



Concept Note

Side Event at the Second World Summit for Social Development – 2025

“Palestinian Families Suffering under Occupation: Multi-Dimensional Impacts on the Social Fabric and the Urgent Need for Protection, Scalable Solutions, and Justice”

In partnership between the Ministry of Social Development – State of Palestine

and.....

State of Palestine

Ministry of Social Development

1. Background and Context

For over five decades, the Palestinian people have lived under a military occupation marked by continuous violence, systematic land confiscation, and a long-term blockade—especially in the Gaza Strip. Recent and escalating hostilities have deepened this humanitarian emergency, pushing Palestinian families to the brink of collapse.

This side event, organized by the Ministry of Social Development in the State of Palestine, in partnership with, aims to highlight the deep and multi-dimensional suffering of these families, while emphasizing the urgent need for international protection, scalable solutions, and comprehensive justice.

2. Why This Side Event is Urgent and Necessary

The Israeli occupation has created a multi-layered humanitarian emergency that directly violates the core principles of the Copenhagen Declaration. This event aims to:



- Expose the systematic nature of human rights violations affecting Palestinian families, which obstruct global progress toward ending poverty, achieving full and productive employment, decent work, and social inclusion in the occupied Palestinian territory.
- Challenge the international community to address the root causes of the suffering, which directly contradict the summit's goals of inclusive social development and building resilient communities.
- Mobilize global solidarity and meaningful action, in line with international humanitarian law and human rights principles, while promoting scalable solutions for sustainable social progress in crisis-affected settings.

3. Strategic Importance of the Side Event

This event is strategically important because it:

- Directly aligns with Arab priorities concerning family unity, poverty eradication, and community rebuilding during emergencies—reflecting a shared regional commitment to social development.
- Sheds light on the systematic nature of violations under occupation and connects them to global commitments toward social justice, thereby strengthening global human rights discourse.
- Contributes to international accountability by documenting these violations in a formal UN setting and creating a space for transparent reporting and corrective action.
- Supports the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Copenhagen Declaration, particularly in conflict-affected contexts where social development goals face unique and severe challenges.
- Provides a platform for launching new initiatives in social development, investments, and partnerships aimed at resilience-building and restoring the Palestinian social fabric—advancing goals related to decent work, social inclusion, and empowerment of marginalized communities.
- This event contributes directly to the objectives of the Second World Summit for Social Development by spotlighting one of the world's longest and most complex humanitarian situations, while offering models of scalable solutions for similar contexts.



4. Objectives of the Side Event

The event seeks to:

1. **Highlight the multi-dimensional impacts of the occupation:** Reveal the wide-reaching effects on Palestinian families, including rising poverty, social fragmentation, and intergenerational trauma, all of which directly impact social inclusion and decent work.
2. **Call for urgent international protection:** Advocate for immediate international protection for Palestinian families, in accordance with international humanitarian law and relevant UN resolutions, as a fundamental condition for achieving dignified social development.
3. **Promote global partnerships and showcase scalable solutions:** Encourage international cooperation in psychosocial support, sustainable economic empowerment, and housing reconstruction, with a focus on replicable models in similar contexts.
4. **Launch a global solidarity platform and announce new initiatives:** Establish a dynamic space for global solidarity aimed at rebuilding Palestinian families, restoring their dignity and rights, and announcing new initiatives, investments, and development partnerships to support recovery and empowerment.

5. Key Topics to be Addressed

The event will explore several critical issues that reflect the multi-dimensional impact of the occupation and offer opportunities for solutions and progress, including:

- **Forced displacement and home demolitions:** Impact of losing housing on safety, shelter, and access to basic services, with examples of innovative, applicable rebuilding models.
- **Violence against women and girls under occupation:** Addressing impunity and gaps in protection systems, and sharing successful protection, empowerment, and psychosocial support models.
- **Psychological trauma and family fragmentation:** Analysis of generational mental health effects and presentation of scalable psychosocial support programs.



- **Collapse of basic services:** Discussion of the effects of multiple deprivations in health, education, and other services, and strategies for delivering flexible services in conflict zones.
- **Loss of jobs, income, and mobility:** Examination of how blockade and occupation block economic recovery, with examples of economic empowerment programs and access to decent work despite constraints.
- **Structural and monetary poverty:** Presentation of data from ESCWA and UNDP on multidimensional poverty and review of successful poverty-reduction interventions.
- **Loss of personal freedom and civic space:** Discussion of checkpoints and arbitrary arrests, and exploration of ways to restore dignity and enhance civic participation and social inclusion.

6. Normative and Policy Frameworks

Discussions will be grounded in international human rights frameworks, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the Convention on the Rights of the Child; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women; the Fourth Geneva Convention; and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Regional frameworks will also be referenced to provide a comprehensive legal foundation for advocacy and proposed solutions.

7. Stakeholders and Partners

The event will bring together a diverse group of actors and ensure gender balance among speakers, including:

- **UN Agencies:** UNDP, UNRWA, UNICEF, OHCHR, UN Women, UNFPA, ESCWA
- **NGOs:** Local and international organizations focused on human rights, development, and humanitarian aid
- **Donor Countries:** European Union, Belgium, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Brazil, South Africa, and others



- **Regional Bodies:** League of Arab States, Organization of Islamic Cooperation, European Union
- **Academics and Research Centers:** For evidence-based analysis
- **Affected Communities and Grassroots Representatives:** To ensure their voices are heard directly

8. Expected Outcomes

The event aims to deliver tangible outcomes, including:

- Placing the crisis of Palestinian families on the summit agenda as an urgent humanitarian and development priority.
- Presenting integrated and practical recommendations for protection and empowerment, with an emphasis on scalable solutions.
- Mobilizing humanitarian, technical, and financial support for family-centered and justice-based recovery initiatives.
- Strengthening sustainable partnerships between the Ministry of Social Development and key international actors.
- Contributing to the summit's political declaration by ensuring recognition of Palestinian families' suffering and inclusion of practical strategies for social integration, decent work, and poverty eradication.