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## INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

### Statement on Second World Summit for Social Development 2025

25 August 2025

The International Consortium for Social Development (ICSD) reaffirms its commitment to the principles and platform of action of the 1995 Copenhagen Declaration in this statement for the UN Second World Summit for Social Development (SWSSD), to be held in Doha, Qatar, 4-6 November 2025.

#### About the ICSD

The ICSD is a non-profit organization comprising individuals and institutions, social development practitioners, scholars and students from multiple disciplines such as social work, social welfare, human services, development studies, and from social sciences like sociology, politics and economics.

The ICSD is committed to the cause of social development and has contributed significantly to social development knowledge and practice, research, training and capacity building, both before and since the 1995 Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development.

#### ICSD Core Values

The ICSD believes in and promotes the wellbeing of people worldwide. This recognizes their spiritual and cultural development, and the need for religious harmony and peace as central to building a united world. Its core values are human rights, social justice, participation and people-centred development; capacity building of individuals and institutions, and realizing the human potential; equal opportunities and access; antidiscrimination, security, diversity and solidarity.

Social development is inherently intersystemic, intersectoral, and needs to be integrated in social and economic policies and programs to ensure comprehensive development across multiple dimensions and levels. Thus, **the ICSD embraces the**

#### THE INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

### 51 YEARS

1974–2025

##### Mission

To create and spread knowledge of social development

##### Vision

To be a leading international association dedicated to the study and advancement of the knowledge and practice of social development

##### Activities

- Convened 50 international conferences on various social development themes collaborating with leading universities, and government & non-government organizations
- Published 45 volumes of its flagship journal, *Social Development issues*, now fully online and free to the public (<https://www.socialdevelopment.net/sdi-articles-access>)

##### Status

In July 2025, the ICSD achieved special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

**values and principles of the Copenhagen Declaration of 1995 on Social Development and wholeheartedly supports the Second World Summit for Social Development (SWSSD) in reaffirming its commitments to those values and goals.**

This statement was crafted through an inclusive process. It reviews progress in social development, identifies persistent gaps, and proposes actionable solutions in five key areas: poverty eradication, full and productive employment with decent work, social integration including gender equality, harnessing technology and artificial intelligence, and ensuring a just energy transition. The statement summarizes the ICSD's perspective on the five key areas, and concludes with a set of ICSD commitments to contribute to the deliberations of the SWSSD and inform future action. It is derived from **the ICSD's full response to the Second World Summit for Social Development's key priorities and is available as a separate document titled ["ICSD Response to the Second World Summit for Social Development: Progress, Gaps and Actionable Solutions"](#).**

## **Eradication of Poverty**

Poverty and hunger remain a pressing global concern caused by multiple structural and systemic factors. These include wars, conflict, forced migration, the impact of global warming and climate change, intolerance to cultural diversity, and inequity around the world. Global extreme poverty has fallen significantly since 1990, but over 8% of the world's population still lives in extreme poverty, with hunger affecting a similar proportion. Progress has been slowed by the coronavirus pandemic, recent conflict in some parts of the world, natural disasters, and political and economic instability. These factors leave children and marginalized groups - particularly women and girls, rural populations, older persons, migrants and refugees, and persons with disabilities - disproportionately affected. ICSD advocates for integrated, inclusive and gender sensitive social protection systems, improved linking of social protection with employment and social services, stronger intersectoral collaboration, and the scaling up of innovative, evidence-based poverty reduction strategies.

## **Full and Productive Employment and Decent Work for All**

While unemployment is at a historic low globally, precarious work remains widespread, and women and youth face persistent barriers to employment. Technological shifts and climate transitions risk widening inequalities. The ICSD calls for inclusive labor market policies, for the recognition of precarious work, informal work, migrant worker rights, support for care work, provision of worker protections, ending child labor, and tailored programs - especially for rural youth, women and marginalized workers - that combine skills development, employment, access to social services, and livelihood support.

## **Social Integration**

Despite expanded legal frameworks for social rights, implementation gaps persist due to inadequate funding, weak institutions, discrimination, and political instability. Poverty and inequalities undermine social cohesion and participation, with Indigenous Peoples and marginalized communities facing systemic exclusion. Racial injustice persists. More women than men, especially younger women, are living in extreme poverty. The ICSD calls for increased social investments in the social and care sectors, strengthening institutions and multidisciplinary practice, combating misinformation, fostering community participation, and building partnerships among governments, civil society, and the private sector to ensure inclusive, people-centred development.

## Cross-Cutting Issues

This statement underscores the transformative potential of digital technologies and Artificial Intelligence (AI) for education, health, and social services, while warning against risks such as misinformation, bias, and exclusion. It calls for ethical governance, inclusive design, and capacity building in technology use. On climate action, the ICSD highlights the need for socially just energy transitions, with community-driven processes, equitable resource distribution, responsible and ethical corporate leaders, and the integration of social development goals into renewable energy policies.

**In conclusion, this statement positions the ICSD as an active partner in shaping the Second World Summit on Social Development's Political Declaration, and accelerating progress toward inclusive, equitable, and sustainable social development worldwide.**

### ICSD Commitments in brief

- Advancing Social Development Knowledge and Practice**
  - Promote innovative, evidence-based solutions to tackle global challenges like poverty, hunger, employment, gender equality, climate resilience, and ethical AI.
  - Share cutting-edge research and practice through conferences, webinars, branches, social media, and global networks.
- Recognition, Justice, and Inclusion**
  - Strengthen legal and institutional frameworks through monitoring at all levels.
  - Advance racial justice by working with partners to dismantle discrimination.
  - Promote gender justice through inclusive policies and advocacy.
  - Integrate social development perspectives into energy transition strategies.
- Global Influence and Collaboration**
  - Use UN ECOSOC status to contribute evidence-based insights to global forums.
  - Feed outcomes from the Seville 2025 Financing Conference into the SWSSD Declaration to support SDGs.
  - Build inclusive partnerships with governments, private sector, civil society, and communities.
- Knowledge Creation and Capacity Building**
  - Decolonize knowledge by valuing indigenous systems and local perspectives.
  - Support co-creation of knowledge and scale up effective strategies.
  - Promote research-led teaching and integrate it with social interventions.
  - Enhance multidisciplinary practice skills.
  - Develop ethical AI guidelines to support marginalised groups.
- Professional Development and Workforce Strengthening**
  - Advocate for investment and training in the social development workforce.
  - Address gender gaps in the care economy.
  - Enhance volunteering infrastructure, recognising volunteers as key contributors.
  - Improve monitoring systems and indicators for social integration.

Issued by Leila Patel, President,  
the Executive Council, and  
the Board of Directors of the ICSD  
28.08.2025.