COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
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GLOBAL MODEL UN NEW YORK 2027

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

ADVANCING SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL JUSTICE THROUGH COORDINATED, EQUITABLE AND INCLUSIVE POLICIES

Simulation: Commission for Social Development

Welcome to Global Model UN New York 2027,

We are very pleased to introduce you to the most authentic simulation of the International Labour Organization in the world; and hope to contribute to your understanding of the organisation, its mandate, and its critical role in global affairs.

Through a series of pre-conference webinars that will be offered and documents – like this resource guide – we aim to educate you not only about the global issues on the UN agenda, but also about the ways and means through which those topics are discussed, debated and negotiated by real UN diplomats.

This resource guide will provide you with a head start in doing research to gain a deeper understanding of the global issue that you will be discussing and the actions that the government you have been assigned recommends that the international community should take to address this issue. To make the research process a bit easier, the resource guide has been divided into sections and sub-sections to assist you in researching these two components. We strongly recommend you to give a careful look through the sources listed below so that the interaction with your peers is as exciting as possible.

We wish you all the very best in this journey of learning!

TOPIC DESCRIPTION

Across the global community, there is a call for social development and social justice to address and eliminate instability within today's society. Social development and social justice are some of the key steps towards sustainable development. These two principles become ever more necessary to achieve peace and security between nations. Together, they become a crucial responsibility to ensure the needs of society are met.

However, striving for social development and social justice presents a multitude of challenges faced by societies today. More than one billion people face the effects of poverty, while more than 120 million people are unemployed. The rapid growth of the human population continues to challenge the capacity of our governments when combating and adapting to the needs of the public. These challenges are further intensified for marginalized and vulnerable communities. As a result, society faces a wide range of interconnected social, economic, and environmental problems that cannot be solved by a single approach. With this in mind, this year's Commission for Social Development aims to eliminate these sources of distress through a multifaceted framework created by combining economic, social, and financial sectors while integrating new policies and/or data — an approach rooted in a foundation laid decades ago through the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development.

Created in 1995, the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development was the first declaration to recognize social development as a high-priority goal. All around the world, member states made a commitment to human well-being, social justice, and development. More importantly, it emphasized the need for a people-centred approach towards social development and social justice. It focused on a transformative solution responding to the needs and well-being of the people.

At present, the vision created in Copenhagen faces new pressures in an increasingly globalized world. With the rise of globalization, the world has attained a level of interdependence and interconnection that has only been reached in recent years. This calls us to create innovative solutions that place people at the center of development.

TOPIC DESCRIPTION

Considering this, discussion on this year's topic should revolve around creating or enhancing frameworks that can improve human well-being and dignity through a people-centred approach. Delegates should ask themselves:

- How can policies be created in a way that is coordinated across different sectors: public and private, social and economic?
- How can we account for the existing social, economic, cultural, and political differences that each state faces when considering these policies?
- Are there any trade-offs to be made when creating frameworks through a more inclusive approach? What compromises can be made within these trade-offs to reach their goal of social development and justice?
- Do current policies work in favor of marginalized and vulnerable communities? If not, how can these policies be shifted to include these groups?

In the end, these policies and frameworks do not exist solely for the purpose of their own creation. Instead, they are created to benefit people who face barriers to improving their lives and societies on their own. When thinking of these policies, we urge ourselves to remember that people are at the center of these frameworks. They are created to benefit not just a system or a sector but society as a whole.

Key Points and Main Issues

delegates are challenged to examine how coordinated, equitable, and inclusive public policies can advance social development. Delegates will focus on some of the main agendas highlighted through the Commission for Social Development. The key points and main issues are as follows:

Barriers to Coordination

- Institutional silos
  - Ministries often operate with narrow mandates and few incentives to collaborate with one another
- Data gaps
  - Lack of integrated, disaggregated data (by gender, age, disability, migration status, etc.), which makes it harder to see who is being left behind
- Political dynamics
  - Short-term electoral incentives and competing budget priorities can discourage the long-term collaboration that coordination requires

Leadership and Legal Foundations

- Political leadership
  - High-level leadership is needed to reconcile competing ministry priorities and direct resources toward shared goals
- Institutionalizing commitments
  - Anchoring coordination mechanisms in law to survive political transition

Planning and Financing

- Integrated planning
  - Embedding social objectives into national development strategies from the design stage, rather than in further stages
- Financing tools
  - Mechanisms like pooled funds, programme-based budgeting, and integrated national financing frameworks as ways to align money with social goals

