

BRIDGING VISION TO ACTION



FROM THE **COPENHAGEN DECLARATION OF 1995**
TO THE **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**



The Copenhagen and SDGs Review Taskforce has undertaken a comprehensive review of the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration, 30 years after its adoption.



This paper presents its findings, perspectives, and recommendations to advance further 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.

As the Copenhagen Declaration 1995 approaches its 30th anniversary in 2025, it is an auspicious time to mark this event as a turning point in development thinking with its unprecedented focus on eradicating poverty, providing full employment, and promoting social integration. After 30 years, the 10 Commitments of the Copenhagen Declaration remain relevant as they found expression now in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) stated as achievable targets.

Global efforts to advance social development at all fronts have faced daunting challenges, creating opportunities for all sectors to work together to bring about better lives for all. The role of the NGO-CSO sector in advancing social development ideals and values has been recognized in the international development community. In this light, the NGO Committee for Social Development (NGO CSocD) ventured into this task of taking a critical look at the significant milestones in the global effort to institutionalize social systems and structures that will protect and advance the well-being of populations equitably.

This review coincides with the final phase of implementing the 2030 Agenda, offering an opportunity to scrutinize the effectiveness of the 17 SDGs and their impact. Analyzing the international community's performance will help us prepare for future global challenges. The World We Want (WWW) isn't just about low unemployment and high GDP; it also encompasses equal access to healthcare, lifelong education, respect for human rights and dignity, and social harmony. This assessment will concentrate on the practical measures taken to transform this vision into a social, economic, environmental, and political reality. Moreover, the learnings from the past three decades of the Copenhagen Declaration will help improve and reinforce the succeeding set of worldwide development objectives after 2030.



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of the Copenhagen Declaration will help improve and reinforce the succeeding set of worldwide development objectives after 2030.”

FOREWORD

From the 2022-2024 Chair of the NGO CSocD



Jean Quinn, DW

On behalf of the NGO Committee for Social Development, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Copenhagen SDG Review Taskforce on Reviewing Progress on Implementing the 1995 Copenhagen Declaration and the Sustainable Development Goals. The Taskforce undertook a comprehensive review of the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration 30 years after its adoption. This publication presents its findings, perspectives, and recommendations to advance further the goals and commitments outlined in the Declaration. It offers valuable insights into progress, identifies challenges, and proposes recommendations for a more inclusive, sustainable, and equitable future.

“We share the conviction that social development and social justice are indispensable for the achievement and maintenance of peace and security within and among our nations.”

Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development - A/CONF.166/9 Chapter I, Annex I #5

The World Summit for Social Development was at the time the largest gathering ever of world leaders. It took place in March 1995 in Copenhagen and paved the way for a new consensus on the need to put people at the center of development, end poverty through decisive national actions and international cooperation, and promote the goal full employment enabling all men and women to attain secure and sustainable livelihoods through freely chosen productive employment and work.

For those who participated in the first World Summit for Social Development in 1995, it was a high point in their activism because it brought macro policies together with social development for the first time. While the Millennium Development Goals and the Sustainable Development Goal have continued to

advance this agenda, as we approach the 30th anniversary of this seminal document and the midpoint of Agenda 2030, the Ten Commitments in the Copenhagen Declaration remain aspirational. According to the 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Report, “the impacts of the climate crisis, the war in Ukraine, a weak global economy, and the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have revealed weaknesses and hindered progress. The report further warns that while lack of progress is universal, it is the world’s poorest and most vulnerable who are experiencing the worst effects of these unprecedented global challenges.” Today there is a need for new education around the political economy of inequality and social development.

The NGO Committee for Social Development recommends:

- Holding a World Social Summit in 2025, on the 30th anniversary of the Copenhagen Declaration.
- Engaging a new generation of social development advocates; and
- Convening inter-related discussion of macro policy, social development, and climate.

As advocates for people who suffer poverty, underemployment, a lack of education, and exclusion, we renew our commitment to achieving the ten commitments of the Copenhagen Declaration and seek to engage others in moving our world toward social justice, economic justice, legal justice, and environmental justice. Join us.

With hope and determination,

Jean Quinn, UNANIMA International
Chair, NGO Committee for Social Development 2022-2024

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Review of Commitments Progress and Specific Recommendations



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Save Water

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We commit ourselves to creating an economic, political, social, cultural, and legal environment that will enable people to achieve social development.

Copenhagen Declaration Commitment 1 is taken up by some SDGs, most prominently:



SDG-1
End poverty in all its forms everywhere



SDG-3
Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages



SDG-4
Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all



SDG-16
Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels

On Democracy

While the number of democratically elected governments worldwide has generally increased since the adoption of the Copenhagen Declaration, many countries have seen a regression in democracy in recent years. Countries with established democratic traditions have also seen their democratic institutions challenged. As of 2023, the quality and stability of democracies remain problematic. The systemic corruption and lack of transparency at all levels of government further looms the delivery of service for social development. Civil society organizations advocating for justice and rights to basic human needs are threatened, harassed, silenced, or killed. We recommend Member States invest in civic education, increase citizen participation through direct democracy mechanisms at local, regional, and national/federal levels, introduce a participatory budget, and engage children and youth through citizen assemblies and ensure protection and safety of human rights advocates.

