



Towards a society for all ages: building solidarity and equity across generations

Joint Regional Commissions Side Event during the Summit of the Future Action Days

21 September 2024 from 9:30 to 11:00 AM EST

Coalition of Organisers	
Member State	1. Chile
UN system	2. Regional Commissions New York Office 3. Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) 4. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) 5. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) 6. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA); and 7. Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

Concept Note

1. Introduction

Gains in longevity across the world means that today three to four generations live and work alongside each other. This creates both opportunities and challenges for intergenerational equity and solidarity between generations, in the context of rising inequalities and lack of decent jobs, climate change and environmental crises, rapid urbanization, a growing digital divide, rising demand for care systems and setbacks to women’s rights.

Duties to the future and the commitment to intergenerational equity are articulated as fundamental principles in the Secretary-General’s Our Common Agenda report outlining the vision for the future of global cooperation. In his report, the Secretary-General called for solidarity between people, countries and generations. Solidarity between existing and future generations requires intergenerational equity, now and in the future, in a world of all ages where no one is left behind.

Negotiations on a Declaration on Future Generations to be annexed to the Pact for the Future attach importance to strengthening cooperation among States on their response to demographic trends and realities, including rapid population growth, declining birthrates and aging populations, with a view to safeguarding the needs and interests of present and future generations. The upcoming Summit of the Future holds much promise in terms of heralding new beginnings in international cooperation, including solutions for building stronger social cohesion and fostering mutually responsive relationships between older and younger generations. The Second World Summit for Social Development in 2025 will be yet another opportunity to consider the implications of rethinking social development for a world undergoing rapid change, positioning collective wellbeing, solidarity, and rights at the centre of development policy and practice.



Drawing upon their ongoing work and networks in the regions, the Regional Commissions are organizing the joint side event with the Government of Chile to position in global policy discussion the topic of intergenerational solidarity through the equity lens, considering the state-of-the-art evidence, showcasing concrete examples towards building social cohesion and highlighting recommendations to carry forward the Pact for the Future.

2. Objective of the side event

The side event during the Action Days will, under the broad umbrella of intergenerational solidarity and equity, will draw on the insights and recommendations from the Regional Commissions' joint policy brief on this topic to be distributed at the event, focus on cutting edge policy thinking on the impact of current demographic trends, including on population ageing, labour market, quality of employment, and access to social protection, care policies and services. Beyond social policies, the side event will also look at how choices policymakers and societies are making today on the green transition, and on tackling the triple planetary crisis, will affect future generations. With a particular focus on intergenerational fairness, the side event will have a forward-looking focus on voluntary commitments, concrete actions and partnerships needed to deliver on the Pact for the Future.

Specifically, the side event will seek to:

- explore the social, economic and financial challenges and opportunities for equity and solidarity that demographic shifts pose for multigenerational societies, including for those unborn generations that do not have a voice yet.
- discuss the latest evidence and showcase good practices and policy proposals around intergenerational solidarity and equity from across the regions, including those related to the care economy.
- explore opportunities offered by strategic foresight, science and data capabilities for long-term thinking and strategies, and identify institutional mechanisms through which society can ensure that inter-generational inequities are regularly addressed in light of changing contexts.
- unpack ways of carrying forward solutions contained in the Chapters of the Pact for the Future and contribute to the preparatory process for the Second World Summit for Social Development in 2025.

With due recognition of the duties to collectively shape a brighter and fairer present and future for all generations, including those yet to be born, the side event will apply a human rights and gender equality lens in tackling current challenges as well as those that have emerged in recent years or may yet be over the horizon. Such considerations will be at the centre in guiding the selection of themes, discussion questions, panellists, moderation and reporting and follow-up, as well as in the efforts to operationalize proposals from relevant pillars of the Pact for the Future.



3. Format

The side event will be 90 minutes long and will have:

- (20 mins)-An **opening segment** featuring opening remarks by a representative of Chile and the Coordinator of the Regional Commissions and a presentation by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP on the policy brief focusing on the latest evidence, policy recommendations, stakeholders' voices on regional priorities and promising initiatives.
- (60 mins)-An **interactive segment** with high-level national authorities, senior UN Officials/Executive Secretaries of the Regional Commissions, representatives of civil society organizations, stakeholder network and private sector from across the regions, moderated by the Executive Secretary of UNECE.
- (10 mins)-**Closing remarks** by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP

4. Expected outcome

The side event is expected to provide an opportunity for high-level engagement and mobilization for action around building stronger intergenerational solidarity across the regions and to chart the way forward for the implementation of relevant solutions contained in the Pact for the Future, particularly the pillars on Youth and Future Generations and the Declaration on Future Generations. The event is also expected to contribute to the preparatory process for the Second World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, while also connecting to relevant chapters of the Pact for the Future.

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