enjoyment of human rights, including those of indigenous peoples, traditional communities, persons with disabilities, older persons and the LGBTQIA+ community... [W]e see **human rights as the foundation of a just and inclusive society**. Brazil remains steadfast in its commitment to uphold the human rights of all its citizens. We are working tirelessly to promote development while addressing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, in order to ensure safety and dignity to every individual, regardless of any conditions.”

Nicaragua (34:02) “Looking ahead to the Second World Social Development Summit in November 2025 in Qatar, we need to apply policies that promote the **Right to Development for our peoples in order to effectively fulfill the SDGs charted in Agenda 2030**. As we approach this final strait for the decade of action to implement Agenda 2030, we highlight the need for our efforts to be implemented in a comprehensive and inclusive way **based on the shared but differentiated responsibilities, CBDR**, and giving priority to the eradication of poverty, promotion of multilateralism, cooperation and solidarity.

Other updates

4th Financing for Development Conference (FfD4)

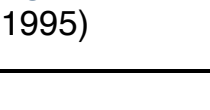
- **FfD4 Zero Draft** provides on comments and feedback that Member States and other stakeholders provided on the FFD4 elements paper (Co-facilitators’ [letter](#))
- [Proposed roadmap for negotiations](#)
- Briefing to present the zero draft, the proposed vision for the process & roadmap for negotiations: Wednesday, 22 January 2025 from 10:00-13:00 (on [UN WebTV](#))
- The co-facilitators will seek detailed and substantive comments on the zero draft at the [third session of the FfD4 Preparatory Committee \(PrepCom\)](#) from 10-14 February 2025.

CSO Townhall with the 79th President of the General Assembly (PGA)

- **12 February** at UNHQ: the PGA will present the priorities for the 79th session in addition to discussing the role of civil society in implementing the Pact for the Future.
- [Register](#) & submit questions by 12pm ET **27 January**

Relevant resources

1. Official UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) [website on the summit](#)
2. [Letter](#) from President General Assembly on Transmission of [roadmap for the World Social Summit](#) (11 December 2024)
3. (Upcoming) [63rd Session of the Commission For Social Development – CSocD63](#) (10 – 14 February 2025) | [Proposed organization of work](#)
4. [UN DESA: Social Development in Times of Converging Crises: A Call for Global Action – World Social Report 2024](#) (17 October 2024)
5. UN DESA: [Policy Brief No. 160](#) - The Dynamics Of Poverty: Creating Resilience To Sustain Progress (August 2024)
6. [A/RES/78/318](#): Modalities of the “World Social Summit”, under the title “the Second World Summit for Social Development following the 1995 Summit” (23 July 2024)
7. [62nd Session of the Commission For Social Development – CSocD62](#), (5 – 14 February 2024)
8. ILO: [Strategic Dialogue with Co-Facilitators of the World Summit for Social Development](#) (7 June 2024)
9. UN ECLAC High-level Seminar, “[Towards the Second World Summit for Social Development: Enhancing global efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda](#)” (30 April 2024)
10. UN DESA: [Ten-year review of the first Summit](#) (2005)
11. [Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action](#) (1995)



See previous editions of GPUNW

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