

Inputs to the Vice-Chair-designate (Bulgaria) for his statement at the Joint meeting with ECOSOC with the Chairs of the Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies
31 January 2020, 10:00 am – 12:00pm at ECOSOC Chamber

1. Contributions by Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies to the 2020 theme of ECOSOC and the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)

Thank you, Madam President,

The main contributions of the Commission for Social Development to the HLPF theme will be through its deliberations on the issue of addressing homelessness and on leveraging 25 years of implementation of the World Summit for Social Development.

During its 57th session in February 2019, the Commission for Social Development adopted its priority theme of the next - 2020 - session entitled “Affordable housing and social protection systems for all to address homelessness”. Homelessness had been addressed directly and indirectly in the past and is SGD target 11.1. However, this will be the first time the issue of “homelessness” will be discussed in the UN inter-governmental forum, resulting in much interest among Member States and social partners, such as local governments, philanthropic communities, and social workers and other civil society organizations. About 800 people from civil society organizations have registered to participate in this Commission session.

The Commission will approach the complex issue of addressing homelessness, through affordable housing policies and social protection systems for all within the context of the 2030 Agenda. This will assist Member States in accelerating the implementation of various Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), such as SDG 1, SDG 8, SDG 10, and SDG 11, in particular, target 1.3 to implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors: and particularly target 11.1 to ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services. It will also support Member States in realizing the right to adequate housing as part of their implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

Furthermore, multisectoral approach and integrated responses to preventing people falling into homelessness, supporting those experiencing homelessness, and devising long-term comprehensive strategies to end homelessness, will fulfil the commitment Member States made to leave no one behind, and endeavour to reach the furthest behind the first, through addressing the rights and specific needs of those in disadvantaged or vulnerable situations, including women, children, adolescents, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, people living in poverty and people displaced by natural disasters and conflicts.

This year also marks the 25th anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development (WSSD). During the Commission, a Ministerial Forum will be convened to commemorate the 25th anniversary in order to address emerging societal challenges to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, such as changes in demographic dynamics, high and rising inequality, negative effects of climate change and natural disasters, rapid technological change. The Commission, based on the 25 years of experience in the monitoring the implementation of the Copenhagen Programme of Action, aims to address these challenges through coherent, effective and comprehensive policies and measures, as we launch an ambitious and accelerated response to reach the common vision by 2030.

Inputs to the Vice-Chair-designate (Bulgaria) for his statement at the Joint meeting with ECOSOC with
the Chairs of the Functional Commissions and Expert Bodies
31 January 2020, 10:00 am – 12:00pm at ECOSOC Chamber

During the upcoming Session, four panel discussions will be organized, including the high-level panel discussion on the priority theme, a Ministerial Forum, a Multi-stakeholder Forum on the priority theme to share practical solutions, as well as an Interactive dialogue with senior officials of the UN system to further strengthen policy coherence among the UN system at the global, regional and national levels on the thematic subject. The outcome of the 58th session of the Commission for Social Development is expected to include a resolution on the priority theme, as well as Chair's summaries to be submitted to the President of ECOSOC as the Commission's contributions to the 2020 HLPF and ECOSOC high-level segment (HLS).

Policy outcomes and recommendations of the 58th Commission for Social Development will be oriented towards supporting Member States in accelerating action for the realization of sustainable development goals.

The Commission for Social Development, as one of the oldest functional commissions of ECOSOC and serving as the main United Nations forum for an intensified global dialogue on social development issues, stands ready to bring all the outcomes of the 58th session to the HLPF thematic review and the work of ECOSOC, and seek guidance of the Council on the best venue to realize this.

* * *

Disclaimer: This statement was made by the Vice-Chair-designate in his capacity as Vice-Chair-designate speaking on behalf of the Chairperson, and this does not represent the views of the Members of the Commission.