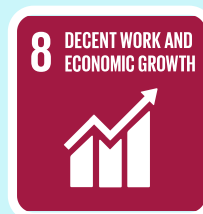


# CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM 2023

61<sup>ST</sup> SESSION OF THE UN COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT



8 DECENT WORK AND  
ECONOMIC GROWTH



10 REDUCED  
INEQUALITIES



FEBRUARY 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2023  
UN HEADQUARTERS  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK



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# VISION

Guided by the principles of the [Copenhagen Declaration](#), we are continuing a vision of a world of true prosperity without poverty, inclusion, and justice for all.



# MISSION

As members of civil society, we will work towards the World Social Summit (2025); we seek to engage NGOs through the work of the Commission for Social Development, highlighting best practices, and bringing a diversity of voices to the United Nations.

# VALUES

Inclusion, consultative, value-driven, respect, participation, collaboration, partnership

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# WELCOME TO THE CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM 2023

## **From the Chair of the NGO Committee for Social Development:**

On behalf of the NGO Committee for Social Development, welcome to the 2023 Civil Society Forum! It is such a joy to have you joining us for this year's Forum on the **25th Anniversary of our Committee's founding**. Since 2006, this Forum has been a space for members of civil society to gather to learn, discuss, and strategize on the themes and deliberations of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD). This year, members of civil society have been given more of a voice than ever. We are optimistic about our current and future possibilities for collaboration with the United Nations, and all Member States.

We, the NGO Committee on Social Development, are guided by the principles of the **Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and its Program for Action, along with the 2030 Agenda**. As we are at the start of 2023, we feel the window closing for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The 2030 Agenda has only seven years to reach the important milestones set in 2015 and to achieve the pivotal goal of the eradication of poverty. Of particular concern to us are growing social and economic inequalities, growing hunger, educational, and employment losses, as well as the economic disruptions we face. Additionally, every part of the globe has been affected by environmental disasters, massive migration of peoples, shifts in the digital economy, and the threat of nuclear war in the Ukraine. There are multiple causes, but certainly the COVID-19 global pandemic has unraveled progress that was made in the last decade and revealed crevices in the foundational progress of the SDGs. Most importantly, it is people living in poverty who continue to suffer most and whose lives are most devastated by these events.

However, we are people of hope, and we know there are hopeful signs that the United Nations will lead us forward to a better world for all. This hope is supported by the UN Secretary-General's Our Common Agenda Report (2021) calling for a renewal of the social contract, "so as to rebuild trust and embrace a comprehensive vision of human rights," and the movement towards a World Social Summit in 2025.

We are in the **75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)**, surely one of the most remarkable and inspirational achievements of humankind. All of us across the world have a cause to gather and contemplate its genius, as the document has an uncompromising vision.

The UDHR can transform our world and offer real hope to all those who longed for the recognition of their rights to dignity, equality, and justice. As representatives of people who are the lost and left out in our world, we recall Article 23 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which declares that everyone has the rights to work, to free choices of employment, to just and favorable conditions of work, and to protection against unemployment.

The Report of the Secretary-General for this Commission is most informative and clearly outlines the background and challenges associated with **full and productive employment and decent work for all**. As a Committee comprised of many civil society organizations working at the grassroots level with vulnerable groups, we appreciate Section III, which highlights 'Inequalities in the labor market and structural barriers faced by different categories of workers and disadvantaged groups. In particular, we call attention to subsection 14, where: "The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed and dramatically exacerbated inequalities in the labor market. The hardest hit were those already facing discrimination and marginalization in unemployment and workers in the informal and insecure forms of work, including women, young people, older persons, persons with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples, and ethnic, religious and other minorities, in vulnerable situations."

A disconnected and fragmented approach to social, economic, and environmental policies has not produced the desired results towards poverty eradication, full employment, and social inclusion. The process towards a new World Social Summit could provide the platform to gain perspective, balance, and to regenerate momentum, forging a renewed vision and commitment “to achieve a higher quality of life for all people.”

Against this backdrop, we are pleased to share with you our Civil Society Declaration, which is included in different languages in the back of this program. Importantly, the NGO Committee on Social Development’s Civil Society Declaration not only addresses the issues related to CSocD61 that I previously mentioned but also highlights civil society’s commitment to building upon the fundamental principles of the Copenhagen Declaration. In our call-to-action, we share tangible and cross-cutting recommendations that can make our vision of a world of true prosperity without poverty, inclusion, and justice for all a reality.

On behalf of the **NGO Committee for Social Development and the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung NYC office**, thank you so much for attending. We hope that this Forum is informative, interesting, and impactful for you.



