

Inputs of the Commission for Social Development to the 2020 HLPF and ECOSOC on the theme
“Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”

Per letter of the President of ECOSOC, this input should highlight how best to accelerate action and achieve transformative pathways to realize the decade of action and delivery for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Inputs should focus on the body’s area of responsibility but also reflect the interrelations with other SDGs and targets and highlight how it is contributing to accelerating SDG progress. It would be very useful if this input could identify four or five action points that the HLPF could address in its ministerial declaration. The letter also suggested an outline for the response, as well as areas to address by subsidiary bodies within areas of responsibility. This draft inputs by DISD follows the guidance and focused mainly on the areas of advancing human wellbeing & building human capacity.

The contributions of the Commission for Social Development to the HLPF

Key messages based on findings of the 58th session of the Commission for Social Development:

- During the past 25 years, countries have made significant progress in reducing the depth and severity of poverty, in creating productive employment and decent work and in promoting social inclusion. Significant progress has also been made in other social dimensions of sustainable development.
- Progress has been uneven across countries and indicators and inequalities persist. Countries are facing emerging societal challenges, such as demographic changes, rapid urbanization, rapid technological changes, climate change, natural disasters and outbreak of diseases.
- Homelessness has become a global problem, affecting people of different ages and with diverse economic, social and cultural backgrounds, in both developed and developing countries. Homelessness is mainly driven by multiple inter-related structural causes, such as inequalities, poverty, a lack of decent job opportunities, lack of access to affordable housing, lack of social protection, lack of access to land, credit or financing, and high costs of energy or health care, as well as lack of financial and legal literacy.
- Social policy needs to be further strengthened to address social impacts of emerging societal challenges, especially on vulnerable population. This is critical to accelerating action to achieve the 2030 Agenda with no one left behind, recognizing human rights and the dignity of all human persons.
- Collaboration between the United Nations and Member States should be further strengthened, through the exchange of knowledge and information, capacity building activities, technical support, and inter-sectoral dialogues to promote cooperation to address common challenges and build a socially, economically and ecologically sustainable society.

- The Commission for Social Development, a subsidiary body of ECOSOC. responsible for promoting social progress for all, is committed to continued implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development in the context of the realization of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs for all people everywhere.

Introduction

The 58th session of the Commission for Social Development took place from 10- 19 February 2020, with the priority theme of “Affordable housing and social protection systems for all to address homelessness”.

The Commission also reviewed relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups, the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development. The Commission commemorated the twenty-five anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development, per GA resolution 74/122 (para 66), by focusing the Ministerial Forum on “Twenty-five years of the World Summit for Social Development: Addressing emerging societal challenges to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda”. In addition, the Commission held a high-level panel discussion on the priority theme, a multi-stakeholder forum to share solutions to homelessness, and an interactive dialogue with senior officials of the United Nations system on the priority theme.

The Commission adopted three draft resolutions on: Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development; Affordable housing and social protection systems for all to address homelessness; and Modalities for the fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002; all of which were recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council. The Commission decided that the priority theme for the fifty-ninth session would be “Socially just transition towards sustainable development: the role of digital technologies on social development and well-being of all”.

1. Key policies and measures to ensure “accelerated action and transformative pathways” for realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development

- a. Critical gaps in implementing the 2030 Agenda within the area of responsibility of the Intergovernmental body (bearing in mind interrelations with other goals and targets)*

During the past twenty-five years since the World Summit for Social Development was held in Copenhagen in 1995, countries have made significant progress in reducing the depth and severity of poverty, in creating full employment and decent work and in fostering social integration/inclusion. Between 1990 and 2015, more than 1 billion people were lifted out of poverty. Significant progress has also been made in other social dimensions of sustainable

development (e.g, more girls attending school than ever before, notably reduced child and maternal mortality, improved access to universal health care and education, and access to basic services, such as clean water and sanitation and electricity).

However, progress in social development has been uneven across countries and indicators, and inequalities persist. In some instances, progress has slowed, stagnated or even reversed, undermining the prospects of meeting various Goals and targets, including the overarching objective of eradicating poverty in all its forms everywhere.

