

2024-2026



Looking to the
Future with Hope

**NGO
Committee for
Social
Development
Strategic Plan**

Prepared Fall 2024

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About Us

As a substantive NGO Committee under the auspices of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CoNGO), since 1998 our member organizations have joined forces to work toward the achievement of the Copenhagen Declaration and continue reviewing UN progress toward those goals. We are a globally diverse representation of civil society based at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, with a membership of 50+ NGOs located around the world (mostly ECOSOC accredited). In solidarity we promote people-centered development policies and initiatives at the United Nations.



This document outlines the advocacy plan and strategic direction for the NGO CSocD from 2024-2026, developed by the Executive Committee through consultations with our Committee Members and external partners who share our dreams and concerns. The strategic plan aims to promote creativity, inclusivity, and engagement with grassroots actors, civil society, Member States, UN entities, and other stakeholders. It builds on the work of past committees and has evolved to address grassroots challenges and the realities of today.

Our Vision

As members of civil society, we engage NGOs through the work of the Commission for Social Development in order to highlight best practices and bring diverse voices to the United Nations. We will champion social development initiatives as we actively work towards the World Social Summit in 2025, and aim to sustain the momentum generated during the Summit through ongoing advocacy, collaborative partnerships, and concrete actions.

Guided by the principles of the Copenhagen Declaration, we are committed to a vision of a world free from poverty and characterized by true prosperity, inclusion, and justice for all.

Our Mission



Our Values

- Inclusion
- Consultation
- Collaboration
- Participation
- Respect



Our Leadership

NGO CSocD Executive Committee for the 2024-2026 term



Liana Almony
Chair

Deputy Director,
UNANIMA
International



Maryann Broxton
Vice-Chair

Main UN
Representative,
International Movement
ATD Fourth World



Johannes Butscher
Secretary

UN Advocacy Officer,
The Inclusivity
Project, GFoD



Marides Santos
Treasurer

UN Representative &
Chief Administrative
Officer, VIVAT
International



Henry Ramirez Soler
Member-at-Large

Claretian Missionary,
Fondazione
Internazionale
Proclade



Alexia Gaube
Member-at-Large

Main UN
Representative,
Life Project 4 Youth



Albert Barseghyan
Member-at-Large

UN Representative,
Sikh Human Rights
Group



Cecilia Schirmeister
Member-at-Large

UN Representative,
Baha'i International
Community

Foreword

On behalf of the Executive and Committee Members, I am pleased to present the 2024-2026 Strategic Plan for the NGO Committee for Social Development (NGO CSocD). This plan is the result of collaborative and consultative efforts to chart a course that will deepen our impact, amplify the voices of those we serve, and align our work with the evolving global challenges of our time.

A key highlight of our efforts is our ongoing advocacy for the 2025 Second World Summit for Social Development, which we have championed since Secretary-General António Guterres first called for the Summit to take place in his 2021 “Our Common Agenda” report. 30 years after the first World Social Summit in Copenhagen, we see the 2025 Summit as a pivotal opportunity to center people in the development of global policies, prioritize human dignity and well-being over economic considerations, and promote more cohesive, inclusive, and resilient societies.

However, we recognize that the Summit cannot be an isolated event. It is imperative that we sustain the momentum beyond 2025, ensuring that it does not become just another conference defined by empty promises and commitments which lack accountability or legitimacy. The outcomes of the Summit must lead to tangible, lasting change and action-oriented solutions. We will continue to hold leaders accountable and advocate for clear frameworks of monitoring and implementation that address the lived realities of those most affected by social and economic inequalities. The world cannot afford another moment of inaction, and we stand ready to ensure that the commitments made at both World Summits for Social Development are upheld in the years that follow.

We approach the next two years with a renewed sense of purpose. The 2025 World Summit for Social Development and all the milestones leading up to it (the Summit of the Future, the 63rd Session of the Commission for Social Development, the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development, etc.) provide us with critical moments for reflection and action. They are an opportunity to influence policy, foster multi-stakeholder partnerships, and advance bold solutions to ensure no one is left behind. Our strategic plan highlights how we will continue to support and strengthen civil society’s role within the United Nations and beyond, particularly through our flagship initiatives during the annual Commission for Social Development. At the heart of this strategic plan is our commitment to collaboration. We invite you to join us in this important journey, as we work to create a more just, inclusive, and sustainable world for all.

