



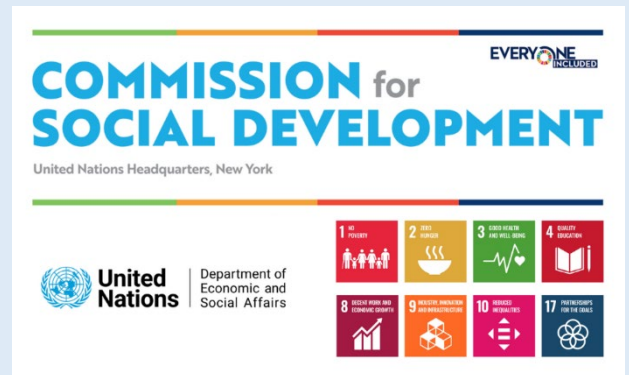
MEDICAL MISSION SISTERS and the UN

EVENTS | ANNOUNCEMENTS | RESOURCES

FEBRUARY 2024

The 62nd Session of the Commission for Social Development (CSoCD62)

"Your presence here today is a testament of your commitment to social development." This was the opening statement of Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj, Permanent Representative of India to the UN and Chair of CSoCD62 as she welcomed delegates gathered at the UN. Since the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen in 1995, the Commission has been the key UN body in charge of the follow-up and implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Program of Action. The annual session provides space at the UN for people around the world to discuss emerging issues spotlighting topics such as poverty eradication, inequality, decent work, social protection, digital inclusion, and homelessness. This year's theme focused on social development and social justice to achieve poverty eradication. In 2025, the Copenhagen Declaration will be in its 30th year. What has achieved so far? Why are we still talking about poverty eradication? According to UNDESA, the world more than ever faces multiple crises and global challenges despite efforts for sustainable development.



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- 600 million people are projected to face hunger in 2030
- Around 57% of the global population, or 4.5 billion people, are not fully covered by essential health services
- An estimated 84 million children and young people are still out of school
- About one-third of the global population, or 2.6 billion people remain offline
- Currently, the richest 10% in the world takes 52 per cent of the total income
- As of 2020, 63% of the global population or 4.1 billion people were not covered by one social protection scheme
- Decent work and productive employment remain elusive for two billion workers, or 60 percent of the global workforces are in informal jobs.

Through panel discussions and forums, the member states, UN special rapporteurs, representatives from different UN agencies and civil society organizations shared their insights and recommendations on how policies can achieve an inclusive society; and innovative solutions in promoting social development and social justice.

The outcome document of the Commission is in the form of a resolution. In this resolution, the Commission affirms that the key pathways for just, inclusive, and effective social policies firmly anchor on three fundamental social services: **universal social protection to secure decent living standards, providing affordable and quality health services for all and ensuring affordable quality education for all.** Those three fundamental social services also play central roles, both directly and indirectly, in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The NGO Committee for Social Development (NGOCSoCD)

This Committee, with 40 NGO members, has been fully engaged in every CSoCD. Prior to CSoCD62, the Committee members had mission visits with 20 out of the 42 member states of the Commission. I signed up for member states where MMS are: Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Japan and Peru.



Members of NGOCSoCD with representatives from UN agencies and Member States

The purpose of the visit is to introduce the NGOCSoCD and its work, present our advocacy priorities on social, economic, environmental, and political justice; and invite them to the events organized by the Committee. Overall, member states were very interested and supportive of our work. Many of the points in the priorities are in line with the priorities in their respective countries. Some member states acknowledged that issues and processes are very politicized, making progress and coming to a consensus very difficult.

Another unique opportunity during the CSoCD62 was the Civil Society Forum held on February 9. This forum was organized for civil society participants to engage with various experts from all over the world to share successes, challenges, and recommendations of furthering the Sustainable Development Goals and the Copenhagen Declaration. I was fortunate to



have the networking session with a youth advocating for just social policies, a Dominican Sister, and representatives of the NGO office of the Lay Vincentian, an NGO in France focusing on the rights of the elderly people, the WorldWIDE Network, Nigeria, and the ATD Fourth World whose works is to overcome poverty.

MMS Parallel Event Featured in UN Website

During the CSoCD62, we co-sponsored a virtual parallel event with the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary-Loretto Generalate/Congregation of Jesus, Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic and VIVAT International, which gathered around 90 participants. Eleven of them were MMS and Associates from North America, North India, Philippines, and Vietnam. Among the 52 registered events, the recorded video and summary of our event was selected and is featured on the website of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. You can find the publication in this link: [UNDESA CSoCD62 Feature](#).

68th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68)

The CSW68 will take place from March 11- 22 at UN Headquarters in New York. The events and discussions will focus on the theme of *“Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective.”* I am happy to announce that 5 MMS Associates from Unit North America will join me at this event. Sr. Selen Wilson, O.P. will represent the Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville. Therese Connolly, Marguerite Sexton, Thomas Sexton, and Linda Townsend will attend a couple of days to represent the Medical Mission Sisters. Please watch out for my email or announcement in the intranet about the list of virtual parallel events that you may be interested in joining.

Mary Jane Caspillo, MMS