



## Economic and Social Council

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### Commission for Social Development

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**Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and  
the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly:  
priority theme: rethinking and strengthening social  
development in the contemporary world**

### **Statement submitted by World for World Organization, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council\***

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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\* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



## Statement

### Concrete Action Needed to Strengthen Pro-Poor Social Development

Written Statement to the 54th Session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD54) Submitted by: World For World Organization World For World Organization (WFWO).

WFWO reinforces the importance of the priority theme “Rethinking and strengthening social development in the contemporary world”. CSocD54 is playing a key function at UN/ECOSOC to enable effective action towards achieving the new plan of action of 17 Sustainable Development Goals with 169 targets. They seek to build on the Millennium Development Goals.

We are all witnesses today in our planet and we are meeting at a time of immense challenges to sustainable development. Billions of citizens continue to live in poverty and are denied a life of dignity. There are rising inequalities within and among countries. There are enormous disparities of opportunity, wealth and power. Gender inequality remains a key challenge. Unemployment, particularly youth unemployment, is a major concern. Global health threats, more frequent and intense natural disasters, spiralling conflict, violent extremism, terrorism and related humanitarian crises and forced displacement of people threaten to reverse much of the development progress made in recent decades.

Several delegations underscored the importance of promoting social inclusion. Inclusion must be integral to both national and international efforts to improve people’s lives. Countries highlighted their focus on inclusive and sustained growth through national programmes that enhance the participation of women and girls, children, persons with disabilities, older persons and persons belonging to ethnic minorities. The involvement of young people in the formulation and implementation of an inclusive sustainable development agenda was also considered essential. It was noted that the social inclusion of young people, particularly that of young people with disabilities, was a huge challenge facing many countries. Therefore, youth should be part of ongoing efforts to build the world we want.

Social justice is an important principle for people-centred inclusive development to occur. The World Social Forum (WSF) has addressed the link between social development and social justice. Its assessment of the impact — to date — of the international economic system on social development is that social justice is not being achieved, in part due to inadequate political participation of ordinary citizens, especially on economic policies that affect their lives. Coherence between social and economic policies remains elusive, in part, because of the growing influence of powerful, and often unaccountable, private interests in development. In most countries there is an ongoing need for a wide set of socioeconomic policies: to alleviate inequality, reform public services and pensions, create good jobs and better labour conditions, address low living standards, enact land reform, and secure affordable food, water, energy, transportation and housing, among others. Social justice and a strong focus on tackling the root causes of poverty and inequality should be at the core of every effort.

WFWO calls attention to all international communities at CSocD54 to take a concrete action to strengthen pro-poor social development. There is an urgent need to develop a framework of social development and justice to enable job-intensive

growth, in order to reduce inequality and vulnerability, alleviate poverty and hunger, and tackle unemployment, and vulnerable employment, especially among youth. This should be the foundation for accelerating progress to achieve and implement the new Sustainable Development Goals as a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity, in order to rethinking and strengthen social development.

WFWO believe that our recommendations and their appropriate means of implementation are integral to a development agenda that secures a life of dignity for all. A sustainable development agenda that does not seek to achieve this goal, but rather focuses on narrow economic outcomes risks exacerbating the inequalities and deprivations that led to conflict and instability.

As we embark on this great collective journey, we pledge that no one will be left behind. Recognizing that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, we wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society. We endeavour to reach the furthest behind first.

The interlinked ages and integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals are of crucial importance in ensuring that the purpose of the new Agenda is realized. If we realize our ambitions across the full extent of the Agenda, the lives of all will be profoundly improved and our world will be transformed for the better.

We need to be determined to end poverty and hunger, in all their forms and dimensions, and to ensure that all human beings can fulfil their potential in dignity and equality and in a healthy environment.

We need to be determined to mobilize the means required to implement this new Agenda through a revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, based on a spirit of strengthened global solidarity, focused in particular on the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable and with the participation of all countries, all stakeholders and all people.

We need to be determined to take the bold and transformative steps, which are urgently needed to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path. As we embark on this collective journey, we pledge that no one will be left behind.

We need to be determined to foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies which are free from fear and violence. There can be no sustainable development without peace, and no peace without sustainable development.

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