

VOICE

— UN DESA —

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A world on the move for sustainable, inclusive and resilient transportation

Every morning around the world, billions of people step onto a bus, bike to work, wait for a train, or drive long distances to reach their jobs, schools, markets, and health care. Meanwhile, freight systems operate around the clock to deliver food, medicines, and essential goods to communities everywhere. As it connects lives and livelihoods, access to sustainable transport is a question of life and death, poverty and prosperity, and overall well-being.

Today, transport is responsible for nearly a quarter of global energy-related greenhouse gas emissions, while road crashes claim over a million lives each year. In many cities, unsafe sidewalks, unreliable public transport, and high travel costs disproportionately affect women, older persons, persons with disabilities, and low-income communities. When floods wash away roads, it is often the poorest who are cut off first.

The good news is that solutions already exist and they are concrete and tangible. Cleaner buses and electric vehicles reduce air pollution and improve health. Safe walking and cycling infrastructure save lives, while making cities more livable. Integrated public transport systems shorten commutes and lower household costs. Accessible public

transport solutions enable persons with disabilities to participate in the work force. Advances in zero-emission freight vehicles, efficient logistics, and better-managed urban delivery systems are reducing congestion and lowering emissions from goods movement.

At the same time, resilient infrastructure, such as elevated roads, climate-proof railways, and better drainage, ensures that transport systems keep running as extreme weather events become more frequent. These solutions do more than move people and goods: they support climate mitigation and adaptation, improve road safety, and help advance almost every Sustainable Development Goal.

This is where the work of UN DESA comes in. At the start of 2026, the first-ever UN Decade of Sustainable Transport kicked off, offering a unique opportunity to put transport at the center of development planning and investment. Through its Implementation Plan, the Decade focuses on six areas that can help countries transform how people and goods move, including access for all, low or zero-carbon and resilient systems, efficient logistics, people-centred urban mobility, safety and security, and innovation.

By bringing together governments, cities, private sector, and communities, and by linking transport solutions directly to the Sustainable Development Goals, UN DESA is helping build sustainable transport systems that are not only efficient, but fair, inclusive, safe, resilient, and fit for a world on the move.

Access more information and find out how you can become a sustainable transport champion: [UN Decade of Sustainable Transport 2026 – 2035](#)



EXPERT VOICES



Advancing social development: Time to turn commitments into action

When the Commission for Social Development convenes this month, it will be the first global gathering after the [Second World Summit for Social Development](#). It offers a key opportunity

to start turning the commitments made to advance social development into action. We asked the team in UN DESA's Division for Inclusive Social Development what we can expect from the Commission's work this year.

How does the Commission for Social Development help shape the future of social progress?

"The Commission for Social Development (CSocD) is the UN's primary intergovernmental body dedicated to advancing the commitments of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Doha Political Declaration agreed upon at the First and the Second World Summits for Social Development, held in 1995 and 2025 respectively. It provides a

global forum where Member States translate high-level political commitments into actionable policy pathways, share national strategies, and identify solutions to eradicate poverty, promote decent work, and build inclusive societies. Through resolutions, expert dialogues, and broad multistakeholder participation, the Commission guides, reviews, and accelerates implementation of social development priorities—especially crucial in today's context of inequality and eroding trust."

What can we expect at the Commission this year?

"The 64th session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD64), held from 2 to 10 February 2026, marks the first formal moment of accountability for the commitments made at the Second World Summit for Social Development. Under the priority theme "Advancing social development and social justice through coordinated, equitable and inclusive policies," Member States will present early actions taken to implement the Doha Declaration. The session will feature high-level debates, expert panels, and dialogues aimed at strengthening policy coherence, improving data and planning capacities, and scaling inclusive and equitable social policies. It will also help guide countries toward the achievement of the SDGs as the world enters the final stretch to 2030."

The Doha Political Declaration was adopted at the Social Summit last year. How will the Commission follow up to make sure the world's pledges are fulfilled?