On Education

Compared to 1995, there has been significant global progress in increasing access to education, with higher enrollment rates at all levels and strides toward gender parity. In some countries, women now outnumber men in university enrollment. Efforts to achieve universal primary education have advanced, and expanded opportunities in secondary and tertiary education opportunities have emerged. Challenges remain in bridging education gaps, particularly in disadvantaged regions, and the COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the need for resilient education systems. Therefore, we recommend that states invest in digital infrastructure, allocate a larger share of their national budgets to quality education, and target marginalized populations. We also recommend fostering international cooperation for educational exchanges, increasing educational outcomes, and advancing mutual understanding between different cultures and countries.

On Healthcare

Access to Health Services is fundamental in creating an enabling economic environment. From 1995 to 2023, significant progress was made in improving healthcare access and reducing child and maternal mortality. However, the divide remains between rich and poor countries and between rich

and poor within those countries. We recommend increasing healthcare investment and strengthening health systems, focusing on preventive care and global partnerships, including easing free vaccination access in low-income countries.

On Human Rights

On human rights and fundamental freedoms, while there is more awareness and a significant number of countries have accessed regional human rights mechanisms, challenges persist in some regions. Political instability, conflicts, cultural barriers and human rights abuses continue to be issues in various parts of the world. We recommend strengthening these regional mechanisms, prioritizing conflict resolution, and enhancing international cooperation. A proactive approach from member governments where all citizens will internalize respect for human rights could be a solution.

The Impact of Crises

The major economic crises, like the Asian crisis in the 1990s and the 2008 financial crisis, have

had huge detrimental effects on economies and social well-being in affected countries and beyond. Recovery from such crises slowed down the realization of Copenhagen Commitments. We recommend prioritizing crisis preparedness, economic diversification, global financial regulation, social protection, and long-term resilience building.

Agenda 2030

Since 1995, the global conversation on sustainable development has gained significant ground thanks to increased global awareness, international cooperation, the pressure for renewable energy adoption, corporate sustainability, circular economy principles, women and youth-led climate activism, reflecting a growing commitment to addressing environmental sustainability and climate change alongside economic and social development. We recommend encouraging and incentivizing renewable energy transition and corporate sustainability practices, transiting into a circular economy, and actively engaging with and supporting women and youth-led climate initiatives.





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We commit ourselves to the goal of eradicating poverty in the world through decisive national actions and international cooperation as an ethical, social, political, and economic imperative of humankind.

On Poverty Eradication

The COVID-19 pandemic represents a pivotal moment in the global fight against poverty, abruptly stopping three decades of progress in reducing worldwide poverty and inequality. Complicating matters further are conflicts like the war in Ukraine, regional disputes, and the impacts of climate change. The slow and uneven pace of poverty reduction efforts could result in hundreds of millions of people living in extreme poverty by 2030. If current trends persist, only a third of countries are expected to achieve a 50% reduction in national poverty rates by 2030. Even amidst these overlapping crises, investments in social protection programs are insufficient.

The number of individuals experiencing hunger and food insecurity has been steadily increasing since 2015, with factors such as the pandemic, conflicts, climate change, and growing economic disparities exacerbating this problem. Under the current trajectory, it is projected that 575 million people will remain in extreme poverty by 2030, and only around one-third of countries will meet the goal of reducing national poverty levels by half. Alarmingly, the world is experiencing hunger levels not seen since 2005, and food prices are higher in more countries compared to the period of 2015 to 2019.

This assessment underscores the need for ambitious national targets to eliminate poverty and decrease inequality. Priority areas for action include expanding social protection and creating quality employment opportunities, addressing educational crises, combating gender disparities, mitigating climate-related disasters, and enhancing digital inclusion. To facilitate these changes, it is imperative to reinforce national institutions, foster greater accountability, establish effective regulatory frameworks, and enhance digital infrastructure and data capabilities.

Governments should proactively implement comprehensive and targeted policies and initiatives to eradicate poverty, reduce inequality, and address environmental concerns. The focus should be on advancing the rights of women and girls and empowering the most vulnerable populations. Recommendations include fortifying social protection, promoting inclusive economic growth, and executing targeted poverty alleviation programs. Efforts should also prioritize the empowerment of marginalized communities, ensuring access to essential services and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Copenhagen Declaration Commitment 2 is taken up by the following SDGs:



SDG-1

End poverty in all its forms everywhere



SDG-2

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture





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We commit ourselves to promoting the goal of full employment as a basic priority of our economic and social policies and to enabling all men and women to attain secure and sustainable livelihoods through freely chosen productive employment and work.

On Promoting Full Employment

The progress in employment over the last 30 years has been mixed, marked by controversies and setbacks, despite some improvements compared to the situation in 1995. While significant progress has been achieved in the access of women to the labor markets, significant obstacles still remain in many parts of the world. While more and more countries have acceded to ILO conventions, and many governments have undertaken labor market reforms aimed at increasing flexibility, reducing unemployment, and improving job creation, the overall results are rather concerning.

