



Reviewing Progress on Implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration

NGO CSocD High-Level Hybrid Event

New York City + Online

Tuesday, 6 February 2024, 1:15 - 2:45 pm

[Registration link](#)

This reflective event anticipates the 30th anniversary of the Copenhagen Declaration and will be an opportunity to gain perspective, take stock, identify lessons learned, and consult on the direction of the social development agenda.

The values and commitments underpinning the 1995 World Summit for Social Development and its landmark Copenhagen Declaration, marked a watershed moment in which development thinking focused with unprecedented clarity on the central objectives of eradicating poverty, providing full employment, and fostering social integration. These priorities and commitments are still as relevant today and, indeed, are woven throughout the sustainable development goals.

At the same time, numerous challenges have evolved over the past three decades. Recurring shocks and challenges, ranging from COVID-19 recovery and supply chain disruptions, to severe global inflation and widespread food insecurity, demonstrate one unavoidable reality: current global governance structures, regardless of the income level of a country, are not providing for the well-being of all. These are concerns that require global cooperation at far deeper and more meaningful levels, particularly around the critical issues of social and economic development.

For this reason, the time is right for a comprehensive review on progress toward the implementation of the ten commitments made in the Copenhagen Declaration:

1. Create an economic, political, social, cultural and legal environment that will enable people to achieve social development;
2. Eradicate absolute poverty by a target date to be set by each country;
3. Support full employment as a basic policy goal;
4. Promote social integration based on the enhancement and protection of all human rights;
5. Achieve equality and equity between women and men;
6. Attain universal and equitable access to education and primary health care;
7. Accelerate the development of Africa and the least developed countries;
8. Ensure that structural adjustment programmes include social development goals;
9. Increase resources allocated to social development;
10. Strengthen cooperation for social development through the UN.

This event will also provide an opportunity to review the impact and effectiveness of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, enabling, in turn, a closer examination on how the International Community will prepare for future global challenges. The world we want is not only one of decent work for all and high GDP, but is also defined by universal access to healthcare, lifelong education, and social cohesion. This world is one where human dignity and human rights are protected, prosperity is encouraged, poverty inequality is eliminated, and social inclusion fostered. This event will focus on how the lessons learned from the past 28 years of the Social Development agenda can inform and strengthen the international development agenda.



Modality

Hybrid lunch-time event with two 30 minute panels and a concluding 30-minute plenary discussion between panelists and attendees. Lunch will be included for attendees.

Draft Program

Panel 1 (30mins) - Reflections on where we have come from: what was achieved and what is still to be done

- H.E. Ana Paula Zacarias, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Portugal to the United Nations
- Pres. Danilo Türk, President of Slovenia (2007-2012) and President of Club de Madrid
- Prof. Sakiko Fukuda-Parr, Professor of International Affairs, The New School (*invited*)

Panel 2 (30mins) - Looking forward to where we want to be and how to get there

- H.E. Paula Narváez, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations
- H.E. Ms. Gloria Reyes, General Director of Supérate, Dominican Republic (interpretations TBD)
- Dr. Michael Bröning, Executive Director, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung

Concluding Plenary (30mins) - Consultation between panelists and attendees

Moderator

Cecilia Schirmeister, Representative of the Bahá'í International Community to the United Nations

Guiding Questions

- What movement has the international community made toward the 10 Commitments made in Copenhagen in 1995—including progress towards establishing equality and social cohesion?
- What new patterns of relationships, interactions, and cooperation among Member States, civil society, local communities, the private sector, and other stakeholders are required to make further progress on the goals of the Copenhagen Declaration?
- How can social and economic development be pursued in ways that reinforce climate and environmental sustainability?
- How can we create an enabling environment for nations to reduce inequality, in its different manifestations, and to promote the principle of opportunity for all?
- How might notions such as shared endeavor, common responsibility and universal participation allow obstacles to the full implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration be overcome?