

Implementation of the Doha Political Declaration:

Strategies for cross-sector collaborations and integrated approaches

A side event on the margins of the 64th session of the UN Commission for Social Development

Date: Monday, February 2, 2026

Time: 1:15-2:30 pm ET

Venue: Conference Room C, UNHQ

Speakers:

- **Dr. Surya Deva**, UN Special Rapporteur on the right to development
- **Dr. Katja Hujo**, Head of the Bonn Office, United Nations Research Institute for Social Development
- **Dr. Sergei Zelenev**, President, International Council on Social Welfare
- **Prof. Ram Ramanathan**, ICSD Vice President, Planning and Organisation Evaluation, Illinois State University
- **Profs. Michael Sherraden and Jin Huang**, Co-Directors the Centre for Social Development, Washington University, St Louis
- **Ms. Anita Thomas**, Chair, NGO Committee on Financing for Development; Representative to the UN, Women First International Fund

Moderator:

- **Prof. Manohar Pawar**, Social Work and Social Development Research Alliance, Charles Sturt University



Cosponsors:



Implementation of the Doha Political Declaration: Strategies for cross-sector collaborations and integrated approaches



Side Event at the 64th Commission for Social Development, UN HQ NY

Time: Monday, 2/2/2026, 1.15pm to 2.30pm ET

Venue: Conference Room C, United Nations Headquarters New York

Side Event Invitation

Join global leaders in social development for a high-impact session exploring innovative strategies for cross-sector collaborations and integrated approaches to implementing the Doha political declaration.

Why Attend

- Hear from world-renowned experts in social development research, policy, and practice
- Explore ideas for multi-sector collaboration
- Peer learning and cooperative planning
- Strengthen global collaboration across sectors and regions

Expected Outcomes

- Awareness of the Doha Political Declaration (DPD)
- Identification of challenges and strategies for cross-sector collaboration
- Enhanced knowledge sharing and peer learning
- Potential collaborations and network for implementing the DPD

Featured Speakers and Partners

Prof. Surya Deva,
UN Special Rapporteur
on the Right to
Development



Dr. Katja Hujo –
Head, UNRISD
Bonn; Global eco-
social policy leader



Prof. Ram Ramanathan,
ICSD Vice
President for
Planning and
Evaluation



Profs. Michael Sherraden & Jin Huang, Co-Directors, CSD, Washington University, St. Louis



Dr. Sergei Zelenev,
President,
International Council
on Social Welfare



Ms. Anita Thomas,
Chair, NGO
Committee on
Financing for
Development



Moderator/Speaker: Professor Manohar Pawar
Former ICSD President, Charles Sturt University



Side Event at the 64th Commission for Social Development, UN NYHQ



Side Event



Title: Implementation of the Doha Political Declaration: Strategies for cross-sector collaborations and integrated approaches

Date and Time: Monday, 2 February 2026, 1.15pm -2.30pm, (1315-1430hrs)

Venue: Conference Room C, United Nations Head Quarters New York

Background

The Doha Political Declaration at the Second World Summit for Social Development, held on 4-6 November 2025, Qatar, was another landmark achievement. The intergovernmental consensus on the declaration showed that the world is united in further pursuing social development values and goals: peace, poverty eradication, full employment and decent work, social integration, climate change mitigation and adaptation and digital access to all. Although significant progress has been made in these areas, the social, environmental and economic problems persist. Many people experience poverty, injustice, and discrimination and find it hard to overcome challenging life circumstances, while witnessing the concentration of wealth and prosperity in others. Multidimensional poverty analysis shows that over a billion people are still in poverty. The climate crisis exacerbates poverty, and the digital divide further contributes to inequality. Conflicts and wars stall progress and demoralise people, causing significant loss, grief and stress.

In her Doha Political Declaration address, the President of the General Assembly, Annalena Baerbock, stated: "Social development is not a 'nice to have', nor an act of charity. It is in the self-interest of every country." UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the Declaration is a "booster shot for development." Although the declaration includes provisions relating to implementation, follow up and review, it is not clear how every country will take determined actions to advance concrete, integrated, and coordinated policies and programs to achieve social development for all.

Focusing on collaboration, active participation, peer learning, and a shared future, the proposed side event will bring together the International Consortium for Social Development (ICSD, non-government organisation); United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD, a UN multilateral agency); UN Special Rapporteur on the right to development, the Centre for Social Development (CSD), Washington University, St. Louis (higher education sector); the International Council on Social Welfare; and the NGO Committee on Financing for Development to organise a panel discussion to explore the

implementation of the Doha Political Declaration and strategies for cross-sector collaboration and integrated approaches.

