

## CSocD62 ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

### *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.”**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Today, our world is substantially and crucially fragile. Today, our society, our well-being, our future is threatened by structural inequalities and multiple layers of injustice. Our social contract has been broken, inter alia, by extreme poverty, intersectional discriminations, the climate crisis, inadequate health systems, gaps in social protection, the digital divide, gender bias, inequitable access to education, and economic instability. It is our hope that the efforts of Civil Society at the Commission on Social Development 62nd Session will generate momentum toward creating a renewed Social Contract integrating social justice, economic justice, environmental justice, and political justice, nationally and internationally. A renewed Social Contract that will move us toward a more equitable, sustainable, and inclusive society--without poverty, that creates equal opportunities for all and respects the rights and freedoms of all.

Social Justice, Economic Justice, Political and Environmental Justice are the pillars of international peace, prosperity and security (A/CONF.166/9).<sup>1</sup> All are required for a good society along with an understanding that power comes with the obligation of service that looks not only at self-interest but also to the common good of all. Movement toward the goal of inclusive societies without poverty requires a renewed social contract.

It is well documented that even with the increased focus on social development and social justice since the World Social Summit in 1995, and its implementation with the focus on the Millennium Development Goals and the Sustainable Development Goals, poverty is on the rise, inequality is increasing, and the world is facing one crisis on top of another. Violence against women and girls is at epidemic levels. People’s needs are changing in response to a quickly evolving context. In addition to the myriad ways in which digitalization and the internet have impacted daily lives, people also want more responsive action to address the effects of climate change, global migration, the renewed threat of nuclear war and a global cost of living crisis. Additionally, the “Care Crisis” is hindering social development and progress toward gender equality.

A disconnected and fragmented approach to social, economic, and environmental policies has not produced the desired results toward poverty eradication and reducing inequality. Profound social problems have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the failure of multilateralism

---

<sup>1</sup> Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development - A/CONF.166/9 Chapter I, Annex I - para.5 UN Documents

and a growing distrust of institutions and governments, all factors that point toward the need to renew and recommit to a Social Contract.

The process towards a renewed social contract will provide perspective, balance and regenerate momentum, forging a new vision and commitment ‘to achieve a higher quality of life for all people.’<sup>2</sup> Elaborating a gender transformative social contract rooted in human rights, solidarity and the common good, and supporting the vision of the UN Secretary General’s Report “Our Common Agenda” and the UN Global Accelerator for Jobs and Social Protection will address the calls for social, economic, environmental, and political justice.

We do not want another new document, rather, we demand multi sectoral engagement– by all, for all, with all, that commits to systemic and structural change, with human rights as its foundation, for the welfare of people and planet. The time is now! We must establish a participatory process to listen to the needs and potential solutions of people living in poverty and include education on the meaning and elements of a social contract. We must motivate participation of all stakeholders including all levels of governments, the private sector and civil society. The focus must be on placing justice and people at the center. We seek to rebalance relations between the state, society, markets, and nature and seek transformative social policies and alternative economic approaches for the goal of peace and planetary sustainability.

#### Our asks:

1. ***Social justice:* Invest in human capital and ensure the dignity and the wellbeing of individuals and families through transformative social policies and programs.**
2. ***Economic Justice:* Reform existing global financial structures and reaffirm existing commitments to address global economic inequalities based on solidarity.**
3. ***Environmental Justice:* Ensure that all people have equal access to a healthy, safe, and sustainable environment, as well as fair protection from environmental hazards and risks.**
4. ***Political justice:* Ensure the protection of all human rights, including the right to participate in civil and political life, without discrimination, as well as to equal protection under the law in order to eradicate poverty.**

---

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/world-summit-for-social-development-1995.html>  
Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995 Article 6

## CSocD62 Priority #1

### ***SOCIAL JUSTICE: INVEST IN HUMAN CAPITAL AND ENSURE THE DIGNITY AND THE WELLBEING OF INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES THROUGH TRANSFORMATIVE SOCIAL POLICIES AND PROGRAMS.***

Social justice may be broadly understood as the fair distribution of the fruits of economic activity. Coupled with social development, it must include opportunities for decent work and employment and for access to public services, especially universal basic income (UBI), education, housing, health care, and Universal social protection system and floors, within a human rights framework. Globalization has resulted in the blurring of borders and consequently social problems are no longer confined to national borders. Inequality has steadily increased within and among nations. It is in this context that the Copenhagen Declaration was born in 1995.

