

Concept note

Special briefing to ECOSOC on the **World Social Report 2024**

Social Development in Times of Converging Crises: A Call for Global Action

Date: Wednesday, 31 July 2024, 10:00 am to 11:00 am EST
Location: ECOSOC Chamber

Background

As countries look towards the second World Summit for Social Development, the vision of placing people at the centre of development, articulated at the first Summit in 1995 retains its primacy. That vision has shaped successive global agreements, reinforcing a shared commitment for advancing social development and ensuring that no one is left behind.

Since 1995, much progress has been made across the world in realizing social development objectives such as poverty eradication, full employment, and inclusion. At the same time, shortfalls remain, exacerbated by reversals in the wake of shocks and crises. The global context for social development is now significantly different from that which prevailed following the first Summit.

The ***World Social Report 2024*** focuses on a key aspect of the changed context, namely that of shocks and crises. Shocks that might have previously remained relatively contained, now have wider impacts as they can be propagated rapidly through globally interconnected networks and systems. Recurrent shocks exceed coping capacities and more readily turn into crises hitting the most vulnerable people and societies the hardest, with both short- and long-term impacts on social development. Developing countries, particularly those in special situations such as least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS) are among the worst affected.

The current confluence of crises – the COVID-19 pandemic, conflicts, food price hikes, cost-of-living increases, and escalating climate change impacts – has been a wake-up call, signaling the need for extensive changes along different fronts to achieve social development. National development strategies that seek to eradicate poverty; ensure inclusive, job-rich growth; and promote equality of



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opportunity and universal access to quality services, among others, must now be reviewed to ensure they can succeed in accelerating social development in the new crisis context.

But national actions alone will remain insufficient to address the evolving risk landscape from multiple interrelated global stressors and feedback loops. Once a crisis emerges, coordinated, multi-sectoral responses are essential. Ahead of such eventualities, strengthened global action to support national efforts as well as to reduce systemic risks and enhance resilience are critical. Mechanisms to deliver such outcomes must be deliberately designed to also advance social development objectives.

The United Nations system is well-placed to build consensus on how to take forward the necessary actions. The Summit of the Future in 2024, followed by the fourth International Conference on Financing for Development and by the second World Summit for Social Development in 2025 can all serve to advance new international agreements on social development that update the Copenhagen Declaration for our times.

Objectives

This special briefing, organized by UN DESA will give Member State delegates in New York the opportunity to be better informed about the key findings and recommendations of the report and to engage in a discussion on the subject.

Programme

I. Welcome remarks (5 min)

H.E. Maritza Chan, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica and Vice President of ECOSOC

II. Introduction (5 min)

Mr. Li Junhua, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs

III. Presentation of Report (25 min)

Mr. Shantanu Mukherjee, Director, Economic Analysis and Policy Division, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs

IV. Question & answer and open discussion (up to 20 min)

Registration

All delegations in New York are invited.

Additional information

The World Social Report 2024 will be available at https://www.bit.ly/UNDESA_WSR2024 on 31 July 2024.