

WELCOME GATHERING

for the 62nd Session of the

COMMISSION for SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

5-14 FEBRUARY 2024

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**



We have, for most of human history, imagined that the solution to poverty was growth:



Bigger machines,
bigger crop yields,
bigger business,
bigger income,
bigger homes...

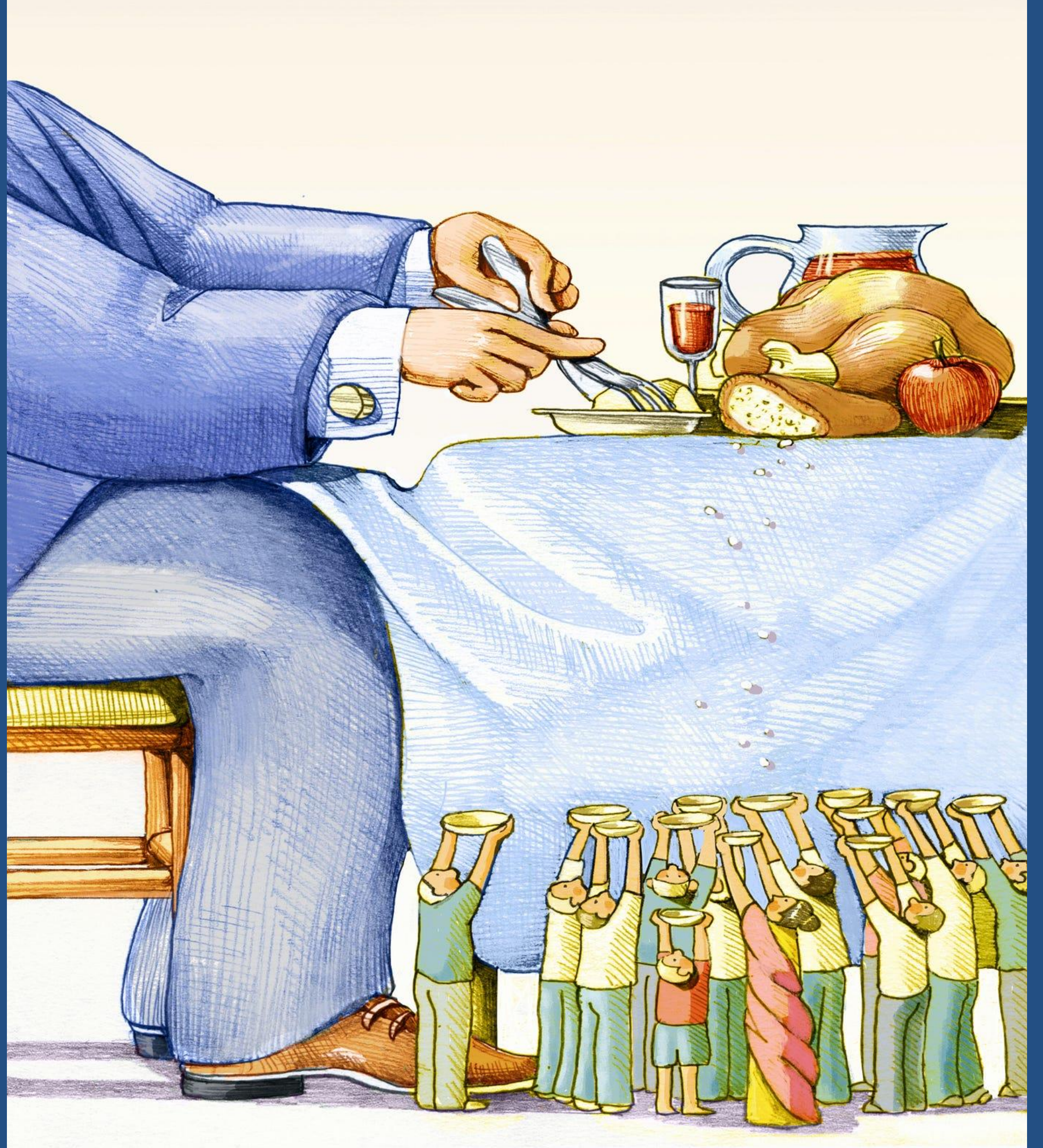
Instead, as we heard from Pope Francis, “The exploitation of the planet has already exceeded acceptable limits and we still have not solved the problem of poverty.”