#### *Asks*

- Measure and prioritize the wellbeing of people, beyond GDP, using multidimensional indicators and measures in economic policy making.
- Ensure equal access to affordable and adequate housing, low-cost nutritional food, quality healthcare, basic income, public infrastructure and services, including access to water, sanitation, energy and digital technology.
- Establish nationally-owned, human rights-based, and well-financed Universal Social Protection Systems and Floors and support the UN Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions.
- Invest in productive capacities to enable all to participate in and contribute to their societies through quality education, skills training/reskilling during the life course, leading to decent work and employment.
- Promote universal access to digital technology and internet as a right for all and prioritize digital literacy training.
- Recognize Care as a societal responsibility and a human right by adopting strategies to shift resources to respond to the growing need for child care and care for older persons and people with disabilities while acknowledging unpaid care work as valuable and essential work which benefits everyone and must be supported.
- Insist on equal pay for work of equal value between men and women, establish non-discriminatory livable wages and increase sustainable employment opportunities for low-income groups in rural and agricultural areas.

### *Relevant UN Resources:*

The Copenhagen Declaration adopted by the World Summit for Social Development in 1995 (A/CONF.166/9) Paragraph 5 states: “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. In turn, social development and social justice cannot be attained in the absence of peace and security or in the absence of respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms. This essential interdependence was recognized 50 years ago in the Charter of the United Nations and has since grown ever stronger.”

Social Justice is mentioned once in the United Nations Millennium Declaration in 2000 (A/RES/55.2 Section 1.6) in describing the value of “Solidarity.” It is not used in the Sustainable Development Goals Agenda in 2015 (A/RES/70.1).

The General Assembly resolved on 19 November 2007 (A/RES/62/10) that the UN would celebrate the World Day of Social Justice each year on February 20 beginning in 2009.

The ILO “Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization” (2018) declaration emphasizes the need for policy coherence and investments for social justice and decent work globally and at the country level (ILO.org/wcmss\_099766). It also highlights the importance of involving a wide range of actors and ensuring the coherence of social justice policies within the ILO itself. There is also the report of the ILO DG for the last ILC ‘Advancing Social Justice’ and the resolution on Just Transition toward environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all adopted at the International Labour Conference – 111th Session, Geneva, 2023

Report “Global fund for social protection: International solidarity in the service of poverty eradication” by the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, Olivier De Schutter [A/HRC/47/36](#) (2021), Section VI paragraph 33.

“Social Justice in an Open World: The Role of the United Nations”, 2006 UN DESA <https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/documents/ifsd/SocialJustice.pdf>, the proceedings of the International Forum on Social Development 2004-2006 comprehensively deals with poverty and social justice’.

[The Crisis of Inequality Shifting Power for A New Eco-social Contract](#) UNRISD (2022)

Economic and Social Council resolution 2020/7 of 18 June 2020, entitled, “Affordable housing and social protection systems for all to address homelessness.” General Assembly Resolution 76/133 (2022) Secretary General's Report A/78/236 (2023)

## CSocD62 Priority #2

### ***ECONOMIC JUSTICE: REFORM EXISTING GLOBAL FINANCIAL STRUCTURES AND REAFFIRM EXISTING COMMITMENTS TO ADDRESS GLOBAL ECONOMIC INEQUALITIES BASED ON SOLIDARITY.***

