



Welcome Gathering

for the 63rd session of the

Commission for Social Development

10 FEBRUARY 2025





JUSTICE COALITION OF RELIGIOUS

This gathering was convened by the [Justice Coalition of Religious](#) (JCoR), a coalition of 23 non-governmental organizations that are accredited to collectively represent over 200 congregations of Roman Catholic women and men Religious at the United Nations (UN). For centuries, congregations of Religious have served people who have been rendered poor, vulnerable, oppressed, and marginalized by existing global systems. Through our membership in JCoR, we have united with our sister and brother organizations to enhance collaboration among our members – at UN Headquarters and around the world – in our common mission: to improve quality of life for people who are living in poverty and to enhance our stewardship of the natural environment.

The primary aim of our collaboration is to strengthen the capacity of Catholic Religious and their partners to address the root causes of human and environmental suffering.

We work toward this goal by coordinating national, regional, and global efforts of Religious to call on political leaders to take action for a just, equitable, and rights-based implementation of the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs), the United Nations' Agenda for 2015-2030.

We hope these pages will help empower you join us in this mission!



CSocD63 Details



When

10-14 February 2025



Where

United Nations Headquarters in New York



Official Website

Click on the following link to access the [CSocD63](#) website



Watch

Follow the proceedings of CSocD63 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.



What is CSocD63?



▶ 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 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 theme for CSocD63 ?

Each year, the Commission adopts a priority theme and emerging issue to guide its efforts. The theme for the 63rd Session of the Commission for Social Development ([CSocD63](#)) will focus on this central theme: *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.*

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 CSocD63.

Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit

The **Copenhagen Declaration**, adopted in 1995 at the [World Summit for Social Development](#), emphasizes the importance of promoting social integration, poverty eradication, and full participation in society. It marked a pivotal moment in the global approach to development during which governments committed to ensuring that economic development would be inclusive and focused on human well-being.

The **Programme of Action of the World Summit** provides specific guidelines for achieving the goals of the Copenhagen Declaration, calling for policies that prioritize social justice, promote gender equality, and ensure equitable access to education, healthcare, and employment for all, especially marginalized groups.

Today, both the Declaration and its Programme of Action continue to shape global policy-making, aligning with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Governments are encouraged to prioritise social justice, build inclusive economies, and ensure that everyone, regardless of their background, can participate fully in societal development. These frameworks remain a key reference for crafting policies that aim to reduce inequality, strengthen social safety nets, and promote shared prosperity.

Social inclusion and social cohesion

Social inclusion refers to the process of improving the terms on which individuals and groups can take part in society, ensuring equal opportunities, access to resources, and the removal of barriers that prevent full participation.

Social cohesion is the strength of relationships and the sense of solidarity among members of a society, promoting trust, mutual respect, and cooperation.

Both concepts aim to create a more equitable, inclusive society where everyone, regardless of their background, can contribute to and benefit from social and economic development.

A meditation on the themes of CSocD63...









Fred Tomaselli





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Sharing our hopes:

- *What do I hope to learn?*
- *With whom do I hope to make a connection?*
- *What message do I hope to deliver?*



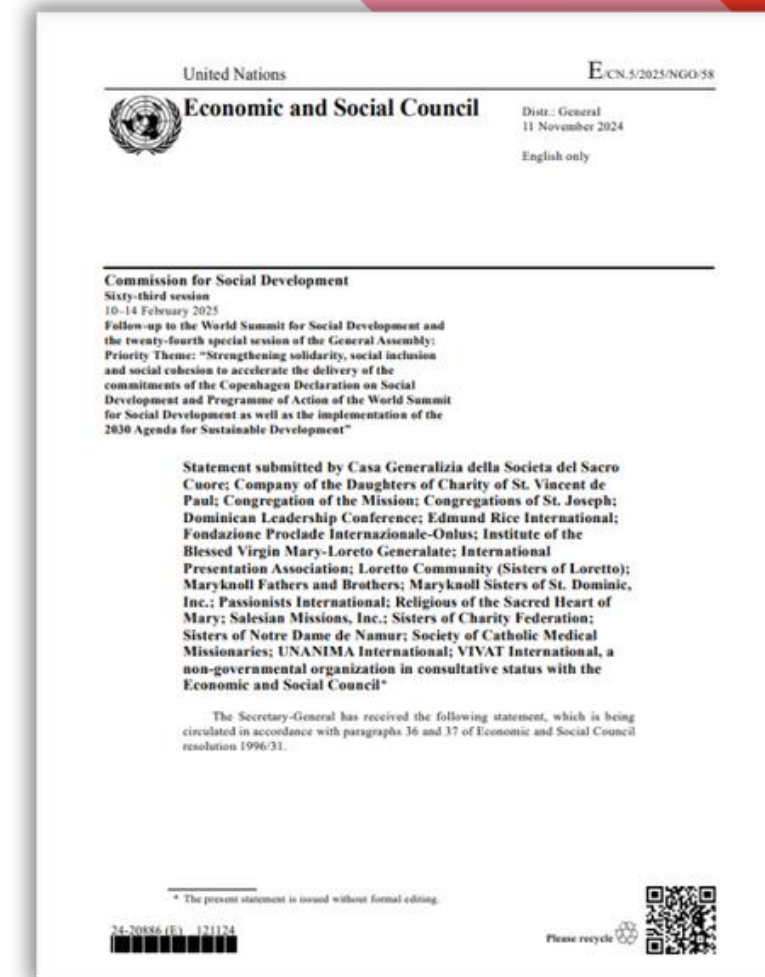
JCoR's CSocD63 Statement

JCoR's member organizations submitted a joint statement for CSocD63, 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 CSocD63!

