



“Development for all is central to the United Nations’ mission. Together with security, and respect for human rights, it represents our core aspirations for a peaceful and better world.”

Ban Ki-moon  
Secretary-General of the United Nations



### Key Instruments

- Internationally Agreed Development Goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
- Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development
- Second Decade for the Eradication of Poverty
- Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing
- World Programme of Action for Youth
- World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons
- Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Second Decade of the World's Indigenous People

### Our International Days

**February 20:** World Day of Social Justice  
**May 15:** International Day of Families  
**First Saturday of July:** International Day of Cooperatives  
**August 9:** International Day of Indigenous People  
**August 12:** International Youth Day  
**October 1:** International Day of Older Persons  
**October 17:** International Day for the Eradication of Poverty  
**December 3:** International Day of Persons with Disabilities  
**December 20:** International Human Solidarity Day

For more information, please contact:

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## Social Development Work at the United Nations



United Nations  
 Department of Economic and Social Affairs  
 Division for Social Policy and Development  
<http://social.un.org>

## Who We Are

The Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD) is part of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) of the United Nations Secretariat. The Division seeks to strengthen international cooperation for social development, particularly in the areas of poverty eradication, productive employment and decent work and the social inclusion of older persons, youth, family, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, persons in situations of conflict and other groups or persons marginalized from society and development.

## What We Do

The Division monitors national and global socio-economic trends, identifies emerging issues, and assesses their implications for social policy at the national and international levels. To this end, the Division:

- Promotes common norms and develops policies, programmes and cooperative actions to facilitate the implementation of the Internationally Agreed Development Goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).
- Provides support and servicing to intergovernmental processes by facilitating agreement on resolutions, strategies and international standards and norms through the Commission for Social Development, the Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly and other intergovernmental forums, such as the Conference of State Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- Promotes the rights of indigenous peoples by servicing the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) and promoting its mandate and recommendations, supporting the work of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on Indigenous Issues, promoting

coordination in the UN system and preparing and disseminating information on indigenous peoples' issues.

- Undertakes global comparative studies on policy and programme design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation as well as on issues and social groups related to the work of the Division.
- Assists developing countries and countries with economies in transition, at their request, to strengthen their capacity to plan and manage their socio-economic development through advisory services and field projects.

## Our Thematic Areas

- **Poverty** - <http://social.un.org/poverty>
- **Employment** - <http://social.un.org/employment>
- **Microfinance** - <http://social.un.org/microfinance>
- **Cooperatives** - <http://social.un.org/cooperatives>
- **Ageing** - <http://social.un.org/ageing>
- **Youth** - [www.un.org/youth](http://www.un.org/youth)
- **Family** - <http://social.un.org/family>
- **Peacebuilding** - <http://social.un.org/peacebuilding>
- **Disabilities** - [www.un.org/disabilities](http://www.un.org/disabilities)
- **Indigenous** - [www.un.org/indigenous](http://www.un.org/indigenous)
- **Civil Society** - <http://social.un.org/ngos>

“We recognize that social development is central to the needs and aspirations of people throughout the world and is a core responsibility of Governments and all sectors of civil society.”

Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary-General  
Economic and Social Affairs  
DESA, United Nations



## Our Flagship Services

We provide the primary support and servicing to the:

- Commission for Social Development: <http://social.un.org/csocd>
- United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues: <http://social.un.org/unpfi>
- Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, jointly with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights: <http://social.un.org/crpd>

## Our Flagship Reports

On a biennial basis, we produce:

- The Report on the World Social Situation (RWSS): <http://social.un.org/rwss>
- The World Youth Report (WYR): <http://social.un.org/wyr>