"CSocD64 represents the first major platform for reviewing progress since the Doha Summit. Member States are encouraged to demonstrate concrete steps such as national strategies, reforms, and new initiatives, aligned with Doha's call for whole-of-government, people-centered, and inclusive approaches. The session will also set early direction for the 2031 review cycle mandated by Doha, helping to sustain momentum and ensure accountability for commitments on poverty eradication, decent work, and social inclusion."

Inclusion is at the heart of social development. How does the Commission make sure that the annual meeting is inclusive?

"The Commission ensures inclusivity not only in its agenda but also in its working methods. Governments, civil society, youth, persons with disabilities, older persons, Indigenous Peoples, and other stakeholders participate in panel discussions, expert forums, and dialogues. This broad engagement ensures that diverse voices inform policymaking, reinforcing legitimacy and helping ensure that social development solutions leave no one behind."

UN DESA's Division for Inclusive Social Development leads the efforts coordinating, preparing and supporting the work of the Commission for Social Development, one of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Learn more about this work [here](#).

For more information: [64th session of the Commission for Social Development \(CSocD64\)](#)

Photo: UNDP Namibia





5 ways UN DESA makes a difference for people and planet

At a time when global cooperation and sustainable development are under pressure, UN DESA continues to deliver. The department brings countries together to find common solutions, build capacity on the ground, and deliver

trusted data and analysis that inform decisions shaping economies, societies and the planet. Here are five things you need to know.

1. UN DESA upholds the development pillar of the United Nations

Firmly rooted in the UN Charter, UN DESA upholds the development pillar of the United Nations by supporting the work of two UN Charter Bodies, the [UN General Assembly](#) and the [Economic and Social Council \(ECOSOC\)](#). In this capacity, UN DESA manages a core part of the negotiations and deliberations taking place among 193 UN Member States to deliver positive change benefitting people and the planet.

2. UN DESA leads and supports the work of ECOSOC

UN DESA serves the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), which celebrates its 80th anniversary this year. As part of this work, UN DESA leads, coordinates and supports the work of some of the Council's main commissions, forums and bodies. Look out for some of the upcoming sessions supported by UN DESA this winter and spring, including the [Commission for Social Development](#) (2-10 February), the [UN Statistical Commission](#) (3-6 March), the [Commission on Population and Development](#) (13-17 April), the [UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues](#) (20 April-1 May) and the [UN Forum on Forests](#) (11-15 May).

3. UN DESA brings countries together to solve the most pressing problems

Efforts to restore the health of our ocean, secure financing for development and make sure that people are at the center of development – these were all issues at the core of major conferences in 2025 spearheaded by UN DESA. Each conference attracted some 15,000 participants, who joined the third [UN Ocean Conference](#) in Nice, France, the [Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development](#) in Sevilla, Spain, and the [Second World Summit for Social Development](#) in Doha, Qatar. Thanks to the successful outcomes of these events, the international community now has blueprints that will guide global efforts towards a more sustainable and inclusive future.

As the home of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), UN DESA also brings countries together at the [High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development](#) every year to assess SDG progress. On top of that, in 2026, UN DESA will also play a key role in advancing progress on water and sanitation for all at the UN Water Conference taking place in December this year.

4. UN DESA delivers data to help the global community make informed decisions

UN DESA is the source of accurate, verified, up-to-date data and analysis on sustainable development, the global economic situation and prospects, population trends and the Sustainable Development Goals. UN DESA's analytical work, projections and policy

advice help communities plan today for the societies of tomorrow. Through flagship publications delivering the latest [economic forecasts](#), [urbanization trends](#), [Sustainable Development Goals data](#), [global population trends](#), and [social progress trends](#), UN DESA assists countries in navigating some of the challenges the world is facing today. Explore this wealth of information and data available on UN DESA's [website](#).