From 1995 to 2023, the progress on full employment has faced a myriad of challenges, such as the “working poor,” the growing prevalence of the “internship economy,” the rise of gig work or the “Uberization” of employment, and the widespread use of zero-hour contracts. Additionally, the rapid advancement of new technology has presented challenges by potentially displacing jobs and requiring workers to adapt to evolving employment conditions. We recommend states consider different proposals of universal basic and just income seriously, don’t use internships to cut costs but provide equal access to all without distinction, and encourage work agreements of undetermined length, among others. We recommend enhancing labor market policies, promoting decent and safe work conditions, job security, and investing in skills development. Emphasis should be placed on reducing informal employment, addressing gender disparities, fostering entrepreneurship and innovation, and maintaining freedom to associate and organize (ILO Convention 87).



“While more and more countries have acceded to ILO conventions, and many governments have undertaken labor market reforms aimed at increasing flexibility, reducing unemployment, and improving job creation, the overall results are rather concerning.”

Copenhagen Declaration Commitment 3 is taken up by the following SDG, most prominently:



SDG-8

Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all



SDG-9

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation



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We commit ourselves to promoting social integration by fostering societies that are stable, safe, and just and that are based on the promotion and protection of all human rights, as well as on non-discrimination, tolerance, respect for diversity, equality of opportunity, solidarity, security, and participation of all people, including disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and persons.

On Social Integration

The economic landscape of many countries showed a positive trend before COVID-19, with the incomes of the poorest 40 percent of the population growing faster than the national average. Unfortunately, the pandemic has disrupted this progress, raising concerns about within-country inequality. Additionally, it has led to the largest increase in between-country inequality in three decades. Discrimination affects one in six individuals globally, with women, indigenous people, and people with disabilities facing disproportionate hardships.

In 2022, a staggering 34.6 million people became refugees, marking a historical high. This year has also been deadly for migrants, with approximately 7,000 recorded deaths worldwide. Addressing both within-country and between-country inequality calls for fair resource allocation, investments in education and skills development, the implementation of social protection measures, anti-discrimination efforts, support for marginalized groups, and international cooperation to promote equitable trade and financial systems.

Global peace and the achievement of Goal 16 face obstacles due to ongoing violent conflicts. Alarming, 2022 witnessed a more than 50 percent surge in conflict-related civilian deaths, mainly attributed to the war in Ukraine. By the end of 2022, a staggering 108.4 million people were forcibly displaced worldwide, representing a 19 million increase from the previous year and marking a two-and-a-half-fold increase over the past decade. In 2021, intentional homicides reached their highest level in two decades.

Structural injustices, inequalities, and emerging human rights challenges are obstructing the pursuit of peaceful and inclusive societies. To attain Goal 16 by 2030, we must take action to rebuild trust and enhance the capacity of institutions to ensure justice for all and facilitate peaceful transitions to sustainable development. This necessitates the promotion of inclusive societies, the fostering of social cohesion, and the combatting of all forms of discrimination. Priority strategies should include improving access to education, healthcare, and social protection while empowering vulnerable groups such as women, youth, persons with disabilities, people of color, and indigenous communities.

Copenhagen Declaration Commitment 4 is taken up by the following SDGs:



SDG-10

Reduce inequality within and among countries. Empower and promote the social, economic, and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, or economic or other status



SDG-16

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels



We commit ourselves to promoting full respect for human dignity and to achieving equality and equity between women and men, and to recognizing and enhancing the participation and leadership roles of women in political, civil, economic, social, and cultural life and in development.

On Achieving Equality and Equity Between Women and Men

In general, there is growing awareness of the challenges faced by women, adolescents, and girls, and various countries have implemented preventive and protective measures from a gender perspective at both local and national levels. Despite the adoption of gender mainstreaming policies in many governments, substantial progress has been sluggish and inconsistent, particularly in the realm of poverty alleviation. The difficulties women encounter have been exacerbated by the global economic crises, climate challenges, economic recession, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Influence of Commitments and Goals

The commitments outlined in the Copenhagen Declaration have had a direct impact on the formulation of the Millennium Development Goals and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These influences were evident in the evaluation process known as “Implementation and Follow-up of the Social Summit Agreements - Post Geneva 2000.” Geneva 2000 focused on eradicating poverty, promoting full employment, and combating social marginalization, with a strong emphasis on mainstreaming gender perspectives in all activities.

Gender Equality Targets

The Geneva 2000 Declaration reaffirmed the importance of incorporating a gender perspective into all initiatives and commitments made at the Social Summit, including the use of affirmative action programs. It established fifteen specific targets related to gender equality, including access to education and literacy for adult women and men. These targets can be seen as integrated into the SDG 5 Goals, which seek to increase women’s participation in institutional government bodies and workplaces while narrowing gender-based wage gaps.



Copenhagen Declaration Commitment 5 is taken up by the following SDGs:



SDG-5
Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



SDG-10
Reduce inequality within and among countries



Persistent Challenges in Gender Equality

Efforts to eliminate violence against women in family, public, and institutional settings, while widely publicized, have not consistently produced the expected results. Gender-based violence remains alarmingly high in some countries. Additionally, promoting work-life balance and shared responsibilities in domestic and childcare tasks between men and women has proven challenging to implement effectively.

The Ongoing Pursuit of Gender Equality

The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals recognize that gender equality is not only a fundamental right but also a crucial driver for global transformation towards peace, sustainable prosperity, and comprehensive development. While progress has been made in certain regions, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the persistence of gender disparities, even in regions with

established gender-related policies. Achieving gender equality remains a central prerequisite for realizing the UN Sustainable Development Goals. SDG 5 emphasizes ending gender discrimination, violence, and harmful practices, promoting equal representation, ensuring access to reproductive health, and providing equitable access to technology and economic resources, underlining the significance of gender equality for sustainable development.

