

Report of Activities 2023-2024

Administration:

- Monthly Meetings
 - Committee Meetings – 3rd Wednesday of every month
 - Executive Meetings – 3rd Tuesday of every month (when possible)
 - As needed – Extended Leadership and Strategic Planning Meetings
- NGO CSocD Google Drive maintenance
 - Resources Folder
 - File sharing, planning, and coordination
 - Archival storage
- Bylaws Update (completed TBA)
 - Annual election process for 2024-2026 Executive term
- Subcommittees
 - Advocacy, Education, Communications, Grassroots, World Social Summit, Civil Society Forum
- Internship – stipend approved (CSF 2024)

Finances:

- Banking and membership dues
- Donations
- Tax Filing
 - Completed by Exec. and Cynthia in March 2023
- Closing of NGO CSocD PayPal account
- Treasurer Role
 - Marides Santos from May 25, 2023

Communications:

- Twitter and Instagram
 - Social media plan and evaluation developed by Communications Subcommittee 2023
- Website
 - Managed by the Communications Subcommittee
 - Ongoing updates in process
- Civil Society Forum 2024
 - Program
 - Flyers
 - Website/promotional graphics
 - Zoom background for Orientation Session
- Translations of Civil Society Declaration
 - English, Spanish, French
- Edited Grassroots Video

Strategic Planning:

- Vision, Mission, Values, Goals, and Strategies - ongoing
 - External Strategy 2022-2024
 - Internal Strategy 2022-2024
- NGO CSocD Evaluation of CSocD62
 - With members
 - With Executive Committee
 - Using Indicators (developed in 2023)



NGO CSocD Member Engagement:

- Timely communications via email
- Google Forms and Docs
 - Used for the Committee to ask questions, share materials, and provide feedback
 - Consultation on CSF speakers and panel themes
 - Gathering suggestions for the 2024 – 2025 year
 - Received comments on Advocacy Priorities and Civil Society Declaration
- Hybrid monthly meetings at the Baha'i International Community and via Zoom
- Meeting new members and growing membership
 - Over 3 new member NGOs joining from April 2023 – March 2024:
 - Kolping International, League of Women Voters, and the Inclusivity Project
- NGO CSocD members regularly put forward for speaking opportunities and other ways to participate in CSocD and UN processes
- NGO CSocD Orientation Session – February 4, 2024 via Zoom
- Facilitation of Morning Briefings for CSocD62 via Zoom
 - Led by Maryann Dantuono, Winifred Doherty, and Jim Claffey
 - Organized by Despoina Afroditi Milaki
 - Participation from Bureau members/Member State Representatives: Carla Carlson (Dominican Republic) and Stéphanie Toschi (Luxembourg)
 - Participation from UN DESA: Wenyan Yang and Renata Preturlan
- Breakfast with the Bureau – January 29, 2024
- NGO CSocD side events for CSocD62
 - High-level Panel: “Reviewing Implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration” - February 6, 2024
 - Grassroots Subcommittee side event: “Still Left Behind: SDG Implementation from the Grassroots” - February 13, 2024
- Promotion of NGO CSocD members' side events for CSocD62

NGO CSocD Subcommittees:

- Advocacy – Chaired by MaryAnn Dantuono
 - Development of Advocacy Priorities
 - Analysis of Mission Visits and Collection of Reports

- Education - Chaired by Dusty Farnan
- Communications – Chaired by Jimmy Walters
 - Website feedback and maintenance
 - Social media management
 - For CSF – working to get Declaration signatures
- Grassroots – Chaired by Lynne Healy
 - Grassroots Video - shared during CSF 2024
 - CSocD62 Side Event
- Civil Society Forum – Chaired by Despoina Afroditi Milaki
- World Social Summit – Chaired by Lili Nkunzimana/Dan Perrell, to be taken over by Cecilia Schirmeister
 - Copenhagen Review Taskforce - Chaired by Melvine Wajiri

Partnership with UN DESA:

