



**Social Development: Youth Solutions for an Inclusive Future**  
**17 April 2025, from 4:30 PM – 5:45 PM**

IDENTIFICATION	
<b>Session/plenary title</b>	Social Development: Youth Solutions for an Inclusive Future
<b>Session/plenary focus</b>	Social Development
<b>Session/plenary UN co-lead UN 1</b>	DESA/Division for Inclusive Social Development
<b>Session/plenary youth co-lead 1</b>	Global Youth Initiative on Social Inclusion/MGCY
<b>Session/plenary youth co-organizers</b>	Global Indigenous Youth Caucus
	CDWD Youth Constituency
BACKGROUND & KEY ISSUES	
<p>The first World Summit for Social Development took place in 1995 with an ambitious vision of social justice, solidarity, harmony, and equality within and among countries. Together, world leaders committed to urgent solutions for crucial social development challenges including reducing and eliminating widespread poverty, ensuring employment and decent work for all; enhancing social inclusion and integration; and fostering stable and just societies. Yet, thirty years on, have the commitments set out in the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action truly changed the realities faced by young people and their communities? What more needs to be done?</p> <p>Today, young people face complex and multifaceted social challenges - including a lack of safe and affordable housing, barriers to education and decent employment, and a global mental health crisis. Emerging issues such as technology-facilitated violence and mis/disinformation also pose new threats to inclusive social development and community cohesion. If we are to get back on track with social development, bold - and urgent - action is needed. As we look ahead to the Second World Summit for Social Development in Qatar later this year, young people have a once in a lifetime opportunity to forge a path forward for inclusive and equitable social development to be at the center of global and national development agendas.</p> <p>Young people’s participation and leadership in the development, implementation and evaluation of this renewed focus on social development is critical, and must be translated into inclusive and</p>	

comprehensive processes with special focus on mainstreaming youth voices from the global south, SIDS and other marginalized communities.

This plenary is meant to contribute to these efforts, as it will showcase youth leadership for social development and offer a platform for informed dialogue. The moderated conversation and outcomes of the session will serve as a key input to the upcoming High-Level Political Forum (via the ECOSOC President Statement) and Second World Summit for Social Development to be held in November 2025.

Young people have been organizing their participation and inputs for the World Summit for Social Development since early 2024 ([roadmap here](#)) across various UN fora. The Youth Mobilization Group on the World Summit for Social Development, launched by MGCY last year, provides direct inputs to the process. Youth priorities for the Food for Thought paper were shared with co-facilitators in February 2025, with the first global youth policy paper towards the Summit due in March 2025, and young people and youth organizations also actively engaged during the various consultations hosted by the co-facilitators of the negotiation process.

Therefore, building on these processes and existing groundwork, this session will allow to collect and further mainstream youth voices and feedback on social development, including for the Second World Summit for Social Development and its outcomes.

### OBJECTIVES OF SESSION/PLENARY

- To convene diverse youth constituencies and partners lead up to HLPF and the Second World Summit for Social Development, building upon existing and ongoing youth consultations and engagement
- To amplify and consolidate young people’s voices and collect their feedback, including from marginalized and underrepresented youth communities in a safe and meaningful space.
- To feed into the ECOSOC Youth Forum informal summary and Presidential statement, and the “Voices of Youth” Report by youth constituencies
- To highlight on-ground solutions by youth-led organizations and partners in advocating and taking action for social justice and explore ideas for youth-led accountability beyond the Second World Summit for Social Development

### OVERALL FORMAT/STRUCTURE

- Opening remarks: Introduction to the session's theme and the WSSD = 5 minutes
- Panel discussion: 1 moderator and 3 speakers (2 youth speakers and 1 DESA rep.) = 25 minutes
- Youth respondents from the floor: 4 youth X 2 minutes each + transitions = 10 minutes
- Statements from Member States: 14 Member States X 2 minutes each + transitions = 30 minutes
- Closing remarks = 5 minutes

Total: 75 minutes

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What are some of the main findings and key messages coming from the youth preparatory process leading up to the Summit?
- What are your main recommendations and perspectives to Member States toward the Second World Summit for Social Development?
- What are some of the challenges or barriers you have faced or identified as a young person or youth organization, movement, and network, when taking action on social development? How can governments, UN entities, development partners help to overcome these barriers?
- How can governments, UN entities, development partners, youth organizations, movements and networks, philanthropy, civil society actors, and the private sector be better partners to further impact, commitments, and financing for young people?
- How can the meaningful engagement of young people, in particular from marginalized communities, be further strengthened and mainstreamed in the process and implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development?
- How are you supporting or planning on supporting youth-led and youth-inclusive efforts and consultations that could inform the World Summit for Social Development?

