

Fifth Regional Seminar on Social Development

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

Panel II “Poverty, Hunger and Inequality: Innovative Responses to Persistent Challenges”

Date: Wednesday, 25 June 2025

Time: 09:45–11:15 Chile time

Room: Celso Furtado

Connection link:

[Register Program - CEPAL - Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe](#)

The event will include interpretation in **Spanish-English-sign language**.

Background:

The World Summit for Social Development held in Copenhagen in 1995 was a milestone in highlighting the multidimensional nature of poverty and its prevalence in developing countries, while also defining an enabling environment for social development. It marked key commitments in identifying and addressing poverty and hunger within a framework of social integration. Although inequality was not a central theme, its connection to poverty was acknowledged, along with gender disparities and regional imbalances. In today’s context, it is increasingly recognized that structural inequalities are among the main causes of persistent poverty. This understanding points towards social and labor inclusion, emphasizing not only the importance of social development but the need for it to be inclusive. In this regard, the adoption of the Regional Agenda for Inclusive Social Development in 2019 introduced the concept of inclusive social development. It stresses the importance of leaving no one behind in development processes and in progress regarding economic well-being and the exercise of rights, prioritizing the inclusion of historically excluded populations through the implementation of universal, comprehensive, relevant, and difference-sensitive policies.

In 2024, under Brazil’s presidency of the G20, President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva launched the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty, seeking to jointly and coordinately address global challenges related to poverty and hunger. The initiative convenes G20 member countries and various actors in collaborative efforts to eradicate hunger and improve the living conditions of the most vulnerable, through the implementation of inclusive global policies, global food security, investment in sustainable agriculture, and strengthening South-South cooperation, among other efforts.

On the road to the Second World Summit for Social Development in 2025, the region has proposed various specific actions to ensure food and nutritional security and address malnutrition in all its forms and throughout the life course, with social protection systems, the deployment of policies to guarantee access to basic services such as drinking water and sewerage, and sustainable food systems, among other lines of action.

Objective:

The Panel seeks to address the persistent challenges posed by poverty, hunger and inequality, affecting millions of people in the world and in the region. Through the participation of representatives of governments, United Nations agencies and specialists, it seeks to generate a multidimensional dialogue that will highlight innovative and sustainable alternatives. The objective is to focus on the need to act and identify effective responses from government policies, international cooperation and community initiatives, aligned with the commitments of the 2030 Agenda and the Regional Agenda for Inclusive Social Development.

Preliminary Program:

9:45 – 9:55	Welcome remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ernesto Espíndola, Senior Research Assistant, ECLAC
9:55– 10:20	Presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intervention by Minister Wellington Dias, Ministry of Social Development, Family and Fight Against Hunger, Brazil Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty, Luiza Silva Lisboa, Consultant, Ministry of Social Development, Family and Fight Against Hunger, Brazil
10:20 – 11:05	Commentaries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perspectives on the cost of malnutrition and financial sustainability, Rodrigo Martínez, ECLAC Lynett Ochuma, Director of Social Development, State Department for Social Protection and Senior Citizen Affairs, Kenya Mehrinaz El Awady, Director of Gender Justice, Population and Inclusive Development, ESCWA (<i>Videomessage</i>) Francisco García, Head of Cooperation of the European Union in Chile
11:05– 11:15	Closing remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ernesto Espíndola, Senior Research Assistant, ECLAC
Moderator: Ernesto Espíndola, Senior Research Assistant, ECLAC	