- Invitations to monthly meetings and year-round participation
 - Amine Lamrabat
 - Wenyan Yang
- Consistent communication with UN DESA in the lead up to CSocD62
 - Coordination with Amine for Civil Society Forum logistics and Morning Briefings, including –
 - Registration
 - Room bookings
 - Security
 - Negotiating costs
 - Technological services, UN Web TV, etc.
 - Logistical support
 - UN DESA asked NGO CSocD for input on CSocD62 oral statements
 - Assistance in liaising with UN Secretary General's office, participation of Li Junhua, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, and Felipe Paullier, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs
- UN DESA participation in NGO CSocD Morning Briefings, convened with Member States
- Participation of John Wilmoth, Officer-in-Charge of Division for Inclusive Social Development, in the Civil Society Forum opening panel
- Participation of Patrik Andersson, Chief of the Social Policy Analysis Section in the Division for Inclusive Social Development, in the Civil Society Forum thematic session I panel
- Inclusion of NGO CSocD members as observers and speakers in meetings and events for CSocD62
- Inclusion of NGO CSocD members in high-level CSocD panels
 - Opening Panel - Jean, Chair of NGO CSocD, to present the Civil Society

- Multi-stakeholder Forum - moderated by Jean, Chair of NGO CSocD
- Following the Commission, Jean was invited to contribute to UN DESA's SDG blog to highlight how civil society is working together with the UN and the international community to advance social justice and inclusive societies that leave no one behind. The SDG blog is distributed monthly as part of UN DESA's online newsletter and is sent to over 64,000 subscribers, including government representatives, civil society activists, and scholars around the world. Jean's published blog post can be found [here](#).

Relationships with Member States:

- 20 Mission Visits were conducted by NGO CSocD members
 - One meeting with CSocD62 Chair, Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj (India)
 - One meeting with Ambassador Jon Ivanovski, Vice-Chair (North Macedonia)
 - One meeting with Carla Carlson, Vice-Chair (Dominican Republic)
 - One meeting with Stéphanie Toschi, Vice-Chair (Luxembourg)
- Dominican Republic and Luxembourg – Participation in Morning Briefings
- Member State attendance at the Breakfast with the Bureau gathering at the Baha'i International Community:
 - Carla Carlson - Counsellor, Dominican Republic (Bureau Member)
 - Stephanie Toschi - Counsellor, Luxembourg (Bureau Member)
 - Joselyne Kwishaka - Second Counsellor, Burundi (Bureau Member)
 - Ryuta Amemiya - First Secretary, Japan
 - Adrian Bless - Senior Advisor, Switzerland
 - David Pedroza - 3C Expert, Peru
 - Regina Chama Boma - Deputy Permanent Representative, Zambia
 - Ines Victoria French - Human Rights Adviser, Ghana
 - Edna Stephanie Williams - First Secretary/Third Committee Expert, Ghana
 - Malgorzata Benson - Second Secretary, Poland
- Participation of Ambassador Ana Paula Zacarias (Permanent Representative of Portugal to the UN) and Ambassador Fergal Mythen (Permanent Representative of Ireland to the UN) as speakers in Civil Society Forum thematic panels
- Participation of Ambassador Paula Narváez (Permanent Representative of Chile to the UN), H.E. Gloria Reyes (General Director of Supérate, Dominican Republic), and Mr. Claudio Garrido (Deputy Permanent Representative Minister Counsellor, Mission of Chile to the UN) in the high-level side event
- NGO CSocD Executive Committee was invited to a dinner reception by Ambassador Kamboj (Chair) at the Mission of India to celebrate her Chairmanship and kick-off CSocD62
- The Missions of the Dominican Republic and Luxembourg encouraged civil society participation in their CSocD62 side event following Mission Visits with the

Our Advocacy Initiatives:

- Advocacy Priorities
 - Four priorities developed by the Advocacy Subcommittee
 - Social Justice
 - Economic Justice
 - Political Justice
 - Environmental Justice
- Civil Society Declaration
 - Looking to 2025 and focusing on a renewed social contract
 - 1,095+ signatures received from NGOs and individuals
- Civil Society Forum
 - In-person in the UNHQ Conference Room 4, Friday, February 9th
 - Recording and live stream on UN Web TV
 - Simultaneous interpretation into Spanish (all day)
 - Five sessions:
 - Opening Panel
 - Thematic Session 1
 - Networking Session
 - Thematic Session 2
 - Closing Panel
 - Orientation Session
 - Virtual on Sunday, February 4th
 - Three Morning Briefings
 - Held via Zoom
 - Organized in collaboration with UN DESA and included the Vice-Chairs of the CSocD62 Bureau



Appendices

Administration

Administration functions were largely performed via the NGO CSocD Google Drive. The Chair's office in the UN Church Center served as the administrative "hub" for NGO CSocD, various files/receipts are stored in the office.