Liana Almony
**Chair, NGO Committee for
Social Development**



Our Goals

1

Elevate the voice of civil society on issues related to the three pillars of social development: poverty eradication, full employment and decent work for all, and social inclusion.

2

Cultivate new and existing relationships with Member States, UN DESA, UN agencies, and other NGO Committees/Major Groups.

3

Recognize and uplift the valuable contributions of grassroots organizations and incorporate them into the work of the Committee.

4

Serve as the link between global efforts at the UN and local initiatives.

5

Engage and involve youth in all our efforts.

6

Ensure the inclusion and representation of historically and persistently marginalized communities.

From 2024-2026, our focus will be on the three pillars of Social Development: poverty eradication, decent work for all, and social inclusion. We will assess progress, address challenges in implementing the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, and advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As we look towards the 2025 Second World Summit for Social Development and beyond, we are actively engaged in collaborative strategic planning, aiming to shape a just and inclusive global social development agenda capable of addressing the needs of today and the realities of marginalized communities.





Global Context

The first World Summit for Social Development took place in Copenhagen in 1995 with an ambitious vision of social justice, solidarity, harmony, and equality within and among countries. Almost 30 years later, the world is a different place, but in many ways we are no closer to actualizing the commitments of the 1995 Copenhagen Declaration. There are almost 4 billion more people today than there were in 1995, along with intensifying consequences of climate change, technological disruptions, heightened geopolitical tensions, and increased local and global inequalities. The international financial architecture has proven to be no longer suitable to meet the needs of today. Global unemployment, particularly among youth, disrupts social stability and development. And marginalized populations continue to be disproportionately affected by shocks and left behind, often struggling to access basic necessities and services. While strides have been made in the past few decades, the current global landscape necessitates a reassessment of strategies, a reaffirmation of commitments, and the mobilization of resources through multilateral and cooperative efforts.

This context presents both challenges and opportunities to address inequality, instability, and environmental issues. A multifaceted approach - including technological advancements, global cooperation, support for social movements, inclusive economic growth, and implementation of universal social protection floors - is crucial to actualize the commitments of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Sustainable Development Goals before 2030.

What We Do

1. ADVOCACY & AWARENESS

- Elevate civil society voices on priority themes of the CSocD, connecting local and global efforts.
- Work with members to establish advocacy priorities and identify emerging issues based on their areas of expertise.
- Draft and publish an annual Civil Society Declaration aligned with the CSocD priority theme.



2. EVENT ORGANIZATION

- Organize and implement the annual Civil Society Forum with the support of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, UN DESA, Member States, and other stakeholders.
- Organize and implement side events/consultations/deliberative spaces which elevate the evolving needs of marginalized communities and provide the opportunity for diverse voices and perspectives to have a seat at the table.

3. MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT

- Enroll and engage members in all our initiatives, including youth and marginalized communities.
- Support member organizations in building capacity and knowledge to effectively engage in people-centered advocacy efforts.





4. MOBILIZATION & PARTICIPATION

- Mobilize towards the Second World Summit for Social Development and Copenhagen Review at 30 years.
- Facilitate broad civil society and grassroots participation and gather input for the Summit's agenda.
- Ensure civil society and grassroots participation in the follow-up to the 2025 Summit and as we look towards 2030.

5. GRASSROOTS RECOGNITION

- Recognize the valuable contributions of grassroots organizations and center them in the work of the Committee.
- Provide platforms for grassroots leaders to share their experiences and solutions with decision-makers at the UN.
- Collaborate with global and grassroots partners to monitor the impact of social development policies on local populations and push for corrective measures when needed.

6. RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

- Cultivate relationships with Member States, UN DESA, UN agencies, and other partners.
- Partner with diverse stakeholders to advance issues of common concern.
- Foster collaboration among and across NGOs, including other NGO groups and Committees, to strengthen collective advocacy, amplify the voices of marginalized communities, and avoid duplication of work.





