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The UN & YOU

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AT A GLANCE

- SecondWorld Social Summit
- Climate Under Attack
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From the NGO Desk



Hope



The upcoming months at the United Nations are a time of hope. While the UN does important and critical work all over the globe, failed promises and its inability to prevent major world conflicts raises logical questions about its effectiveness and purpose.

This edition of *The UN & You* will highlight three areas of hope for the upcoming months. The first is the Second World Social Summit, a critical opportunity to gather leaders together to re-assess and recommit to the Sustainable Development Goals. The second is the Conference of the Parties where climate will be the main focus. And third, peace in Gaza brings hope for the region, although extreme caution remains.

Let us pray for the conversion of hearts of world leaders, where the rights and dignity of people are the priority. May they courageously lead to turn hope into reality.



SECOND WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT DOHA 2025

Heads of State and government, ministers, and delegates from around the world will gather in Doha, Qatar for the Second World Summit for Social Development from November 4-6, 2025.

Thirty years after the landmark 1995 Copenhagen Summit, the Summit will provide a unique opportunity to assess progress, address gaps, and renew global commitments to the three interrelated pillars of social development: *Poverty eradication, Full and productive employment and decent work for all, and Social integration*

The Summit is expected to reaffirm the vision of placing people at the center of development. It will give “fresh momentum” to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, ensuring that no one is left behind.

The Summit aims “to develop innovative solutions and foster consensus on bold, actionable policies that promote social justice, equality, and inclusion globally.”

Here is the most [updated draft of the Political Declaration](#) that explores a vision for the work of sustainable development, and if approved, will shape the future of multilateralism and our advocacy at the UN.

World leaders gather with many of their people in need of transformative structural changes plus an authentic recommitment to caring for those most in need.

For example:

- While 1.5 billion people have escaped extreme poverty according to the World Bank, an estimated 808 million people were still living in extreme poverty in 2023.
- In 2024, 1.1 billion people faced multidimensional poverty, experiencing overlapping deprivations in health, education, and living standards.
- Women perform the majority of unpaid care work – including childcare, elder care, household tasks, and community work – which often goes unrecognized and is rarely covered by social protection.
- Child labor has dropped from 20.6 per cent in 1995 to 7.8 per cent in 2024, but 138 million children (aged 5-17) remain in child labor, nearly half in hazardous conditions.

- Around 300 million people are unhoused worldwide and nearly 3 billion people lack adequate housing, undermining health and social inclusion.
- While access has expanded, millions of children remain out of school.
- One-third of the world's population is food-insecure and global undernourishment is rising, disproportionately affecting children.
- Billions remain offline, excluded from the digital economy.
- Climate change, biodiversity loss, and environmental degradation are reversing development gains.
- Combatting systemic racism, xenophobia, and hate speech toward Indigenous Peoples and Minorities remains a global priority.

This all comes when people do not trust in institutions and governments. This trust must be rebuilt through transparency, accountability, and participation. Combating corruption, strengthening the rule of international law, and reinforcing multilateralism are essential to inclusive social progress.

CLIMATE

Under Attack



During the UN General Assembly, climate change came under attack from the President of the United States during his annual speech. President Trump went as far as calling climate change and green initiatives a “[con job](#).”

This occurred in anticipation of the 30th Conference of the Parties (COP) occurring in Brazil immediately following with World Social Summit. This meeting occurs as 2024 was the [warmest year on record](#), and as the past 10 years are the warmest decade since temperatures were measured.

The hope for COP30, despite Trump's criticism on the global scale, is the prioritizing of the need to phase out fossil fuels, protect land rights and forested areas and communities adapting to the

impacts of climate change.

An advantage for this advocacy is the International Court of Justice's unanimous advisory opinion in July 2025, confirming states' legal duties to protect the climate and cooperate. According to the Human Rights Watch, COP30 should press governments to translate those legal obligations into time bound fossil fuel phase-out plans in their 2035 national climate plans, including fossil fuel subsidy-removal schedules.

The Human Rights Watch adds, "Governments should commit to ambitious climate plans that set out concrete milestones, such as ending new fossil fuel exploration and licensing, phasing out government subsidies, and ensuring adequate monitoring and accountability."

In 2023's COP, the term fossil fuels was included in the final document, paving the way for hope in our advocacy. In 2024, fossil fuels was pushed off the agenda for a 2025 focus. This will be a main area of our advocacy's attention when world leaders meet next month.

GAZA



Hope For Peace

As this newsletter went to press, the negotiations on the ceasefire between Israel and Hamas continued. Concerns remain how aid will be accessed and distributed for those starving in Gaza, and how medical care will be provided.

To learn more about the realities in Gaza and the work of UN Aid teams who are ready to respond to the suffering in Gaza, read more [here](#).

We pray for a peaceful resolution, that all hostages are returned home, and that all who are in need of medical support receive the care and rights they deserve.

Reach Out



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