

## Fifth Regional Seminar on Social Development

### Towards the Second World Summit for Social Development: Priorities for Inclusive Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

#### Concept note

#### High-Level Panel:

#### The Latin American and Caribbean Pact for Inclusive Social Development: Heading Towards the Second World Summit on Social Development

Date: Tuesday, June 24, 2025

Time: 11:00-13:00 hrs (Santiago de Chile Time)

Hall: Celso Furtado

Registration and connection link:

<https://eclac.webex.com/webappng/sites/eclac/webinar/webinarSeries/register/8976b27a04ed4e128b56bf27f01f2344>

The event will have **English-Spanish interpretation**.

## Background

The 1995 World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen marked a milestone by establishing the importance of social development as a central pillar of development strategies. It committed to reducing poverty and inequalities related to universal access to essential social development policies, such as education and health, as well as to overcoming various barriers to full employment. Despite significant progress since then, Latin America and the Caribbean still face at least three development traps that hinder the construction of a more productive, inclusive, and sustainable future: i) low growth capacity; ii) high inequality, low mobility, and weak social cohesion; and iii) low institutional capacity and ineffective governance.

The implementation of the 2030 Agenda, along with various international treaties and agreements ratified by the region's countries, has shown that broad consensus and commitment to common social development goals are possible. The recently approved *Pact for the Future* (2024) confirms this experience and reaffirms the opportunity to move toward a more inclusive, sustainable, and resilient society.

In this context, Latin America and the Caribbean are calling on the international community to approve a pact for inclusive social development at the Second World Summit for Social Development, to be held in 2025 in Qatar. Achieving this pact would strengthen efforts to significantly improve living conditions, eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities, and, above all, enhance countries' preparedness and response capacity in the face of future challenges.

## Objective of the panel

In this framework, the policy brief [\*"The road to the 2025 Second World Summit for Social Development: towards a pact for inclusive social development"\*](#) will be presented.

This document examines the commitments made by the region's countries over the three decades since the Copenhagen Summit, highlighting key milestones in social development and the growing centrality of these policies in development models. Based on a review of the last 30 years of debate, it analyzes transitions in conceptual frameworks, goals, public policies, and implementation mechanisms. It also proposes ten lines of action to move toward a pact for inclusive social development in line with the 2030 Agenda: i) eradication of poverty and hunger, ii) reduction of inequality, iii) expansion of universal, comprehensive, sustainable, and resilient social protection systems, iv) digital social protection in the context of digital transformation, v) gender equality and care systems, vi) labor inclusion within the framework of productive transformation, vii) investment in education as a driver of youth mobility, viii) progress toward universal health, ix) strengthening pension systems in the face of population aging, and x) financial sustainability through resource mobilization and multilateral cooperation.

## Preliminary Program

<b>11:00 – 11:10</b>	<b>Welcome remarks</b> Alberto Arenas de Mesa, Director of the Social Development Division, ECLAC
<b>11:10-11:40</b>	<b>Presentation of the Policy Brief:</b> <b>"Road to the Second World Summit for Social Development 2025: Towards a Pact for Inclusive Social Development"</b> José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, Executive Secretary, ECLAC
<b>11:40-12:40</b>	<b>Comments</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Javiera Toro, Minister of Social Development and Family, Chile</li> <li>• Kirk Humphrey, Minister of People Empowerment and Elder Affairs, Barbados</li> <li>• Sophie De Smedt, Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations (Video message)</li> <li>• Omar Hilale, Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations (Video message)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Björg Sandkjær, Deputy Secretary General, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations</li> </ul>
<b>12:40-13:00</b>	<b>Discussion and closing remarks</b> Alberto Arenas de Mesa, Director of the Social Development Division, ECLAC
<b>Moderator:</b> Alberto Arenas de Mesa, Director of the Social Development Division, ECLAC	

## References

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) (2025), “Road to the Second World Summit for Social Development 2025: Towards a Pact for Inclusive Social Development”, Policy Brief, Santiago.