Finance

In 2023, NGO CSocD had Marides Santos, VIVAT International, serving as the Treasurer. In this role, Marides cashed in checks for Member Dues, managed the NGO CSocD Chase Account, tracked Membership Forms and dues, and paid for various expenses. The 2022 tax filing was completed by the Chair with assistance from Cynthia. Furthermore, regular meetings and communications took place between the Executive and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, who generously contributes to our Civil Society Forum each year. Below is an overview of NGO CSocD's yearly finances:

- **NGO CSocD Financial Overview:**
 - Account balance, April 2023 – **\$2,178.26**
 - Account balance, March 2024 – **\$2,713.37**
- **Expenses Breakdown: \$18,381.17**
 - Civil Society Forum - **\$13,829.64** (see table below for details)
 - Copenhagen Review - **\$3,217.40** (see table below for details)
 - Website professional fee – **\$1,000**
 - Administration, Technology – **\$334.13**
- **Total Income: \$18,906.28**
 - 2023 – 2024 Membership Dues – **\$2,055**
 - Donations from Members for February 2024 Events – **\$9,450**
 - Other Donations from members - **\$75**
 - Contribution from Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Academic Foundation (FES) to support the 2024 Civil Society Forum - **\$7,336.28** (see table below for details)
- **Total February Events Expenses without FES: \$9,710.76**, of which **\$9,450** was covered by donations from members and **\$260.76** by membership dues.

2024 Civil Society Forum Expenses

Item/Service	Cost	Purpose/Category	Payment Method
Conference Room 4	\$7,336.28	Civil Society Forum	Paid by FES

UN WebTV	\$1,036.00	Civil Society Forum	Donations from NGO CSocD members
Printed Program	\$750.00	Civil Society Forum	Donations from NGO CSocD members
Pins	\$350.00	Civil Society Forum	Donations from NGO CSocD members
Support Staff transportation and accommodation	\$287.70	Civil Society Forum	Donations from NGO CSocD members
Catering from East Amish Market	\$590.77	Breakfast with CSocD Bureau	Donations from NGO CSocD members
Spanish Interpretation	\$200.00	Civil Society Forum	Donations from NGO CSocD members
Lunch Buffet for 100 persons	\$2,737.12	Civil Society Forum	Donations from NGO CSocD members
Dinner with organizers	\$541.77	Civil Society Forum	Donations from NGO CSocD members
Total:	\$13,829.64		

Copenhagen Review Expenses

Item/Service	Cost	Purpose/Category	Payment Method
Publication printing	\$996.42	Copenhagen Review	Donations from NGO CSocD members
Publication Graphic Design	\$1,000.00	Copenhagen Review	Donations from NGO CSocD members

Lunch	\$799.41	Copenhagen Review	Donations from NGO CSocD members
Interpretation	\$421.57	Copenhagen Review	Donations from NGO CSocD members
Total:	\$3,217.40		

Strategic Planning

The Executive Committee engaged in both standalone and ongoing strategic planning sessions internally and with an “extended leadership model.” Extended leadership consisted of meetings with subcommittee chairs and leaders in the social development, civil society, and UN spaces to discern plans of action in relation to CSocD62, the Summit of the Future, and the World Social Summit.

Partnership with UN DESA

The Executive Committee regularly communicated with UN DESA this past year. The collaboration worked in both directions, with Amine Lamrabat and Wenyan Yang consulting the Committee and Executive for speaker suggestions, ideas, and participation in the lead up to the Commission for Social Development. Jean and Despoina also had meetings, calls, and written correspondence with Amine and his colleagues to navigate the Civil Society Forum room bookings, finances, logistics, etc. Amine also participated in NGO CSocD monthly and/or Executive meetings, providing invaluable support, updates, and suggestions.