Click on the following link to access the [full statement](#) and read our recommendations to advance social development.

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:

- Sr. Lancia Rodrigues, PBVM, Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Sr. Melania Nyamukuwa, IMA, International Medical Association
- Sr. Margaret Mwarilil, RSCJ, Society of the Sacred Heart
- Sr. Cynthia Mathew, CJ, Congregation of Jesus
- Fr. Cletus Uche, CMF, Claretian Missionaries
- Sr. Brigid Rose Tiernan, SNDdeN, Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur
- Sr. Ancy Mary Jacob, SSpS, Missionary Sisters of the Holy Spirit
- Karugaba Aloysious Edgar, M.Afr, Missionaries of Africa
- Fr. Milton Martinez Becerra, CMF, Claretian Missionaries
- Fr. César Augusto Espinoza Muñoz, CMF, Claretian Missionaries
- Fr. Bernard Massarini, CM, Congregation of the Mission
- Sr. Astrid Bamba Ntongo, SNDdeN, Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur
- Ms. Damas Baderha Bishikuabo, mission partner of Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur



Civil Society Forum 2025

During the United Nations Commission for Social Development, the [NGO Committee for Social Development](#) (NGO CSocD) is dedicated to raising awareness on the Priority Theme and elevating the voices, experiences, and recommendations from the grassroots. Therefore, NGO CSocD organizes and facilitates a Civil Society Forum and other capacity-building and networking events for each annual Commission. The 2025 Civil Society Forum is a space for members of civil society, in collaboration with the United Nations, Member States, and other stakeholders to gather, learn, discuss, and strategize on the theme and deliberations of the 63rd session of the UN Commission for Social Development. It will be held on 14 February, from 10:00AM-1:00PM (New York time) in Conference Room 4 of the UN Headquarters. Click on the following link to access the [official NGO calendar of events](#) with additional information and details on how to register.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER TO ATTEND IN-PERSON](#)

*Please note that virtual attendance will be available through [UN Web TV](#).



Recommended Events

[CLICK HERE](#) FOR EVENTS

Please visit [JCoR's CSocD63 webpage](#) to access a curated list of side events and parallel events that are recommended by JCoR and our Religious community at the United Nations in New York.



Social Media Recommendations

#CSocD63

Justice Coalition of Religious (JCoR)

Facebook: [@JCoR2030](#) LinkedIn: [JCoR2030](#)

Your Congregation's NGO at the UN

Need help? Find many congregations' NGO's social media details [here](#)

NGO Committee for Social Development

Instagram: [@NGOCSocD](#) Facebook: [@NGOCSocD](#)

LinkedIn: [NGOCSocD](#)

UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Instagram: [@undesasocial](#) Facebook: [@CommissionSocial](#)

LinkedIn: [UNDESA](#)

Your government's Permanent Mission to the United Nations



Pause before you share

Mis- and dis-information are causing global harm, hindering our ability to make progress on many of the world's most pressing issues.

Before you share any content online, THINK:

- Who made it?
- What is the source?
- Where did it come from?
- Why are you sharing this?
- When was it published?

#PledgeToPause and #TakeCareBeforeYouShare something online

Take Action

SUPPORT THE 2025 CIVIL SOCIETY DECLARATION

The Civil Society Declaration is prepared each year by the NGO Committee for Social Development on the Commission priority theme, and is presented at the Opening of each UN Commission for Social Development. The 2025 Declaration is on the CSocD63 Priority Theme *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*.

The 2025 Civil Society Declaration ahead of the CSocD63 is now available in [English](#), [Spanish](#), [French](#), [Portuguese](#), [Arabic](#) and [Russian](#). See below to download the declaration in your preferred language. Individuals and organizations are welcome to sign. All signatures received by NGOs and individuals from around the world will be shared with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and Governments at the Opening of the CSocD63.

[CLICK HERE TO SIGN THE CIVIL SOCIETY DECLARATION](#)



Setting your intention for CSocD63



Identifying Priorities

Looking at the programming included in CSocD63...

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?

Capturing valuable lessons:

Daily reflection questions for CSocD63

- *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 CSocD63



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 unity and opportunity are they experiencing?
- Where/how is a *lack of* unity or opportunity contributing to their suffering?
- What services, information, or other forms of support would allow them to reach their full potential and to contribute meaningfully to the common good?

STEP 2:

When I think of my ministry...

Where/how are we removing barriers to unity or opportunity?

How are we creating pathways to solidarity with the community we serve?

STEP 3:

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

- How is the government building unity or solidarity among all people? How are they contributing to the inclusion of the community I serve?
- How is the government contributing to division among people or exclusion of the community I serve?
- How could the government enhance a sense of solidarity among our people?
- How might the government enable more community members to realise their full potential to contribute to the common good?