


COMMISSION for SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

United Nations Headquarters, New York



United Nations

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs



#CSocD #SDGs #GlobalGoals WEBSITE: social.un.org/csocd

EVERYONE
INCLUDED

60th Session of the Commission for Social Development

Multi-stakeholder Forum on the priority theme “Inclusive and resilient recovery from COVID-19 for sustainable livelihoods, well-being and dignity for all: eradicating poverty and hunger in all its forms and dimensions to achieve the 2030 Agenda”

Thursday, 10 February 2022 (10:00am – 12:00pm)
Virtual

Draft Concept Note

1. Background and context

The ECOSOC, in its Resolution 2021/8 on future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development, “Invites the Bureau of the Commission to continue to propose interactive dialogues 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”. In response to the resolution, the 60th Session of the Commission will include a Multistakeholder Forum on the priority theme to be held, on Thursday, 10 February, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Social progress towards improvement in people’s quality of life and well-being is at the heart of sustainable development. Since 1990, many countries have enjoyed sustained periods of economic growth, which enhanced the living standards and well-being of people. On the one hand, the growth lifted over one billion people out of extreme poverty. On the other hand, income inequality increased, mostly in developed countries and some middle-income countries. However, the rate of poverty reduction began to slow in 2014-15. Similarly, after a steady decline from 2005 to 2014, the number of undernourished people worldwide increased from 607 million in 2014 to 650 million in 2019.

Moreover, with less than ten years left to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the COVID-19 crisis has posed major challenges in achieving many of the SDGs by 2030, including SDG1 (End poverty) and SDG2 (Zero hunger), compounding

challenges already posed by widening inequality, and the impact of climate change and conflicts. COVID-19 has led to a resurgence of extreme poverty for the first time since 1998. UN DESA estimates that an unprecedented 85 million more people entered extreme poverty in 2020 with the World Bank estimating that the pandemic pushed an additional 97 million people into extreme poverty in 2020, relative to pre-pandemic projections. At the current rate of poverty reduction, the world is not on track to eradicate extreme poverty by 2030. Since the onset of the pandemic in 2020, the number of undernourished people has increased dramatically, jumping to between a projected 720 and 811 million (as many as 161 million more than in 2019), wiping out much of the progress made since 2005. Nearly 2.4 billion people were moderately or severely food insecure (without food or unable to eat a healthy balanced diet on a regular basis) in 2020 – an increase of 320 million people in just one year.

At this critical juncture, the whole-of-society approach is needed to turn the crisis into an opportunity for building more inclusive, equitable, and resilient societies that ensure sustainable livelihoods, well-being, and dignity for all. This will require effective partnerships among national and local governments, international communities, the United Nations entities, and the civil society, including, academic and scientific communities, research institutions, non-governmental organizations, the philanthropic community, faith-based organizations, the private sector, trade unions, farmers associations, cooperatives, informal workers, family farmers, and those living in poverty and vulnerable situations, among others.

2. Objectives

The Multistakeholder Forum on the priority theme will identify opportunities, lessons learned, good practices, and innovative approaches to achieve an inclusive and resilient recovery towards sustainable development for all. The Forum aims to identify common challenges and draw lessons from practical solutions from stakeholders and social partners. Panel members will focus on sharing concrete solutions to eradicating poverty and hunger in all its forms and dimensions to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

More specifically, the Forum aims to:

- Share knowledge and experiences on how different stakeholders can work together with governments to design and implement policies that help countries recover better and ensure more inclusive growth in post-COVID-19.
- Share lessons learned on how different stakeholders can collaborate with and support governments in their efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger.
- Share measures/programmes put in place at the local, national and international levels that have worked in ensuring an inclusive and resilient recovery that will leave no one behind.
- Identify challenges countries face in accelerating the reduction of poverty and hunger and examine how social policies can address them.
- Examine how food systems can be strengthened to ensure sustainable livelihoods, well-being, and dignity for all.

3. Structure and format of the panel discussion

The panel discussion will be chaired by the Chair of the Commission for Social Development. The Chair will open the session with brief remarks and invite the keynote speaker to make a presentation. The Chair will then introduce the moderator, who will introduce and invite the panellists to make presentations. Following these presentations, the moderator will first invite questions directly related to the presentations from the audience and open the floor for interactive dialogue.

Panel members are expected to present concrete strategies and share practical examples that have proven to be successful in making a more inclusive and resilient recovery and ensuring sustainable livelihoods and well-being of all. They are invited to highlight innovative approaches and lessons learned to eradicate poverty and hunger.

The outcomes of the discussions will be reflected in the Chair's summary, which will be one of the key inputs of the Commission for Social Development to the ECOSOC and the 2022 High-Level Political Forum.

4. Guiding questions

The Commission for Social Development may wish to consider the following questions during this multi-stakeholder dialogue:

- How can we strengthen broad-based partnerships to ensure that no one is left behind during the Decade of Action to deliver the SDGs, in particular SDG1 (End poverty) and SDG2 (Zero hunger)? What are some specific suggestions to improve such partnerships?
- How can various stakeholders, including the private sector, work with governments to ensure that post-COVID-19 economic growth is inclusive, that is, accompanied by a reduction in poverty, hunger, and inequality?
- What policies and measures should be in place at the local, national, and international levels to ensure an inclusive and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and achievement of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs?
- What are effective social policies to accelerate the reduction in poverty and food insecurity? How can we mobilize resources to this end?
- How can we strengthen food systems to deliver sustainable livelihoods, well-being, and dignity for all?
- What are some of the national/regional perspectives on how to accelerate poverty reduction and address food insecurity in your region? What areas or sectors deserve particular attention?

The time allocation for the panel discussion is as follows:

Speaker	Suggested speaking time
Chair: Opening remarks and the introduction of panellists	3 minutes
Keynote speaker	10 minutes
Moderator: introduction/context setting	3 minutes
Panellists (5): Presentations	7 minutes per panellist
Moderated interactive discussion	Q & A and open dialogue with participants of the Commission (Interventions limited to 3 minutes per speaker) (40 minutes)
Concluding remarks by moderator and Closing by the Chair	5 minutes
	Total duration: 2 hours