وزارة التخطيط والتنمية الاقتصادية والتعاون الدولي
Ministry of Planning, Economic Development & International Cooperation

# The Second World Summit for Social Development

## Regional Solutions – Initial Concept Note

## 4-6th November Doha, Qatar

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**Event Title:**

***Financing Social Protection and its Impact on Multidimensional Poverty***

**Hosts:**

- **Government of Egypt (Ministry of Planning, Economic Development and International Cooperation – MoPEDIC).**
- **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**

**Key words:**

Social Protection, Multidimensional Poverty, Economic and Human Development, South-South Cooperation, Regional Solutions, Social Investments, Inclusive Growth, Partnerships

**Introduction:**

**The global landscape of poverty continues to evolve, revealing increasingly complex and interlinked challenges.** While income-based indicators remain essential, multidimensional poverty; reflected in simultaneous deprivations in health, education, and living standards, offers a more holistic understanding of human development. **According to the 2024 Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)**, an estimated 1.1 billion people across 112 countries face multidimensional poverty, with children representing more than half of this total.[1]

**In this context, social protection has emerged not only as a moral imperative but also as a strategic enabler of sustainable development.** It is both a shield against vulnerabilities and a springboard for opportunity. When adequately financed and systematically integrated, social protection can uplift individuals and communities, accelerate human development, and build resilience against climate, health, and economic shocks. Meaning that social protection is no longer a policy option; it is a development necessity embedded in the world's most ambitious collective commitments.

Yet, the scale of the challenge remains immense. According to the ***World Social Protection Report* 2024–26** published by the International Labour Organization (ILO), 52.4% of the world's population now receives at least one social protection benefit — but 3.8 billion people remain entirely without coverage. **In low- and middle-income countries, closing the gap would require approximately USD 1.4 trillion annually**

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[1] UNDP & OPHI (2024). *Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2024: Poverty amid Conflict*

(equivalent to 3.3% of their collective GDP), with USD 833 billion earmarked for essential healthcare and USD 552 billion for basic social security benefits.[2] **Bridging this gap calls for bold innovation; including diversified financing instruments, integrated public finance management, and equitable international partnerships.**

Egypt offers a compelling case study. As noted in the 2025 UNDP Human Development Report, **Egypt's Human Development Index (HDI) rose to 0.754**, sustaining its high human development status and exceeding averages for both Arab and developing countries. Life expectancy reached 71.6 years, expected years of schooling hit 13.1, and the Gender Development Index stood at 0.895[3]; all reflecting sustained national investment in human capital. **Egypt has pursued integrated, equity-driven policies**, including the expansion of Takaful and Karama cash transfer programs, reforms in universal health coverage, and increased allocations to rural development and food security.

Furthermore, calls for systemic reform are growing louder across global platforms. **The Bridgetown Initiative[4], the Paris Pact for People and Planet, and outcomes from the Financing for Development Forum (FfD4)[5]** all underscore the urgency of expanding fiscal space for social investment, rebalancing the global financial architecture, and scaling up debt-for-development and blended finance instruments to make social protection both sustainable and equitable. These frameworks reflect not only shared ambition; but shared responsibility.

**Investing in comprehensive social protection systems within a multidimensional framework is not a fiscal cost; it's a multiplier.** Such investments yield far-reaching returns by enhancing economic participation, strengthening social cohesion, reinforcing national stability, and expanding human capabilities across generations, making them global public goods. **As articulated in the Seville Commitment,** the international community is increasingly aligned on the need to reshape global financing frameworks to support integrated, country-led development strategies.

**In this context**, countries that prioritize multidimensional poverty measurement and scale up effective, inclusive social protection, are not only responding to present

[2] International Labour Organization (ILO). *World Social Protection Report 2024–26: Universal social protection for climate action and a just transition.*
[3] United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Human Development Report 2025: Breaking the Cycle of Vulnerability. New York: UNDP, 2025.
[4] Bridgetown Initiative (Phase II). Government of Barbados & UN. *A Call to Action for Reforming the Global Financial System to Address Climate, Debt, and Development Gaps*, 2023.
[5] Compromiso de Sevilla (Seville Commitment): Outcome Document of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4).

challenges; **they are actively contributing to the design of a more equitable, future-ready development model.**

## Objectives:

This session aims to:

- **Elevate Global Momentum for Integrated Social Protection Systems.** Highlight how social protection, when embedded in national development strategies and aligned with multidimensional poverty frameworks, serves as a cornerstone for inclusion, resilience, and long-term development.
- **Demonstrate the Transformative Impact of Multidimensional Approaches**. Illustrate how moving beyond income-based poverty metrics enables more targeted, equitable, and sustainable policymaking—especially when paired with integrated social protection.
- **Advance Sustainable and Innovative Financing Pathways**. Explore practical mechanisms to expand fiscal space for social investment, including Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs), blended and concessional finance, and outcome-linked instruments.
- **Promote Policy Coherence Across Global Financing and Development Agendas**. Contribute to international efforts—such as the Seville Commitment, Bridgetown Initiative, and Paris Pact—to align financial architecture reform with inclusive, human-centered development.
- **Position Social Protection and Poverty Reduction as Global Public Goods**. Emphasize the role of universal, well-financed social protection in delivering benefits that transcend borders—such as social stability, equitable growth, climate resilience, and strengthened global human capital.
- **Foster Multilateral Partnerships and Knowledge Exchange**. Catalyze cross-country collaboration among governments, international organizations, and development finance institutions to scale what works, share data and tools, and support capacity building.

## Format and Structure

- **High-Level Opening.**
- **Panel Discussion (Proposed Speakers):**

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- H.E. Dr. Rania Al-Mashat, Minister of Planning, Economic Development and International Cooperation, The Arab Republic of Egypt.
- Mr. Abdallah Al Dardari, UN Assistant Secretary-General and Director of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Arab States
- Dr. Rola Dashti – Executive Secretary, UN-ESCWA
- Dr. Sabina Alkire – Director, Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI)
- Ms. Chrysoula Zacharopouloa, 4P Special Envoy, and former Minister of State for Development & International Partnerships, France
- Mr. Carsten Staur, Chair of OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC)

- **Interactive Q&A**
- **Wrap up and Key Takeaways**

**Expected Outcomes:**

- **Global Recognition of Social Protection and Multidimensional Poverty Reduction as Development Multipliers.** Reinforce the framing of social protection systems and multidimensional poverty metrics as strategic levers for inclusive growth, social cohesion, and resilience—positioning them as global public goods that benefit communities and economies alike.
- **Policy Messaging for Financing Architecture Reform.** Generate concrete, consensus-driven recommendations to embed social protection and multidimensional poverty reduction into ongoing global processes—including FfD4 follow-up, the Seville Commitment, the Bridgetown Initiative, and the Paris Pact for People and Planet.
- **Strengthened Country-Level Implementation Pathways**. Identify practical entry points to align national strategies and institutional capacities with multidimensional approaches and social protection systems, building on existing efforts across ministries of finance, planning, and social development.
- **Commitments to Knowledge Exchange and Cross-Regional Collaboration**. Launch or reinforce South-South and multilateral partnerships to share data, methodologies (e.g. MPI), and delivery models—supporting institutional capacity, evidence-based decision-making, and technical cooperation across regions.