The right to development needs to be the central focus of the process of Financing for Development (FfD), both nationally and internationally. Nationally, states need to expand their tax base to be able to provide Social Protection and basic public services to all people, for the most vulnerable. Internationally, countries in the global North must deliver on its Official Development Aid (ODA) commitments, as well as recognize the fact that sovereign governments in the global South cannot prioritize debt servicing over meeting basic needs of their populations and sacrificing development, especially in times of austerity. FfD cannot be considered in isolation, it needs to be clearly linked to its main purpose: protection of basic human rights and eradication of poverty (SDG 1). The present Bretton Woods system of financing for development is not fulfilling this paramount Goal. We need a new financial architecture, an overhaul of the global trade system, debt restructuring and fiscal policies that support the SDGs, eradicate poverty, and reduce inequalities, including gender inequality. In sum, we advocate for a multilateral system based on economic solidarity, respect of all human rights and of state sovereignty, that enables the global redistribution of power and wealth and leaves no one behind.

#### Asks:

- Extend debt relief and forgiveness for the least developed countries based on values of justice and solidarity.
- Review and evaluate the cost of governance and the economic values and use of natural resources that support developing economies.
- Encourage the fulfillment of ODA commitments to support developing nations.
- End austerity policies which compromise social services needed by the most vulnerable and exacerbate inequalities, in particular gender inequalities.
- Establish fair, transparent and progressive tax systems, eliminating tax evasion and tax loopholes.
- Enact gender responsive fiscal and monetary policies and budgeting, designed to provide social protection and a fairer wealth distribution to reduce inequalities, including gender inequality.
- Utilize a “whole society” approach in the formulation of national development plans which includes accountability and transparency and managing misinformation in decisions.
- Establish a well-integrated and transparent national financing framework that boosts domestic resource mobilization and eliminates corporate and governmental corruption.
- Enact International trade rules that improve market access and foster development for the least developed countries

*Relevant UN Resources:*

General Assembly Resolution on the implementation of the World Summit on Social Development [A/C.3/77/L14/Rev.1](#), of 2022 reiterates the role of ODA in Development (ops 57-59), each country's own responsibility in progressive tax reform and in mobilizing resources for development and the global responsibility of assisting countries in preserving Social Protection systems, and the international commitment to eradication of Poverty (op.65)

The Forty-first Session of the General Assembly declared the right to development as an inalienable human right in 1986 ([A/RES/41/128](#)); since then, countries have made some efforts to support financing development, particularly in line with Article 3 and 4 of the Declaration on the Right to Development, honing in on the duty of the state to promote development policies and cooperation.

The Millennium Declaration in 2000 ([A/RES/55/2](#)) reaffirms the need for equitable development and equal rights in accessing financing and debt relief, only made possible by the meaningful cooperation and trade between the North and the South, further asserting the need for financial institutions free of corruption and sound debt relief structures, and emphasizing the **shared responsibility** in achieving social development all around through development assistance and resource mobilization initiatives.

In 2015, the Addis Ababa Declaration Clause 93-94 centers debt relief as a fundamental tool for financing investments ([2051AAAA Outcome](#)), emphasizing that sustainable financing and the right to development must go hand-in-hand to ensure development in the South; at the same time, Addis Ababa Action Agenda integrates gender considerations across all of its chapters. It stresses that women's empowerment can make a significant contribution to economic development for all. It commits countries to undertake legislation and administrative reforms to give women equal rights, and promotes gender-responsive budgeting and tracking.

Addis Ababa Declaration Clause 70 on multilateral development banks and international development banks ([2051AAAA Outcome](#)) advocates for providing a know-how guide for long-term development financing, and reaffirms the need for the cooperation of all stakeholders in ensuring equitable and supportive financial institutions;

The Economic and Social Council's forum on financing for development in 2023 ([E/FFDF/2023/L.1](#)), identified a greater need for international cooperation and responsibility in ensuring just allocation of resources, decreasing the debt gap, and supporting the most vulnerable in accessing financial security, focusing on youth, migrants, women and local communities.

The IATF Report ([IATF-on-FfD TOR Final.pdf \(un.org\)](#)) identifies the main cross-cutting elements for the operationalization of Ffd, namely, Human Rights, Gender Equality, and Sustainability.

