



Concept Note: Solutions Session at the Second World Summit for Social Development (WSSD2)

Title: "Accelerating Gender Equality: Linking Beijing+30 Commitments to Social Development for Sustainable Futures"

Co-hosts: (Member State TBD) and the African Union, with UN Women

Date and Time: (To be confirmed; within 4-6 November 2025)

Venue: Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC), Doha, Qatar

Background and Rationale

The Second World Summit for Social Development (WSSD2), convened under the auspices of the UN General Assembly (A/RES/78/318), will take place at the level of Heads of State and Government from 4 to 6 November 2025 in Doha, Qatar. The Summit will adopt a concise, action-oriented political declaration with a social development approach, giving momentum toward the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The First World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen in 1995, laid the foundation for people-centered development, focusing on poverty eradication, full and productive employment, and social integration. WSSD2 builds on this legacy by assessing progress and identifying solutions to gaps and challenges while aligning with current global priorities such as gender equality and climate resilience.

Gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) remain indispensable levers for

achieving the core goals of social development. Women continue to face higher poverty rates, unequal access to decent work, and underrepresentation in decision-making processes. Advancing GEWE is thus vital to eradicating poverty, fostering inclusive employment, and achieving social justice.

The Draft Political Declaration of WSSD2 highlights these linkages, reaffirming commitments to eradicate poverty, achieve full and productive employment, and promote social integration. It recognizes that gender equality is integral to tackling multidimensional poverty, reducing inequalities, and enabling sustainable social development. Specific commitments in the declaration call for advancing women's economic empowerment, closing gender wage gaps, and investing in the care economy as a catalyst for decent work and inclusive growth.

Why this theme?

“Accelerating Gender Equality: Linking Beijing+30 Commitments to Social Development for Sustainable Futures” reflects the need to integrate Beijing+30's normative commitments into the implementation pathways emerging from WSSD2. The theme underscores that gender equality is not a standalone goal but a catalyst for achieving poverty eradication, decent work, and social inclusion—the core pillars of WSSD2. This session will spotlight Africa's leadership and innovative approaches to GEWE, ensuring the momentum from Doha carries directly into the 2026 High-Level Meeting on Beijing+30. In addition, this session is critical in light of the concerning global rollback on gender equality, characterized by disheartening erosion of hard-won gains often showed by resurgent anti rights movements, a decline in political will and financial resources, and the disproportionate impact of compounding global crisis on women and girls. This session offers a vital platform to directly counter these regressive trends by showcasing proven scalable solutions that effectively link Beijing 30 commitments to tangible social development outcomes.

This Solutions Session aligns with WSSD2's focus on showcasing scalable solutions, fostering partnerships, and facilitating peer learning around social development challenges. It contributes directly to the Summit's high-level roundtables:

- **Round Table 1:** Strengthening the three pillars of social development: poverty eradication, full and productive employment and decent work for all, and social inclusion.
- **Round Table 2:** Assessing progress and addressing gaps in implementing the Copenhagen commitments and accelerating the 2030 Agenda.

Objectives

1. Position gender equality and women's empowerment as central to poverty eradication, decent work, and social inclusion.
2. Showcase concretely how the implementation of Beijing+30 commitments directly contributes to social development pillars, including poverty eradication productive employment and decent work social integration and reductions in inequalities
3. Highlight Africa's Scalable Solutions: present from an analytical prism innovative and evidence-based interventions, and policies including good practices that have successfully accelerated the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and yielded positive social development outcomes.
4. Influence WSSD2 outcomes to reflect gender-responsive priorities and scalable solutions.
5. Build momentum and mobilize partnerships for implementation ahead of the 2026 Beijing+30 High-Level Meeting.

Format and Run of Show

Duration: 90 minutes (in-person Solutions Session)

Time	Agenda Item
5 min	Opening Remarks by Co-hosting Member State Representative
5 min	Remarks by African Union Representative
5 min	Keynote: UN Women Leadership on GEWE and Social Development
40 min	Panel Discussion: 'Gender Equality as a Catalyst for Social Progress'
20 min	Interactive Dialogue with Participants
10 min	Concluding Reflections: 'From Doha to Beijing+30'
5 min	Closing by Moderator

Expected Outcomes

1. Heightened visibility and deeper understanding of GEWE as a driver of social development.
2. Recommendations for strengthening gender equality priorities in WSSD2 outcomes and political declaration.
3. Strengthened partnerships and commitments ahead of Beijing+30.
4. Identification of scalable, gender-responsive solutions for advancing social development.

Proposed Budget (Indicative)

Item	Estimated Cost (USD)
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Venue and Technical Support (QNCC)	7,500
Interpretation Services	5,000
Design and Printing of Materials	3,000
Hospitality (Light Refreshments)	2,500
Communications and Visibility	2,000
Travel related (ticket and DSA)*#of UNW sponsored participants	TBD
Total	TBD

Partners and Stakeholders

- UN Women
- African Union
- Co-hosting Member State
- Civil Society Organizations and Women's Rights Groups
- Regional Economic Communities (RECs)
- Private Sector Representatives

Next Steps

- Confirm co-hosting arrangements with Member State and AU.
- Submit official Solutions Session application as per WSSD2 guidelines (deadline: 8 August 2025).
- Finalize speakers and panelists list.
- Prepare communication materials and outreach plan.