



Economic and Social Council

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Agenda item 19 (b)

Social and human rights questions: social development

Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 7 June 2023

[on the recommendation of the Commission for Social Development (E/2023/26)]

2023/12. Future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 2005/11 of 21 July 2005, 2006/18 of 26 July 2006, 2008/19 of 24 July 2008, 2010/10 of 22 July 2010, [2012/7](#) of 26 July 2012, [2014/3](#) of 12 June 2014, [2016/6](#) of 2 June 2016, [2018/3](#) of 17 April 2018, [2019/4](#) of 6 June 2019 and [2021/8](#) of 8 June 2021 on the future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution [50/161](#) of 22 December 1995 on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development, the outcome of the World Summit¹ and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the Assembly,²

Recalling further General Assembly resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, and stressing the importance of the implementation of this ambitious new Agenda,

Recalling General Assembly resolution [68/1](#) of 20 September 2013, entitled “Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution [61/16](#) on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council”, as well as its follow-up resolutions [72/305](#) of 23 July 2018, [74/298](#) of 12 August 2020 and [75/290](#) A of 25 June 2021,

Recalling also its resolution 1996/7 of 22 July 1996, by which it decided that the Commission, in fulfilling its mandate, should assist the Council in monitoring, reviewing and appraising the progress achieved and problems encountered in the

¹ *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

² General Assembly resolution [S-24/2](#), annex.



implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development and should advise the Council thereon,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution [76/134](#) of 16 December 2021, in which the Assembly called upon the Commission to continue to address, as part of its mandate, inequality in all its dimensions, in the context of the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action, as well as the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and invited the Commission to emphasize the increased exchange of national, regional and international experiences, the focused and interactive dialogues among experts and practitioners and the sharing of best practices and lessons learned,

Recognizing that the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action, the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,³ the World Programme of Action for Youth⁴ and the establishment of the United Nations Youth Office, the objectives of the International Year of the Family and their follow-up processes and the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities: the way forward, a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond,⁵ as well as the fulfilment of the obligations of States parties under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities⁶ and other relevant key instruments, as well as the social dimensions of the 2030 Agenda, are mutually reinforcing to the advancement of social development for all,

Recognizing also the importance of the role of non-governmental organizations, as well as other civil society actors, in advancing the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action and, in this respect, the work of the Commission,

Recalling that the Council needs to consider and take steps towards the rationalization of its agenda, with a view to eliminating duplication and overlap and promoting complementarity in the consideration and negotiation of similar or related issues,

1. *Reaffirms* that the Commission for Social Development, as a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council, serving as the main United Nations forum for an intensified global dialogue on social development issues and in promoting the integrated treatment of social development issues in the United Nations system, continues to have the primary responsibility to review, on a periodic basis, issues related to the follow-up and implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, in a manner consistent with the functions and contributions of the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and shall advise the Council thereon;

2. *Also reaffirms* that the Commission will contribute to the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,⁷ within its existing mandate, by

³ *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8–12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

⁴ General Assembly resolution [50/81](#), annex, and resolution [62/126](#), annex.

⁵ General Assembly resolution [68/3](#).

⁶ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

⁷ General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).

supporting the thematic reviews of the high-level political forum on sustainable development on progress in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, including cross-cutting issues, reflecting the integrated nature of the Goals as well as the interlinkages between them, while engaging all relevant stakeholders and feeding into and being aligned with the cycle of the high-level political forum, according to the organizational arrangements established by the General Assembly and the Council;

3. *Recalls* General Assembly resolution [75/290](#) A, in which the Assembly stipulated that, inter alia, the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council shall adopt their own respective themes, aligned with the main theme of the high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of the Council, while continuing to address issues or a theme necessary to discharge their other functions;

4. *Also recalls* that the Commission considers one priority theme at each session on the basis of the follow-up to and review of the World Summit and its linkages to the social dimensions of the 2030 Agenda, proposing an action-oriented resolution with recommendations to the Council in order to contribute to its work;

5. *Reaffirms* its decision that, in selecting its priority themes, the Commission shall consider, in addition to the follow-up to and review of the World Summit and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, as well as the 2030 Agenda, the programme of work of the Council and the main theme of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, so as to build synergies and contribute to the work of the Council;

6. *Requests* the Commission to adopt a multi-year programme of work, subsequent to the review of General Assembly resolution [70/299](#) of 29 July 2016, when considering the future organization and methods of work of the Commission at its sixty-third session, to allow for predictability and adequate time for preparation;

7. *Decides* that the priority theme for the sixty-second session of the Commission, which shall allow it to contribute to the work of the Council, will be “Fostering social development and social justice through social policies to accelerate progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to achieve the overarching goal of poverty eradication”;

8. *Also decides* that the Commission shall adopt a decision at its sixty-second session to establish the priority theme for its sixty-third session, in accordance with the provisions of the present resolution;

9. *Invites* the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, the relevant specialized agencies, regional commissions, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and the international financial institutions to present their relevant activities and reports, which may contribute to the advancement of the priority theme, including by participating in interactive dialogues with Member States and relevant stakeholders;

10. *Invites* the Bureau of the Commission to continue to propose interactive dialogues, such as high-level events and ministerial and expert workshops that engage Member States and relevant stakeholders, so as to encourage dialogue and enhance the impact of its work, including by addressing the implementation of, follow-up to and review of the social dimension of the 2030 Agenda;

11. *Reaffirms* its decision to promote efficiency in its work through the biennialization of the resolutions of the Commission, with a view to strengthening the resolution on the priority theme, eliminating duplication and overlap and promoting complementarity in the consideration and negotiation of similar or related issues between the Council and the General Assembly;

12. *Encourages* non-governmental organizations, as well as other civil society actors, to participate, to the maximum extent possible, in line with Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996, in the work of the Commission and in the monitoring and implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action of the World Summit and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly;

13. *Decides* that the Commission shall keep its methods of work under review, including as related to the timing and number of working days of its sessions, at its sixty-third session in order to adjust, as appropriate, to the work of the Council, in line with the outcome of the General Assembly review of the strengthening of the Council and the process of repositioning the United Nations development system.

*26th plenary meeting
7 June 2023*
