

Statement by CSocD62 Vice Chair, Ms. Stephanie Toschi (Luxembourg)

ECOSOC Management Segment

6 June 2024

Your Excellency Bob Rae, Vice-Chair of ECOSOC,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for this opportunity to brief the Council on actions taken by the Commission for Social Development in response to the recommendations provided to the Council in 2022 following a review of the working methods of its subsidiary bodies.

Many of the recommendations formed the basis of our discussions at the Commission for Social Development earlier this year, including the choice of our priority theme, which was: “Fostering Social Development and Social Justice through Social Policies to Accelerate Progress on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to Achieve the Overarching Goal of Poverty Eradication.” The title answers the recommendation that the Commission shall continue aligning its work with the 2030 Agenda and with the theme of ECOSOC.

Another recommendation to the Commission is to continue considering ideas for obtaining financing and other means of implementation for sustainable development, building on SDG 17.

The ministerial forum at the Commission debated the question of mainstreaming social considerations into development frameworks in order to address the challenge of financing.

Ministers noted the importance of building inclusive, resilient and sustainable societies by investing in people through adequately funded social development policies. However, sustained social development cannot be effectively pursued through social policies alone. Other related policies, including economic and labour market policies; and fiscal and monetary policies, need to integrate social development priorities to ensure that adequate sustainable financing is made available.

A concerted effort to mobilise domestic resources to fund development priorities is also essential, as is the need to ensure that development partners meet their commitments to allocate 0.7 percent of their national incomes to overseas development assistance.

Regarding the recommendation to continue mainstreaming gender equality and empowerment of women, the Commission adopted a resolution on the priority theme encouraging

Member States to implement policies that ensure women's economic empowerment by supporting the full and productive participation of women in the labour market.

Barriers preventing women from accessing, remaining in, and progressing through the labour market; such as gender stereotypes, all forms of violence, discriminatory laws and practices and unequal pay for equal work must be removed.

Inequality, within and between countries has been increasing in part due to the remaining impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing conflicts. Many countries, both developed and developing countries, introduced or strengthened a range of social protection measures to address rising poverty and inequalities. It is imperative to maintain and expand these social protection measures as a way of increasing solidarity, inclusion and social cohesion, while reducing poverty and inequalities.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

One of the most important assertions at the Commission was acknowledging that investment in human capital and social protection is a proven way of reducing poverty and inequality. Member States are therefore invited to mobilize adequate, innovative sources of financing, including through public-private partnerships, to provide for universal social protection and healthcare, as well as quality and affordable education.

Moving forward, the Commission for Social Development will once again look at its methods of work during the current session, providing another opportunity to identify possible actions to implement the recommendations for enhancing the work of ECOSOC.

Thank you for your kind attention.