



**SECOND
WORLD SUMMIT
FOR SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**
DOHA 2025

Solutions Session at the Second World Summit for Social Development

The role of Regional Commissions in supporting member States in implementing the outcomes of WSSD2

Thursday, 6 November 2025, 10:00 – 11:15 AM

Qatar National Convention Centre, Room - 08

Doha, Qatar

In-person

Draft Concept Note

Version: 29 October 2025

Co-organizers

1. Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
2. Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)
3. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
4. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
5. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)
6. Regional Commissions New York Office (RCNYO)

Background

Persistent, multifaceted inequalities that cut across gender, income, education, health, and geography continue to be a defining issue in all regions. While poverty and restricted access to basic services are still pervasive in Africa, Latin America, and some parts of Asia, high youth unemployment is of concern in the Middle East and North Africa region, while in Asia and the Pacific, more than two-thirds of the employed population is in informal employment. In Europe, inequality manifests as growing social tensions, unequal opportunities, and regional economic disparities. Though the causes vary, from inadequate job creation and weak private-sector growth to skill mismatches, unemployment, whether structural or cyclical, remains a challenge across regions.

Against this backdrop, the Second World Summit for Social Development aims to generate new momentum into the SDG effort, placing social priorities at the heart of the global policy agenda. Building on the commitments of the 1995 Copenhagen Declaration, the Summit is



expected to produce a renewed Declaration that not only articulates shared aspirations but also sets a clear path for implementation and follow-up and review.

The five Regional Commissions prepared a joint publication as a contribution to the preparation of the Summit, [*On the road to the Second World Summit for Social Development: contributions from the Regional Commissions*](#) which outlines social development challenges and policy lessons across several action areas (see [*here a synthesis of key regional insights and policy recommendations*](#)).

The Draft Political Declaration calls upon the five Regional Commissions to play an active and significant role in the implementation of the Summit's key commitments and recommendations. In particular, the Regional Commissions are expected to organize regional preparatory meetings in advance of the planned global follow-up review. These regional meetings will provide an opportunity to assess progress made in the implementation of WSSD2 commitments; identify remaining gaps and challenges; and explore opportunities for accelerated action at the regional level. The outcomes of these processes will serve as a vital input into the global review of WSS2 implementation.

Objectives

The purpose of this high-level side event is to discuss the main social issues and challenges each region faces, the outcomes of WSSD2 and how the UN Regional Commissions can support their implementation at the regional level. The side event will also discuss how Regional Commissions can leverage peer-learning as well as multilateral and South-South Cooperation within and across regions.

The specific objectives of the Solution Session are to:

- **deepen understanding of regional social development trends, priorities, and challenges** confronting countries across the regions.
- **showcase innovative social policies and promising practices** responding to the challenges, including initiatives spearheaded by the Regional Commissions.
- **highlight the role of regional frameworks and agreements** in driving social policy change and achieving shared growth and stability; and
- **facilitate reflection and exchange on opportunities** for enhanced regional cooperation, with a focus on the role of the Regional Commissions in advancing a renewed and forward-looking social agenda.

Expected outcomes

The session will provide a platform for countries to share their visions and challenges and facilitate a dialogue on how Regional Commissions can enhance institutional capacities for developing and implementing impactful social policies at regional level. A summary of the side event will be made available after WSSD2 for further discussion among the regional commissions and relevant stakeholders to coordinate actions towards the monitoring, follow up, and implementation of the outcomes of WSSD2.

Participants and meeting modality

The speakers will include representatives from governments, United Nations entities, and relevant stakeholders. The meeting will be held in-person and in English, and it will be open to all registered participants. Following a moderated discussion between panelists, there will be Q&A, allowing for exchange between participants and panelists.

Tentative Programme

Thursday, 6 November 2025	
	Event moderator and MC Ms. Maisaa Youssef, Cluster Leader, 2030 Agenda and SDG Coordination, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)
[2 mins]	Welcome remarks Ms. Hanan Morsy, Deputy Executive Secretary of the ECA (<i>representing the Coordinator of the Regional Commissions for 2025</i>)
[3 mins]	Keynote address (3 mins) Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP)
[25 mins]	Ministerial / high-level panel discussion Views from five high-level representatives from each of the UN regions on the role of regional cooperation in driving social change and advancing sustainable development - H.E. Amb. Amma Twum-Amoah, Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development of the African Union (Africa Region) - H.E. Amb. Maged Abdelfattah Abdelaziz, Permanent Observer for the League of Arab States to the United Nations (Arab Region)

	• Dr. Maliki, Deputy Minister for Community Empowerment, Population and Manpower, Ministry of National Development Planning/National Development Planning Agency (Asia-Pacific Region) • Dr. Heidrun Mollenkopf, President, AGE Platform Europe (Europe Region) • H.E. Rafael Osorio, Vice Minister of Evaluation, Information Management and Single Registry of the Ministry of Social Development and Assistance, Family and Fight Against Hunger (MDS) of Brazil (Latin America and Caribbean Region)
[20 mins]	Perspectives from the Regional Economic Commissions <i>Perspectives from the Regional Commissions on leveraging regional action to support the outcome of the WSSD2 and drive policy and data integration</i> <i>Overview of regional social development trends, priorities, and challenges confronting countries across the regions, and innovative social policies and policy lessons</i> • Ms. Hanan Morsy, Deputy Executive Secretary, ECA • Ms. Lin Yang, Deputy Executive Secretary, ESCAP • Mr. Paul John Ladd, Principal Adviser to the Executive Secretary and Director of Sustainable Development, ECE • Mr. Alberto Arenas de Mesa, Director, Social Development Division, ECLAC
(15 mins)	Open discussion
5 ms	Final reflections by Ministerial/High Level Panel One takeaway or key priority for regional action post-WSSD2—reflecting on the discussion and other interventions ((1ms) • H.E. Amb. Amma Twum-Amoah, Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development of the African Union (Africa Region) • H.E. Amb. Maged Abdelfattah Abdelaziz, Permanent Observer for the League of Arab States to the United Nations (Arab Region) • Dr. Maliki, Deputy Minister for Community Empowerment, Population and Manpower, Ministry of National Development Planning/National Development Planning Agency (Asia-Pacific Region) • Dr. Heidrun Mollenkopf, President, AGE Platform Europe (Europe Region) • Rafael Osorio, Vice Minister of Evaluation, Information Management and Single Registry of the Ministry of Social Development and Assistance, Family and Fight Against Hunger (MDS) of Brazil (Latin America and Caribbean Region)
(5 mins)	Session 4: Closing remarks Mr. Alberto Arenas de Mesa, Director, Social Development Division, ECLAC

For more information, please contact:

- Economic Commission for Africa. Ms. Zuzana Schwidrowski at zuzana.schwidrowski@un.org; and
- Regional Commissions New York Office at rcnyo@un.org