

Ageing

Civil Society

Cooperatives

Disability

Employment

Family

Indigenous Peoples

Poverty

Social Integration

Technical Cooperation

Youth



United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Division for Social Policy and Development

United Nations
Social Development Network





United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Division for Social Policy and Development

Division for Social Policy and Development

The Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD) is part of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA). The Division is led by the Office of the Director (please see organizational chart on the back of this card).

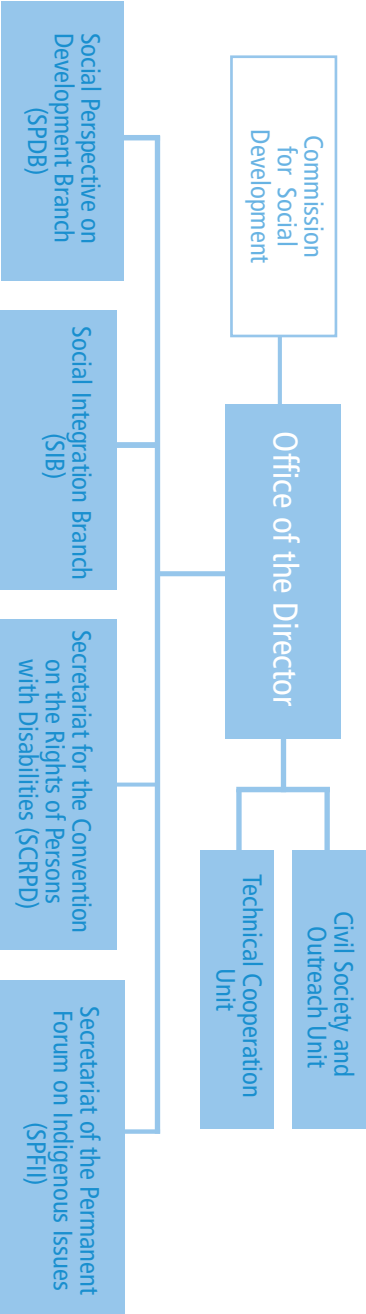
DSPD is the only Division within the United Nations which deals with social development issues.

DSPD's areas of work are:

- Ageing
- Civil Society
- Cooperatives
- Disability
- Employment
- Family
- Indigenous Peoples
- Poverty
- Social Integration
- Technical Cooperation
- Youth

The main objective of DSPD is to strengthen international cooperation for social development, in the context of commitments and policies provided by the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, with particular attention to the three core issues of poverty eradication, employment generation and social integration.

DSPD is also responsible for servicing the Commission for Social Development, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and for preparing two UNDESA flagships: the Report on the World Social Situation (RWSS) and the World Youth Report (WYR).



Ageing

Mission: to facilitate and promote the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, including designing guidelines for policy development and implementation; to advocate means to mainstream ageing issues into development agendas; to engage in dialogue with civil society and the private sector, and information exchange.

The Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the Political Declaration adopted in 2002 focuses on three priority areas: older persons and development; advancing health and well-being into old age; and ensuring enabling and supportive environments.

International Day of Older Persons
1 October

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
15 June

UN REPORTS / RESOLUTIONS / PUBLICATIONS

To see all Reports, Resolutions and Publications related to Ageing, please visit:

- social.un.org/reports
- social.un.org/resolutions
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Ageing



Civil Society

Mission: to promote dynamic partnerships between the Division and NGOs; to hold briefings for representatives of NGOs on mandates and core issues related to social development and to the work of the Division; to take stock of the needs and concerns raised by NGOs so as to encourage more active involvement of NGOs in the substantive work of the Division, related for instance to the Commission for Social Development and other major United Nations events for which the Division provides substantive servicing.

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Civil Society



Cooperatives

Mission: to monitor the promotion and development of cooperatives at the national and international levels; to work collaboratively with the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC).

In 1995, the World Summit for Social Development recognized the importance of cooperatives in the people-centered approach to development and agreed to “utilize and develop fully the potential and contribution of cooperatives for the attainment of social development goals, in particular the eradication of poverty, the generation of full and productive employment, and the enhancement of social integration.”

