

IASSW at the Second World Summit for Social Development in Doha

The International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) participates in the United Nations Second World Summit for Social Development to be held in Doha, Qatar, 4-6 November, 2025.

Why the Summit matters

This World Summit for Social Development provides an important opportunity for civil society organizations such as IASSW to reaffirm the centrality of people, communities, and social justice in global development. It invites governments, professionals, and citizens alike to assess progress, address persistent gaps, and renew commitments first articulated in the 1995 Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action.

For IASSW and its partners, the Summit is particularly significant as it highlights the inseparable link between social progress, economic development, and environmental sustainability. By engaging in the Summit process, IASSW seeks to ensure that the voices of social work educators, researchers, practitioners, and policymakers contribute meaningfully to the implementation and shaping of future global commitments that advance inclusive, equitable, and sustainable societies in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Partnerships for solutions

The Summit organizers, through the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), have facilitated the participation of civil society in the Summit. Within this framework, IASSW has joined forces with its global partners—the International Council for Social Welfare (ICSW), the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW), and the International Consortium for Social Development (ICSD)—to co-organize three solution-focused side events. These events reflect the partners' shared professional and ethical commitments to advancing social justice, human well-being and sustainable development. All four international organizations hold special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

Collective engagement and side events

Each of the four international organizations—IASSW, ICSW, IFSW, and ICSD—took the lead in submitting a side-event proposal, while indicating the other three as co-organizers. This coordinated approach strengthens the collective voice of the social work and social development sector within the global policy area.

Each solution session will feature a discussion panel represented by all four international partners:

- IASSW-led topic: *Universal Social Protection as a Pillar of Just Societies: Why It Matters and What Can Be Done* — Wednesday 5 November 2025: <https://www.iassw-aiets.org/2025/10/16/iassw-to-host-session-at-the-second-world-summit-for-social-development/>

- IFSW-led topic: *Strengthening Social Integration through Intergenerational Solidarity: A Foundation for Inclusive, Sustainable Societies* —Tuesday, 4 November 2025: <https://www.ifsw.org/doha-summit/>
- ICSW-led topic: *Designing Integrated Social Policies for inclusive and Sustainable Development* — Wednesday, 5 November 2025: <https://www.icsw.org/news/15-icsw/287-icsw-at-the-second-world-summit-for-social-development-in-doha>

Together, these events will highlight how education, research, practice, and policy advocacy, intersect to strengthen the social dimension of sustainable development and to ensure that no one is left behind. Also see the ICSD's Newsletter: <https://www.socialdevelopment.net/accelerating-social-development/>

Participation in the Roundtable Discussions

In addition to the side events, IASSW and its partners will participate in Round Table 2 of the official Summit programme on the theme:

“Assessing progress and addressing gaps and challenges in the implementation of the commitments of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and its Programme of Action and giving momentum towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”

If a speaking opportunity is granted, the collective global partners' key statement will emphasise the importance of education, social services, and community development as essential foundations for inclusive and just societies.

Following the Summit

Members and colleagues are invited to follow the official plenary sessions and high-level roundtables, including Round Table 2, which will be livestreamed online. Further details can be followed on the Second World Summit for Social Development platform. <https://social.desa.un.org/world-summit-2025>