**Jean Quinn**

Chair of the NGO CSocD

# CIVIL SOCIETY PROGRAM

## CSOCD61



**Full and productive employment and decent work for all**

**Friday, February 10th 2023**

**United Nations HQ, Trusteeship Council**

The Civil Society Forum has been planned by the NGO Committee for Social Development in joint sponsorship with UN-DESA Division for Social Policy and Development and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES). This Forum has been organized for civil society participants to engage with different experts from many perspectives on the 61th Session of the Commission for Social Development priority theme. This space is to create an inclusive dialogue to foster cooperation between Member States, Civil Society and the United Nations, and to unify behind a common vision in furtherance of the Sustainable Development Goals, and housing for all. The aim is for participants to develop a global understanding of decent work, how to reduce inequalities, and what policies we can advocate for. The forum will feature governmental, service, and lived experiences from all over the world, gathered here to share their successes, challenges, and recommendations for how to reduce inequalities and achieve a decent work for all.

## Civil Society Forum, Opening Panel

10:00AM - 11:00AM EST

### Moderator:

**MaryAnn Dantuono** International association of Charities

### Speakers:

**Jean Quinn**, Chair of NGO CSocD.

**H.E. Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani**, Chair of CSocD61 Bureau (TBC)

**Dr. Michael Bröning**, Executive Director of Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, NY

**Olivier de Schutter**, UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty (virtual)

**Message from UN Secretary-General António Guterres (TBC)**

**Lachezara Stoeva**, President of ECOSOC (TBC)

**Daniela Bas**, Director of Social Inclusion for UN DESA

**Lara Hicks**, Chair of the Civil Society Forum, NGO CSocD

## Civil Society Forum, Thematic Session N°1

11:00AM - 12:30AM EST

### Moderator:

**Aria Ribieras**, ATD 4 Youth

### Speakers:

**Khaled Emam**, Executive Director of Justice Call and part of the UN Major Group for Children and Youth (virtual)

**Either Richa Gupta**, youth recommended by the UN Youth Office.

**Sherlyn Cassi**, Philippines, Life Project 4 Youth (confirmed but modality).

**Guillaume Charvon**, ATD Fourth World Volunteer in NY.

**Vercilene Dias**, Young Leader from the Global Forum of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent.

**Annick Vera**, Activist, Poverty & Unemployment.



**Ranneirys Isis Slaya Rincon**, young person with lived experience related to unemployment, education/technical training, and social protections; Centro Juan Bosco Obrero Bogotá (Colombia)



**Lunch (On Your Own)**

**12:30AM - 01:45PM EST**

**Civil Society Forum, Regional Groups**

**01:45PM - 02:30PM EST**

**Moderated:**

**Dr. Ify Ofong**, WorldWIDE Network Nigeria

**Regional Groups:**

Latin America and the Caribbean

Africa (French)

Asia

The U.S. and North America

Europe



**Civil Society Forum, Thematic Session N°2**

**03:15PM - 04:30PM EST**

**Moderated:**

**Lili Nkuzimana**, Baha'i International Community

**Speakers:**

**Dr. Arash Fazli**, Baha'i International Community

**Sharan Leslie Burrow AC**, general secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation (virtual)

**Laure Descoubes** (director of TZCLD in Thiers, France) o ...with Annick (person with lived experience of poverty), from France – ATD Fourth World

**Paul Ladd**, Director United Nations Research Institute for Social Development.

H.E Ms. Ana Paula Zacarias, Permanent Representative for Portugal.



## Civil Society Forum, Closing Session

04:30PM - 05:30PM EST

### Moderator:

**MaryAnn Dantuono** International association of Charities

### Speakers:

**Dr. Ifeyinwa Ofong**, WorldWIDE Network Nigeria. Introduction and outcome of regional breakout groups.

**Ambassador Al-Thani (Qatar)** – Chair of the CSocD61 Bureau or another Bureau member.

Closing remarks from:

**Jean Quinn**, Chair of NGO CSocD



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# **BIOGRAPHIES**

**CSOCD61**

# INTERPRETERS

## CSOCD61

Every year, the Civil society Forum receives valuable support from faculty and students for translation and interpretation services before, during and after the Forum. Our volunteers come from every corner of the world and they have a strong interest in working with the different NGO's. Some of our professional and volunteers are also completing an academic year at University throughout the Fullbright program managed by the Institute of International Education.

The civil Society Forum Coordinating Team wishes to acknowledge the following individual interpreters valuable contribution to the forum success:



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# CIVIL SOCIETY DECLARATION 2023

CSOCD61



