



EVERYONE INCLUDED

# COMMISSION for SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

United Nations Headquarters, New York



United Nations

Department of  
Economic and  
Social Affairs



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## **SIXTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (CSOCD63)**

### **Inputs to the 2025 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) under the auspices of ECOSOC**

These inputs are based on the outcomes of the 63<sup>rd</sup> session of the Commission for Social Development, which took place from 10 to 14 February 2025. Paragraphs and inputs were drawn from the following resolutions, which were adopted by consensus during the session: 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 World Summit for Social Development as well as the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”; “Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development”; “Future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development”; “Policies and Programmes involving Youth”; and “Modalities for the fifth review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002”.

The inputs are organized using the suggested template contained in the letter of the President of ECOSOC of 18 December 2024 addressed to the Chair of the Commission.

#### **1. Your assessment of the impacts of the multiple and interconnected crises on the implementation of SDGs 3, 5, 8, 14 and 17**

- With less than five years left to achieve the SDGs, pandemics and other health emergencies have not just slowed down but in some cases, even reversed the progress in achieving many of the Goals by 2030, including Goals 1, 8 and 10, and those who are in vulnerable situations have been the hardest hit by pandemics and other health emergencies.
- The multiple crises have widened inequalities, including gender inequality, increased unemployment, informal employment and the number of people who have left the labour market, and continue to disproportionately impact people in vulnerable situations, including older persons, persons with pre-existing medical conditions, women, children, including girls, youth, persons with disabilities, persons living with rare diseases, persons affected by conflict, migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons, people of African descent and Indigenous Peoples, local communities, workers in the informal economy, people living in rural areas and other people in vulnerable situations.
- The COVID-19 pandemic had disproportionate impact on children, especially girls, including on their access to essential healthcare services and education. School closures have hit the poorest and most vulnerable children and their families the hardest, many children may never return to education as they are forced into child marriage or child labour, and disruptions to food and health systems have contributed to a reversal in progress on maternal and child health and an increase in all forms of malnutrition, and contributed to an estimated additional 60 million children living in income-poor households in 2021.
- The enduring and compounding economic and social challenges occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic, and worsened by climate change, pose a serious challenge to Africa’s social development, and to a considerable

extent have reversed gains attained in the medium term and exacerbated pre-pandemic vulnerabilities, leaving more people behind and having a negative impact on the abilities of Governments to realize the 2030 Agenda and achieve the SDGs.

- The continuing impacts of pandemics and other health emergencies as well as multiple global challenges on African countries, including significant impacts on poverty, inequality, food security, unemployment, trade, disrupted supply chains, tourism and financial flows, as well as their social impacts, especially for the poorest and most vulnerable, including violence against women and girls have caused more challenges for African countries to achieve the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.
- 2. Three key areas where sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for achieving the SDGs and leaving no one behind are being effectively delivered, especially related to the cluster of SDGs under review in 2025, also bearing in mind the three dimensions of sustainable development and the interlinkages across the Goals and targets.**
- Member States noted that the family plays an important role in social protection and that over 4 billion people still lack social protection, and recognized the importance of responsive family-oriented policies, especially in the areas of poverty reduction, full and productive employment, and decent work and to confront social exclusion. They also recognized the multidimensional aspects of social exclusion, focusing on inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all, health and well-being for all at all ages, social security, livelihoods and social cohesion, including through gender-responsive and age-sensitive social protection systems and measures, such as child allowances and pension benefits, and to ensure that the rights, capabilities and responsibilities of all family members are respected.
  - Member States stressed the importance of national and global efforts to create conditions for sustainable development, inclusive and sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and decent work for all in society, taking into account different levels of national development capacities.
  - Member States recognized the vital contribution that entrepreneurship makes to sustainable development by creating jobs and promoting decent work, driving inclusive economic growth and innovation, improving social conditions and addressing economic, social and environmental challenges in the context of the 2030 Agenda, and emphasized that the role of entrepreneurship, including social entrepreneurship, and micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in social and economic development is more critical than ever in the post-COVID-19 recovery and beyond.
- 3. Three examples of measures to accelerate progress towards SDGs through well-coordinated actions in key transitions to bring progress to scale (food security, energy access and affordability, digital connectivity, education, jobs and social protection, climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution), building on interlinkages between SDGs to ensure cohesive progress.**
- Member States are encouraged to establish comprehensive and well-coordinated social policies, including universal social protection schemes, by investing in evidenced-based good practices, including by strengthening the capacities of national evaluation services to direct public funds towards social policies, including social protection policies and schemes that have proven to be effective and efficient.
  - Member States are encouraged, in accordance with national and legal frameworks, to pursue policies to promote social inclusion for strengthened social cohesion, including universal social protection systems, including predictable and adequate income security, affordable and accessible healthcare, quality education and decent jobs, and by capable, transparent, accountable and well-coordinated institutions that take a whole-of-society approach in policy and programme design, implementation and follow-up, including through broad consultation with relevant stakeholders, in a view to strengthen stakeholder collaboration and participation at all stages of policymaking.

