



GWI United Nation Representative

Advocacy Report

2025

GWI advocacy goals

- 100% of United Nations Member States commit to policy, legislation, budget and infrastructure to facilitate transition of girls from primary to secondary school and ensure gender parity and gender equality throughout secondary education by 2030.
- By 2030 100% of United Nations low-income Member States have increased access to tertiary education for girls and women by 50%.
- 100% of United Nations Member States commit to and implement policies for continuing education to empower women throughout the life course, within the formal and informal economies.
- Influence the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4.
- All 17 SDGs will include girls' education targets.

Please bear in mind these five overarching, long-term goals during any United Nations intervention that you make on behalf of GWI. Any intervention should push these five goals further.

NB: *Although these goals represent GWI's mission, UN Reps are also invited to promote GWI key messages on areas where especially relevant e.g., women in STEM, securing investment in women teachers, addressing barriers to girls' education such as child marriage.*

GWI United Nations Representative names: Maryella Hannum

United Nation Duty Station represented: UN Headquarters/NY

Meetings attended: UN Headquarters NY, the 63rd Session of The Commission for Social Development (CSocD63), 10-14 February, 2025; & Civil Society Forum, 14 February; Strengthening solidarity and inclusion for social development.

The priority theme of the 63rd session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD63), *"Strengthening solidarity, social inclusion and social cohesion to accelerate the delivery of the commitments of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development as well as the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"*. Emerging issues, *"Social resilience and social development"*.

The 63rd session concluded with productive discussion on key challenges to social progress. The Commission reaffirmed its commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and highlighted the upcoming Second World Summit for Social Development in Doha, Qatar, as a crucial opportunity to reset global priorities and strengthen collective action. The Commission also adopted five resolutions on the priority theme, methods of work, New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), youth, and the review modalities of Madrid International Plan of Action on Aging (MIPAA).



The Commission adopted the draft resolution titled “*Future Organization and Methods of Work of the Commission for Social Development*” (document [E/CN.5/2025/L.7](#)) by consensus and forwarded it to the Council. According to the text, the Council would determine that the priority theme for the Commission’s sixty-fourth session (CSocD64), will be “*Advancing Social Development and Social Justice through Coordinated, Equitable, and Inclusive Policies.*”

The **Civil Society Forum (CSF)** 2025 was hosted jointly by UNDESA-DISD, and the NGO Committee on Social Development (NGO CSocD), and was sponsored by the [Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung \(FES\) Foundation](#). The CSF is an opportunity for NGOs worldwide to learn about each other’s work, to prepare for the Commission, including by combined work on position papers and interventions. The CSF consisted of both in person and virtual meeting options with an opening panel and two thematic sessions entitled, “*Grassroots Perspectives and Intergenerational Collaboration in Strengthening Solidarity, Social Inclusions, and Social Cohesion*”, and “*Towards the Second World Social Summit: Safeguarding the Future*”.

Key Takeaways of the Civil Society Forum (CSF):

Opening Panel:

-Civil society plays a critical role in shaping social development policies and must be at the forefront of driving transformative action at the 2025 World Summit on Social Development.

-Civil society should focus on questioning the structural and systemic drivers of inequality to put human well-being and development at the center of economic theory and practice.

-Addressing decent work deficits, such as informality and lack of social protection, is crucial for achieving social inclusion and resilience, with civil society organizations playing a vital advocacy role.

-Addressing factors like rising nationalism, climate change, and wealth concentration that undermine social solidarity and cohesion should be a priority, with civil society contributing innovative ideas to advance social justice.

Thematic Session 1:

-Highlighted the role of young activists in shaping inclusive policies and emphasized the importance of youth-driven social change.

-Spoke about grassroots leadership and the necessity of local communities taking center stage in social development efforts.

-Addressed indigenous resilience and the role of traditional knowledge in fostering social inclusion.

-Emphasized intergenerational collaboration and how different age groups can work together to strengthen solidarity.

-Introduced a video presentation from the Grassroots Subcommittee of NGO CSocD, reinforcing the importance of community-driven advocacy.



Thematic Session 2:

-The co-facilitators are committed to a transparent and inclusive preparatory process for the Second World Summit for Social Development.

-Financing for Development policies must prioritize social inclusion, solidarity, resilience, and equitable financing structures to support social development.

-Advancing a transformative agenda for social development requires promoting decent work, formalizing informal employment, and ensuring meaningful civil society participation.

-Centering the needs and leadership of displaced women, including through inclusive, intersectional approaches, is crucial for sustainable peace and social progress.

Closing Panel:

-Stressed the need for continued collaboration and advocacy to ensure civil society remains at the forefront of social justice.

-Shared insights on how governments and civil society can work together to drive meaningful progress.

-Highlighted the role of international frameworks in supporting inclusive social development and amplifying grassroots efforts.

Which of the Sustainable Development Goals were covered? What was the relation?

8 SDGs are highlighted in discussions of social development. SDGs Emphasized: 1 No Poverty, 2 Zero Hunger, 3 Good Health & Well-Being, 4 Quality Education, 8 Decent Work & Economic Growth, 9 Industry, Innovation, & Infrastructure, 10 Reduced Inequalities, 17 Partnerships for the Goals

What United Nations treaties/conventions/resolutions were addressed? The Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action. At the 1995 World Summit for Social Development Member States adopted the Declaration to advance social development through 10 commitments, including eradicating poverty, reducing inequality and promoting social integration. In the Declaration, governments agreed to promote international peace and security, accelerate development in Africa and the least developed countries, and mobilize resources for achieving social progress. Combined they presented economic development, social progress and environmental protection as interdependent and as components of sustainable development. The Declaration and Programme of Action have guided multilateral action on social development since the 1995 Summit. It recognized and represented a consensus on three key objectives of social development, eradicating poverty, promoting full and productive employment, and fostering social inclusion. The Declaration aims to advance social progress and a better quality of life and well-being for all, and aspired to “place people at the center of development by ensuring full participation by all”.

Submitted by:

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