Photos: Mandel Ngan/AFP/Getty (left) & Mentatmark (above)

We have seen that infinite economic growth as a pathway out of poverty is a myth.

We have seen that a higher GDP (Gross Domestic Product) does not translate to the satisfaction of basic needs of all.





Instead, we have seen poverty persist alongside rising GDPs, producing growth of a different kind:

Bigger armies, bigger weapons, bigger walls, bigger waste, bigger gaps between the wealthiest and poorest among us.





Low-income countries allocate more than 2x as much funding to debt interest payments as they do to social assistance

1.4x more than to healthcare



God, help us to seek growth in attention more than we seek growth in technological convenience...

Help us to recall the plenty of Eden, of your creation, which we inherited from the countless beautiful species that came before us.

Help us to recognize that we live in a condition of abundance, and that poverty is a failure to adequately distribute the overflowing wealth You provide.



Help us to notice the dignity and potential of those who lack adequate shelter, nutrition, healthcare, and opportunity. They are present in every nation on earth, regardless of the nation's GDP.

Help us to identify our own urges to seek comfort in the consumption of goods.

Help us to discover the greater comfort that lies within our capacity to conserve and regenerate natural wealth instead.



RESPONSE:

God, help us to grow in
attention.



God, help us to seek growth in gratitude more than we seek growth in crop yields...

Help us to approach the substance and lifeforms of this planet with reverence.



Help us to learn from our indigenous sisters and brothers how to appreciate the dignity of all life by harvesting no more than we need to nourish our bodies and by letting no food go to waste.

Inspire us to speak words of thanks, not only before meals, but each time we turn on a light or a water tap, each time we begin a journey in a vehicle that will burn fossil fuels.

Help us to savor life's purest blessings enough to live simply with great joy.

RESPONSE:

God, help us to grow in
gratitude.



God, help us to seek growth in solidarity more than we seek growth in annual revenue...

Deepen our sense that we are parts of one body, so that the well-being of one can be achieved only through the well-being of all.



Help us to more consistently seek out opportunities to distribute whatever form of wealth we possess, whether it is our resources, our time, our talents, or the wisdom of our own experience.

Help us to receive—with grace and reverence—the gifts of resources, time, talent, and wisdom that may be offered to us by our sisters and brothers from every background.

RESPONSE:

God, help us to grow in
solidarity.

God, help us to seek growth in commitment more than we seek growth in the size of our homes or bank accounts...

Strengthen our commitment to educating our young people and our political leaders about the precious natural wealth of the world and helping them to understand that humanity is part of nature's economy.

Strengthen our resolve to withdraw financial investments and avoid purchases from big corporations that disregard human rights or our environmental crisis.



Strengthen our commitment to promote social policies that discourage excessive accumulation of money by individuals and allocate government funding for programmes that facilitate greater access to water, food, shelter, and healthcare for all people.

Strengthen our insistence on debt forgiveness among nations to unburden low-income nations from the crushing weight of interest payments and free them to provide stronger support services to those in their population who are at risk of extreme poverty.



RESPONSE:

God, help us to grow in
commitment.

IN WHAT OTHER ASPECTS DO WE
NEED TO **GROW** IN ORDER **TO**
ERADICATE POVERTY FROM OUR
WORLD?

God, in all these aspects of life and governance, guide our growth so that we may eradicate poverty from our hearts, our nations, and our global community.



Amen.



What is CSocD62?



What is Social Development?

Social development is an approach to development which recognizes that the ability of a society to thrive depends upon the well-being of each and every one of its citizens. Therefore, social development requires investing in people to ensure that their age, physical ability, income level, or other factors do not prevent them from living with dignity. It is the process of **removing barriers to opportunity and creating new pathways to well-being to ensure all people can reach their full potential and contribute meaningfully to their communities.**

What is the Commission for Social Development?