- Member States emphasized that debt sustainability is essential for underpinning growth, underlining the importance of debt sustainability, debt transparency and effective debt management to the efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, stressing the need to continue to assist developing countries, including African countries, in avoiding a build-up of unsustainable debt, taking into account the challenges posed by the global economic environment and risks for debt sustainability in a growing number of developing countries, and the consequent need for coordinated policy responses. They recognized the important role, on a case-by-case basis, of debt relief, including debt cancellation, as appropriate, and debt restructuring as debt crisis prevention, management and resolution tools, and also recognized with appreciation the steps taken by the Group of 20 to further promote debt-related measures and the implementation of the Debt Service Suspension Initiative and the Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the Debt Service Suspension Initiative, and called for all official bilateral creditors to implement these initiatives fully and in a transparent, timely and effective manner, while noting that more needs to be done, including to respond to the needs of countries not covered by current initiatives.
  - Governments are invited to undertake the necessary adaptations to policies and regulations to support decent work and employment growth, foster equal opportunities and reduce inequalities and discrimination in the labour market, by enhancing effective labour market institutions, by enabling adequate remuneration through measures such as statutory or negotiated minimum wages, equal pay for work of equal value, employment protection legislation and employment law, and their effective implementation so that all workers enjoy labour rights.
  - Member States are encouraged to take concrete voluntary measures to increase the inclusive representation of youth in decision-making at all levels in prevention and the resolution of conflict, including by increasing opportunities for them to participate in relevant intergovernmental deliberations at the United Nations.
- 4. Follow-up actions and measures being undertaken by your intergovernmental body or forum to support implementation of the 2023 SDG Summit Political Declaration and the outcomes of the 2024 Summit of the Future, to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.**
- *Recalled* General Assembly Resolution A/RES/78/1 of 29 September 2023, entitled “Political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly”, and urged timely action to ensure its implementation.
  - *Welcomed* the convening of the Summit of the Future on 22 and 23 September 2024 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, at which resolution [79/1](#) of 22 September 2024, entitled “The Pact for the Future”, and its annexes were adopted, and the commitment to invest in people to end poverty and strengthen trust and social cohesion to leave no one behind.
  - The Commission also decided the theme for its sixty-fourth session to be “Advancing social development and social justice through coordinated, equitable and inclusive policies” in the context of the implementation of the political declaration of the 2023 high-level political forum and the Pact for the Future.
- 5. Recommendations and key messages to be considered for inclusion in the Ministerial Declaration of the 2025 HLPF.**
- *Encourages* Member States to invest in effective, efficient and equitable measures and structures, including in the sectors of health, education, social protection and social system infrastructure, while placing people and their well-being at the centre of social policies and their decision-making processes.
  - *Urges* Member States to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by guaranteeing equal access to opportunities and social protection for all, in particular for those in vulnerable situations, including by mainstreaming a gender perspective in labour market participation, division of care work and in food security programmes, especially for those women and girls who experience multiple and

intersecting forms of discrimination and violence, considering that the empowerment of women and girls in diverse situations and conditions will make a crucial contribution to progress across all the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda.

- **Encourages Member States to enact family-oriented and gender-responsive policies that support the creation of decent jobs in new, sustainable and growing sectors**, including the sustainable economy, digital economy, care economy and, as appropriate, social and solidarity economy.
- **Encourages Member States to facilitate the digital and financial literacy and inclusion of women and their equal access to formal financial services**, including timely and affordable credit, loans, savings, insurance and remittance transfer schemes; integrate a gender perspective into finance sector policy and regulations, in accordance with national priorities and legislation.
- **Invites Governments to undertake the necessary adaptations to policies and regulations to support decent work and employment growth, foster equal opportunities and reduce inequalities and discrimination in the labour market**, by enhancing effective labour market institutions, by enabling adequate remuneration through measures such as statutory or negotiated minimum wages, equal pay for work of equal value, employment protection legislation and employment law, and their effective implementation so that all workers enjoy labour rights.
- **Calls upon Member States to strengthen cooperation and partnerships that bring benefits for all to address major structural impediments and lift obstacles**, including through expansion of access to infrastructure, knowledge and skills, with a view to promoting universal and meaningful digital connectivity, which can help lay the foundation for digital transformation and equitable and inclusive access to the benefits of digital and artificial intelligence development and innovations.
- **Encourages the international community to intensify development cooperation, including through South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation, as well as multi-stakeholder partnerships, to support countries, especially developing countries**, upon their request, in building their national capacity for science, technology and innovation for social development, as well as to support research networks that reach across borders, institutions and disciplines.
- **Recognizes the need for Governments and the international community to continue to make efforts to increase the flow of new and additional resources for financing for sustainable development from all sources**, public and private, domestic and foreign, to support the development of African countries, and welcomes the various important initiatives established between African countries and their development partners in this regard.
- **Encourages Member States and the United Nations system, including the agencies, funds and programmes of the system, to take concrete measures to mainstream ageing issues**, including the views of older persons, into their own programming and existing United Nations mandates.
- **Calls upon Member States to support the inclusion of young people in the labour market as part of the efforts to build inclusive, resilient and sustainable economies**, while responding to new social protection needs, by ensuring equal access to education and skills training, including apprenticeship training, enhancing effective labour market institutions and ensuring adequate statutory or negotiated minimum wages, employment protection legislation and the promotion of collective bargaining and social dialogue.
- **Encourages Member States to develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure**, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all.

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