Key Points and Main Issues

Data and Digital Systems

- Integrated data platforms
  - Linking social, economic, and environmental data to reveal disparities and guide policy
- Use of AI
  - AI and foresight tools can help anticipate social impacts and test policy options
- Digital infrastructure
  - National ID systems, registries, and digital payments as tools for expanding service delivery

Accountability and Oversight

- Institutional oversight
  - Role of ombudspersons, and human rights commissions in holding governments accountable
- Citizen participation
  - Tools such as participatory budgeting and social audits as ways that citizens can hold institutions accountable
- International linkages
  - Voluntary national reviews and treaty body reporting can reinforce domestic monitoring

Capacity and Institutional Culture

- Incentive structures
  - Shared performance indicators and joint budget lines to reward cross-ministerial collaboration rather than only sector-specific results
- Training
  - Need for training in cross-sectoral policy design and systems thinking

OFFICIAL UN RESOURCES ON THE TOPIC

General

ILO - Social Justice

2026

The International Labour Organization plays a big role in the advancement of the goals toward social justice and social development. It promotes sustainable growth and development by promoting decent work and economic opportunities. Several campaigns and projects across the globe have been created with this goal in mind through collaboration with the ILO.

Landing the Doha Political Declaration on Social Development

2026

The Doha Political Declaration on Social Development reaffirms the commitment to advancing social development by aiming for equality, eliminating poverty, creating decent jobs, and protecting human rights. This resource explains its connection to the 1995 Copenhagen Declaration and its current relevance. Additionally, it highlights the UN entities involved in the Declaration and the related SDGs.

Social Justice Day: Renewed Commitment in the Post-Doha Context

2026

This webpage talks about the 2026 theme "Renewed Commitment to Social Development and Social Justice" for the World Day of Social Justice. It emphasizes the importance of decent work, equal opportunities, social protection, and human rights and calls for the creation of systems wherein no one is left behind. It gives context to the need and situation of social justice and social development in more recent years.

OFFICIAL UN RESOURCES ON THE TOPIC (CONT.)

General (cont.)

What is social justice and how is the UN helping make it a reality? 2025

This webpage highlights the key principles of social justice and the respective entities that deal with and support each key principle. It also showcases the actions taken and the SDGs related to each principle.

The State of Social Justice: A Work in Progress 2025

The ILO's State of Social Justice: A Work in Progress (2025) is its first flagship report assessing global social justice, released ahead of the Doha World Summit. Built on four pillars — human rights, equal opportunity, fair distribution, fair transitions — it finds mixed progress since 1995: poverty and child labor have fallen, and over half the world now has social protection. Still, 800 million people live on under $3/day and 138 million children remain in child labor. Gender wage gaps persist (women earn 78% of men's pay) and won't close for 50–100 years at current rates.

United Nations General Assembly Resolution 80/5 (Doha Political Declaration) 2025

This United Nations resolution adopts the Doha Political Declaration under the Second World Summit for Social Development. It reaffirms the relevance of the 1995 Copenhagen Declaration while incorporating the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It serves as a global call to action toward a more equitable and inclusive future.

General (cont.)

The Sevilla Commitment 2025

The Sevilla Commitment is a landmark global framework designed to transform development banks and multilateral financial institutions into active drivers of sustainable, equitable economic growth. Aligned with the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, it urges institutions to move beyond conventional lending by fostering innovation, strengthening climate resilience, and driving social inclusion. To achieve long-term stability and shared prosperity, the commitment calls for enhanced international cooperation, increased mobilization of sustainable investments, strategic private-sector partnerships, and the creation of flexible, tailored financial instruments designed to meet both global challenges and local development needs.

Delegates should note that the Sevilla Commitment pushes development banks and multilateral institutions to act as active drivers of change, not just lenders, by aligning financing with the 2030 Agenda, mobilizing pooled resources, and designing cooperative mechanisms tailored to both global and local needs.

General (cont.)

The Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions 2025

The Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions is a UN initiative designed to help countries finance and implement policies that create decent work, expand universal social protection, and support sustainable economic growth. By focusing on 18 Pathfinder countries with tailored national roadmaps, the program brings together policy leaders and financiers to tackle major structural challenges, such as climate change, digital transformation, demographic shifts, and informal labor markets. It serves as a practical action platform for global summits like WSSD2, using targeted social investments, multilateral collaboration, and South-South cooperation to translate high-level international commitments into measurable national progress. In doing so, it offers a working model of how coordinated, country-specific policy design, rather than one-size-fits-all mandates, can turn shared global commitments into equitable, inclusive outcomes on the ground.

