



**Commission for Social Development
Fifty-fourth session**

Draft Concept Note

Panel discussion on emerging issues

“Implementing the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*: moving from commitments to results for achieving social development”

Thursday, 4 February 2016, 10:00am – 1:00 pm
Conference Room 4

1. Background

Pursuant to Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) decision in 2006, the Commission for Social Development has included the agenda item ‘Emerging issues’ in its work programme since its 2007 -2008 review and policy cycle. Under this agenda item, the Commission addresses current issues affecting social development requiring urgent consideration or new cross-cutting issues in the context of evolving global development challenges. In selecting the theme in recent years, the Bureau of the Commission also takes into full consideration the annual themes of the Economic and Social Council in order to better align its work with that of the Council, as called for in the General Assembly resolution 68/1.

In September 2015, Member States adopted the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, to succeed the Millennium Development Goals. The new Agenda continues to place the eradication of poverty (and this time) in all its forms and dimensions at the center of global development, while giving greater emphasis on an integrated approach to sustainable development and pledging to leave no one behind. It forms the new context in which social development will be promoted, namely as an integral component in the implementation of the commitments to achieve the sustainable development goals.

Against this background, the Bureau of the Commission decided on “**Implementing the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*: moving from commitments to results for achieving social development**” as the topic of emerging issues of the 54th Commission session, which also echoes the theme of the high-level segment of ECOSOC in 2016. The selection of this topic acknowledges that *how* the 2030 Agenda is translated into national policies and strategies and implemented and monitored plays a key role in its success in terms of promoting inclusion and participation and in advancing a comprehensive vision of social development.

The panel discussion will be informed by the Note by the Secretariat on the Emerging issues, “Implementing the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*: moving from commitments to results for achieving social development (E/CN.5/2016/6).

2. Objectives

The panel discussion will provide the forum for open exchange of ideas that are strategically important for social development, and the Commission. Its overall objective at the fifty-fourth session is to discuss, drawing on a Note by the Secretariat on Emerging Issues, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as insights of experts, how to translate commitments made in the framework of the new Agenda into concrete policies and strategies to achieve social objectives.

Specifically, the panel aims to:

- 1) Identify areas/interlinkages that require greater policy coherence among the three dimensions to promoting socially sustainable development in a more holistic and integrated manner;
- 2) Exchange knowledge, from the social perspective, on innovative approaches and strategies, good practices and lessons learned at the national, regional and international levels, including how to ensure that implementation and monitoring of the Agenda will be participatory, paying particular attention to the voices of the most marginalized/vulnerable;
- 3) Explore how the Commission for Social Development could contribute to the review of progress in the implementation of the social dimension of sustainable development;

3. Structure and format of the panel discussion

The Chair of the Commission (Romania) will open the meeting with brief remarks and introduce the moderator, who will conduct the interactive panel discussion.

The panel will be comprised of five panellists and a moderator. The moderator will set the stage and stimulate an interactive discussion between the panellists and the participants.

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, in particular, its high-level segment under the theme “Implementing the post-2015 development agenda: moving from commitments to results”.

4. Composition of the Panel

The panel will consist of five panelists and one moderator. Panelists will be invited among member states government officials, academia, subject experts and representatives of civil society, taking into consideration of gender and geographical balance.

5. Guiding questions

The Commission for Social Development may wish to consider the following questions in its deliberations on the emerging issue at its fifty-fourth session:

- a) What are key areas of the 2030 Agenda in which social development perspectives are critical in order to implement the Agenda in a more holistic, coherent, and integrated manner?
- b) What are key interlinkages that require further strengthening of the social perspective and policy coherence among three dimensions?
- c) How the Commission for Social Development could incorporate these key areas and interlinkages in its work? (Or How the Commission for Social Development could be strengthened to address these key areas?)
- d) What is the potential role of the Commission to contribute to the review of the progress in the implementing the social dimension of the Agenda 2030?
- e) How to harmonise the implementation of the SDGs with the implementation of and follow-up to existing policies and instruments related to social groups (for example, conventions/treaties, youth policy, etc.)?

6. Time allocation

Speaker	Suggested speaking time
Chair: Opening remarks	2 minutes
Moderator: introduction/context-setting	5 minutes
Panellists (5): Presentations	5 - 10 minutes per panellist
Moderated interactive discussion	Interventions limited to 3 minutes, followed by responses from panellists.
Concluding remarks by moderator Closing by the Chair	5 minutes
	Total duration: 3 hours