The General Assembly ([A/RES/77/281](#)), recognizes that "social and solidarity economy contributes to more inclusive and sustainable economic growth." Social and Solidarity Economy is highlighted as an alternative model of growth in the UN Secretary General's Report on "Socially just transition towards sustainable development: the role of digital technologies on social development and well-being of all" [N2032808.pdf \(un.org\)](#)



### CSocD62 Priority #3

**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE: ENSURE THAT ALL PEOPLE, OF ANY RACE, GENDER, AGE, ETHNICITY, CULTURE, AND SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS, HAVE EQUAL ACCESS TO A HEALTHY, SAFE, AND SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT, AS WELL AS FAIR PROTECTION FROM ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS AND RISKS.**

Climate change is felt in all countries, yet not all people are being impacted the same way. Vulnerable groups are hit the hardest having less means to cope and adapt, including women and children, youth, older persons, indigenous peoples, refugees and those displaced by natural disasters, poor and economically disadvantaged people. Similarly, developing and least developed countries appear to be most affected, despite contributing the least to the causes of climate change. Climate change has caused the loss of livelihoods, housing and jobs, as well as parts of territories in some countries. In many places, climate change has severely affected agriculture and resulted in food insecurity. Changing climatic conditions are also linked to internal and cross-border migration and exacerbated conflict over access to natural resources. Environmental degradation on people's health and livelihood and these costs must be considered in all policy making.

Asks:

- Provide equitable access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy, taking into account social and cultural factors, and promote sustainable energy solutions that support poverty eradication and sustainable development.
- Adopt fair, integrated and gender-sensitive approaches in developing and implementing policies, laws, and budgets for poverty eradication through sustainable environment and natural resource management, in alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Promote just transitions to a low emissions and sustainable economy, and equity in reaching global net zero emissions.
- Establish and promote meaningful participation of all marginalized people, especially women, youth, indigenous peoples, migrants and internally displaced persons, homeless, impoverished and persons with disabilities, in the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws and policies and the development of the green economy and renewable sources of energy.
- Strengthen people-centered institutions, at the national and international levels, to ensure they are accessible to all populations and are equipped to monitor, enforce and implement environmental law and environmental rights of current and future generations.
- Advance indigenous peoples' rights to lands, territories and resources as an effective way to protect critical ecosystems, waterways and biological diversity, and to include the right of women to own and inherit land.

*Relevant UN Resources:*

The United Nations has recognized that everyone, everywhere, has the right to live in a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. Landmark resolutions from the Human Rights Council in 2021 ([A/HRC/RES/48/13](#)) and the UN General Assembly in 2022 ([A/RES/76/300](#)) highlight that this right is key to the enjoyment of all other human rights and reaffirm that States have the obligation to respect, protect and promote human rights, including in actions undertaken to address environmental challenges;

United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015 ([A/RES/70/1](#)), entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, which recognizes that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development;

United Nations General Assembly resolution 72/224 of 20 December 2017 ([A/RES/72/224](#)), on ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, which reiterates the pledge of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that no one will be left behind, reaffirms the recognition that the dignity of the human person is fundamental and the wish to see the Sustainable Development Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society;

António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General, [The Highest Aspiration: A Call to Action for Human Rights](#), 2020: The Call to Action highlights, among other matters, the need to increase UN support for the promotion of the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, and for access to justice and effective remedies for environment-related concerns; protection mechanisms for human rights defenders and environmental activists; and strengthening the UN partnership with the business sector to address environment protection and climate change;

Report of the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment ([A/HRC/37/59](#)), (2018): In this report, the Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment proposes a framework of 16 principles related to human rights and the environment that are based on existing work of the human rights system;

At the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP26 in November 2021, the Glasgow Climate Pact was adopted. COP26 outcomes included important issues for climate justice such as decisions on gender and climate change, loss and damage, and human rights reporting requirements on matters related to article 6 of the Paris Agreement. On 20 November 2022, COP27 that took place in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt concluded with a historic decision to establish and operationalize a loss and damage fund.