Countries continue to face many persistent challenges, such as high and rising inequalities, slow global growth, compounded by rising trade tensions, as well as emerging challenges, including changes in demographic dynamics (e.g., growing/declining population, population ageing or youth bulge, rapid urbanization), adverse effects of climate change, rapid technological change and its impact on the future of work, and backlash against globalization.

Such societal challenges have a significant impact on and in some cases even threaten human well-being, shared economic prosperity and, broadly, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Poverty has various forms and dimensions and is often linked to lack of income and productive resources sufficient to ensure sustainable livelihoods, hunger and malnutrition, ill health, limited or lack of access to education and other basic services, increased morbidity and mortality from illness, unsafe environments, and social discrimination and exclusion,

Income inequality has increased in most developed countries and remains very high in developing countries, although it has declined in some Latin American and African countries. Similarly, non-income inequality, including inequality in access to and opportunities for education and health care, persists, although progress has been made in the past decades. High levels of inequality often lead to a concentration of wealth and political influence among those who are already in the top bracket of the income distribution, creating or perpetuating unequal relations and an imbalance of power, which exacerbate social divisions and threaten social cohesion.

Homelessness has become a global problem and affects persons of diverse economic, social and cultural backgrounds, often affecting the poorest and most vulnerable in society. Depending on national context, it is a condition where a person or household lacks habitable space and accessibility, which may compromise their ability to enjoy social relations, and includes people living on the streets, in other open spaces or in buildings not intended for human habitation, people living in temporary accommodation or shelters for the homeless, and, in accordance with national legislation, may include, among others, people living in severely inadequate accommodation without security of tenure and access to basic services.

Homelessness constitutes a violation of human dignity and an obstacle to the fulfilment of all human rights. It is symptomatic of multiple structural causes, such as inequalities, poverty, loss of housing and livelihood, a lack of decent job opportunities, lack of access to affordable housing, lack of social protection, lack of access to land, credit or financing, and high costs of energy or health care, as well as lack of financial and legal literacy, while it could be also related to a number of contributing factors, and social issues, including drug and alcohol abuse and mental disorder and other mental conditions.

The majority of homeless people in developing countries live in severely inadequate housing, mostly in slums and informal settlements (a large proportion of the homeless population are women and children/female-headed households), and mainly driven by poverty, especially rural poverty. In addition, rural to urban migration has accelerated in recent years as a result of more frequent and intensified droughts, floods and storms, which have made traditional farming unsustainable.

Rapid urbanization, social and demographic changes in recent years, the rise in housing costs, when coupled with stagnated wages, shortage of affordable housing supply, the lack of a formal welfare system, has made housing unaffordable to many low- and middle-income households in major cities across regions. Moreover, environmental degradation, adverse effects of climate change, and natural disasters have taken a heavy toll on the livelihoods and well-being of people, in particular the poorest and most vulnerable, who are exposed to greater risk and also incur greater losses. Once displaced, they are at high risk of being temporarily or chronically homeless.

b. Priority measures to:

i. Accelerate action

To accelerate progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 1 (End poverty in all its forms everywhere); Goal 3 (Ensure healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages); Goal 8 (Promote full and productive employment and decent work for all); Goal 10 (Reduce inequality within and among countries); and Goal 11 (Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe resilient and sustainable), and in particular target 11.1 to ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums by 2030, and 1.3 to implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable, and fulfil the commitment to leave no one behind, the following actions should be accelerated:

- Continue to strive for more inclusive, equitable, balanced, stable and people-centered sustainable growth to simultaneously reduce poverty and inequality in all its dimensions, including gender inequality. Implement comprehensive social policies and programmes, including appropriate social transfer and job creation programmes and social protection systems, to close the inequality gap.