Unpaid Domestic and Care Work

The fundamental driver of gender inequalities lies in the unequal distribution of unpaid domestic and care work, a fact that the COVID-19 pandemic has prominently emphasized. Without proper recognition, support, and equitable distribution of this work, gender inequality will not advance any further. This issue must be addressed not only in terms of balancing responsibilities between men and women but also across society, with each stakeholder sharing the responsibility and associated costs.



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We commit ourselves to promoting and attaining the goals of universal and equitable access to quality education, the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and the access of all to primary health care, making particular efforts to rectify inequalities relating to social conditions and without distinction as to race, national origin, gender, age or disability; respecting and promoting our common and particular cultures; striving to strengthen the role of culture in development; preserving the essential bases of people-centered sustainable development; and contributing to the full development of human resources and to social development. These activities aim to eradicate poverty, promote full and productive employment, and foster social integration.



“The goals, actions, vision, principles, and objectives approved at the World Summit for Social Development are still relevant in this post-COVID-19 time.”

A Commitment to Universal Access

The Copenhagen Declaration places universal, equitable access to education and health care within the same commitment. The goals, actions, vision, principles, and objectives approved at the World Summit for Social Development are still relevant in this post-COVID-19 time. However, the COVID-19 pandemic revealed significant setbacks in achieving these objectives, showcasing disparities in their implementation.

Latin America and the Caribbean: An Educational Crisis

In the case of Latin America and the Caribbean, the pandemic triggered the most severe educational crisis in a century. According to UNESCO’s 2022 report, 170 million children and adolescents were affected by the massive suspension of classes. Even though the pandemic has subsided, its impacts persist, affecting educational processes, exclusion, dropout rates, and the socio-emotional well-being of students and teachers.

Connectivity and Inequality in Education

Social distancing and quarantine shifted education to homes, highlighting the critical need for connectivity to access education during the pandemic. This exacerbated inequalities, as many parents faced unemployment, underemployment, and vulnerable jobs while lacking social protection. For many families, children’s education serves as the focal point of family and social life, making these disparities even more pronounced.

Education’s Role in Sustainable Development

Education has been recognized as vital for sustainable development since the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro. The Copenhagen Declaration outlined concrete actions to eradicate poverty and promote integral human development through quality education. Education is a key component of the sustainable development agenda, but gender disparities in primary, secondary, and higher education persist as an unmet goal.



Copenhagen Declaration Commitment 6 is taken up by the following SDGs:



SDG-3
Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages



SDG-4
Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all



SDG-6
Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all



SDG-10
Reduce inequality within and among countries



SDG-11
Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable



SDG-12
Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Health Challenges and Sustainable Development

The Copenhagen Declaration's focus on health falls short in terms of concrete activities, with SDG 3, "Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being at all ages," addressing universal access and preventable diseases. The COVID-19 pandemic exposed the unpreparedness of health systems worldwide and the vulnerability of the impoverished. Achieving SDG 3 remains a significant challenge, with the world grappling with the pandemic's aftermath.

In light of these challenges, a report highlights the impact of the pandemic on the public health and education sectors in the world's least developed countries, such as Nepal. The report explores factors hindering sustainable development, including the privatization of health and education, government accountability issues, and inadequately functioning international support mechanisms. Achieving sustainable recovery in a post-pandemic era requires a more equitable global partnership, as emphasized in SDG 17 of the 2030 Agenda.



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We commit ourselves to accelerating the economic, social, and human resource development of Africa and the least developed countries.

In contrast to the Copenhagen Declaration, where Commitment 7 specifically addressed Africa and the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), the SDGs incorporate Africa and LDCs into the four mentioned Goals.

Poverty and Hunger

If current trajectories persist, it is anticipated that roughly 7 percent of the global population, amounting to approximately 575 million individuals, will remain entrenched in extreme poverty by the year 2030. A significant majority of these impoverished individuals will be concentrated in sub-Saharan Africa. This sobering projection reflects a meager reduction in poverty, falling short of 30 percent compared to the statistics recorded in 2015. Moreover, while Africa faces a higher proportion of its population battling hunger compared to other regions, it is essential to note that Asia is home to the majority of people grappling with hunger. The forecast for 2030 suggests that over 600 million people worldwide will continue to grapple with food insecurity, underscoring the monumental challenge of realizing the zero hunger target.

Food Price Challenges

In the year 2021, both sub-Saharan Africa and the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) witnessed an increase in the proportion of countries grappling with high food prices. Sub-Saharan Africa reported a figure of 40.9 percent, while LDCs had 34.1 percent experiencing this issue. These regions faced additional hurdles stemming from deteriorating security conditions, macroeconomic hardships, and a heavy reliance on imported food and agricultural inputs.

Maternal Health

Disturbingly, in 2020, approximately 70 percent of maternal deaths occurred in sub-Saharan Africa, followed by Central and Southern Asia at nearly 17 percent. Alarming statistics revealed that fifteen-year-old girls in sub-Saharan Africa faced the highest lifetime risk, standing at 1 in 40, a staggering 400 times higher than their counterparts in Australia and New Zealand. Despite some progress, LDCs and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) exhibited significant drops in maternal mortality rates between 2016 and 2020, with an average annual reduction rate of 2.8 percent and 3.0 percent, respectively. In Small Island Developing States (SIDS), however, the annual reduction rate was notably lower, at just 1.2 percent.