Member State Engagement

NGO CSocD regularly engaged with Member States this year, primarily on the occasion of CSocD62. All Bureau members, including the Chair (Ambassador Kamboj, India) were visited by the NGO CSocD Executive, with the exception of Burundi. However, Burundi was added to the Bureau late and attended the Breakfast with the Bureau and other gatherings hosted by NGO CSocD. Additionally, 20 Mission Visits were conducted by Committee Members. These visits took place with the following Permanent Missions:

Austria	Israel
Colombia	Japan
Costa Rica	Luxembourg
Democratic Republic of the Congo	North Macedonia
Djibouti	Peru
Dominican Republic	Poland
Egypt	Portugal
Finland	Russian Federation
Ghana	Switzerland
India	United States of America

The Executive especially developed strong relationships with representatives from the Dominican Republic, Luxembourg, Poland, Switzerland, and the US. Additionally, a Breakfast with the Bureau gathering was held in January at the Baha'i International Community. The Chairs of different NGO Committees, Member States on the CSocD Bureau, and all NGO CSocD members received invitations; we found this gathering to be most successful and appreciated by all in attendance.

Our Advocacy Initiatives

Historically, and again this past year, NGO CSocD has had three major advocacy initiatives that regularly contribute to the CSocD process:

1. Advocacy Priorities (Talking Points)
2. Civil Society Declaration
3. Civil Society Forum (see section devoted to the Forum later on in this report)

The Advocacy Priorities were developed by the Advocacy subcommittee in Fall 2023 in an extended leadership/strategy meeting with the Executive Committee. This document was widely shared and adapted for different audiences like social media and Member States. The Advocacy Priorities, along with our External Strategy and other important documents, were shared during the NGO CSocD Mission Visits. The Civil Society Declaration was written by the Civil Society Forum Subcommittee. This year, we received over 1,000 signatures to the Declaration, which was available in English, Spanish, and French.

Social Media and External Communications

The NGO CSocD social media accounts were managed primarily by Jimmy Walters as Chair of NGO CSocD, with assistance from Liana Almony during CSocD62 and the 2024 Civil Society Forum. The posts on social media included videos with our Advocacy Priorities discussed in different languages, promotional posts about CSocD, etc. The NGO CSocD Gmail account was a primary tool used to send updates about NGO CSocD and the Civil Society Declaration to thousands of people.

The NGO CSocD website and promotional materials (online and printed) were updated by Jimmy, Liana, and intern Sofia in the lead-up to and during CSocD62.

NGO CSocD Internship

Due to the generous donations from some NGO CSocD members, we were able to welcome Sofia Calicchio as a Communications Intern to support the Civil Society Forum Subcommittee. Sofia contributed to the Civil Society Forum program, flyers, and other external CSF communications during her time with the Subcommittee.

Subcommittees

NGO CSocD subcommittees regularly met both online and in-person this past year. Our four original subcommittees include Advocacy, Education, Communications, and Grassroots. Additional subcommittees that formed this year are the Civil Society Forum subcommittee, the World Social Summit subcommittee, and the Copenhagen Review Taskforce. The Civil Society Forum subcommittee convenes only in the lead up to the Forum and CSocD, the Copenhagen Review Taskforce wrapped up work following the publication of their work, the World Social Summit subcommittee is an ad-hoc group that will convene at least until 2025 for the World Social Summit, and all other subcommittees' work is ongoing.

Civil Society Forum

Despoina Milaki Afroditi, in collaboration with the Executive Committee and the Civil Society Forum Subcommittee, organized the Civil Society Forum during the Commission. The Civil Society Forum was also planned in joint sponsorship with the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, New York Office and the Division for Inclusive Social Development of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The Forum gives civil society an opportunity to “takeover” the UN for a day, and convene panels and sessions related to the Commission’s priority theme: “Fostering social development and social justice through social policies to accelerate progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to achieve the overarching goal of poverty eradication.” This year the Forum took place in-person at the UN Headquarters in Conference Room 4, and was livestreamed and recorded via UN Web TV. Below you will find more information about the sessions. Help with selecting speakers, brainstorming themes, and bringing the grassroots voice to the UN was done by the Civil Society Forum subcommittee in partnership with the Executive. Click [here](#) to view the Civil Society Forum program for more information about speakers and the day.