- Address urban and rural poverty by investing in affordable and equitable access to basic services, in particular quality education at all levels, health care, including through the acceleration of the transition towards equitable access to universal health coverage, as well as access to affordable housing, clean water and adequate sanitation, nutrition and food, employment and decent work, information and communications technology and infrastructure. Particular measures should be in place to advance gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.
- Adopt labour market policies that strengthen institutions and provide adequate labour protection to all workers, especially the most disadvantaged, including through minimum wage policies as part of policies to boost income growth for the majority of workers, taking into consideration the specific circumstances of each country. Implement policies to support the full and productive participation of women, including women with disabilities, in the labour market, and to close the gender pay gap. These measures will include access to childcare facilities, support to women and men to balance family and professional life, promote the sharing of responsibilities between parents, and meaningful participation by women in the economy and in decision-making processes at all levels;
- Improve access to affordable housing through integrated housing policies and social protection measures. These policy measures should address legal and policy barriers to equal and non-discriminatory access to adequate housing, including for women of all ages and women-headed households, provide access to credit facilities, protect against unlawful forced eviction, provide adequate emergency and temporary shelter and services and security of tenancy. They should support the development of affordable housing, which is especially important for low-income households.
- Strengthen the collaboration between national and local governments, and with the private sector and local communities, to stimulate the supply of a variety of adequate housing options that are safe, affordable and accessible for members of different income groups of society, and to take positive measures to improve the living conditions of homeless people, with a view to facilitating their full participation in society, and to prevent and eliminate homelessness.
- Increase allocations of financial and human resources at the national and local levels, to upgrade and, to the extent possible, prevent slums and informal settlements. Promote housing development for low-income households in both rural and urban areas as a means of reducing urban-rural developmental inequalities.
- Establish/strengthen nationally appropriate social protection systems for all, including floors, that are proven to be effective in preventing people falling into poverty, easing the burden of certain expenditure during periods of unemployment, contributing to health-related goals, gender equality and decent work, and facilitating the inclusion of persons with disabilities. Coordinate social protection policies and measures with poverty reduction programmes and other social policies. Strengthen universal age-, disability- and gender-sensitive social protection systems, including, as appropriate, targeted cash transfers for families in vulnerable situations, such as when headed by a single parent, in particular those headed by women, in conjunction with provision of access to basic services, high-quality education and health services. These actions should be accelerated

in the context of national sustainable development frameworks and the associated integrated financing frameworks.

- Develop national and local disaster risk reduction strategies in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and promote their alignment and integration with sustainable development and climate change adaptation strategies, to maximize synergies across the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework.
 - Address specific needs of those who are in vulnerable situations, including children, youth, persons with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS, older persons, indigenous peoples, refugees and internally displaced persons, migrants, and people living in poverty and homelessness, including those displaced by effects of climate change and natural disasters, the unemployed and those without families.
 - Develop a common approach and corresponding methodology to identify people experiencing homelessness, both temporarily and chronically, and determine the drivers of homelessness and develop comprehensive, intersectoral national strategies and specific policy interventions to address homelessness, taking into consideration existing frameworks and instruments. Collect disaggregated data by age, sex and disability, related to homelessness and harmonize the measurement and collection of data on homelessness in support of evidence-based national and global policymaking.
 - Build broad-based partnership between State and non-State actors at all levels to prevent people from falling into homelessness, support those experiencing homelessness and develop long-term sustainable solutions to end homelessness.
 - Raise awareness of homelessness, including family homelessness, and address the specific needs of individuals and groups who are disproportionately affected, including women, children, adolescents, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, people living in poverty and people displaced by natural disasters and conflicts, to support their empowerment and full participation in the societies they live in; Combat discrimination and stereotypes against people experiencing homelessness, including by strengthening anti-discrimination laws, advocacy and awareness-raising, as well as by protecting the rights of tenants and ensuring access to justice.
 - Address family homelessness, including through gender-sensitive policies and resource allocation and appropriate support services for families to break the cycle of inter-generational homelessness;
- ii. Ensure transformative pathways to realize the decade of action for achieving the 2030 Agenda

