

## SECOND WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (WSSD2), QATAR

### A collective letter from civil society organisations with demands for the WSSD2 process

To be sent to the UN, the host government Qatar, and co-facilitators (Belgium and Morocco) and to all UN Missions / Member states in UN - and copy all Major Groups and NGO Committee

Dear XXX

At the Financing for Development Summit in Seville the UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, addressed the CSO Forum, saying *"You are the conscience of this process — and your calls for justice for the most vulnerable are being heard."* He added: *"I urge you to keep pushing. Keep demanding that governments live up to their promises. The leadership of civil society can inspire change for all of society."*

We, the undersigned civil society organisations, represent millions of people for whom the outcomes of the Second World Summit for Social Development (WSSD2) in Qatar in November are just as crucial as the outcomes from Seville. In a world of rising inequality and injustice, WSSD2 must represent a positive moment of hope, making breakthroughs on everything from public services to universal social protection, from education to health, from gender justice to climate justice, from decent work to social care and support, from the impact of digitalisation and financialisation to human rights, equality, peace, migrant rights and civic space.

To ensure that the outcomes from WSSD2 respond to the needs of this moment, it is essential to ensure full and fair participation of civil society in the preparatory process of WSSD2 and in Qatar itself. For this reason, we have come together to lay out **ten core demands** for the WSSD2 process, demands that can help to ensure that the conscience of the world is heard.

1. We demand **time for full engagement with the WSSD2 Political Declaration**. Attempts to finalise the document too soon risk undermining the opportunity for all voices to be heard. We propose that the consultation on this document remains open to at least the end of September.
2. We demand **sustained space and opportunities for coordinated civil society input directly into the outcome document**, with a commitment to treat all inputs as seriously as inputs from member states. We can help to ensure that voices from the Global North and South are channelled in a coordinated and inclusive way.
3. We demand **access to the WSSD2 for all ECOSOC registered organisations** with active help from the organisers to ensure timely issuing of accreditation and visas.
4. We demand specific efforts to ensure that **representatives of children, youth, carers, older persons and persons with disabilities** are able to join the WSSD2.
5. We demand a **dedicated fund be established by the hosts and co-facilitators to support travel and accommodation costs of CSO, self-advocates and child and youth delegates**, with priority given to organisations from the Global South and those who represent the most excluded groups. We are happy to help with effective management of such a fund.
6. We demand full support from the UN, hosts and co-facilitators for a **CSO forum to be held within the same venue** as the conference itself, as organising an external space in Qatar would be nearly impossible. This should be for at least 2 days, perhaps overlapping with the first day of the main conference so that member states can also join concluding sessions. We demand a **space to share the final declaration from that CSO forum** in the main plenary session at WSSD2.

7. We demand that there is an **organising / meeting space for civil society** within the main venue throughout the WSSD2, ensuring that this is also accessible to member states.
8. We demand a **voice for civil society in all plenary sessions, roundtables, panels and other sessions**, along with a strong and clear message to all organizers of side events or sessions that they must include civil society representation. Special priority must be given to representatives of marginalised groups and to ensuring gender, caste, indigeneity, regional and age balance. If support is needed in identifying suitable participants for specific sessions, we are happy to assist and will ensure an inclusive range of voices is represented across different events.
9. We demand that all member states **include at least one national civil society representative in their official delegation**, with priority given to women in their diversity, persons with disabilities, youth, children, and older persons, ethnic minorities and socially and politically marginalised groups, to facilitate national accountability and follow up.
10. We demand the right for **civil society organisations to bring into the WSSD2 space any rights-based printed materials**, whether reports, briefings, posters, leaflets, banners, t-shirts and other materials carrying slogans and messages.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss these demands with you at your earliest convenience.

Yours,

## **SIGNATORY ORGANIZATIONS**

ABANTU for Development

AbibiNsroma Foundation

ACAMAGE

Action Contre les Violations des Droits des Personnes Vulnérables (ACVDP)

Action Humaine pour le Développement Intégré au Sénégal (AHDIS)

ActionAid International

Actions des Femmes Marginalisées pour le développement "AFMD ASBL"

Actions pour la Réinsertion Sociale de la Femme "ARSF"

ADRA Österreich

Africa Network for Environment and Economic Justice (ANEEJ)

African Women's Development and Communication Network -FEMNET

AJF-MALI action pour la promotion des jeunes et femmes

Aliance Malienne Contre la Pauvrete AP/Mali

Alianza Regional Centroamericana para el Agua y el Ambiente (ARCAA)

