

## Our support to the World Social Summit

COVID-19 has evidenced and widened existing obstacles in access to health, education, decent work and social protection all over the world. There is a need for a stronger commitment to the social dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by the United Nations and its Member States, international financial institutions, regional organizations and other actors, including the civil society.

There is no better or more inclusive forum than the United Nations to evoke such a commitment and to elevate social development in the international agenda. The United Nations Secretary-General's report ***Our Common Agenda*** recommends that consideration should be given to holding a ***World Social Summit in 2025, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Copenhagen Declaration.***

We fully support this call as a matter of urgency and responsibility towards the millions of citizens around the world whose social needs have slipped further from being met.

A World Social Summit at the highest political level will provide an opportunity for the international community to strengthen United Nations' framework for effective social development and to save the 2030 Agenda from unravelling. It will also represent a step forward in building a networked and inclusive multilateralism, and help the United Nations system keep pace with the evolving challenges and opportunities of sustainable development.

## An opportunity for shared decision making

- The celebration of a World Social Summit in 2025 represents a unique opportunity for inclusion. The Summit's agenda and definition of final outcomes should **engage and include a wide range of voices** including civil society organizations, local governments, the private sector, financial institutions and other key actors.

- **Civil Society** should play a relevant role. This will require a significant effort in terms of mobilization and coordination of civil society organizations at local, national and regional levels.

Special attention should be given to the participation of the Global South when it comes to defining the Summit's agenda and engaging in political negotiations.

- **Most marginalized groups** must be represented in the discussions. The voices of minorities and migrants should be heard along all stages of the Summit. They should all have a say in envisioning their lives and futures.

- **Regional organizations** should also play a significant role in the preparations and political negotiations of the Summit. This will ensure policy alignment and increase regional political ownership in a time when regional organizations are increasing their response to social development challenges.