Mobilize everyone, everywhere

The Commission for Social Development mobilizes a wide range of constituencies for action to promote social development and contribute to the implementation of global development goals, including the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. As a charter body of the UN, it provides advice to ECOSOC on all matters related to social development, guides Member States in pursuing national strategies for inclusive development, through national ministries responsible for social development, social welfare/protection, labour and human resources, youth, older persons, family, persons with disabilities, and indigenous peoples, ministry or governmental mechanisms for poverty eradication, inequality reduction, and promotion of social inclusion. The Commission mobilize social groups (youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, indigenous people and family), academia, research institutions and think tanks, NGOs (NGO committee for social development), and faith-based organizations, and trade unions to build partnership and coalitions in support of national social development. It dialogues and partners with regional organizations (EU, AU, ASEAN, the Arab League), UN entities (UN Regional Commissions, ILO, UNESCO, FAO, UNDP, UNRISD, UNEP, ITU, etc.) as well as the World Bank, while also exercising its oversight over UN system as a functionary body of ECOSOC.

In addition to these traditional constituencies, the Commission has been expanding its collaboration with new actors, such as Ministry of housing, local governments, OECD and UN-Habitat, UN Office of Disaster Reduction, the NGO working group on homelessness, and philanthropic community (under the CSocD58 priority theme of “Affordable housing and social protection systems for all to address homelessness”).

The Commission is well situated in galvanizing their efforts and further mobilize various constituencies to join forces to accelerate action for the delivery of SGD while ensuring no one is left behind.

Demand urgency and ambition

In the past 25 years, the Commission has focused on the review of the implementation of the Copenhagen Programme of Action, the outcome document of the World Summit for Social Development, provided integrated, inclusive policy recommendations to address poverty, employment, inequality and social integration/inclusion. It has advocated for people-centered approach to development, with emphasis on investing in human capacities and empowering those living in poverty and vulnerable situations, so that they could move out of poverty by themselves. Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, the Commission has aligned its work with that of the High-Level Political Forum to contribute to the implementation of the Agenda. As such, the Commission has extensive experience and capacity to mobilize forces to accelerate urgent action to end extreme poverty, to reduce inequality and to promote inclusive and peaceful society for all.

Supercharge ideas to solutions

The Commission has been advocating for evidence-based policy making and the importance of data, to the extent disaggregated by age, sex, ethnicity and status of disability and participatory policy-making. The Commission has become the recognized forum for exchanging good policies and practices that have proven to be effective at the international, regional national and sub-national levels. Under its agenda item “emerging issues”, the Commission addressed emerging societal challenges, including the challenges and opportunities that innovation and technological advances bring, analyzed their impact on society and produced policy recommendations. The 58th session in February 2020 initiated a multi-stakeholder forum to share ideas and solutions to homelessness.

The Commission will focus its discussion next year on the priority theme of “Socially just transition towards sustainable development: the role of digital technologies for social development and well-being of all”. Throughout the preparation and organization process, innovative ideas and solutions to enable just transition and opportunities digital technologies could bring to advance social progress and development would be highlighted, with the participation of young people in particular.

2. Contribution of the intergovernmental body to accelerated action and transformative pathways and realizing the decade of action and delivery for achieving the 2030 Agenda within its area of responsibility (including its cooperation with ECOSOC and other intergovernmental bodies)

Recognizing the urgency to accelerate action on all levels and by all stakeholders to fulfil the vision and Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Commission, through its priority theme and the theme of Emerging Issues session, can create greater synergies between its work to promote inclusive social development and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, leveraging linkages between them. This can be done by addressing key issues that create transformative pathways, and further strengthen its collaboration/interactions with other functional Commissions during the preparation and organization of its annual session.

Member States of the Commission are firmly committed to continue to implement the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development, in fully consistent with (or as part of their efforts to) their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda, in particular in the reduction of poverty and inequality by addressing its multiple dimensions, the promotion of productive employment and decent work for all and the fostering of social inclusion.

3. Selected recommendations for accelerating progress and moving on transformative pathways for realizing the decade of action, for possible use in drafting the HLPF declaration.