Copenhagen Declaration Commitment 7 is taken up by the following SDGs:



SDG-4
Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all



SDG-8
Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all



SDG-9
Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation



SDG-10
Reduce inequality within and among countries

Access to Healthcare

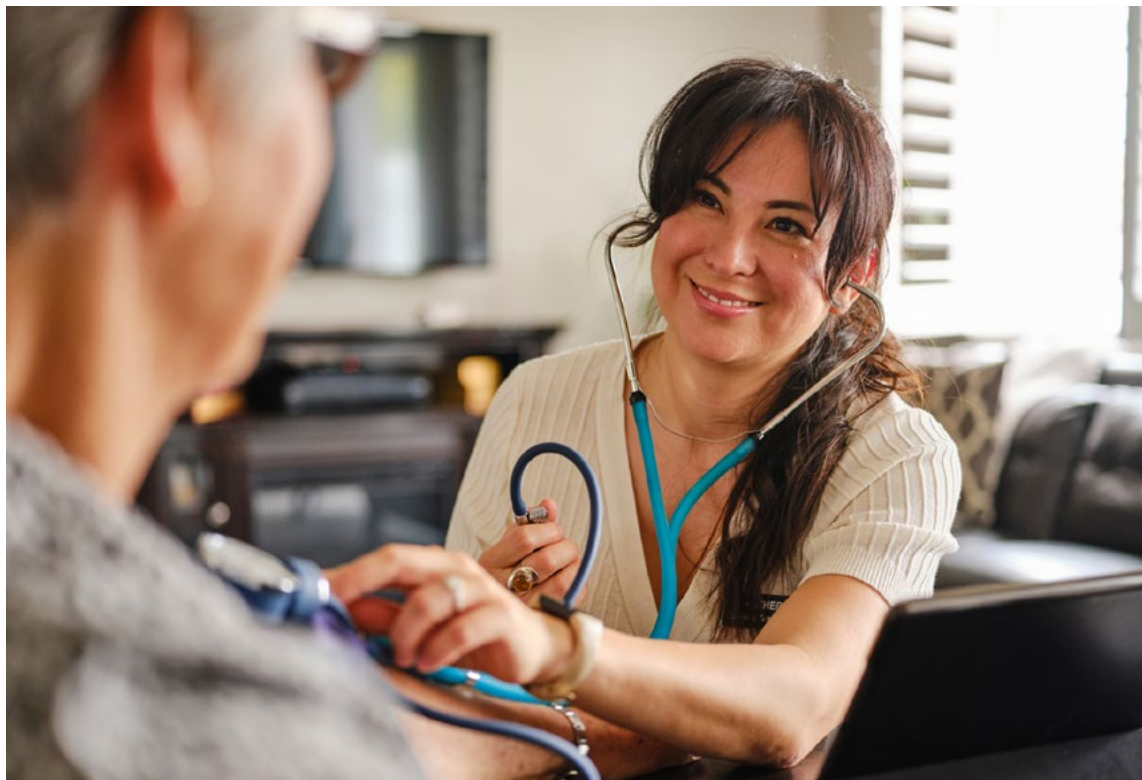
The global coverage of assisted childbirth by skilled health personnel has witnessed an increase from 81 percent to 86 percent between 2015 and 2022. Nevertheless, many countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia, continue to face limited access to healthcare services, where mortality rates remain highest. Notably, sub-Saharan Africa has experienced the most rapid growth in this regard, surging from 59 percent to 70 percent between 2015 and 2022.



Education and Completion Rates

Primary education completion rates across most regions stand at 90 percent or higher, except for sub-Saharan Africa, where less than two-thirds of children successfully complete primary school. In impoverished regions, subpar learning outcomes result in high drop-out rates and delayed completion. Even though 80 percent of primary-aged children in sub-Saharan Africa are enrolled in school, only 62 percent manage to graduate on time. Various economic burdens, such as expenses for books and uniforms and opportunity costs, also contribute to incomplete education.

“Many countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia, continue to face limited access to healthcare services, where mortality rates remain highest.”





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We commit ourselves to ensuring that when structural adjustment programs are agreed to, they include social development goals, in particular, eradicating poverty, promoting full and productive employment, and enhancing social integration.

Copenhagen Declaration Commitment 8 is taken up by the following SDGs:



SDG-1

End poverty in all its forms everywhere



SDG-8

Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all



SDG-11

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable



SDG-16

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels



SDG-17

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

Structural adjustments frequently encompass a series of economic measures, such as curtailing government expenditures and embracing free trade, among other actions.

International Financial Architecture

Developed countries have rebounded from the pandemic by adopting expansionary fiscal and monetary policies while developing countries face challenges due to currency risks and insufficient Official Development Assistance. Financial markets often impose exorbitant interest rates on developing nations. To address these issues, Member States should consider deep reforms to the international financial architecture, giving developing countries a greater voice and role in international financial institutions.