7. RESEARCH & POLICY DEVELOPMENT

- Facilitate the creation of civil society-led policy recommendations on social development issues being negotiated at the UN, with a focus on equity, inclusion, and poverty eradication.
- Collaborate with Member States, UN groups, and other stakeholders to provide input on UN resolutions and processes.
- Develop reports and briefings that assess progress and identify gaps in global and national social development policies, providing actionable recommendations to improve outcomes.

8. MONITORING & ACCOUNTABILITY

- Track and hold accountable the implementation of UN resolutions and commitments related to social development, ensuring they align with the needs and priorities of civil society and marginalized communities.
- Monitor and assess global social development trends to inform policy priorities and advocacy strategies.
- Advocate for and ensure transparent and inclusive processes within the UN and Member States.

9. DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT

- Track and hold accountable the implementation of UN resolutions and commitments related to social development, ensuring they align with the needs and priorities of civil society and marginalized communities.
- Monitor and assess global social development trends to inform policy priorities and advocacy strategies.
- Advocate for and ensure transparent and inclusive processes within the UN and Member States.

10. REGULAR MEETINGS

- Meet on the third Wednesday of every month at 11:00 a.m. ET in a hybrid format to organize advocacy around the annual UN Commission for Social Development, the second World Summit for Social Development, and other UN opportunities for engagement.

Subcommittees

NGO CSocD Subcommittees offer valuable opportunities for members to engage in the work of the Committee and amplify their voices on issues related to social development at the UN.



Advocacy

The Advocacy Subcommittee brings together members who are interested in reaching out to Member States to influence ongoing work on resolutions, especially during the Commission for Social Development (CSocD). Concretely, the advocacy subcommittee convenes monthly meetings to prepare draft statements on current events or in relation to the priority theme of the Commission, identifies emerging issues, and prepares talking points and position papers to be shared with the UN system and Member States during Mission Visits. In the last two years, the subcommittee also prepared draft resolutions to influence the outcome of the CSocD.



Civil Society Forum

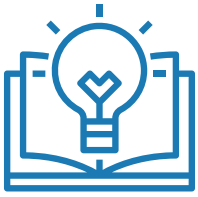
The Civil Society Forum subcommittee plans and implements the annual Civil Society Forum (CSF), a central part of the official program for the Commission for Social Development each year. The Forum serves as a key platform for amplifying civil society's advocacy efforts on the Priority Theme, and provides a space for grassroots voices to connect with Member States and other key stakeholders. Its structure changes year by year to reflect the Priority Theme and evolving modalities considerations, but consistently features a pre-session orientation, networking opportunities, panel discussions, and participation from Bureau members, UN DESA officials, and special guests such as Club de Madrid. Additionally, the NGO CSocD Executive Committee facilitates daily morning briefings during the session, offering NGOs insights into the negotiation process and updates on the Commission's progress toward the adoption of the final resolution. The work of the subcommittee is invaluable for fostering dialogue, enhancing understanding of UN processes, and ensuring civil society remains engaged and informed throughout the Commission.



Communications

The NGO Committee for Social Development uses digital communication platforms to amplify our message and advocacy efforts, improve real time information dissemination, and expand our reach. This includes updating our website, developing and sharing promotional materials, and maintaining our social media presence across a variety of platforms. NGO CSocD social media accounts are managed by current subcommittee and committee members, and views published reflect the Committee's position on topics/issues referenced.

Subcommittees (continued)



Education

The Education Subcommittee works to equip members with the essential knowledge and resources needed to conduct impactful work. By organizing education sessions led by multi-stakeholder experts on a variety of topics, the subcommittee provides key insights on global social development issues, UN processes and rhetoric, and advocacy strategies. This creates a space for members to reflect on the realities of the poorest and most marginalized communities our NGO Committee represents at the United Nations, and better understand the actions needed to address the root causes of their vulnerabilities worldwide. Education sessions are facilitated either by external guests or by members of the Executive Committee, and cover topics such as: child poverty, right to participation, human rights approach to poverty eradication, financing for development, etc.



Grassroots

The Grassroots Subcommittee aims to elevate the voices of those at the grassroots around the world into UN deliberations on matters important to social development. The subcommittee conducts surveys to gather data from projects and programs in local communities and rural areas in diverse countries. Usually, the surveys focus on themes set for the sessions of the UN Commission for Social Development. The data is shared with member states, the UN Secretariat and other NGOs through published reports and sponsored side events at UN meetings. The subcommittee also plays a vital role in informing those at the grassroots level about key developments and discussions happening at the United Nations, ensuring they have the opportunity to engage with global processes that directly impact their lives.