Delegates should note that the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection turns high-level commitments from FFD4 and the Doha political declaration into concrete national action, helping 18 pathfinder countries build tailored roadmaps for decent jobs, universal social protection, and just transitions through coordinated financing and multilateral cooperation.

General (cont.)

Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development

1995

The Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development was the first declaration that recognized the significance of social development and justice in modern times. It emphasizes national and international policymaking as an instrument for economic development, social development, social integration, gender equality, universal access to education and healthcare, and international cooperation. It was the first official call to establish a people-centred and integrated approach to social development.

Asia Pacific States

Asia-Pacific achieves social protection milestone, yet challenges remain and new ones emerge with climate change

2024

This ILO news release reports that Asia-Pacific hit a milestone in 2023: over half its population (53.6%) now has at least one social protection benefit, surpassing the global average. Still, 2.1 billion people in the region remain unprotected, with big gaps between countries. The findings, drawn from the ILO's World Social Protection Report 2024-26, warn that systems face mounting pressure from informal work, ageing populations, and climate change, and call for stronger coverage to support climate adaptation. The uneven progress illustrated here underscores why coordinated, equitable policy design, rather than isolated national efforts, is essential to closing persistent protection gaps across a diverse region.

Asia and Pacific: Unions develop common strategies in shaping a new social contract

2024

This ILO news article reports on a December 2024 regional conference in Manila, organized by ILO's Bureau for Workers' Activities (ACTRAV), where trade unions from Asia-Pacific discussed shaping a "new social contract." Participants, unions, employers, and governments, debated how globalization, technological change, and the climate crisis are straining existing state-society relations, and explored macroeconomic policy responses alongside core labor rights like collective bargaining. The event fed into preparations for the Second World Summit for Social Development in 2025. By bringing worker representatives directly into the policy conversation, the conference reflects how inclusive participation across sectors can shape more coordinated and equitable responses to shared economic pressures.

Asia Pacific States (cont.)

Mapping the Social and Solidarity Economy Landscape in Asia Towards an Enabling Policy Environment

2022

This ILO brief analyzes the Republic of Korea's vibrant Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE), tracing its evolution from traditional communal customs to modern state-supported frameworks. Driven by enabling laws like the Social Enterprise Promotion Act and Framework Act on Cooperatives, South Korea hosts thousands of cooperatives and social enterprises aimed at job creation and social integration. However, the sector faces challenges: SSEOEs account for just 1.4% of total employment, comprehensive umbrella legislation remains pending, and high dependence on state support raises concerns over long-term enterprise sustainability and democratic governance.

Economic and social policy - Asia and the Pacific

n.d.

This UNICEF Asia Pacific webpage outlines the organization's economic and social policy work in the region. It highlights that over 100 million children lack basic services like immunization and education, only 3 in 10 children have social protection coverage, and youth unemployment is high across South and East Asia. UNICEF's response focuses on strengthening public financial management, expanding social protection (cash transfers, child benefits), and supporting youth livelihoods through the EU-UNICEF Public Finance Facility. This has helped shift budget allocations in countries like Mongolia. Additionally, it notes that this progress is fragile amid debt, climate shocks, and aid cuts.

Statements

Statement by H.E. Ambassador UMETSU Shigeru, Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations, at the Sixty-fourth Session of the Commission for Social Development

2026

This is a statement by Ambassador Umetsu at the UN Commission for Social Development, delivered on behalf of Japan. It reaffirms Japan's commitment to the Copenhagen Declaration and the more recent Doha Political Declaration from the Second World Summit for Social Development, centered on poverty eradication, employment, and social inclusion. Japan frames "human security" and "human dignity" as guiding principles, citing its own experience with an aging population and disaster risk, plus initiatives like TICAD9 and the Yokohama Declaration supporting African development, as models for helping other countries advance social development under the SDGs.