Innovative Data Collection

Several countries are embracing innovative approaches to data collection for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Tanzania prioritizes strengthening administrative data sources, Colombia uses satellite imagery, Kenya incorporates citizen-generated data, and Ghana repurposes data from civil society organizations. These initiatives showcase the importance of data in shaping policies and promoting inclusive, sustainable development.

Leveraging Data for Policy

Data plays a critical role in informing policies and driving positive change. Examples include Chile using integrated data to allocate funds, Moldova using data from household surveys to provide credit during an energy crisis, and The Gambia's SDG 16 survey leading to improved public service delivery. Citizen-generated data also contributes to advancing Goal 16 and fostering inclusive societies.

Research and Development Investment

To foster post-pandemic recovery and sustainable development, there's a need for strong policies promoting research and development (R&D) investment, especially in developing economies. Expanding the number of researchers and supporting R&D initiatives is crucial for progress toward Goal 11, focusing on inclusive, resilient, and sustainable urban development.

Responsible Consumption and Production

Responsible consumption and production are vital for post-pandemic recovery and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Implementing policies that support sustainable practices and decouple economic growth from resource use is essential for long-term sustainability.

Addressing Food Loss and Waste

Food loss and waste are global concerns. Household food waste per capita remains consistent across regions, emphasizing the need for action worldwide. Reducing food loss and waste requires dedicated policies informed by data, investments in technology and infrastructure, educational efforts, and robust monitoring.

Integrating Sustainable Development Goals

Since 2015, governments have responded to the SDGs in various ways, but their nationalization has not yet had the necessary impact. The SDGs should go beyond communication and become a guiding force that shapes national policies, budgets, institutions, and long-term development planning, involving presidents, prime ministers, parliaments, and the private sector.



“The SDGs should go beyond communication

and become a guiding force that shapes national policies, budgets, institutions, and long-term development planning.”





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We commit ourselves to increasing significantly and/or utilizing more efficiently the resources allocated to social development in order to achieve the goals of the Summit through national action and regional and international cooperation.

Challenges in Implementing the Declaration

Despite the noble goals outlined in the declaration, there has been significant resistance from various quarters, particularly in the allocation of resources for social development. This resistance poses a substantial obstacle to achieving the stated objectives. One key challenge lies in the limited political will of certain states to make a stronger commitment to implementing the Declaration and its associated Programme of Action. This reluctance hampers progress toward the goals set forth in the declaration.

Resource Allocation and Societal Needs

Another critical challenge pertains to the inadequate and uneven distribution of financial resources, both domestically and internationally, to address the pressing needs and priorities of social development. This financial shortfall complicates efforts to advance the principles and commitments articulated in the declaration. Additionally, the persistence of poverty, unemployment, social exclusion, inequality, discrimination, violence, and conflict worldwide further undermines social development and human rights, emphasizing the urgency of effective resource allocation.

Emerging Issues and Coordination

Various global factors such as globalization, environmental degradation, climate change, demographic changes, migration, health pandemics, and other emerging issues significantly influence social development. These multifaceted challenges require coordinated and cooperative efforts among various stakeholders, including governments, civil society, international organizations, and the private sector. Unfortunately, the limitation of proper coordination and cooperation among these actors impedes the pursuit of social development goals and hinders the ability to address these complex issues effectively.

Mobilizing Financial Resources for Social Development and Justice

Efforts must be redoubled to increase the mobilization and allocation of essential financial resources, both from the public and private sectors, at both national and international levels. This is crucial in the pursuit of social development and the advancement of social justice. Adequate financial backing is indispensable to realize these noble goals effectively.



“These policies should encourage broad-based, sustained economic growth, generate employment opportunities, and reduce poverty.”

Copenhagen Declaration Commitment 9 is taken up by the following SDG:



SDG-17

SDG-17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development



economic growth, generate employment opportunities, and reduce poverty. To address social development needs comprehensively, it is crucial to promote impartial and equitable income distribution, along with enhanced access to resources through measures such as public sector expenditure reforms, tax reform, social security systems, safety nets, and other mechanisms. This multifaceted approach ensures that social development benefits reach all segments of society.

Strengthening International Cooperation for Resource Enhancement

It is imperative to foster international cooperation founded on solidarity and partnerships with all relevant stakeholders. This collaborative approach aims to boost the availability and effectiveness of resources dedicated to social development. By working together, nations can achieve a more impactful and far-reaching contribution to the welfare of their societies.

Sound Macroeconomic Policies and Equitable Resource Distribution

The implementation of stable and sound macroeconomic policies is essential. These policies should encourage broad-based, sustained

Supporting Developing Countries and Official Development Assistance

Supporting the endeavors of developing nations, especially the least developed countries, is of paramount importance. This support includes helping them mobilize domestic resources for social development. Achieving this goal requires international cooperation that enhances their productive capacities, improves market access, and provides external financing. Moreover, committing to fulfilling the agreed target of dedicating 0.7 percent of the gross national product for official development assistance is essential as soon as possible. This should go hand in hand with an increase in funding for social development programs commensurate with the magnitude of activities required to meet the objectives and commitments set forth by the Summit.



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We commit ourselves to an improved and strengthened framework for international, regional, and subregional cooperation for social development in a spirit of partnership through the United Nations and other multilateral institutions.



“The declaration highlights the necessity of fostering effective dialogue and partnerships among all stakeholders, including governments, civil society, the private sector, academia, and the media.”