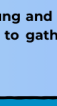
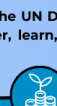
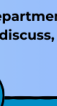
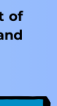
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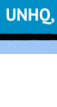
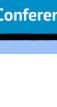
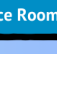
CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM 2024
SAVE THE DATE








The Civil Society Forum, organized by the NGO Committee on Social Development in collaboration with the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung and the UN Department of Economic Social Affairs, is a unique platform for the grassroots voices to be heard. It is a space for members of civil society to gather, learn, discuss, and strategize on the themes and deliberations of the UN Commission for Social Development.

VIRTUAL ORIENTATION SESSION	OPENING PANEL & THEMATIC SESSION 1	NETWORKING & ENTERTAINMENT SESSIONS	THEMATIC SESSION 2 & CLOSING SESSION
 Sunday, February 4, 2024 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM ET <i>via Zoom</i>	 Friday, February 9, 2024 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM ET UNHQ, Conference Room 4	 Friday, February 9, 2024 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM ET UNHQ, next to Conference Room 4	 Friday, February 9, 2024 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM ET UNHQ, Conference Room 4

- Opening Panel
 - Moderated by Despoina Afroditi Milaki (Chair of the Civil Society Forum)
- Thematic Session I - Structural Social Barriers and Transformative Policies to Social Progress
 - Moderated by Anita Thomas (Chair of the NGO Committee on Financing for Development)
- Networking Session
 - Light lunch from the Vienna Cafe and opportunities for collaboration and networking were provided
- Thematic Session II - Placing People, Rights, and Justice at the Center of Social Development: A Needs-Based Approach for People-Centered Decisions
 - Moderated by Wenyan Yang (Chief, Global Dialogue for Social Development Branch, UN DESA)
- Closing Panel
 - Reflections shared by Wenyan Yang, Jean Quinn, and Despoina Afroditi Milaki

The 62nd Commission for Social Development

The 62nd Commission for Social Development (CSocD62) at the United Nations took place from February 5-14, 2024. The theme for CSocD62 was *“Fostering social development and social justice through social policies to accelerate progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to achieve the overarching goal of poverty eradication.”* NGO CSocD organized a number of preparatory gatherings for the Commission, including a Breakfast with the Bureau of CSocD62 at the Baha’i International Community (BIC) and a virtual Orientation Session.

As the Chair of NGO CSocD, Jean delivered remarks on the opening panel of the Commission, alongside the Chair of the CSocD62 Bureau, Ambassador Kamboj (Permanent Representative of India to the UN), Li Junhua (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs), Ambassador Dennis Francis (President of the General Assembly), and other high-level panelists. Jean also presented this year’s NGO CSocD Civil Society Declaration.

NGO CSocD organized a high-level side event during CSocD62 to review progress on implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration, held at the Baha’i International Community on February 6, 2024. Speakers for the first session were H.E. Ms. Ana Paula Zacarias (Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Portugal to the United Nations); H.E. Mr. Danilo Türk, (Former President of Slovenia and President of Club de Madrid); and Professor Sakiko Fukuda-Parr (Professor of International Affairs, The New School). The second session was moderated by Ms. Cecilia Schirmeister (Representative of the Bahá’í International Community to the United Nations), and the speakers included H.E. Ms. Gloria Reyes (General Director of Supérate, Dominican Republic); Mr. Claudio Garrido (Deputy Permanent Representative Minister Counsellor, Mission of Chile to the United Nations); and Dr. Michael Bröning (Executive Director of the New York Office, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung).

At the invitation of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), Jean moderated the Multi-stakeholder Forum for CSocD62. She facilitated presentations, dialogue, and a question-and-answer session for Member States

and civil society related to the Commission's priority theme.

The Grassroots Subcommittee organized a side event on February 13, 2024 during the second week of CSocD62. The event convened experts and grassroots voices from 29 countries across 6 continents to discuss challenges, good practices, and policies to accelerate implementation of the SDGs. Presenters included Prof. Lynne M. Healy (Chair, Grassroots Subcommittee), Dr. Peta-Anne Baker (Social Development Specialist), Christopher Dapaah (Coordinating Director at Resource Link Foundation, Ghana), Dr. Suresh Pathare (Professor and Director of BPHEs' Centre for Studies in Rural Development – Institute of Social Work and Research), Dr. Sergei Zelenev (Special Representative of the International Council on Social Welfare to the UN), and was moderated by Professor Cudore Snell (School of Social Work, Howard University).

