

The 2026 Call of Civil Society for Social Development

We, the **NGO COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT** (NGO CSocD) which unites non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and members of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations (CoNGO) hereby call on the Member States of the United Nations to implement, in full and without further delay, the commitments they have already made by name and by paragraph in the 2025 Doha Political Declaration.

We insist that these commitments should finally be realized on the basis of our single conviction that people must be at the centre of development. Our work is anchored in the three pillars of social development — poverty eradication, full and productive employment, and social integration — and grounded in international human rights law, the 1995 Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, the 2025 Doha Political Declaration, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals.

We reason, furthermore that implementation of all measures to achieve social development must take an intergenerational, ethnic, and gender-based approach that recognizes the contributions of young people, women and girls, and Indigenous communities — without whom no process of social integration and social inclusion can succeed.

Financing

Deliver, in full and on schedule, the financing commitments already made under the Doha Political Declaration, para. 15, and the 2025 Seville Commitment, by:

Reforming the international financial architecture to broaden the voice and representation of developing countries in international financial and economic institutions, and directing multilateral development banks to prioritize financing for social development (Doha Political Declaration, paras. 15(a) and 15(c)).

Meeting, without further delay, the long-standing ODA targets of 0.7 per cent of gross national income, and 0.15 -- 0.20 per cent of GNI to least developed countries (Doha Political Declaration, para. 15(g)).

Concluding negotiations on the UN Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation and its protocols, and strengthening the inclusiveness of international tax cooperation at the United Nations (Doha Political Declaration, para. 15(e)).

Ensuring fair and timely resolution of sovereign debt distress so that debt service no longer crowds out social spending (Doha Political Declaration, para. 15(d)).

Establishing binding timelines and independent monitoring for donor pledges under the Seville Commitment, closing the accountability gap the Declaration itself acknowledges.

Public Services and Social Protection

Implement the existing commitments to increase social protection coverage by at least two percentage points per year and reinforce universal social protection systems, by:

Legislating and financing universal social protection floors, prioritizing the countries and populations furthest from coverage targets (Doha Political Declaration, paras. 2(g) and 3(n)).

Investing in universal, affordable, life-course public infrastructure and services — health, including sexual and reproductive health and rights, mental health, education, care systems, water, sanitation, housing with support services for homeless individuals and families, energy, digital access, and transport — as a single integrated package rather than sector-by-sector funding (Doha Political Declaration, para. 13).

Adopting gender-responsive budgeting for care infrastructure that recognizes, reduces, and redistributes unpaid care work (Doha Political Declaration, paras. 3(r) and 11(c)).

Disaggregating social protection coverage data by informality status, rurality, and gender so that progress toward the two-percentage-point target can be independently tracked and verified by civil society.

Decent Work

Implement the existing commitment to advance the transition from informal to formal employment, by:

Extending labour rights, social protection, and legal safeguards to informal workers through formalization strategies adapted to national circumstances, with particular attention to micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises (Doha Political Declaration, paras. 2(f) and 3(a)).

Ratifying and fully implementing ILO Recommendation No. 204, and reporting formalization progress annually to the Commission for Social Development.

Creating quality, inclusive jobs with fair wages, advancing women's and youth labour-force participation, and recognizing the care economy as a source of decent employment (Doha Political Declaration, paras. 3(s) and 3(r)).

Enforcing labour laws on safe working conditions and freedom of association, with particular attention to migrant and precarious workers (Doha Political Declaration, para. 3(k)).

Ensuring the transition to AI-driven and automated labour markets is just, through funded upskilling and reskilling of the existing workforce (Doha Political Declaration, para. 3(t)).

Follow-up and Implementation

Implement the existing follow-up commitments under the Doha Political Declaration, para. 16, by:

Confirming the modalities of the five-year follow-up process beginning in 2031 no later than the eighty-fifth session of the General Assembly (Doha Political Declaration, para. 16(a)).

Ensuring the Secretary-General's preparatory report draws on disaggregated, independently verifiable data — not government self-reporting alone (Doha Political Declaration, para. 16(b)).

Reaffirming and adequately resourcing the Commission for Social Development's primary responsibility for follow-up and review (Doha Political Declaration, paras. 16(c) and 22).

Directing the five UN Regional Commissions to convene preparatory meetings with meaningful, funded civil society participation (Doha Political Declaration, paras. 16(d) and 16(h)).

Strengthening national statistical capacity — particularly in African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, and small island developing States — to produce the disaggregated data the follow-up process requires (Doha Political Declaration, para. 16(i)).

Foundation

The basis of this CALL rests on the following negotiated agreements, evidence and principles: -

1. I. FINANCING

The 2025 Seville Commitment proposes tripling multilateral development bank lending and a two-percentage-point annual increase in social protection coverage. Meeting the Seville, Copenhagen, and Doha commitments — and the SDGs themselves requires a

realignment of global financial flows. For developing countries, that means debt relief, credit guarantees, and stronger tax cooperation recover revenue lost to illicit flows and secure a stronger voice in global decision-making. For donor countries, that means regulated private-capital mobilization and funded green initiatives to address migration pressure and lower global emissions.

II. PUBLIC SERVICES AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

Non-discriminatory, universal social protection and public services — health, education, care, water, sanitation, energy, housing, connectivity, and transport — are the foundation of poverty eradication, employment, and social integration. Gender-responsive social protection, quality public services, and investment in the care economy are the mechanisms by which the unpaid domestic care work that burdens women and girls is recognized, reduced, and redistributed. Protected households are 25 per cent less likely to pull children from school or forgo healthcare during shocks; economic inclusion programmes raise household incomes and business revenues by up to 45 per cent, helping families permanently exit extreme poverty; and equitable social protection strengthens community trust, mutual aid, and civic participation.

III. DECENT WORK

Formalization is the highest-leverage decent-work reform available to Member States. Formalization is not a subject for further study. It is the reform Member States have already agreed to and have yet to deliver. Decent work means productive work in conditions of freedom, equity, security, and human dignity: fair pay and safe employment, equality and inclusion, social protection, and the freedom to organize. According to the Doha Political Declaration, gender equality is a cross-cutting condition of decent work; the Declaration calls for more and better jobs, formalized informal work, guaranteed labour rights and social protection, investment in future skills, and a just technological and environmental transition.

IV. FOLLOW-UP AND IMPLEMENTATION

The credibility of the Copenhagen and Doha commitments rests on strengthened follow-up and review at the global, regional, and national levels to ensure implementation, transparency, accountability, and policy coherence. Member States have already agreed to a five-year review process beginning in 2031, to the Secretary-General reporting on progress and gaps ahead of the eighty-fifth session of the General Assembly, to the Commission for Social Development's primary responsibility for monitoring, and to regional preparatory meetings convened by the five UN Regional Commissions to localize these commitments and strengthen stakeholder participation. What is missing is not architecture. It is the political will to use it.