National statement to Sixty-fourth session of the Commission for Social Development

2026

This is Sweden's national statement, delivered by Social Services Minister Camilla Waltersson Grönvall at the UN's 64th Commission for Social Development, under the topic "Advancing Social Development and Social Justice." Sweden frames employment as one of the most effective routes out of poverty, offering dignity and empowerment beyond income, amid a backdrop of global crises, including extreme poverty, conflict, humanitarian emergencies, democratic backsliding, and human rights violations. The speech reaffirms Sweden's commitment to social development as a partner in the international community following the World Social Summit in Doha.

Statements (cont.)

National Statement of Finland at the 64th session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD64) 2026

This is Finland's national statement at the 64th session of the Commission for Social Development, delivered by Minister of Social Affairs and Health Kaisa Juuso and Youth Delegate Cevor Tikerpuu. Finland thanks Qatar, Belgium, and Morocco for their leadership on the Doha Political Declaration, framing social development as essential to peaceful, inclusive societies and urging UN reform to keep it central. The statement highlights civil society participation (citing Finland's own delegation practice) and trust as key social capital, currently strained by inequality, insecurity, and disinformation. The Youth Delegate's portion emphasizes that young people's resilience depends on safety, hope, and trust that education and work lead to a dignified life.

UAE Statement At the 64th Session of the Commission for Social Development 2026

This is the UAE's national statement, delivered by Ms. Reem AlAmeri at the 64th session of the UN Commission for Social Development, building on the Doha Political Declaration. The UAE offers four recommendations for advancing social development: first, strengthening coordinated national social policies, pointing to its SDG alignment and the Ministry of Family's 2025–2027 Strategy; second, promoting inclusion for people facing barriers, citing its National Policy for Empowering People of Determination; third, using digital innovation and AI to inform evidence-based social policy; and fourth, advancing full participation for women and youth. The statement closes by reaffirming the UAE's commitment to inclusive, dignity-centered social policies.

Statements (cont.)

Saudi Arabia Reaffirms Social Development as Pillar of Vision 2030 at UN Session

2026

This Saudi Press Agency article covers Saudi Arabia's statement at the UN Commission for Social Development, delivered by Ambassador Dr. Abdulaziz Alwasil. He ties social development to Saudi Vision 2030, citing strengthened family policies, healthcare, and youth participation in shaping national policy. Key initiatives highlighted: family/elderly protection legislation, a senior citizen privilege card, a national family strategy, and social security training for low-income groups to boost self-reliance. He closed by reaffirming Saudi support for global partnerships advancing social justice.

Second World Summit for Social Development - Australia

2025

At the Second World Summit for Social Development, Australian Minister Dr. Anne Aly delivered a speech highlighting Australia's commitment to international development amidst global instability and conflict. She emphasized that Australia is increasing its development budget to focus on human rights, gender and disability equality, education, and healthcare. Key actions include expanding social protection programs in the Pacific, improving access to assistive technologies, and advocating for fairer vulnerability measures, such as the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index, to support small island developing states.

Statements (cont.)

64th Session of the UN Commission for Social Development — 2025

This is Austria's national statement delivered by Korinna Schumann at the 64th session of the UN Commission for Social Development, aligning with the EU's position. Austria reaffirms its commitment to the 2030 Agenda and the Doha Political Declaration, focusing on poverty reduction for vulnerable groups (children, single parents, long-term unemployed, older persons) and tackling loneliness across age groups. Priorities include labor market inclusion for disadvantaged groups, worker-centered AI safeguards, expanding long-term care, and Austria's second National Action Plan on Disability (2022–2030). It also highlights a new partial-retirement scheme for older workers.

U.S. EOP at the UN Commission for Social Development on the Priority Theme on Fostering Social Development and Social Justice — 2024

This is a U.S. Explanation of Position, delivered by Dan Fogarty at the UN Commission for Social Development in February 2024, addressing a resolution on fostering social development and social justice. While joining consensus, the U.S. flags disagreements: it rejects binding trade implications, dissociates from "right to development" language, disputes that extreme poverty threatens the "right to life," and resists expansive education-rights language citing U.S. federalism. As one of the world's largest economies and a permanent voice in UN social development debates, U.S. reservations carry real weight for the simulation's theme: they show that "coordinated" policy does not mean unanimous agreement, and that delegates must account for major powers' domestic legal and political limits when drafting resolutions meant to be equitable and inclusive across very different national systems.