ALLIANCE CONTRE LA PAUVRETE AU MALI

Amnesty International

ANAD

Ansariyat health for all and social development

Arab Center for Cyberspace Research-ACCR

Asia Pacific Alliance for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

Asia South Pacific Association for Basic and Adult Education (ASPBAE)

Association d'Aide à l'Education de l'Enfant Handicapé (AAEEH)

Association des Jeunes pour l'Assistance d'Aide Humanitaire-Mali

Association For Promotion Sustainable Development

Association Malienne de lutte contre le terrorisme, la drogue et le trafic des Personnes en Afrique de l'Ouest

Association Nationale des Partenaires Migrants

Baruch Initiative for Transformation

Better Dream Foundation Ghana

Brot für die Welt

Cameroonian human rights league

Centre Against Gender Based Violence - CAGBV

Centre for Human Rights and Development

Centre for Muslim youth in peace and development

Centró de la Mujer Panameña (CEMP)

ChildFund Alliance

Christian Blind Mission (CBM)

CIPPEC

CLADE- Campaña Latinoamericana por el Derecho a La Educación

COALITION FOR CIVIL SOCIETIES IN KATSINA STATE

Collectif des Femmes du Mali (COFEM)

Community And Family Aid Foundation-Ghana

Company of the Daughters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul

Conseil de Facilitation et Gestion Locale (CFGL)

Construisons Ensemble le Monde

Crime free initiative

CSACEFA

Daura Community Development Association

Democracy and Workers' Rights Center in Palestine

Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN)

East Africa Climate Change Network

Echoes of Women in Africa Initiatives

Empowered Soul

EURODAD (European Network on Debt and Development)

FANCA

Feminist Task Force

FOCSIV Italian federation Christian NGOs

Foro Ciudadano de las Américas (FCA)

Fòs Feminista

Free Trade Union Development Center (FTUDC)

Friends of Dunga Swamp

Friends of the Disabled Association

FTF

GCAP (Bolivia) FUNAVI (Bolivia)

GCAP- Mauritius

GENDER EQUALITY ASSOCIATION TZ (SUKITA TZ)

Gender Sensitive Initiatives

Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP)

Global Campaign for Education (GCE)

Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors (GCSPF)

Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (GI-ESCR)

Global Peace and Development Organization (GPDO)

Global Policy Forum Europe e.V.

Global Responsibility, Austria

Global Social Justice

Global Student Forum

Gray Panthers

Green Future Foundation

Hawai'i Institute for Human Rights

Hecho por nosotros

Human Rights Research Documentation Center (HURIC-Uganda)

Initiative for Agriculture and Rural Development in Mali

Initiative for Social and Economic Rights (ISER), Uganda

Instituto Equit

International Movement ATD Fourth World

Jagriti Child and Youth Concern Nepal (JCYCN)

JusticeMakers Bangladesh in France (JMBF)

Ken. G. Morka Foundation (Chad Chapter)

Latin American Campaign for the Right to Education (CLADE)

LDC Watch

LWF "Waking the Giant Initiative" National Advocacy Platform

Make Mothers Matter (MMM)

Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic, Inc.

McGill Youth Advisory Delegation

Medical Impact

Mujeres con Voz

Murna Foundation

Nash Vek PF

National Campaign for Sustainable Development Nepal

National Senior Citizens Organization of Liberia (NASCOL)

Network for Women's Rights in Ghana (NETRIGHT)

New Apostolic Centre for Development, NCD.

NGO ADEJ-MALI

NGO JEUNES VERTS / GCAP TOGO

Noble Delta Women for Peace and Development Intl (NDWPD)

Ohaha Family Foundation

One Vision Media & Communication

Organisation Congolaise des Ecologistes et Amis de la Nature

Oxfam

Oxfam South Africa

Plan International

Plataforma Portuguesa das ONGD (Portuguese Platform of Development NGOs)

Public Interest Alberta

RENICC

ROSEN

Rural Reconstruction Nepal (RRN)

SAHRiNGON Tanzania Chapter

Save the Children International

SERR

Sightsavers

Social Watch, International

South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE)

Step Up Youth Initiative

Südwind, Austria

The Bretton Woods Project

The Network of Rural Women Producers Trinidad and Tobago

Transparency Advocacy Centre for Social Justice and Reform Initiative

Third World Network – Africa (TWN-Africa)

Uganda National NGO Forum

VIVAT International

Women Engage for a Common Future (WEFC)

Women's Working Group on Financing for Development

World Organization for Early Childhood Education

YOTA - Youth Opportunity and Transformation in Africa

Youth Empowerment Through Education (YETE)

Youth For Peace And Dialogue between cultures

Youth Participation in Progressive Development Initiative

Zavod BALI