- Take whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches to address emerging challenges by adopting coherent and inter-sectoral policies/strategies responsive to the needs and aspirations of people, especially those in disadvantaged or vulnerable situations.
- Addressing challenges and opportunities brought by global mega trends such as demographic change and rapid urbanization, rapid technological advancement, climate change and rising inequality, promote people-centered development to accelerate progress in improving human wellbeing. Invest in human capital by ensuring equal access to social services, especially quality education, health care, safe drinking water, adequate sanitation, and nationally appropriate social protection systems, including floors. Promote access to ICTs and affordable housing, and create decent work opportunities, especially for women, young people, persons with disabilities, unemployed/underemployed workers in need of skills upgrading, and those living in poverty and vulnerable situations, including homelessness, so as to leave no one behind and improve the wellbeing of all people everywhere.
- Reduce income and non-income inequalities by promoting inclusive and sustainable growth, strengthening nationally appropriate social protection systems, including floors, creating enabling environment for sustainable investments and delivering on commitments to international cooperation, aligned to longer-term sustainability pathways and meeting challenges through cooperation and partnerships at all levels.
- Strengthen effective, accountable, transparent and inclusive institutions to address needs of vulnerable persons and communities, reduce legal, economic, social and cultural barriers faced by them, and promote their empowerment and active participation in decision-making processes that affect their lives, to enable them to move out of poverty, exclusion and homelessness. In this context, improve statistical capacities to count everyone in the national/official statistics and collect timely, reliable data disaggregated by age, sex and disability, location of residence, to enable evidence-based policy making and targeted measures to complement universal social policies.
- Promote investment and innovation to reduce disaster risk and build resilience of countries, communities and people to economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters, and provide support to those who are displaced temporarily or chronically and become homeless.

ANNEX: COMMENTS PROVIDED BY MEMBER STATES

COMMENTS PROVIDED BY COLOMBIA

COLOMBIAN COMMENTS ON THE INPUTS OF THE COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT TO THE 2020 HLPF AND ECOSOC ON THE THEME “ACCELERATED ACTION AND TRANSFORMATIVE PATHWAYS: REALIZING THE DECADE OF ACTION AND DELIVERY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”

The Permanent Mission of Colombia to the United Nations provides the following comments to the input of the Commission for Social Development to the 2020 HLPF and ECOSOC on the theme “Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”.

Comment 1

At the section **Key policies and measures to ensure “accelerated action and transformative pathways for realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”** we propose 3 things:

- To strengthen the text by including “market concentration and inequality” as one of the many challenges faced by countries. This is based on the conclusions of the Report of the Digital Economy of 2019 released by UNCTAD.
- Keep the language as it is on the Political Declaration of the High-Level Political Forum A/RES/74/4.
- To strengthen the text by including connectivity when referring to the investments that should be made to address urban and rural poverty. This is also based on the conclusions of the Report of the Digital Economy of 2019 released by UNCTAD.

Comment 2:

At the section **Mobilize everyone, everywhere** we proposed to keep the language in accordance with the resolution A/RES/70/1 which adopts the 2030 Agenda, focusing on the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Comment 3:

At the section **Supercharge ideas to solutions**, we suggest the inclusion of “productivity” when referring to the ideas, solutions and importunities digital technologies could bring to advance social progress, PRODUCTIVITY and development. This in order to highlight the fundamental roll that digital technologies can have on the increase of productivity. This suggestion is also in accordance with the Report of the Digital Economy Report of 2019 released by UNCTAD.

Comment 4:

At the section ***Selected recommendations for accelerating progress and moving on transformative pathways for realizing the decade of action, for possible use in drafting the HLPF declaration.*** We suggest including equal access to affordable and reliable connectivity to create and capture value in the digital economy in order to strengthening the text.

COMMENT PROVIDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

The EU Delegation to the United Nations provides the following comments to the input of the Commission for Social Development to the 2020 HLPF and ECOSOC on the theme “Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”.

Comment 1

At section: *“The contributions of the Commission for Social Development to the HLPFK Key messages based on findings of the 58th session of the Commission for Social Development”*: we propose that the wording “human persons” is deleted in the following intend:

- Social policy needs to be further strengthened to address social impacts of emerging societal challenges, especially on vulnerable population. This is critical to accelerating action to achieve the 2030 Agenda with no one left behind, recognizing human rights and the dignity of all [human persons].