Copenhagen Declaration Commitment 10 is taken up by the following SDG:



SDG-17
SDG-17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

The Copenhagen Declaration recognizes several key challenges in strengthening cooperation for social development through the UN. These encompass the need for coherence and effectiveness within the UN system, resource mobilization, inclusivity, accountability in decision-making processes, and robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to gauge progress and impact effectively.

Ensuring Coherence and Effectiveness

One of the foremost challenges addressed in the Copenhagen Declaration is the imperative to ensure the United Nations system operates with a high degree of coherence, coordination, and effectiveness. This means aligning the efforts of various UN entities to support the implementation of the Declaration and its accompanying Programme of Action. By streamlining and harmonizing the UN’s actions, it becomes possible to maximize the impact of social development initiatives on a global scale.

Resource Mobilization and Allocation

Another critical challenge emphasized in the Copenhagen Declaration involves the mobilization of sufficient and predictable resources for social development. This challenge extends both within and outside the UN system. It underscores the necessity of securing the financial and material support needed to drive social development efforts. This support must come from traditional UN sources and be drawn from external stakeholders committed to advancing social development goals.

Inclusivity, Accountability, and Evaluation

The Copenhagen Declaration acknowledges the need to enhance the participation and representation of developing countries and economies in transition within the UN’s decision-making and norm-setting processes. This imperative emphasizes the importance of equitable representation and inclusivity, ensuring that the voices of those directly affected by social development issues are heard. Furthermore, the Declaration highlights the necessity of fostering effective dialogue and partnerships among all stakeholders, including governments, civil society, the private sector, academia, and the media. Lastly, it underscores the importance of harmonizing, monitoring, and evaluating the progress and impact of social development policies and programs at various levels, from local communities to the global arena, to ensure accountability and effectiveness.

The need for the United Nations and other multi-lateral institutions to play a more prominent role in advancing social development is imperative. This entails taking bold initiatives in offering policy guidance, facilitating coordination, advocating for social development causes, and mobilizing resources effectively. By strengthening their commitment to these aspects, these institutions can have a substantial impact on global social development efforts.

A crucial element of this endeavor is the full support and active participation in the initiatives led by the Economic and Social Council, which aims to efficiently coordinate and address various social development issues within its operational activities. To achieve this, there must be a focus on enhancing the capabilities of the Commission for Social Development, a functional commission that aids the Economic and Social Council by ensuring adequate resources and effectiveness in supporting the follow-up to social development summits. Furthermore, the UN Secretary-General must

prioritize social development in alignment with the current Declaration and Programme of Action, infusing it across all relevant sectors of the organization.

Collaboration among specialized agencies and related organizations within the United Nations system is paramount for the successful implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action. These entities should be encouraged to contribute to the process and work closely with the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions within the bounds of their mandates. Additionally, fostering collaboration and partnerships between countries at different levels of development, particularly those in developing nations, is of utmost importance. This can be achieved through initiatives such as policy dialogues, the sharing of experiences and best practices, the provision of technical assistance, and the strengthening of capacity-building efforts for social development at international, regional, and sub-regional levels, with a specific focus on developing countries.





Lessons Learned and Cross-cutting Recommendations

Based on the review of progress, the following are the lessons learned and cross-cutting recommendations to ensure the attainment of the 10 Commitments and 17 SGDs in 2030:

Enhancing Universal Social Protection

We strongly recommend enhancing Universal Social Protection programs as a crucial step in advancing poverty eradication. This involves expanding social assistance, ensuring equitable access to healthcare and education, promoting income generation, and creating livelihood opportunities. The UN should actively encourage cooperation between developing and developed nations to provide essential healthcare access, including maternal care and basic income security for vulnerable groups. We advocate for a 30% increase in commitments to the Secretary General’s Global Accelerator on Jobs and Universal Social Protection for Just Transitions. Moreover, we stress the importance of shifting the narrative from “Social Safety Net” to Universal Social Protection Systems and educating governments and the public on this transformative concept. True poverty eradication extends beyond food sufficiency to empowering communities in the food system, focusing on people’s rights and their ability to define their own food and agriculture systems. This includes prioritizing ecologically sustainable methods and recognizing and supporting unpaid care work to address gender inequalities and discrimination.



Promoting Inclusive Employment

To promote inclusive employment and attain full employment, we recommend prioritizing the creation of sustainable, fairly paid jobs with safe working conditions and gender equality. This entails increasing investments in skills development and entrepreneurship for marginalized groups, facilitating the transition from informal to formal employment, enhancing job training opportunities for migrants, refugees, and asylum-seekers in preparation for Green Economy employment, and ensuring the right to associate and organize within a secure working environment. Additionally, supporting employees, especially mothers, through work-life balance policies, and recognizing the valuable skill development inherent in care work are essential components of fostering inclusive employment.



“Leave No One Behind”

now also means “Leave No One Offline.”

Advancing Social Integration

To advance social integration comprehensively, we propose the following strategies: First, enact and enforce anti-discrimination laws and policies that ensure equal rights and opportunities for all. Secondly, promote social cohesion through inclusive education and community engagement initiatives. Additionally, empower marginalized groups to actively participate in society, including respecting the process of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent for indigenous communities. Remove gender-based barriers to property ownership to enhance social inclusion, particularly for women. Lastly, address the digital divide by providing universal WiFi access and widespread public education on its use, recognizing that “Leave No One Behind” now also means “Leave No One Offline.” It is crucial to acknowledge the heightened vulnerability of female-headed households to poverty and social exclusion, especially within specific socio-economic and cultural contexts.