Articles - Regional Groups

Arab States help shape a new global social contract grounded in social justice 2025

This ILO news article covers an April 2025 event held during the Arab Labour Conference in Cairo, jointly organized with the Arab Labour Organization ahead of the Second World Summit for Social Development. Over 100 government, employer, and worker representatives, including labor ministers from Qatar, Lebanon, Tunisia, the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and Yemen, met to shape the Arab region's collective input into the global social development agenda ahead of Doha. The event reflects the ILO's tripartite approach, bringing governments, employers, and workers to the same table, as a model for building consensus on a renewed social contract amid conflict, inequality, and technological disruption. For a simulation weighing how coordination across sectors and stakeholders can translate into equitable, inclusive policy, this regional preparatory process offers a concrete example of multilateral groundwork feeding into a larger global commitment.

Documents - Intergovernmental Organizations

E/ESCAP/RES/82/1 (Baku-Bangkok Declaration on Promoting Social Development for Advancing Societies for All Ages in Asia and the Pacific) 2026

The Baku-Bangkok Declaration (Resolution 82/1), adopted by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP) at its 82nd session, outlines regional commitments to build inclusive, equitable, and sustainable societies for all ages amid rapid demographic transitions. The resolution addresses population aging and youth dynamics by urging member states to expand decent work, regulate digital platform employment, and transition informal workers into formal sectors. It prioritizes universal social protection, gender equality, universal health coverage, and accessible public services while addressing climate risks. Finally, it establishes the Asia-Pacific Forum for Social Development, setting its first meeting for 2030 to monitor regional progress. Framing decent work as central to closing informality and platform-labor gaps directly reflects the committee's theme, treating coordinated employment policy as a concrete pathway to more equitable and inclusive social development.

Documents - Intergovernmental Organizations (cont.)

Strengthening the nexus of skills development, decent work and social justice in the Arab region

2026

This United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN ESCWA) paper examines how skills development connects to decent work and social justice in the Arab region, arguing that weak alignment between education and labor-market needs deepens structural inequality and limits social mobility. Drawing on ILO standards and ESCWA regional tools, it proposes a reform agenda grounded in equity, rights, participation, and social dialogue. Recommendations center on building inclusive, responsive, and sustainably financed skills systems, anchored in Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, that match both employer demand and workers' aspirations for dignified, future-oriented employment. By treating education-to-labor pipelines as a matter of rights and fair participation rather than pure economics, the paper models how coordinated policy design can turn a structural inequality into a lever for more equitable, inclusive development outcomes.

Delegates keep in mind that the weak alignment between education systems and labour-market needs continues to deepen inequality and limit social mobility in the Arab region, and that fixing this requires skills systems grounded in equity, rights, participation and social dialogue, anchored in ILO's Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.

Documents - Intergovernmental Organizations (cont.)

Can the Arab region fulfill their promise of leaving no one behind? 2025

This is a summary of the fifth Arab Social Development Report from UN ESCWA, focused on the "leave no one behind" pledge of the 2030 Agenda. It finds around 187 million people in the Arab region excluded across key dimensions such as social protection, health, education, and housing. Using intersectional analysis, the report traces root causes of inequality, highlights promising initiatives tackling exclusion, and offers policy recommendations to boost inclusion. It urges governments to embed "leave no one behind" into national strategies and strengthen data collection to track progress.

Delegates should take away that around 187 million people in the Arab region face intersecting vulnerabilities across social protection, health, education, and housing, with women, youth, migrants, persons with disabilities, refugees, and older persons each facing distinct barriers rooted in discrimination, weak governance, geography, and exposure to shocks like conflict and climate change, and that closing these gaps requires mainstreaming the UN's "leave no one behind" framework into national strategies alongside stronger disaggregated data collection to track who is excluded and why.

Documents - Intergovernmental Organizations (cont.)

Regional Agenda for Inclusive Social Development 2020

ECLAC's Regional Agenda for Inclusive Social Development supports the 2030 Agenda's social dimension across Latin America and the Caribbean. Guided by eight principles (rights-based approach, universalism sensitive to differences, redistribution with fiscal sustainability), it sets 56 lines of action across four axes: universal social protection systems; social/labor inclusion for women, youth, Indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, LGBTI people, migrants, and persons with disabilities; strengthened institutional frameworks and financing; and regional cooperation. It positions ministries of social development as central to closing access gaps for historically excluded groups.

