



COMMISSION for SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

United Nations Headquarters, New York

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61st Session of the Commission for Social Development

Interactive dialogue with senior officials of the UN System on the priority theme

Thursday, 9 February 2023, 10:00 am– 1:00 pm

Draft Concept Note



1. Background

The Commission for Social Development will convene its sixty-first session from 6 to 15 February 2023, under the priority theme of “**Creating full and productive employment and decent work for all as a way of overcoming inequalities to accelerate the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**”. During the Commission, an interactive dialogue with senior officials of the UN system on the priority theme will be held on 9 February 2023 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, New York Time.

The interactive dialogue is organized in response to ECOSOC resolution E/RES/2021/8 on the future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development. 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.

In this context, the Bureau of the 61st session of the Commission has invited senior officials of the UN Regional Commissions, and relevant UN organizations to participate in an interactive dialogue with members of the Commission. This will provide an opportunity for Member States to keep abreast of the UN system’s work at the global, regional and national levels to combat inequalities to accelerate the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda, with a focus on creating full and productive employment and decent work for all. Senior officials of the Regional Commissions and other relevant UN entities will present regional initiatives and perspectives by reporting their work, including publications and capacity-building activities, on the theme.

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 exchange between Member States, senior officials of the UN entities, and relevant stakeholders, including representatives of civil society, of views, policies, and strategies relevant to the priority theme of the 61st session of the Commission.

2. Objectives

The main objective of the interactive dialogue is to link the Commission’s work with regional and national actions for enhanced coordination and strengthened policy coherence. By inviting the UN Regional Commissions and relevant UN organizations, the dialogue aims to further strengthen policy coherence to promote the creation of full and productive employment and decent work for all, and assist Member States to overcome inequalities to accelerate the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The interactive dialogue also aims to highlight current trends, good practices, innovative approaches, lessons learned; identify common challenges across regions; and promote linkages between regional strategies and global normative frameworks. Similarly, the outcomes of the dialogue will reinforce the linkage between the Commission for Social Development and the Regional Sustainable Development Forums for the 2023 HLPF.

3. Structure and format of the interactive dialogue

The interactive dialogue will be chaired by the Chair of the 61st session of the Commission for Social Development. It will take the form of a moderated panel discussion, including short presentations from panellists and questions from the moderator. An open discussion with members of the Commission will follow.

Panellists are expected to structure their presentations around major trends on inequality and labour market in their regions, and recent activities in creating full and productive employment and decent work for all to overcome inequalities to accelerate the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda, at the regional level. They are also expected to 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 2023 High-Level Political Forum to be convened under the theme: “Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels”.

The tentative time allocation for the panel discussion is as follows:

Speaker	Suggested speaking time
Chair: Opening remarks	3 minutes
Moderator: Brief remarks and the introduction of panellists	5 minutes

Panellists (6): Presentations	10 minutes per panellist
Moderated interactive dialogue	Q & A and interactive dialogue (60 minutes)
Concluding remarks by panellists and the moderator	15 minutes
Closing by the Chair	2 minutes
	Total duration: 3 hours