## NAMES AND TITLES OF SESSION SPEAKERS AND MODERATOR(S)

**Moderator:** Naveen Gautam, Senior Legal Researcher with Global Forum for Communities discriminated on Work and Descent, CDWD Youth Constituency

### Speakers:

- Alejandra Tentle, Red Nacional de Mujeres Afrodescendientes CDMX
- Divine Irakoze, Global Refugee Youth Network (GYRN) /SheLeads Kakuma
- Charles Katoanga, Director, Division for Inclusive Social Development, UN DESA

### Respondents from the floor:

- Yugratna Srivastava, Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY)
- Liana Almony, Chair of the NGO CSocD
- Veronica Brown, Organising Partner, Women's Major Group
- Daniel Helmer, March for Our Planet

### Member States interventions:

- 14 Member States (as of 15 April 2025)

## OVERVIEW OF PREPARATORY EVENT/CONSULTATION

The process for youth mobilization for the Second World Social Summit has been happening at least since mid-2024 with several key activities led by youth constituencies worldwide. These include:

- May 2024: Dedicated session hosted by MGCY and GCAP (Global Coalition for Action Against Poverty) at the UN Civil Society Conference in Nairobi
- July 2024: Consultation on meaningful civil society and youth engagement for WSS at the High Level Political Forum (HLPF)
- September 2024: [Consultation session on the World Social Summit](#) at the Global People's Assembly (GPA) co-hosted by MGCY and sessions at the Youth Blast for UNGA
- December 2024: Launch of [youth inputs to CSocD paper](#)
- January 2025: Convening of the [Youth Working Group on WSS](#), that currently has more than 500+ youth groups in membership including but not limited to youth-led and youth-led serving organisations, UN Youth delegates, grassroots youth groups, young refugees, young indigenous people and youth from slums, and others
  - A [dedicated Youth Hub](#) for the Summit was created to share important updates and engagement opportunities for young people globally.
  - A virtual consultation session was hosted on January 23 to collect youth inputs on the Food for Thought Paper
- February 2025: [Youth engagement at CSocD63](#)
  - MGCY facilitated participation of 40+ young people to CSocD63
  - Youth intervened at every high-level session (total of 5 of them) at CSocD63
  - A dedicated [side event on youth perspectives to WSS](#) was hosted by MGCY
  - Multiple youth focussed side events hosted including focussing on empowerment of girl child
- February 2025: Launch of the [Youth Inputs to the Food for Thought Paper](#) / WSS Declaration
- March 2025: Another [consultation session of the Working Group](#) to prepare procedural asks/requests for meaningful engagement of youth at the WSS and consolidating youth feedback on the co-facilitators paper

Throughout 2025, as intergovernmental negotiations and preparation for WSS proceed, MGCY and youth partners will continue to engage with this process, publishing further updates on our collective youth policy priorities and as well as working directly with children and young people from across the world to raise awareness of the Summit, undertake local community consultations and activities, and build their capacity to advocate and engage from the national to the global level.

Specifically, in the lead-up to the ECOSOC Youth Forum, the following activities are taking place to mobilize wider engagement of young people, especially from the global south and frontlines:

- A [Global Youth Survey for inputs towards the Second World Summit on Social Development](#) [from the 26th March - 7th April 2025]
- [Multi Stakeholder Consultation Panel: Youth Voices for the Second World Summit on Social Development](#) [2nd April, 2025, 9 am - 10.30 am EST - Hybrid]
- Story-telling social media campaign: Youth and the Second World Summit on Social Development [to be launched on the 26th March 2025]

**ADDITIONAL DETAILS, SUGGESTED READING, IF ANY**

- [Children and Youth Information Hub for the World Social Summit](#)
- [Youth Inputs to the Food for Thought Paper](#)
- [Children and Youth Paper to CSocD -63](#)