Delegates should take away that ECLAC's Regional Agenda organizes Latin America and the Caribbean's social development commitments around eight guiding principles (rights-based approach, universalism sensitive to differences, redistribution with financial sustainability, among others) and 56 concrete lines of action grouped into four axes: universal social protection, social and labour inclusion, stronger institutional frameworks, and regional cooperation, offering a useful regional model for how the "Planning and Financing" and "Leadership and Legal Foundations" sections of the topic can be operationalized.

Documents - Intergovernmental Organizations (cont.)

The road ahead: Advancing social development in Asia and the Pacific

2025

The article explains that social development in Asia and the Pacific faces growing challenges from poverty, inequality, climate change, population ageing, and gender inequality. It argues that stronger and more inclusive social protection systems are needed, particularly for informal workers and communities vulnerable to climate risks. ESCAP also emphasizes intergenerational solidarity and gender-responsive policies to address ageing and the unequal burden of unpaid care work. Overall, it calls for a people-centred, inclusive approach to development supported by cooperation between governments, civil society and international partners.

Documents - Intergovernmental Organizations (cont.)

United in diversity: the Asia-Pacific region's path to inclusive social development

2025

This article highlights how regional cooperation drives inclusive, equitable, and sustainable progress following the Second World Summit for Social Development. It details how Asia-Pacific nations leverage diversity to implement climate-resilient social protection, support demographic shifts through policies on healthy aging, and transform the care economy by funding local care initiatives and parental leave. ESCAP reinforces these efforts by tracking disaggregated data and facilitating regional platforms to ensure long-term policy coherence and align actions with the 2030 Agenda.

Social Economy in Europe: Contributing to Competitiveness and Prosperity

2025

This Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) report, Social Economy in Europe: Contributing to Competitiveness and Prosperity, examines how social economy actors, including cooperatives, associations, mutual societies, foundations, and social enterprises, can help address aging populations, inequality, and environmental pressures. It covers the sector's role in care and housing (for example, non-profits supply 32% of housing stock in the Netherlands), coordination across levels of government, business support initiatives, and tax policy. The report calls for clearer national strategies, simplified legal frameworks, and tailored financing to unlock the sector's full potential, noting that three in four Europeans already recognize its societal value.

Documents - Intergovernmental Organizations (cont.)

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean — 2025

This ECLAC press release covers a June 2025 address by Executive Secretary José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, presenting the policy brief "The road to the 2025 Second World Summit for Social Development: towards a pact for inclusive social development." He again outlines the region's three "development traps" — low growth capacity, high inequality/low social mobility, and weak governance — and invokes the 1995 Copenhagen Summit as the original foundation for positioning social development as a global priority. He argues that past agreements, like the 2030 Agenda and the recent Pact for the Future, prove major international consensus on social development is achievable, and calls for a similar global pact now.

OECD Global Action: Promoting Social & Solidarity Economy Ecosystems — n.d.

This OECD project page describes the "Global Action Promoting Social and Solidarity Economy Ecosystems," run from 2020-2023 and funded by the EU's Foreign Partnership Instrument. It supported development of the social and solidarity economy (SSE) across 30+ countries (all EU members plus Brazil, Canada, India, Korea, Mexico, and the US), focusing on legal frameworks and social impact measurement. The project produced country fact sheets, data on SSE size and reach across 34 countries, and international guidance to help governments build stronger SSE ecosystems as a response to inequality, unemployment, and sustainability challenges.

Documents - Intergovernmental Organizations (cont.)

Latin American and Caribbean countries commit to Decade of Action to advance gender equality and the care society

2025

This UN news article (published by the UN's Caribbean office) reports on the XVI Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, hosted by ECLAC in Mexico City. On August 15, 2025, member states approved the Tlatelolco Commitment, launching a 2025–2035 decade of action on gender equality and building a "care society." The agreement names the current care system as unjust, since it falls disproportionately on Indigenous and Afro-descendant women, and formally establishes a "human right to care." Countries pledged to dismantle the sexual division of labor, while flagging concerns over funding cuts to multilateral institutions. This regional commitment reflects the Commission's call for coordinated, equitable, and inclusive social policy through its actions on gender equality and the care society.