5. Builds countries' capacities to advance sustainable development

Through its capacity development work, UN DESA supports UN Member States in translating global commitments into local action. The Department's efforts in this area are tightly integrated into its analytical work and originate from decisions made during major conferences and intergovernmental processes. UN DESA also works closely with the Resident Coordinator (RC) system and Member States to determine the right delivery method to ensure meaningful and long-lasting change. Check out [this website](#) to explore UN DESA's longer-term capacity development projects around the world.

To stay updated on UN DESA's work towards sustainable development for all, follow and engage with us on social media:

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For more information: [UN DESA's Highlights Report 2025](#)

UN Photo/Loey Felipe





Why this year's Commission for Social Development is the most important in years

By Khrystyna Hayovshyn, Chair of the Bureau for the 64th Session of the Commission for Social Development

As Chair of the sixty-fourth session of the Commission for Social Development, I see this session arriving at a pivotal moment, in a global context marked by fragmentation, inequality, and a profound trust deficit. These pressures are reversing social development gains and testing the resilience of institutions. Delivering on social development commitments is one of the most effective ways to rebuild confidence, because social development speaks directly to people's daily lives, dignity, and opportunities.

The [Second World Summit for Social Development](#) held in November last year, reaffirmed the world's commitment to the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action. The [Doha Political Declaration](#) underscored the urgency of addressing poverty, inequality, unemployment, social exclusion, and the multiple crises and challenges affecting social development. It also reaffirmed that social development and social justice are indispensable foundations for peace, security, and sustainable development.

The Doha Political Declaration is action-oriented, setting out clear commitments and vowing to advance innovative solutions and international cooperation to translate the commitments of Copenhagen and Doha into concrete actions to achieve social development.

The [Commission for Social Development \(CSocD\)](#) provides the forum where these commitments begin to take shape as policy pathways, national strategies, and shared frameworks for action. This year's priority theme, "Advancing social development and social justice through coordinated, equitable and inclusive policies", provides an opportunity for Member States to explore and identify strategies and best practices for translating these broad commitments into Government action.

As the primary intergovernmental body tasked with the follow-up to the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action and now to the Doha Political Declaration, the Commission for Social Development plays a crucial role in translating political commitments into concrete progress toward social goals. It stands as the main and natural forum for coordinated action to eradicate poverty, promote full and decent

employment, and create inclusive and equitable societies. At a time when the world faces profound social and economic challenges, the Commission's mandate—to review, guide, and accelerate implementation—has never been more essential.

For Ukraine, chairing the sixty-fourth session of the Commission for Social Development carries particular importance. At a time when our country continues to confront the far-reaching social consequences of war of aggression, including displacement and economic disruption, social development is not an abstract policy concept but a lived reality. Ukraine's chairmanship reflects a strong commitment to multilateralism and to the conviction that social development and social justice are essential foundations for resilience, recovery. It also underscores the belief that even in times of profound challenge, inclusive and equitable social policies remain central to rebuilding trust, protecting dignity and ensuring opportunity for all.

In line with this responsibility, Ukraine is facilitating the draft resolution of the Commission for Social Development entitled "*Advancing social development and social justice through coordinated, equitable, and inclusive policies*." The objective of the resolution is to reaffirm existing international commitments, including those emerging from Copenhagen and Doha, while encouraging and calling upon Member States to translate these commitments into concrete action. By focusing on implementation, policy coherence, and practical follow-up, the resolution seeks to strengthen collective accountability and to ensure that global commitments are reflected in tangible outcomes at the national, regional and global levels.

The Commission is designed to support practical, solution-focused follow-up, offering Member States the space to identify priorities, share innovations, and build the partnerships needed to advance implementation at scale.

This year's session marks the first formal moment of accountability following the Doha Summit. We see this as the earliest opportunity for Member States to demonstrate how they have begun, and intend to continue, to honour the commitments they endorsed only a few months ago. With just five years until we begin the first review of the Doha commitments in 2031, we encourage Member States to present early steps toward implementing them, whether through national strategies, policy reforms, or new initiatives. These will be critical for maintaining credibility and momentum.

