

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 Roundtable:

On the Path to the Second World Summit for Social Development: Global and Regional Commitments for Inclusive Social Development

Date: Thursday 26 June 2025

Time: 09:00 – 10:30

Hall: Celso Furtado

Registration and connection link:

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

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

Background

The World Summit for Social Development held in Copenhagen (1995) marked a turning point by positioning social development as a fundamental pillar of development strategies. In that context, States committed to reducing poverty, ensuring universal access to essential services such as health and education, and overcoming structural barriers to full employment.

Nearly three decades after that milestone, Latin America and the Caribbean still face structural challenges that hinder truly inclusive development: (i) low economic growth capacity; (ii) high levels of inequality, low social mobility, and weak social cohesion; and (iii) limited institutional capacities and ineffective governance.

Nevertheless, the region has demonstrated its ability to build consensus, as shown by the adoption of the Regional Agenda for Inclusive Social Development in 2019 and its strong commitment to implementing the 2030 Agenda and other international agreements.

The recent **Pact for the Future** (2024) reaffirms the importance of continuing to move toward more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable societies. In this context, Latin America and the Caribbean call on the international community to ensure that the **Second World Summit for Social Development**, to be held in 2025 in Qatar, concludes with the adoption of a **global pact for inclusive social**

development—one that translates existing commitments into concrete actions and strengthens countries' responses to current and future challenges.

Objective of the Panel

This high-level roundtable is part of the preparatory process leading up to the Second World Summit for Social Development and aims to create a space for dialogue on the commitments and opportunities to strengthen the inclusive social development agenda at both the regional and global levels. It seeks to contribute to building a more ambitious and cohesive agenda ahead of the 2025 Summit. This space will especially highlight the contributions and commitments of Latin American countries, in dialogue with other regions, to advance a global agenda that addresses inequalities and promotes collective well-being.

Participants will share their perspectives on how these commitments can enhance international cooperation and lay the groundwork for more inclusive public policies, with a view to generating meaningful agreements during the Second Summit, taking into account the specific priorities and challenges identified across different regions of the world.

Preliminary program

09:00 – 09:10	Welcome remarks Alberto Arenas de Mesa, Director of the Social Development Division, ECLAC
09:10– 9:30	Presentation Common priorities and commitments towards the Second World Summit for Social Development , Bjørg Sandkjær, Assistant Secretary-General, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations (DESA)
09:30– 10:20	Roundtable: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, Executive Secretary, ECLAC • Claver Gatete, Executive Secretary, UNECA • Lin Yang, Deputy Executive Secretary, ESCAP • Tatiana Molcean, Executive Secretary, UNECE • Rola Dashti, Executive Secretary, ESCWA (<i>videomessage</i>)
10:20– 10:30	Discussion and closing remarks Alberto Arenas de Mesa, Director of the Social Development Division, ECLAC
Moderator: Alberto Arenas de Mesa	