
COMMISSION for SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

United Nations Headquarters, New York



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



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Concept Note

Panel discussion: **Interactive dialogue with senior officials of the UN Systems on the priority theme**

Wednesday, 13 February 2019, 3:00 – 6:00pm
Conference Room 4

1. Background

The Commission for Social Development will convene its fifty-seventh session from 11 to 21 February 2019, under the priority theme of “Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies”, which was decided by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2018/3. During the Commission, an interactive dialogue with senior officials of the UN systems on the priority theme will be held on 13 February 2019 in the afternoon.

The interactive dialogue, to be held for the first time, is organized in response to the resolution on future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development (2018/3), adopted by the ECOSOC on 17 April 2018. 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.

Accordingly, the Bureau of the 57th session of the Commission decided to invite the UN Regional Commissions, UNDP and UN Women to participate as panellists in the interactive dialogue, which will provide an opportunity for Member States to keep abreast of major/recent activities at the regional level in addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies. Senior officials of the Regional Commissions will bring regional trends and perspectives through presenting their work, including publications and capacity building activities, in addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion.

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 interactive discussion between Member States, senior officials of the UN entities, and relevant stakeholders, including representatives of civil society, to share views and

strategies to combat inequalities and promote social inclusion for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

2. Objectives

The main objective of the interactive dialogue with senior officials of the United Nations system is to strengthen policy coherence. By inviting the UN Regional Commissions, UNDP and UN Women, the dialogue aims to further strengthen policy coherence at the global, regional and national levels in addressing inequality and promoting social inclusion, which will assist Member States in their implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular SDG10 (target 10.4), but also SDG1, SDG2, SDG3, SDG4, SDG5, SDG8 and SDG16.

The interactive dialogue also aims to keep abreast of current trends, good practices, innovative approaches, lessons learned, and to identify common challenges across regions; and to promote linkages between regional strategies and global normative frameworks. The outcomes of the dialogue will feed into the Regional Sustainable Development Forums for the 2019 HLPF.

3. Structure and format of the panel discussion

The Chair of the 57th Commission for Social Development will open the panel with brief remarks and introduce the moderator. The moderator (DESA) will introduce the panellists and invite them to make 7 -10 minutes presentations. Following their presentations, the moderator will invite questions directly related to the presentations from the floor. After a short question and answer session, the moderator will invite relevant UN entities to make short interventions from the floor, then open the floor for interactive dialogue.

Panellists are expected to structure their presentations around major trends and recent activities in addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion at the regional level, and 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 one of the key inputs of the Commission for Social Development to the ECOSOC, in particular, its high-level segment, and the 2019 High-Level Political Forum to be convened under the theme: ‘Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality’.

The time allocation for the panel discussion is as follows:

Speaker	Suggested speaking time
Chair: Opening remarks	2- 3 minutes
Moderator: Brief remarks and the introduction of panellists	5 minutes
Panellists (4-5): Presentations	7 -10 minutes per panellist
Moderated interactive dialogue	Q & A directly related to the presentations for clarification, if any (10 minutes)
	Interventions of relevant UN entities from the floor.

	Open dialogue with questions and comments from the audience (Interventions limited to 3 minutes. After taking several questions, moderator will ask the panellists and UN entities to respond)
Concluding remarks by panellists and the moderator	10 minutes
Closing by the Chair	5 minutes
	Total duration: 3 hours

