

Concept Note

GLOBAL COALITION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE FORUM

From Commitment to Action: Advancing the Political Declaration on Social Development through Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration for Decent Work and Social Justice

Co-Conveners: ILO, Qatar, Brazil and Switzerland

*Doha, Qatar, 5 November 2025
11:30–14:30*

Context and Purpose

The Second World Summit for Social Development (WSSD2) comes at a moment when structural challenges and rapid transitions are reshaping the world of work. Technological innovation, demographic shifts, environmental degradation, and rising inequalities continue to impact social development. This calls for renewed efforts to close persistent decent work gaps, such as limited access to quality employment, especially for women and young people, and to strengthen the governance of labour markets and institutions. In this context, the Political Declaration presents a timely opportunity to refocus national, regional, and global efforts around the core commitments of the 1995 Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development namely: eradicating poverty, promoting full and productive employment, and fostering social integration.

The ILO's response to these challenges is grounded in a human-centred approach to development. Strengthening institutions of work, investing in people's capabilities, and supporting transitions are urgently required. Anchored in the ILO's normative mandate and technical expertise, this high-level special event, convened by the ILO in collaboration with Qatar, Brazil, and Switzerland, will offer a platform to demonstrate how social development can be advanced through coherent, whole-of-government and society approaches that put decent work at the centre of inclusive development. It will bring together committed actors convened through the Global Coalition for Social Justice, a multi-stakeholder platform committed to advance, *inter alia*, a common agenda on addressing inequalities; expanding access to decent jobs and sustainable enterprises; enhancing social protection and the resilience of societies; and reinforcing the social dimension of transitions, trade, and investment.

Rationale, Objectives and Expected Outcomes

This high-level special event will highlight how a shared thematic agenda offers a concrete pathway to translating global commitments into real impact through multi-stakeholder action. To that end, it will showcase time-bound contributions, impactful initiatives, and innovative collaborations that demonstrate leadership and drive progress on the Political Declaration's commitments. It will highlight how practical tools such as initiatives to promote living wages, uphold fundamental principles and rights at work, strengthen social dialogue, extend social protection coverage, support just transitions, build future-proof skills systems, advance the transition from the informal to the formal economy, including the formalization of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, contribute to eliminating poverty, creating decent jobs and catalysing social transformation and social inclusion. The event will also foster dialogue and exchange of experiences and best practices among governments, UN agencies, social partners, and other stakeholders on effective policy coherence and coordination and tripartite engagement across all sectors and levels. In this context, it will highlight the importance of global cooperation, in particular through the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and its Commission for Social Development in supporting sustained progress on social development.

Format and Level

This special event will be organized as a 3 hours high-level session within the official programme of the Summit, bringing together Heads of State and Government, UN system principals, leaders of employers' and workers' organisations, and of other stakeholders. Under the theme *From Commitment to Action: Multi-Stakeholder Action to Advance the Political Declaration*, participants will present initiatives and policy pathways meant to take forward the commitments in the Political Declaration.

The session will be conducted in Arabic and English, with passive Spanish, and Portuguese.

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME – Wednesday 5th November 2025, 11.30 – 2.30pm – **TO BE CONFIRMED:**

Chair: *Mr Gilbert F. Hounbo, Director-General, International Labour Organization*

11.30 – 11.45 // Opening //

- H.E. Ms Annalena Baerbock, President of the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
- H.E. Dr Ali bin Saeed bin Samikh Al Marri, Minister of Labour, Qatar

11.45 – 12.05 // Head of State address //

12.05 – 12.35 // Panel //

- H.E. Mr Wellington Dias, Minister of Social Development and Assistance, Family and Fight against Hunger, Brazil
- H.E. Ms Valérie Berset-Bircher, State Secretary, State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, Switzerland
- Mr Luc Triangle, General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)
- Mr Roberto Suárez Santos, Secretary General, International Organisation for Employers (IOE)

12.35 – 13.00 // Spotlight Session // A selection of contributions to give effect to the Political Declaration by High-level representatives of partners of the Global Coalition for Social Justice:

- H.E. Prof Dr Vedat Işıkhan, Minister of Labour and Social Security, Türkiye
- H.E. Mr Fillemon Wise Immanuel, Minister of Justice and Labour Relations, Namibia
- H.E. Ms Mariëlle Paul, Minister Social Affairs and Employment, The Netherlands
- H.E. Mr Warren M. Mclat, Undersecretary, Department of Labor and Employment, The Philippines
- Mr Amitabh Behar, Executive Director, Oxfam International

13.00 – 13.05 // Video presentation //

13.05 – 13.25 // Head of State address //

13.25 – 13.50 // Spotlight Session // A selection of contributions to give effect to the Political Declaration by High-level representatives of partners of the Global Coalition for Social Justice:

- H.E. Ms Roxana Mînzatu, Executive Vice-President of the European Commission for Social Rights and Skills, Quality Jobs and Preparedness
- H.E. Mr Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of Labour and Employment, India
- H.E. Mr Yiannis Panayiotou, Minister for Labour and Social Insurance, Cyprus
- H.E. Ms Sanni Grahn-Laasonen, Minister of Social Security, Finland
- H.E. Mr Antonio Sanguino Páez, Minister of Labour, Colombia
- Ms Nada Al-Nashif, Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights

13.50 – 13.55 // Video presentation //

13.55 – 14.15 // Head of State address //

14.15 – 14.30 // Closing // Call to Action on advancing the Political declaration

- Mr Li Junhua, Secretary-General of the Conference and UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic Affairs
- Mr Gilbert F. Houngbo, Director- General, International Labour Organization