Strengthening Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships and Collaboration

Over the last three decades, the significance of multi-stakeholder partnerships and collaboration has been resoundingly affirmed. To enhance this imperative, we propose the fortification of partnerships and collaboration among governments, civil society, the private sector, and local communities. By actively engaging all stakeholders in decision-making processes and implementation efforts, we can foster more impactful and enduring outcomes. This involves the establishment of platforms dedicated to dialogue, collective decision-making, and resource mobilization, ensuring the effective realization of social development initiatives. A heightened civil society presence in the Commission on Social Development, inclusive of representatives from marginalized communities, would be invaluable. Furthermore, we advocate for the United Nations to exemplify such partnerships, with civil society involvement occurring prior to the finalization of documents and statements. Gender equality in decision-making is paramount, and a gender-inclusive, intergenerational multi-stakeholder partnership and collaboration is the path forward.





Ensuring Policy Coherence

To effectively realize the aspirations outlined in the Copenhagen Declaration and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a critical imperative is the cultivation of policy coherence that transcends sectoral and governance levels. We strongly advocate the adoption of comprehensive and integrated strategies that encompass social, economic, and environmental dimensions. This harmonious approach to policy should be vigorously promoted not only at the national level but also regionally and globally, facilitating the realization of synergies while mitigating potential trade-offs. Additionally, in light of the escalating frequency of natural disasters and their profound influ-

ence on the global economy, it is imperative to undertake a comprehensive examination of this phenomenon. Furthermore, we recommend a concerted effort to engage the press at all levels, encouraging them to report not just on Member States' declarations but, crucially, on the concrete actions they undertake in response to these commitments, thus ensuring accountability and transparency.

Enhancing Data and Monitoring Systems

Enhancing data and monitoring systems plays a pivotal role in facilitating evidence-based policymaking and fostering accountability. To achieve these objectives, we propose a comprehensive approach that encompasses bolstering data infrastructure, strengthening statistical capabilities, and advocating for the utilization of disaggregated data to monitor advancements and pinpoint disparities. It is imperative to establish a framework for consistent monitoring and transparent reporting to facilitate policy adaptations as necessary. Furthermore, we advocate for the development of intuitive, user-friendly data capture and reporting methods, alongside a call to action for a General Assembly resolution to ensure diligent implementation by all Member States.

Addressing Equity and Inequality

To effectively tackle equity and inequality within the realm of social development, we must draw from the insights gleaned from Copenhagen Declaration reviews conducted in 2005 and 2015. Emphasizing a holistic approach that extends beyond mere income metrics, we must confront relative disparities and foster social cohesion. This multifaceted endeavor necessitates policy coherence, international collaboration, and the active

engagement of all stakeholders in crafting equitable and inclusive societies. A pivotal shift in our methodology lies in transitioning from Gross National Products (GDP) to the utilization of Multidimensional Poverty Indexes (MPI) for assessing a nation's progress in eradicating poverty. Furthermore, we should embrace more comprehensive metrics such as the World Happiness Report and the UN's Beyond GDP Initiative to gauge progress and overall well-being, moving beyond the narrow reliance on GDP as the sole indicator of success.

Fostering SDGs and Climate Action Synergy

Emphasizing the vital synergy between the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and climate action, the UN Secretary-General's 2023 priorities underscore that "Climate action presents the 21st century's greatest opportunity to advance all the Sustainable Development Goals." It's increasingly evident that pursuing

climate action can yield mutually beneficial outcomes for both climate goals and the SDGs, with the latest IPCC report highlighting that decisive climate action now can immediately advance the SDGs and potentially result in a remarkable \$43 trillion increase in economic output by 2070. By fully leveraging the interconnections between the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, we can harness the potential of climate action and the SDGs to ensure a sustainable future for future generations. Progress in limiting global temperature rise would significantly facilitate the achievement of various other SDGs, addressing poverty, hunger, clean water access, and green employment opportunities. To enhance alignment, it is recommended to include climate action (SDG 13) alongside poverty eradication (SDG 2) and the promotion of green job opportunities (SDG 3) within the environmental dimension of the Copenhagen Declaration, bringing us closer to our shared sustainable development objectives.





Conclusion

CONCLUSION

THIS REVIEW HAS ESTABLISHED that the Copenhagen Declaration of 1995 has laid the foundation for radical changes to take place in the global scenario, particularly as it took a new form in the SDGs, now stated as achievable targets by nations working together. This review showed how each of the Commitments has been carried out through the SDGs. The review also proposed courses of action to be taken to tighten the link between vision and action.

The review strongly recommends prioritizing poverty eradication, promoting inclusive employment, advancing social integration, strengthening partnerships, enhancing data and monitoring systems, and addressing equity and inequality.

We can contribute to realizing the goals and commitments outlined in the Declaration. Our collective responsibility is to ensure a more inclusive, sustainable, and equitable future for all.

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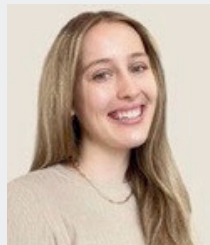
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