



International
Labour
Organization



United
Nations

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs

Rebuilding Trust, Renewing Solidarity: State of Social Justice in the World

Tuesday, 23 September 2025 [TBC], 1:15 – 2:30pm
Venue: UNHQ Conference Room [TBC], New York, USA

The International Labour Organization (ILO) in collaboration with the State of Qatar, the Delegation of the European Union to the UN and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) are pleased to convene this high-level special event on the margins of the Eightieth Session of the UN General Assembly to launch the inaugural seminal report of the ILO on the State of Social Justice in the World.

This global report provides a timely and evidence-based assessment of progress, gaps, and structural barriers in realizing social justice, drawing on decades of ILO experience, international labour standards, and multilateral cooperation. It highlights the paradox of a world that has seen measurable gains such as increased social protection coverage and reduced working poverty while still grappling with entrenched inequalities in income, opportunity, and recognition. It warns that without strong institutions and deliberate policy action, today's major transitions whether in climate, the digital space or demographics risk compounding exclusion rather than advancing equity.

Coming ahead of the World Social Summit titled as the Second World Summit for Social Development (WSS-WSSD2) in Doha from 4 – 6 November, this launch offers a critical opportunity to centre the conversation on decent work, fair distribution, and inclusive governance. The report reinforces the case for rebuilding trust in institutions and revitalizing the global social contract as central to achieving peaceful, sustainable and just societies. By convening Member States, UN partners, social partners and civil society, this jointly organized event will generate momentum for placing social justice at the heart of the multilateral agenda in 2026 and beyond.

Objectives and Expected Outcomes

The event provides a pivotal opportunity to elevate the findings of the State of Social Justice in the World Report and translate its insights into forward-looking dialogue and action. By drawing together high-level representatives from governments, the UN system, regional institutions, employers' and workers' organizations, and civil society, the event aims to reaffirm the centrality of social justice to international cooperation and multilateral renewal.

Participants will explore how the report's findings can inform policy and institutional responses to persistent inequalities, with a particular focus on the role of decent work in shaping equitable and inclusive societies. The event will also offer a platform to examine the structural drivers of trust deficits both within and among countries, while highlighting practical ways to rebuild confidence in public institutions and social dialogue.

This launch is positioned in the lead-up to WSS-WSSD2, which is expected to help shape political momentum around the social dimensions of sustainable development while reinforcing the call for accelerated implementation of national and international commitments on social development. The Report seeks to support the implementation of the WSS-WSSD2 Political Declaration and contribute to a strengthened global consensus on the need for integrated, people-centred policies that link economic progress to fairness, dignity, and opportunity.

Above all, the event is intended to deepen political understanding: trust between citizens and institutions is essential to renewing the global social contract, across generations and geographies. This renewed commitment is not only a governance matter; it is social justice in action.

Key Questions for Discussion

1. How do today's major transitions affect social justice and decent work?
2. What role must the multilateral system play to address the structural determinants of inequality?
3. How can governments, workers, employers, and international organizations renew the global social contract to ensure fair distribution of opportunities and outcomes?
4. What specific commitments are needed to ensure that WSS-WSSD2 delivers measurable progress on social justice?

Moderator: Ms. Cynthia Samuel-Olonjuwon, **ILO Special Representative to the UN**

Welcome: Mr. Gilbert F. Houngbo, **Director-General, ILO**
Mr. Li Junhua, **USG for Economic and Social Affairs, UN**

Keynote: **Head of Delegation to UNGA80, Qatar**

Remarks: **AU Commission Chairperson or Head of Delegation to UNGA80**
EU Commission Chairperson or Head of Delegation to UNGA80
Head of Delegation to UNGA80, Chile
Mr. Roberto Suárez Santos, **IOE Secretary-General**
Mr. Luc Triangle, **ITUC General Secretary**
Ms. Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmona, **Director, UNRISD**