International Day of Cooperatives
First Saturday of July

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Cooperatives



Disability

Mission: to advance the rights of persons with disabilities in society and development, with mandates stemming from the World Programme of Action (1982), the Standard Rules (1994), the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006), as well as other relevant human rights and development instruments; to support inter-governmental bodies such as the General Assembly and ECOSOC; to service the Conference of State Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; to promote the international normative framework on disability; to implement international norms and standards relating to disability at national, regional and international levels; technical cooperation; to mainstream disability in the development agenda, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other internationally agreed development goals; to co-chair the UN Inter-agency Support Group on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (IASG).

International Day of Persons with Disabilities
3 December

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To see all Reports, Resolutions and Publications related to Persons with Disabilities, please visit:

- social.un.org/reports
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Disability



Employment

Full and productive employment is at the forefront of the UN development agenda and it has been recognized as the most effective means of reducing poverty and promoting social integration.

The UN called for broader and more integrated action to promote employment at the national level and emphasized the need to develop a coherent and coordinated international strategy on employment.

At the 2005 World Summit, countries committed to make the goals of full and productive employment and decent work for all a central objective of both national and international policies.

Achieving these goals is essential to meet internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs, and to accomplish the UN development agenda.

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Employment



Family

Mission: to promote the objectives of the International Year of the Family (1994) and its follow-up processes; to advocate mainstreaming of family issues into national, regional and international development agendas; to promote family-oriented policy making; to provide substantive servicing to UN intergovernmental bodies; to support coordination on policies and programmes within national governments and within the UN system; to support research and diagnostic studies; to engage in dialogue with Governments, UN agencies, civil society, the private sector and academics, facilitating the exchange of best practices.

International Day of Families
15 May

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Family



Indigenous Peoples

Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (SPFII)

Mission: the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (SPFII) was established by the General Assembly in 2002.

According to its mandate, the Secretariat prepares for annual sessions of the Permanent Forum; it provides support to the Members of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) throughout the year; it advocates for, and promotes the implementation, within the UN system, of the recommendations that emerge from each annual session; and it promotes awareness of indigenous issues within the UN system, governments, and the broader public.

Finally, it serves as a source of information and a coordination point for advocacy efforts related to the Permanent Forum's mandate and the ongoing issues that arise concerning indigenous peoples.

International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples – 9 August

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Indigenous Peoples



Poverty

The World Social Summit, held in Copenhagen in 1995, identified poverty eradication as an ethical, social, political and economic imperative of mankind.

Recognizing insufficient progress in poverty reduction, the 24th special session of the General Assembly reviewed the Copenhagen commitments and decided to set up targets to reduce the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by one half by 2015. This target was endorsed by the Millennium Summit as Millennium Development Goal 1.

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty – 17 October

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Poverty



Social Integration

The World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen in 1995 defined an inclusive society as “a society for all”, in which every individual, each with rights and responsibilities, has an active role to play (United Nations, 1995, para 66).

Such an inclusive society is equipped with mechanisms which accommodate diversity, and facilitate/enable people’s active participation in their political, economic and social lives. As such, it over-rides differences of race, gender, class, generation, and geography, and ensures equal opportunities for all to achieve full potential in life, regardless of origin. Such a society fosters, at the same time, well being of each individual, mutual trust, sense of belonging and inter-connectedness.

Mission: to facilitate a space for various stakeholders to interact, exchange views, bring different perspectives, and promote mutual understanding and learning, in order to create a common platform for creating an inclusive society.

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Social Integration



Technical Cooperation

Mission: to provide advisory services to Governments and regional organizations aimed at developing capacities on social policies at the national and regional levels, with special emphasis on the needs of social groups, in particular older persons, youth, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples; activities include the formulation, execution, monitoring and evaluation of specific technical projects and operational strategies that promote social and economic development, to organize training workshops, seminars, research and field studies; to provide an interface between global policies and national action, and between research and policy formulation; to strengthen social groups' capacity to achieve well-being through greater inclusion and more active participation in society.

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Technical Cooperation



Youth

Mission: to enhance awareness of the global situation of youth and increase recognition of the rights and aspirations of youth; to promote national youth policies and programmes of action, in cooperation with both governmental and non-governmental organizations; to strengthen the participation of youth in decision-making processes at all levels. The mission is mainly based on the World Programme of Action for Youth.

The fifteen fields of action identified by the international community are: education, employment, hunger and poverty, health, environment, substance abuse, juvenile justice, leisure-time activities, girls and young women and the full and effective participation of youth in the life of society and in decision-making, as well as globalization, information and communication technologies, HIV/AIDS, armed conflict, and intergenerational issues.

International Youth Day

12 August

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Youth





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