The Commission for Social Development (CSocD) is a conference that serves as a **platform for United Nations (UN) Member States, civil society, and other stakeholders** to come together to discuss recommendations and policies to **advance social development** at both the national and global levels. It focuses on reducing inequalities among various groups through poverty eradication, social inclusion, and sustainable development for all. The CSocD agenda includes space to share good practices, review and analyse progress, engage in policy dialogues, and coordinate efforts to advance social development - thereby improving the well-being of individuals and communities worldwide.

What is the theme for CSocD62?

Each year, the Commission adopts a priority theme and emerging issue to guide its efforts. The theme for the 62nd Session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD62) will focus on this central theme: **Poverty eradication through policies that reduce inequality and advance social justice.** It will also discuss the emerging issue: Digital technology's influence on social inequality.



Key Terminology

The following terms provide an important foundation for understanding the global policy conversation on social development. You will want to be familiar with them if you plan on participating in or following the discussions at CSocD62.



Poverty

Condition characterized by severe deprivation of basic human needs, including food, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, health, shelter, education and information; depends not only on income but also on access to services

Social protection

Policies and programmes intended to help keep all people at or above a minimum standard of living that reflects their human dignity (e.g., cash transfers to ensure every household has access to a certain minimum amount of money to spend on basic goods, direct provision of food, and special access to low-cost housing)

Social protection floors

Minimum standards of income, housing, healthcare, nutrition, etc. that enable one to live in dignity in a specific nation or locality

Inclusive growth

Increase in economic productivity that benefits all people rather than only those in the highest levels of leadership or ownership

CSocD62 Details



When

5-14 February 2024



Where

United Nations Headquarters in New York



Official Website

Click on the following link to access the [CSocD62](#) website



Watch

Join online to follow the proceedings of CSocD62 at webtv.un.org (streamed in multiple languages)



Schedule

Click on the following link to view the [provisional agenda](#) and a list of official [side events](#)



JCoR Statement

Click on the following link to read [JCoR's written statement](#). See the next page for additional details.

COMMISSION for SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

United Nations Headquarters, New York

EVERYONE INCLUDED

United Nations
Department of Economic and Social Affairs



Civil Society Forum 2024

The Civil Society Forum is a space for members of civil society, in collaboration with the UN, Member States, and other stakeholders to gather, learn, discuss, and strategize on the themes and deliberations of the 62nd session of the UN Commission for Social Development. It is hosted by the [NGO Committee on Social Development](#), [UNDESA-DISD](#), and [Friedrich-Ebert Stiftung Foundation](#).

4 February

[Click here to register to attend online](#)

Orientation Session

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM (New York time)

Join via Zoom to kick-off CSocD62 and the Civil Society Forum

9 February

[Click here to register to attend in person](#) (UNHQ, Conference Room 4)

For those unable to attend in-person, the Forum will be available to livestream on [webtv.un.org](#)

Opening Panel & Thematic Session 1

9:00 AM - 11:30AM (New York time)

Structural Barriers and Transformative Policies to Social Progress

Networking & Entertainment Sessions

11:30 AM - 1:30 PM (New York time)

Networking opportunities, live performance, and a light lunch

Thematic Session 2 & Closing Remarks

1:30 PM - 2:45 PM (New York time)

