



United Nations

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs

Draft Concept Note

Panel discussion: Interactive dialogue with senior officials of the UN Systems on the priority theme

Wednesday, 12 February 2020, 3:00 – 6:00pm
Conference Room 4, UN Headquarters, New York

**COMMISSION for
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

United Nations Headquarters, New York

1. Background

The Commission for Social Development will convene its fifty-eighth session from 10 to 19 February 2020, under the priority theme of “**Affordable housing and social protection systems for all to address homelessness**”, which was decided by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2019/4. During the Commission, an interactive dialogue with senior officials of the UN systems on the priority theme will be held on 12 February 2020 in the afternoon.

The interactive dialogue is organized in response to the resolution on future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development (2019/4), adopted by the ECOSOC on 6 June 2019. In that resolution, the ECOSOC invited the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 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.

Accordingly, the Bureau of the 58th session of the Commission decided to invite the UN Regional Commissions, and relevant UN organizations to participate in an interactive dialogue. This will provide an opportunity for Member States to keep abreast of UN system’s work at the regional level to address homelessness, including through affordable housing policies and social protection systems for all. Senior officials of the Regional Commissions and UN organizations will discuss regional and sectoral trends and perspectives by presenting their entity’s work, including publications and capacity building activities, in addressing homelessness.

The three-hour dialogue is open to all Member States, regional and sub-regional organizations, UN entities, international financial institutions and development partners, Major Groups, social groups and other stakeholders. The dialogue will facilitate an interactive discussion between Member States, senior officials of the UN entities, and relevant stakeholders to share views and strategies to address homelessness through affordable housing and social protection policies to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

2. Objectives

The main objective of the interactive dialogue is to strengthen coordination and policy coherence. By inviting the UN Regional Commissions and relevant UN organizations, the dialogue aims to further strengthen policy coherence at the global, regional and national levels in addressing homelessness, which will assist Member States in their implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular SDG11 (target 11.1) and SDG1 (target 1.3), and in realizing the right to adequate housing as part of their implementation of the New Urban Agenda and various Sustainable Development Goals, including SDG10, SDG5, SDG8 and SDG16.

The interactive dialogue also aims to keep abreast of current trends, good practices, innovative approaches, lessons learned at the regional levels, and identify common challenges across regions; to promote linkages between regional and national strategies and global normative frameworks. The outcomes of the dialogue will reinforce the linkage between the Commission for Social Development and the Regional Sustainable Development Forums for the 2020 HLPF.

3. Structure and format of the panel discussion

The Chair of the 58th session of the Commission for Social Development will open the panel with brief remarks and introduce the moderator. The moderator (DESA) will introduce the panellists and invite them to make 5 -10 minutes presentations. Following their presentations, the moderator will invite questions directly related to the presentations from the floor. After this short question and answer period, the moderator will open the floor for interactive dialogue.

Panellists are expected to structure their presentations around major trends and recent activities in addressing homelessness, including through adequate housing policies and social protection systems for all, at the regional level, and present key messages/recommendations from their recent publications, including effective policies and strategies, common challenges and lessons learned.

The outcomes of the discussions will be reflected in the Chair's summary, which will be part of the inputs of the Commission for Social Development to the ECOSOC, in particular, its high-level segment, and the 2020 High-Level Political Forum to be convened under the theme: "*Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development*".

The time allocation for the panel discussion is as follows:

Speaker	Suggested speaking time
Chair: Opening remarks	2- 3 minutes
Moderator: Brief remarks and the introduction of panellists	5 minutes
Panellists (5 - 7): Presentations	7 -10 minutes per panellist
Moderated interactive dialogue	Q & A directly related to the presentations for clarification, if any (10 minutes)
	Open dialogue
Concluding remarks by panellists and the moderator	10 minutes
Closing by the Chair	5 minutes
	Total duration: 3 hours