Moreover, as we approach the end date of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, CSocD will provide crucial guidance to Member States to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and beyond.

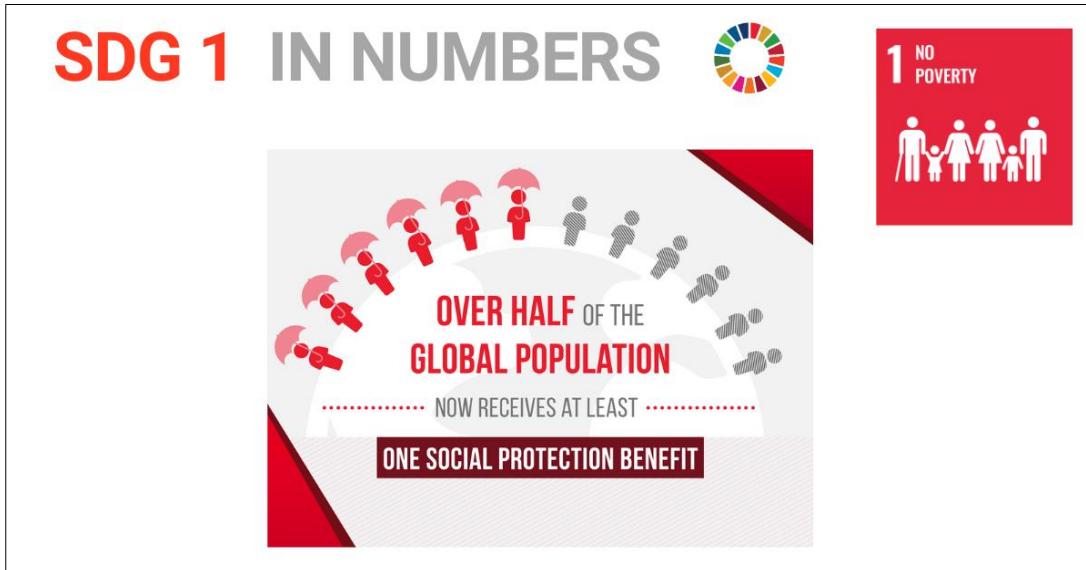
This Commission is an opportunity for Member States to collectively sharpen their aim toward 2031, when the first review of commitments made at Doha will take place, by centering the importance of well-coordinated policies and early alignment to reconcile trade-offs and maximize synergies, equitable policies to ensure that the benefits and burdens of development are fairly shared, and inclusive policies to ensure that policymaking is legitimate and effective.

A successful Social Commission will also demonstrate that multilateralism is crucial for responding to the needs and aspirations of people everywhere. By advancing sustained high-level leadership, coordination and planning strategies, data capacities, inclusive participation, transparency and accountability mechanisms, and the alignment of financing systems with development priorities, the Commission can help restore confidence in the ability of the international community to work together and deliver on social development goals.

Above all, at this year's Commission, we must set the tone for the next phase of global social development cooperation. As Chair, I invite Member States to reaffirm collective

responsibility, demonstrate unity of purpose, and translate renewed commitments into meaningful action. By doing so, the Commission can help chart a path toward a more just, inclusive, and sustainable future for all.

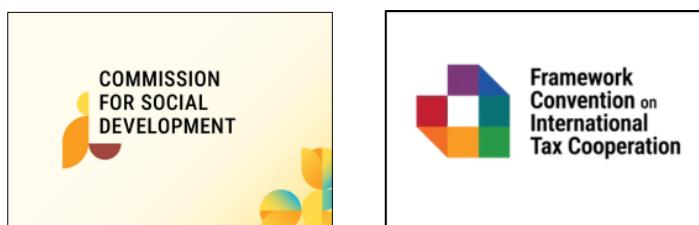
* The views expressed in this blog are the author's and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of UN DESA.



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