Placing People, Rights and Justice at the Center of Social Development



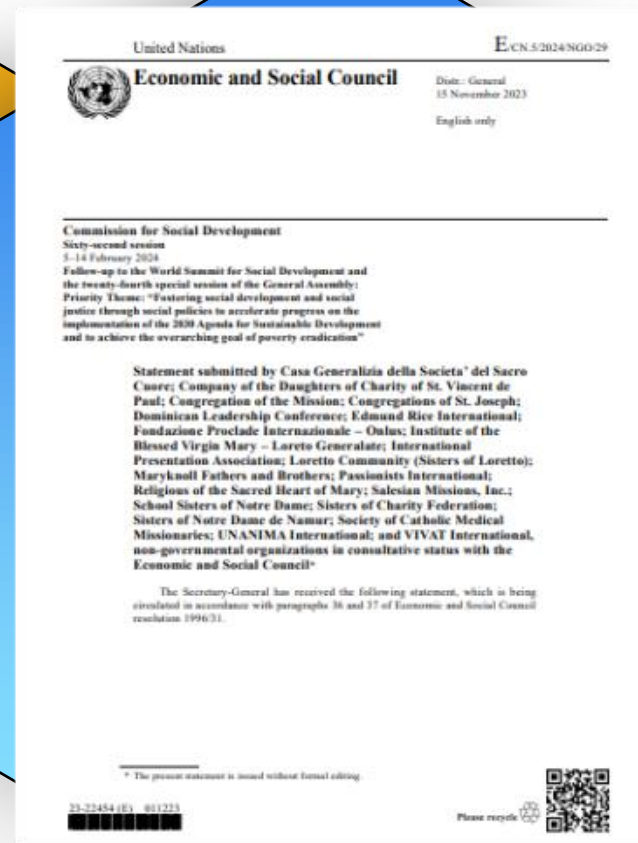
JCoR Statement for CSocD62

JCoR's member organizations submitted a joint statement for CSocD62, identifying important issues related to its priority theme and providing recommendations to advance social development, social inclusion, social justice, and the eradication of poverty. We encourage you to read our statement and incorporate its messaging into your advocacy efforts throughout CSocD62!

JCoR would like to express our gratitude to all of our network members who contributed their ideas and experiences to the composition of this statement, including:

- Gale Mohammed-Oxley, Order of Preachers / G.O. International Academy of Learning (Dominican Leadership Conference)
- Floridalia Nogura Martínez, DC, Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul
- Herri Kiswanto Sitohang, SVD, Society of the Divine Word (VIVAT International)
- Sani Lake, JPIC Kalimantan
- Gregory Minz, SVD, Society of the Divine Word (VIVAT International)
- Simon Suban Tukan, SVD, Society of the Divine Word (VIVAT International)
- Margaret Mwarili, RSCJ, Society of the Sacred Heart
- Maigualida Reira Colina, MMS, Medical Mission Sisters
- Maria Fatima, SSpS, Missionaries Sisters Servants of Holy Spirit (VIVAT International)
- Darlene O'Leary, Sisters of St. Martha (Sisters of Charity Federation)
- Celine Paramundayil, MMS, Medical Mission Sisters
- Janet Palafox, IBVM, Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Loreto Generalate
- Lucie Kima Kayongo, SNDdeN, Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur
- Isabelle Izika Tsamba, SNDdeN, Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur

Click on the following link to access the [full statement](#) and read our recommendations to advance social development (available in English, French, and Spanish)



JCoR's Recommendations

In their reports on poverty and social policies, JCoR's regional network members called for these actions to be taken by the world's governments:

- Facilitate **access of small-holding farmers and entrepreneurs to irrigation systems, to urban markets** (via sufficient roads and affordable transport options), **and to international markets** (via fair trade agreements upholding workers' rights)
- Organize and incentivise investors to offer **vocational training, access to microcredit**, and support for local entrepreneurship in marginalised and remote communities
- Remove all legislative barriers to **women's ownership of land** and support community-based deconstruction of stigmas and traditions preserving de facto barriers to it
- Establish a **liveable minimum wage and** guarantee **basic income** through a public fund and distribution mechanism that is need-based, trauma-informed, and responsive to outreach needs of poverty-burdened communities
 - Foster the establishment of—and channel international and domestic social-service **funding through—community-based women's networks** (e.g. Kudumbashree networks in India, Ethiopia, and South Africa)
 - Adopt a rights-based, comprehensive **national approach to poverty eradication that includes measurable targets, timelines, and transparent reporting mechanisms** consistent with the Sustainable Development Goals and evaluate progress through a peacebuilding lens
 - Dedicate public funds to **establishing or preserving community centers** for all community-based associations and organizations aligned with human rights and sustainable development
- Offer essential **social services** according to need **regardless of migratory status**
- **Fully fund**, in proportion to States' common but differentiated responsibilities, **all funds of the Framework Convention on Climate Change's** financial mechanism **and** all UN agencies' budgetary requirements for the fulfilment of the **social protection needs of refugees and asylum-seekers**
- **End all subsidies for fossil fuel extraction** and **incentivise clean-energy** development and **reforestation**
- **Integrate peacebuilding and anti-poverty** initiatives, prioritising and investing in **leadership of rural and indigenous women and children** in both
- Enlist **leadership from poverty-burdened groups** in each locality for building and **renovating school infrastructures, training teachers, and tailoring learning programs** to local realities and needs;
- Prioritise **health and education centers** in extension of **electricity and internet** to rural communities
- Establish **regular migratory pathway for climate-displaced persons and lower** ceilings on **remittance fees**
- Enact the SDG Stimulus Plan for **international debt relief**