Comment 2

At section 3: *“Selected recommendations for accelerating progress and moving on transformative pathways for realizing the decade of action, for possible use in drafting the HLPF declaration”*, **we propose to include the following two points:**

- The CSocD has always highlighted how the more vulnerable are more at risk and suffer more the impact of disasters, such as the current pandemic and the need to build resilient societies and the key role of social protection.
- The current COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the economy, employment as well as social systems poses an unprecedented global challenge. This in turn will lead to setbacks in the implementation of the Agenda 2030. The 59th session of the CsocD should therefore address the issue of recovery from the COVID-19 crisis, focusing on specific measures in this regard. The agenda item "Emerging Issues" would be one opportunity to address this issue.

COMMENTS PROVIDED BY THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Statement of the Russian Federation with regard to the Inputs of the Commission for Social Development to the 2020 HLPF and ECOSOC on the theme “Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”

With regard to the Inputs of the Commission for Social Development to the 2020 HLPF and ECOSOC on the theme “Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development” the Russian Federation would like to express the full support to the CSocD as the main UN forum on social development, and the its current modalities of work. We recognize its central role in the realization of the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, and its contribution to implementing 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We would like to emphasize that measures and recommendations of the Commission should be based on the resolutions of the Commission, which are agreed on the intergovernmental level. And the mentioned inputs to the HLPF should not be recognized as the source of the vision of the work of the Commission since this document is not agreed by the States.

In this connection we would like to point out some inaccuracies in this documents. While there are numerous language inaccuracies throughout the text that are not consistent with the UN terminology, we would like focus on some factual inaccuracies.

While recognizing the importance of the CSocD in the UN system, the Commission is not a UN Charter body but the subsidiary body of ECOSOC.

The mandate of the Commission – social development – is the distinct part of the work within the UN. On our view it is not quite correct to reduce it to the one of the dimensions of the Agenda-2030. The Commission certainly makes a great contribution to the implementation of the Agenda-2030 but its context is wider.

With regard to the priority theme of the 58th session of CSocD we would like to stress that the Commission did not agree in its resolution the definition of homelessness but proposed its vision how it “can be described”. Moreover, while the homelessness was the priority theme of the previous session, it is not the reason to leave out of the brackets the basic elements of social development. That is why we find very critical to mention among the priority measures the following: Continue to enact inclusive and responsive family-oriented policies and to confront social exclusion, recognizing the multidimensional aspects of social exclusion, focusing on inclusive and quality education and lifelong learning for all, health and well-being for all at all ages, full and productive employment, decent work, social security, livelihoods and social cohesion, including through gender- and age-sensitive social protection systems and measures,

such as child allowances for parents and pension benefits for older persons, and to ensure that the rights, capabilities and responsibilities of all family members are respected.

We also would like to remind the focus areas for the Commission: youth, older persons, family, persons with disabilities. The Commission certainly covers social development for the everybody, but detailed discussions devoted to other categories of people are provided by other relevant UN bodies.

COMMENTS PROVIDED BY SWITZERLAND

Switzerland supports the idea of a better coordination of the themes of the functional commissions in order to ensure adequate reporting on sustainable development.

We welcome the idea of giving a slot to the functional commissions within ECOSOC and HLPF.

We are not in favour of a complete loss of autonomy in setting themes. Nonetheless, ECOSOC could define broad priorities, but without defining themes for the functional commissions.

In this regard, it might also be helpful if the annual themes of HLPF are defined timely in order to allow CSocD to contribute.

There is a need for ECOSOC to be reactive by anticipating important issues and by defining priorities in relation to current events. The functional commissions will then be able to respond to these priorities adequately, by defining their agenda in accordance with their mandate.

CSocD should deal with all aspects related to social development and complement other UN bodies with its expertise relevant to the 2030 Agenda.

With regard to the alignment of CSocD with other UN bodies, it is important for Switzerland that Member States include or reaffirm the importance of this alignment in the resolution on the working methods of CSocD.