## CSocD 62 Priority #4

**POLITICAL JUSTICE: ENSURE THE PROTECTION OF ALL HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN CIVIL AND POLITICAL LIFE, WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION, AS WELL AS TO EQUAL PROTECTION UNDER THE LAW IN ORDER TO ERADICATE POVERTY.**

Extreme poverty persists and is even deepening in some parts of the world, which represents a violation of basic human rights according to current international standards. Rights enshrined in laws for almost 80 years remain unrealized for many. Not only *the right to development* and *the right to an adequate standard of living* but also *the right to political participation and legal protections*. Data shows that women are underrepresented at all levels of decision-making worldwide and that achieving gender parity in political life is far off. Discrimination and exclusion based on race or ethnic groups thwarts progress as well. Cooperation and participation among every relevant stakeholder, including government agencies, civil society groups, local authorities, and individuals experiencing poverty is the way forward. It is possible to create effective responses to multidimensional poverty by bringing together diverse perspectives, knowledge, and resources and to empower all members of society to engage in a civil and political dialogue on development and eradicating multidimensional poverty.

Addressing multidimensional poverty which encompasses the various deprivations experienced by people made and kept poor in their daily lives requires addressing intersecting forms of discrimination with an approach that acknowledges and responds to the complex interactions of different forms of disadvantage. Community consultations, participatory workshops, inclusive decision-making processes, and the establishment of forums for discussion and feedback are needed. The indigenous communities, older persons, persons with disabilities, the young and ethnic minorities need to participate in all decision making processes. No one can be left out regardless of religion, national or ethnic origin, gender, age, or migratory status. Let's respond to the call, "Nothing about us, without us."

Asks:

- Inclusion of all stakeholders in the design, implementation, and assessment of policy responses to multidimensional poverty.
- Recognize and address intersectional discriminations that are keeping people in poverty.
- Bridge the gender gaps as well as address gender inequalities by empowering women and girls who are disproportionately affected by poverty, hunger and disproportionate share of unpaid care work to share decision making roles and responsibilities.
- Encourage transparency and accountability in a rights-based approach evaluating gender sensitivity, sustainability, and inclusivity of all political and civil processes.
- Empower all members of society to be part of a social and political dialogue on the ongoing process of eradicating multidimensional poverty.
- Adopt administrative and legal solutions to provide a legal identity for all, in particular universal birth registration.

*Relevant UN Resources:*

The *Declaration on the Right to Development* adopted by the General Assembly, 4 December 1986, A/RES/41/128 first proclaimed this inalienable right, declaring that everyone is "entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development, in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized". The United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development unequivocally establishes development as a right and puts people at the centre of the development process.

*The Copenhagen Declaration and Platform for Action A/CONF.166/9 Chapter I, Annex I*

**Para 26 j.** Promote universal respect for, and observance and protection of, all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including the right to development; promote the effective exercise of rights and the discharge of responsibilities at all levels of society; promote equality and equity between women and men; protect the rights of children and youth; and promote the strengthening of social integration and civil society;

**Commitment 1A a.** Provide a stable legal framework, in accordance with our constitutions, laws and procedures, and consistent with international law and obligations, which includes and promotes equality and equity between women and men, full respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms and the rule of law, access to justice, the elimination of all forms of discrimination, transparent and accountable governance and administration and the encouragement of partnership with free and representative organizations of civil society;

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 21 September 2020 **A/Res/75.1** Para10. We will abide by international law and ensure justice. The purposes and principles of the Charter and international law remain timeless, universal and an indispensable foundation for a more peaceful, prosperous and just world. We will abide by the international agreements we have entered into and the commitments we have made. We will continue to promote respect for democracy and human rights and to enhance democratic governance and the rule of law by strengthening transparent and accountable governance and independent judicial institutions.

International Declaration of Human Rights Articles 2,3,7,22,23,25

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights General Assembly resolution 2200A (XXI) of 16 December 1966 entry into force 3 January 1976

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights General Assembly resolution 2200A (XXI) of 16 December 1966

Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women New York, 18 December, 1979