NGO CSocD's Recommendations

Key demands from the 2024 Civil Society Declaration:

- Establish nationally owned, human rights-based, social protection systems and floors for all
- Ensure equal access to healthcare, education, digital technology, affordable housing and food for all
- Extend debt relief for the least developed countries based on solidarity
- Ensure equal access to a healthy and safe environment for all
- Ensure that all persons are equal before the law, without discrimination



Sample Messaging

for social media

#CSocD62 (5-14 Feb) gathers @UN Member States & civil society to accelerate progress toward #SocialDevelopment & #SocialJustice. Let us join hands & work together to #EndPoverty & construct a world with #EveryoneIncluded. Learn more & participate: <https://jcor2030.org/communications-guides/>

TAKE ACTION TODAY! Even if you cannot join the discussions at #CSocD62, you can support the fight to work for #SocialJustice and #EndPoverty by endorsing @NGOCSocD's 2023 Civil Society Declaration. Read & sign on here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdY0DIxhVEaE-2IZOARxdO8OhzAoG3OipT15lbB0mCS8fuYjg/viewform>

At #CSocD62 we call on governments to adopt a rights-based, comprehensive national approach to poverty eradication that includes measurable targets, timelines, and transparent reporting mechanisms. Read JCoR's #CSocD statement & advocate to #EndPoverty: <https://undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=E%2FCN.5%2F2024%2FNGO%2F29&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop&LangRequested=False>

As human beings, our well-being is connected to one another. Poverty & growing inequality undermine social cohesion, increase political tensions, & lead to conflict. Join us during #CSocD62 to advocate for progress on #SDG1 to #EndPoverty. More on SDG1: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/poverty/>

Setting your intention for CSocD62



3-Step Reflection

1. Survey of personal and congregational expertise
2. Survey of opportunities
3. Selection of priorities

Step 1:

Survey of personal & congregational expertise

Looking into your heart and history...

1. What people, places, and social issues/types of ministry do I know most deeply?
2. With what people, places, and social issues/types of ministry does my congregation have the strongest history and relationship?
3. What questions do I need answered to better serve the people in the places we know most deeply facing the social issues my congregation knows best?

Step 2:

Survey of Opportunities

Looking at the programming included in CSocD62...

1. When/where might I hear from a representative of my national government or the governments of other countries where my congregation is present?
2. When/where are other leaders/experts from these countries speaking?
3. When/where can I hear from other experts in the field of my ministry?

Step 3:

Selection of Priorities

Looking at the programming included in CSocD62...

1. Which sessions' topics align most closely with my personal passion, ministry, and questions?
2. Which sessions' topics align most closely with my congregation's charism and current priorities?
3. Which panelists are best equipped to answer my questions?
4. In which sessions am I most likely to gather contact information of helpful future partners in mission?



Daily reflection questions for CSocD62

- *What did I learn today that can support my ministry/the community I serve?*
- *What did I hear today that **does not** align with or accurately reflect the lived reality of the community I serve?*
- *Who (person, government, or organization) did I hear from today that I would like to communicate with further?*

Crafting Your Message for CSocD62



3-Step Reflection

1. Consider the communities you serve and your congregation
2. Consider your ministry itself
3. Consider the role of government

STEP 1:

When I think of the people my congregation and I serve...

- What barriers to opportunity are they experiencing?
- Where/how is a *lack of* opportunity contributing to their impoverishment?
- What new pathways to well-being are needed to allow them to reach their full potential and to contribute meaningfully to their societies?

STEP 2:

When I think of my ministry...

Where/how are we removing barriers to opportunity or creating pathways to contribution and well-being for the community we serve?

STEP 3:

When I think of the services, programs, or support our government provides...

- Where/how is the local or national government removing barriers to opportunity in the community I serve?
- Where/how is the local or national government creating or exacerbating barriers to opportunity for the community I serve?
- How could government create new or better pathways to contribution from community members whose potential to contribute is not being fully realized?