Latin American and Caribbean Countries Reaffirmed their Resolve to Keep Moving Forward on Inclusive Social Development and to Forge a Regional Voice in the World

2025

This UNDP/ECLAC press release covers the September 2025 opening of the Sixth Regional Conference on Social Development in Brasilia, organized with Brazil's government. Member States reaffirmed their commitment to inclusive social development and agreed to push a joint regional voice for a proposed "global pact for inclusive social development" at the November 2025 Qatar summit. UNDP's Chief Economist Almudena Fernández described the region as facing an "unprecedented polycrisis" of intertwined social, economic, and climate challenges, framing social protection as an investment rather than a cost, and calling for greater regional cooperation and collective leadership.

Statements - Political Groups

EU Explanation of Position: UN Financing for Development Forum: Outcome document

2026

This is the EU's statement (delivered by Cyprus on behalf of the EU and its Member States, plus aligned candidate countries) at the 64th session of the UN Commission for Social Development's general discussion. It reaffirms the EU's commitment following the World Social Summit in Doha, framing the Doha Political Declaration and Sevilla Commitment as the basis for a renewed global social contract grounded in solidarity, international cooperation, and human rights, aimed at accelerating progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Documents - Political Groups

African Union - Strategic Policy Framework and Plan of Action

2026

The African Union's Strategic Policy Framework and Plan of Action on Ageing addresses Africa's rapidly growing older population, projected to nearly triple from 74 million in 2020 to 216 million by 2050. Rather than treating ageing as separate from youth-focused priorities, it sets a continental strategy for integrating older persons into development planning as a whole. The framework builds on the 2016 Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Older Persons, reinforcing a rights-based approach to aging across the continent.

Articles - Political Groups

Social Europe: what Parliament is doing on social policy — 2024

This European Parliament explainer covers EU social policy work across the life course from childhood to retirement. It highlights ongoing challenges like uneven unemployment across member states, aging populations straining welfare systems, and lingering effects of economic crises. Central to the piece is the 2017 European Pillar of Social Rights (20 principles on equal opportunity, fair working conditions, and social protection), plus the 2021 European Social Fund+ reforms targeting pandemic-driven unemployment and poverty, with a focus on children and youth.

Unveiling the Potential of Social and Solidarity Economy in Central Europe — 2023

This Interreg Central Europe article presents early findings from the EU-funded 3P4SSE project, examining how Central European countries define and prioritize the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE). Grounded in the European Commission's 2021 Social Economy Action Plan, the research finds significant disparities: some countries (Italy, Poland, Slovenia) have formal legal definitions of social economy, while others (Austria, Croatia, Hungary) don't. It attributes these differences to distinct welfare-system histories (post-socialist, Mediterranean, and coordinated market economies) and calls for greater cross-country collaboration to strengthen SSE ecosystems.

General

Achieving Global Justice 2025

This is the Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors (GCSPF) February 2025 paper, "Achieving Global Social Justice," a civil-society contribution to the Second World Summit for Social Development. It frames the summit as a chance to assess progress since the 1995 Copenhagen Declaration and reset global commitments. Key recommendations include eradicating multi-dimensional poverty, implementing universal social protection floors, guaranteeing universal healthcare access, improving digital/legal identity access to services, addressing gender equality and unpaid care work, and ratifying stronger international social-protection instruments.

African States

How Africa's social economy is shaping its development — 2025

This WEF article covers Africa's Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE), comprising social enterprises, cooperatives, and mission-driven organizations, as a response to declining foreign aid and tight national budgets. Guided by the African Union's 10-Year SSE Strategy and national policies in countries like Morocco, Senegal, and Kenya, the movement leverages models like Nigeria's Babban Gona and Ghana's Esoko. Scaling SSE requires five key priorities: policy integration, impact-aligned capital, robust infrastructure and data, global platforms like the G20, and technology. The authors present SSE as a sustainable, self-reliant alternative to traditional donor-dependent development, offering a bottom-up model of how coordinated, locally rooted policy can advance more equitable and inclusive growth.

How public and private sectors can promote social justice across Africa — n.d.

This DBSA (Development Bank of Southern Africa) article argues that tackling Africa's severe inequality requires coordinated action from both public and private sectors. It notes that South Africa was once again listed as the most unequal country in the world, with the richest 10% holding more than 70% of national wealth, and that seven of the world's ten most unequal countries are located in Africa. The private sector can help through skills-development programs, work-back bursaries, job creation, and infrastructure investment, while the public sector should prioritize spending on education, healthcare, and public transport, and partner with businesses on funding. The piece closes by positioning DBSA itself as a development finance institution investing in social and economic infrastructure, including education, healthcare, and youth opportunity, to help close the wealth gap across the continent.