

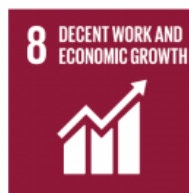

COMMISSION for SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

United Nations Headquarters, New York



United Nations

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs



61st Commission for Social Development

The 61st Commission for Social Development (CSocD61) at the United Nations took place from February 6th – 15th. The theme for CSocD61 was *“Creating full and productive employment and decent work for all as a way of overcoming inequalities to accelerate the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”* This year, UNANIMA International was especially involved in the preparations and panels during the Commission, as UI’s Executive Director, Jean Quinn, and Executive Assistant/Assistant UN Representative, Lara Hicks, both serve on the Executive for the NGO Committee for Social Development (NGO CSocD).

NGO CSocD organized a number of preparatory gatherings for the Commission, including a Breakfast with the Bureau of CSocD61 at the Baha’i International Community, a Networking and Orientation Session at the UN Church Center, and over 20 visits with UN Permanent Missions. Check out the photos and links for more information, as well as to view the recordings of the UNANIMA International team’s speeches and participation during CSocD61!

As the Chair of NGO CSocD, Jean delivered remarks on the opening panel of the Commission, alongside the Chair of the CSocD61 Bureau—Ambassador Al-Thani (Qatar), Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs—Li Junhua, and other high-level panelists. Jean also presented this year’s NGO CSocD Civil Society Declaration, which has well over 1,000 signatures from individuals and civil society organizations. You can read the Declaration [here](#) and learn more about NGO CSocD’s advocacy process [here](#).

At the invitation of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), Lara participated as a speaker on the Emerging Issues Panel. She delivered a presentation on UNANIMA International's work, offered the civil society perspective on major emerging issues for the global community, and highlighted good practices for Member States to consider. Click [here](#) to watch her presentation.

UN DESA also invited Jean to moderate the Multi Stakeholder Forum for CSocD61. She facilitated presentations, dialogue, and a question-and-answer session for Member States and civil society related to the Commission's priority theme. Click [here](#) to view the recording of the Multistakeholder Forum.

Jean in her capacity as NGO CSocD Chair, with Lara assisting the NGO CSocD Executive as the Civil Society Forum Chair, organized the Civil Society Forum during the Commission. 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. This year's Civil Society Forum was the first to take place in-person since 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Below you will find more information about the sessions held for this year's Civil Society Forum, as well as the links to the recordings of each panel.

[Link to Civil Society Forum part 1 on UN Web TV](#)

[Link to Civil Society Forum part 2 on UN Web TV](#)

At the Commission, a number of international processes were also under review. For a complete listing, please visit the CSocD61 website [here](#). The outcome Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Resolution on the priority theme of the Commission was adopted by consensus. You can read it at [this link](#).