Objectives:

The main objectives of the proposed side event are.

- To raise awareness of the Doha Political Declaration, and commitments and actions needed.
- To explore how multiple sectors--government, nongovernment organisations, business, universities, and civil society—can work together to implement the Doha Political Declaration.
- To discuss the challenges and strategies for cross-sector collaboration and integrated and coordinated approaches.
- To brainstorm policies and programs needed to facilitate multisector collaboration and cooperation.
- To consider ways and means of capacity building across these sectors and conducting research, training and evaluation to develop evidence-based policies.

The side event will deliberate the following two main questions:

Deliberative questions

- What are the challenges and strategies for cross-sector collaboration, and for integrated and coordinated approaches, in implementing the Doha Political Declaration?
- What innovative and participatory policies and programs are needed to enhance capacity at various levels, enabling collaborative, integrated, and coordinated approaches to achieve social development for all?

Expected Outcomes

The side event is expected to achieve the following outcomes:

- Collaboration among the partnering organisations, cross fertilisation of ideas, peer learning, and support.
- Greater awareness of the Doha Political Declaration while creating urgency to move from consensus to action.
- Identification and analysis of challenges to collaboration and integrated and coordinated action.
- Deliberation on effective strategies to enable collaboration and integrated and coordinated action.

- Consideration of innovative, participatory, and locally oriented policies and programs to accelerate the implementation of the Doha Political Declaration, thereby making progress towards social development for all.
- Development of a concise outcome document summarizing key insights, recommendations, and next steps from the panel.
- Potential Establishment of a cross-sector working group or network to continue collaboration beyond the event.
- Commitment to follow-up activities such as webinars, regional consultations, or joint research projects.

Format

A carefully and diligently constituted panel of globally leading social development scholars, policymakers, practitioners, and researchers will make presentations in line with the objectives and questions set out for deliberation. The panel speakers' presentations will be followed by questions, comments and contributions from participants.

Confirmed Partner and Speaker Composition

Mr. Surya Deva, [UN Special Rapporteur on the right to development](#), since 1 May 2023. Deva is a Professor at the Macquarie Law School and Director of Macquarie University's Environmental Law Research Centre, Australia.

Professor Manohar Pawar is a former President of the ICSD, Professor of social work, Director of Social Work and Social Development Research Alliance, Charles Sturt University Australia. He is also Chief Editor of *the International Journal of Community and Social Development* and Editor of Springer Series in Social Development.

Dr. Katja Hujo is head of the UNRISD (United Nations Research Institute for Social Development) Bonn office and leads the Transformative Social Policy Programme. Her work focuses on social policy, poverty and inequality, migration, sustainable development and financing, and eco-social contracts. She is author of more than 100 publications, has coordinated two UNRISD flagship reports ([2022](#), [2016](#)) and leads the institute's work on [FfD4](#) and [WSSD2](#). With GEC, she co-convenes the Global Research and Action Network for a New Eco-Social Contract ([GRAN-ESC](#)).

Prof. Ram Ramanathan, ICSD Vice President for Planning and Organisation Evaluation, School of Social Work, Illinois State University, Normal, Senior Fulbright Specialist and Fulbright Fellow. Prof. Ramanathan brings more than four decades of experience as a practitioner, educator, and administrator. His work focuses on cross-cultural practice, social development, and corporate social responsibility.

Distinguished Prof. Michael Sherraden, George Warren Brown Distinguished University Professor and Prof. Jin Huang, Co-Directors of the CSD, have made significant impact on asset-building policies and programs globally. Prof. Michael Sherraden was listed by TIME magazine as one of the 100 most influential people in the world. His work has influenced asset-based policies and programs in the U.S. and many other countries.

Dr. Sergei Zelenev, President, International Council on Social Welfare, had a distinguished career spanning nearly three decades with the United Nations, both at its Headquarters in New York and in field assignments across Africa and the Caribbean. Has authored extensively on social protection, aging, youth, and intergenerational relationships.

Ms Anita Thomas, Chair, NGO Committee on Financing for Development, A Substantive Committee of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the UN, brings significant NGO collaborative, networking, organising and moderating experience with her. Ms Thomas has expertise in financing for social development.

Author of the concept note and Moderator Professor Manohar Pawar is a former President of the ICSD, Professor of social work, Director of Social Work and Social Development Research Alliance, Charles Sturt University Australia. He is also Chief Editor of the *International Journal of Community and Social Development*. He has significantly contributed to the advancement of social development knowledge and advocacy for action. He has published more than 200 articles, including over 20 books, many focus on social development.

Partners

