



COMMISSION for SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

United Nations Headquarters, New York



United Nations | Department of Economic and Social Affairs



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COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT FIFTY-NINTH SESSION (8-17 FEBRUARY 2021)

LIST OF OPENING SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS

Opening session

8 February 2021, 10:00am to 11:00am
(General Assembly Hall)



- **H. E. Ms. Maria del Carmen Squeff**, Chair of the fifty-ninth session of the Commission for Social Development
- **H.E. Volkan Bozkir**, President of the General Assembly
- **H. E. Munir Akram**, President of the Economic and Social Council
- **H.E. António Guterres**, Secretary-General of the United Nations (*TBC*)
- **Mr. Liu Zhenmin**, Under-Secretary-General, UNDESA
- **Ms. Monica Jahangir-Chowdhury**, Co-Chair of the NGO Committee on Social Development
- **Ms. Marwa Azelmat**, Youth representative identified through a consultation process

3 February 2021

**High-level panel discussion on the priority theme
“Socially just transition towards sustainable development: the role of digital
technologies on social development and well-being of all”**

Monday, 8 February 2021 (3:00 pm – 5:00 pm)(virtual meeting)



Keynote speaker

Dr. Peter Major, Chair of the twenty-fourth session of the Commission for Science and Technology for Development

Panellists

H.E. Karen Abudinen, Minister for Information and Communication Technologies of Colombia

H.E. Ana Mendes Godinho, Minister of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security of Portugal

H.E. Silvana Vargas, Minister of Development and Social Inclusion of Peru

Mr. Boris Zürcher, Head of the Labour Directorate at the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, Federal Department of Economics, Education and Research of Switzerland

Ms. Elsa Marie D’Silva, Founder & CEO of Red Dot Foundation and President of Red Dot Foundation Global

Moderator

Ms. Francesca Spatolisano, Assistant-Secretary-General, UNDESA

3 February 2021

**Ministerial Forum on
Promoting multilateralism to realize inclusive, resilient and sustainable recovery
from COVID-19 in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable
development and its social dimension**

Tuesday, 9 February 2021 (10:00am – 12:00pm)(virtual meeting)



Panellists

H.E. Daniel Arroyo, Minister of Social Development of **Argentina**

H.E. Juliane Seifert, State Secretary of the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs,
Senior Citizens, Women and Youth of **Germany**

H.E. Ariunzaya Ayush, Minister of Labour and Social Protection of **Mongolia**

Moderator

H. E. Maria del Carmen Squeff, Chair of the fifty-ninth session of the Commission for
Social Development

3 February 2021

High-level Panel Discussion on Emerging Issues
**“Social policy to promote a more inclusive, resilient and sustainable recovery:
Building back better post COVID-19 for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the
context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”**

Wednesday, 10 February 2021 (10:00am– 12:00 pm), Virtual



Panellists

Ms. Victoria Tolosa Paz, President of the National Council for the Coordination of Social Policies, **Argentina**

Mr. Jordi Curell Gotor, Director of Labour Mobility, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, **European Commission**

Ms. Megumi Muto, Deputy Director, International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Ogata Sadako Research Institute for Peace and Development, **Japan**

Ms. Cristina Duarte, Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa to the United Nations Secretary-General

Mr. Jeremy Millard, Senior Consultant at the Danish Technological Institute as well as a Visiting Research Fellow at several UK universities and one Irish university

Dr. David Smith, Coordinator of the Institute for Sustainable Development (ISD), and Director of the Centre for Environmental Management at the University of the West Indies (UWI)

Moderator

Mr. Pedro Conceição, Director of the Human Development Report Office and lead author of the Human Development Report

Lead discussant

Mr. Sangheon Lee, Director of the ILO Employment Policy Department

3 February 2021

Panel Discussion: Interactive Dialogue with senior officials of the UN System on the priority theme

Wednesday, 10 February 2021 (3:00 – 5:00 pm) (virtual meeting)



Panellists

Ms. Alicia Bárcena Ibarra, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

Mr. Houlin Zhao, Secretary-General, International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Ms. Anita Bhatia, Deputy Executive Director for Resource Management, Sustainability and Partnerships, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)

Mr. Gerard Quinn, the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Moderator

Mr. Elliott Harris, Assistant-Secretary-General, UNDESA

3 February 2021

Multi-stakeholder Forum on the priority theme

Friday, 12 February 2021 (3:00 – 5:00 pm) (virtual meeting)



Keynote speaker

H.E. Asmundur Dadi Einarsson, Minister of Social Affairs and Children of **Iceland**

Panellists

Ms. Vanesa Wainstein, Special Advisor on International Affairs of the Ministry of Social Development of **Argentina**

Ms. Susan Segal, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Americas Society and Council of the Americas

Ms. Komal Ahmad, Founder and CEO of Copia

Ms. Taliah Drayak, Co-founder of the International Parent Advocacy Network and the Parents, Families and Allies Network

Moderator

Ms. Deborah D. Stine is President of Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy Analysis & Education, LLC, and Founder and Chief Instructor for the Science and Technology Policy Academy