World Social Summit

The World Social Summit Subcommittee is dedicated to preparing for the 2025 World Social Summit, as proposed by the UN Secretary-General in the Our Common Agenda report (2021) and now confirmed to take place from November 4-6, 2025 in Qatar. The subcommittee collaborates closely with the NGO CSocD Executive Committee and broader membership to devise a strategic plan towards the Summit. This includes identifying emerging issues, developing position papers, collecting resources, and convening spaces to inform the negotiations before, during, and after the Summit. The subcommittee also identifies partners and has regular meetings with key stakeholders, including the Co-Facilitators, to ensure that civil society plays a vital role in shaping the Summit's outcomes and future global social development agendas.

Advocacy Priorities



Placing people at the center of development to eradicate poverty, achieve full employment and decent work for all, and foster social inclusion.

The NGO CSocD develops specific advocacy priorities, talking points, policy recommendations etc. in-line with the events, deliberations, and priority themes taking place at the UN. The following are the overarching pillars which define and drive our advocacy efforts more broadly.

1. Social Justice

Promoting Inclusive and Transformative Social Policies

- Investing in social protections, education, peace-building initiatives, and policy infrastructures to eradicate poverty and reduce longstanding inequalities and injustices.
- Ensuring the involvement of marginalized groups, such as women and girls, Indigenous and rural communities, youth, people with disabilities, migrants, refugees, IDPs, older persons, and other underrepresented groups in the development and implementation of social protection policies and programs.
- Promoting full, safe, productive employment and decent work for all, including those in vulnerable, informal, and care sectors who have traditionally been excluded from policies, formal labor markets, and the global economy.

2. Economic Justice

Restructuring Global Financial Systems

- Contributing to the UN Secretary-General's call for a renewed social contract by engaging in the World Social Summit in 2025 to accelerate equitable development and reform international financial architecture, reinvigorating multilateralism.
- Reforming global financial structures and reaffirming commitments to address international economic inequalities based on solidarity.
- Recognizing the value of a degrowth economy, highlighting the better measures of social progress than the current dominant indicator, Gross Domestic Product (ending food waste, scaling down ecologically destructive industries, decommodifying public goods and expanding public services, etc.)

Advocacy Priorities (continued)

3. Environmental Justice

Protecting Human Rights and the Environment

- Upholding and renewing the principles of the Copenhagen Declaration for Sustainable Development and its Program of Action, updating the text to include more 'People and Planet'-centered language on natural disasters and environmental/climate concerns.
- Ensuring equal access to a healthy, safe, and sustainable environment and fair protection from environmental hazards and risks.
- Advancing just transitions, ensuring that the shift to a green economy is inclusive and fair, providing social protections and opportunities for marginalized populations as they adapt to new realities and challenges.

4. Political Justice

Ensuring Inclusive Governance and Participation

- Reforming the Commission for Social Development's structure, negotiations, and methods of work to be more inclusive of grassroots concerns and to better serve Member States and other stakeholders.
- Promoting inclusive and representative decision-making at all levels, ensuring marginalized communities have a voice in governance and policy processes.
- Encouraging transparency and accountability in government institutions to foster trust and equitable governance.
- Supporting efforts to dismantle barriers to political participation, such as voter suppression, discrimination, and unequal access to information or resources.





Strategic **TIMELINE**

**MAY 9-11,
2024**

2024 UN Civil Society Conference

The 69th Session of the UN CSC “in support of the Summit of the Future,” held at the United Nations Office at Nairobi.

**SEPT 22-23,
2024**

Summit of the Future

“Multilateral solutions for a better tomorrow.” Resulted in a Pact for the Future, Global Digital Compact, and Declaration on Future Generations.

**FEB 10-14,
2025**

CSocD63 & Civil Society Forum

Priority theme: “Strengthening solidarity, social inclusion and social cohesion...” and in preparation for the Second World Social Summit.

**MARCH 10 - 21,
2025**

CSW69 & Beijing+30

Review and appraisal of the implementation of the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 30 years after its adoption,

**JUN 30 - JUL 3,
2025**

FfD4

The 4th International Conference on Financing for Development to support reform of the international financial architecture, held in Seville, Spain.

