

Our support to the World Social Summit

COVID-19 has evidenced and widened existing obstacles in access to health, education, decent work and social protection all over the world. There is a need for a stronger commitment to the social dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by the United Nations and its Member States, international financial institutions, regional organizations and other actors, including the civil society.

There is no better or more inclusive forum than the United Nations to evoke such a commitment and to elevate social development in the international agenda. The United Nations Secretary-General's report ***Our Common Agenda*** recommends that consideration should be given to holding a ***World Social Summit in 2025, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Copenhagen Declaration***.

We fully support this call as a matter of urgency and responsibility towards the millions of citizens around the world whose social needs have slipped further from being met.

A World Social Summit at the highest political level will provide an opportunity for the international community to strengthen United Nations' framework for effective social development and to save the 2030 Agenda from unravelling. It will also represent a step forward in building a networked and inclusive multilateralism, and help the United Nations system keep pace with the evolving challenges and opportunities of sustainable development.

An opportunity for shared decision making

- The celebration of a World Social Summit in 2025 represents a unique opportunity for inclusion. The Summit's agenda and definition of final outcomes should **engage and include a wide range of voices** including civil society organizations, local governments, the private sector, financial institutions and other key actors.

- **Civil Society** should play a relevant role. This will require a significant effort in terms of mobilization and coordination of civil society organizations at local, national and regional levels.

Special attention should be given to the participation of the Global South when it comes to defining the Summit's agenda and engaging in political negotiations.

- **Most marginalized groups** must be represented in the discussions. The voices of minorities and migrants should be heard along all stages of the Summit. They should all have a say in envisioning their lives and futures.

- **Regional organizations** should also play a significant role in the preparations and political negotiations of the Summit. This will ensure policy alignment and increase regional political ownership in a time when regional organizations are increasing their response to social development challenges.

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Agenda Setting

People need to see results reflected in their daily lives. The Summit should be built upon clear objectives in terms of what should be achieved. It should be able to deliver **practical solutions anchored in human rights**.

-The **Copenhagen Declaration** should be the starting point for discussions. It should be updated and improved so it better responds to the standards of the social dimension of the 2030 Agenda and the increasing social needs as a consequence of the COVID-19 Pandemic and the impact of conflict.

-The concept of **Human Dignity** should be anchored in all discussions. The process needs to be human-centred and make sure it contributes to the 2030 Agenda's commitment to leaving no one behind.

-It should have a strong **implementing focus** so it contributes to building trust in our societies. With no trust, there is no cohesion. Implementation and a **comprehensive approach to accountability**, not only national but among countries, will be determinant factors for the success of the Summit's outcomes.

-The World Social Summit will help the international community to take stock of the problems we face and find practical solutions for poverty, malnutrition, inequality, mistrust and marginalization among many others. A **Human Security** approach would offer policymakers a new conceptual framework and improved methodologies to respond to these challenges. It would help to understand the relationship between human development and human security.

-The Summit will allow us to review long-pursued social inclusion and social justice objectives such as:

- **Universal Social Protection** as an integrated set of policies designed to ensure income security and support to all, especially the poor and the most vulnerable.
- **Standards of living** for people to live a decent life.
- Tackling **income and wealth inequality**.
- **Equality, inclusiveness and access** of women, minorities, people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups.
- **Decent Work** Agenda able to provide decent earnings, ensure safe working conditions, provide social protection, and safeguard workers' rights.
- Agenda for the **Youth** able to deliver better education and jobs, and to give them a greater voice in designing their own futures.
- **Financing** for social development, including tax and debt issues and the rethinking of the global financial architecture.

We commit to advancing the dialogues advocating for UN action for inclusive social development and supporting the UNSG's call for a World Social Summit in 2025. We see this specific call as an opportunity for global leaders to give social development a relevant place in policymaking and keep Agenda 2030 from further unravelling.

Club de Madrid is the world's largest forum of democratic former Presidents and Prime Ministers, who leverage their unique leadership experience and global reach to strengthen inclusive democratic practice and improve the well-being of people around the world.

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