

Statement by CSocD62 Vice-Chair, Ms. Carla María Carlson (Dominican Republic)

ECOSOC Management Segment

5 June 2024

Your Excellency Mr. Bob Rae, Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As Vice-Chair of the sixty-second session of the Commission for Social Development, it is my privilege to present the report on the session held from 5 to 14 February 2024.

Allow me to extend my heartfelt appreciation to Her Excellency Paula Narváez, President of ECOSOC, and His Excellency Bob Rae, Vice-President of ECOSOC, for their invaluable contributions during the opening and closing segments of the session.

The Commission deliberated on matters related to the session's priority theme, "*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*" as well as on the emerging issue of "*The influence of digital transformation on inclusive growth and development: a path to realizing social justice*". It also commemorated the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family.

Six illuminating panel discussions were convened during the session.

- A high-level panel on the priority theme,
- A ministerial forum,
- A high-level panel on the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family,
- A panel discussion on emerging issues,
- An Interactive Dialogue with senior officials of the United Nations system, and
- A multi-stakeholder forum.

Member States emphasized the importance of embracing a rights-based approach to social development, breaking intergenerational cycles of poverty, strengthening work-family balance policies, and closing digital divides through technology transfers and technical assistance. Peace and security were underscored as fundamental prerequisites for sustainable development and the attainment of the SDGs.

The Commission has put forth three draft resolutions and one decision for adoption by the Council.

First, a resolution on the priority theme was adopted. This resolution acknowledges that investment in human capital and social protection has been proven to be effective in reducing poverty and inequality, and invites Member States to mobilize innovative sources of financing, including through public-private partnerships, to secure adequate levels of social expenditure necessary for expanding coverage towards universal access to health, education, innovation, new technologies and basic social protection.

The resolution stresses the importance of establishing and implementing targeted policies and measures to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, by formulating development strategies with clear poverty eradication goals.

Calling upon Member States to increase investment in social development through, *inter alia*, domestic resource mobilization for social policies, it also calls upon the international community to strengthen multilateral cooperation to enhance fiscal space for social spending by cooperating with regional, subregional and national development banks to align lending capacities with national development priorities and help meet the financing needs of developing countries, while continuing to assist developing countries in avoiding a build-up of unsustainable debt and in implementing resilience measures so as to reduce the risk of relapsing into another debt crisis.

Second, the Commission adopted a resolution on the “Social Dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD)”, which noted that net bilateral official development assistance (ODA) flows from member countries of the Development Assistance Committee to Africa and sub-Saharan Africa in 2022 decreased by 7.4 per cent and 7.8 per cent in real terms, respectively, compared to 2021, while ODA remained far from the international commitment of 0.7 per cent of gross national income.

Third, a new resolution on “Promoting Care and Support Systems for Social Development” was adopted urging States to ensure the creation of enabling environments for promoting care and support systems for social development and implement all measures necessary to ensure the well-being and rights of care-recipients and caregivers, to recognize and redistribute care work among individuals, as well as families, communities, the private sector and States, and to contribute to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

The Commission also decided that the priority theme for the sixty-third session would be “*Strengthening solidarity, social inclusion and social cohesion to accelerate the delivery of the commitments of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action*”

of the World Summit for Social Development as well as the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

A total of 22 ministers and vice-ministers participated in the Commission’s deliberations.

More than 300 civil society organizations also attended.

In the margins of the session, 50 side events and a civil society forum were convened.

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Commission for Social Development remains resolute in its commitment to advancing the social development agenda and contributing to the work of ECOSOC.

I thank you.