**JULY 14 - 18,
2025**

High-Level Political Forum 2025

Priority theme: “Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda.” SDGs under review: 3, 5, 8, 14, 17.

**SUMMER
2025**

Expert Group Meeting

To inform the 64th Session of the Commission for Social Development and/or the Second World Summit for Social Development.

NOV 4-6,
2025

Second World Summit for Social Development



The Second World Summit for Social Development was a key recommendation in the 2021 Our Common Agenda (OCA) report to drive progress forward, with the UN Secretary-General António Guterres stating that “now is the time to renew the social contract between Governments and their societies, so as to rebuild trust and embrace a comprehensive vision of human rights... It should include updated governance arrangements to deliver better public goods and usher in a new era of universal social protection” (OCA 4). The outcome of the Summit will be an update of the 1995 Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and a renewal to its ten Commitments.

Taking place from November 4-6, 2025 in Qatar, the Second World Summit for Social Development offers a pivotal opportunity to address gaps in implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and the SDGs and place people at the center of global policy-making. In the OCA report, the SG recommended the following issues to be considered during the second World Social Summit: universal social protection floors, universal health coverage, adequate housing, education for all, and decent work.

Civil society organizations play an indispensable role in ensuring health, education, employment, social protection, inclusion, and countless other aspects of social development. The NGO Committee for Social Development therefore pledges its full assistance and support in the task of preparing for, convening, and following up after the Second World Social Summit.

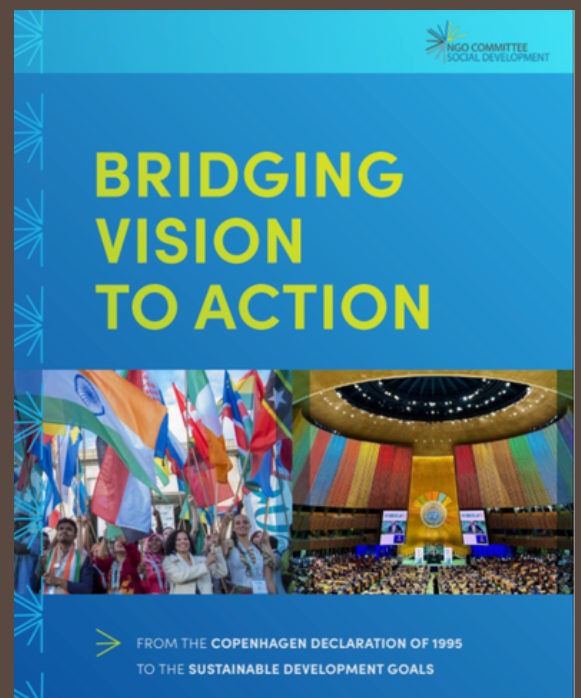
Partners

At the heart of this strategic plan is our commitment to collaboration. We know that working together is the only way to build resilient communities and societies. We are grateful to our members, partners, networks, and supporters for their dedication and support. Together, we are confident that the initiatives laid out in this strategic plan will further strengthen our advocacy and drive transformative change. Our partners include:

- United Nations Member States
- UN Economic and Social Council
- UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs
- NGO Major Groups
- NGO Committees/Working Groups
- Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES)
- Club de Madrid
- Grassroots and Community-Based Organizations
- Academia and Think Tanks
- Private Sector
- Those with Lived Experience

RECENT PUBLICATION

From 2023-2024, the NGO Committee for Social Development established a Copenhagen Declaration and SDGs Review Taskforce to undertake a comprehensive review of the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration, 30 years after its adoption. The publication presents the taskforce findings, perspectives, and recommendations to further advance the goals and commitments outlined in the Declaration. It offers valuable insights into progress, identifies challenges, and proposes actionable recommendations for a more inclusive, sustainable, and equitable future. Read more at our website www.ngosocdev.org.



Join Us

The NGO Committee for Social Development is actively seeking new members and collaborative partnerships with diverse stakeholders.

We are committed to fostering an inclusive, multi-sectoral approach to addressing global social challenges, and we continuously welcome new perspectives to strengthen our collective advocacy for a more equitable and sustainable future.



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More Information