



*The Permanent Mission of Portugal
to the United Nations*



**Side event on the margins of the 61st Commission for Social Development co-organised by the
Permanent Mission of Portugal and European Union Delegation to the UN**

***Intergenerational Dialogue and participation as a tool to create full and
productive employment and decent work for all, overcome inequalities and
achieve SDGs by 2030***

Date/Time: Monday, 6 February, 13:15-14:30 EST

RSVP: <https://forms.gle/9gV8iNwzwCmvoEv66>

Venue: Conference Room 5, UN HQ (for in person)

Background

At the World Summit for Social Development, held in March 1995 in Copenhagen, world leaders acknowledged that there was an urgent need to address profound social problems, especially poverty, unemployment, and social exclusion. Member States pledged to eradicate poverty, promote full and productive employment, and foster social integration to achieve stable, safe, and just societies for all. They committed themselves to promoting the goal of full employment and decent work for all as a priority of economic and social policies.

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, many countries were experiencing high and rising inequalities. The multifaceted impact of COVID-19 had further exacerbated pre-existing socio-economic inequalities, taking a heavy toll on social development and people's well-being. The pandemic has also exposed the growing economic insecurity that people are facing and highlighted existing gaps in social protection systems and inadequacies in health and education systems that feed structural inequalities. Different socio-demographic groups have also been impacted differently.

COVID-19 has also accelerated the pace of digital transformation and is changing the way we work and live. This increased pace of digital transformation has amplified the urgency of closing the digital divide. While digital technologies have valuably enhanced productivity in the world of work, they have also increased polarization of the labour market. There is a need to invest in human capabilities and provide workers, both formal and informal, with the opportunities to re-skill, engage in lifelong learning, and acquire digital skills in line with labour market needs.



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Scope of the event

Through an intergenerational dialogue, the event will seek to build mutually empowering relationships between generations, as one of the most important factors in achieving the SDGs, in particular SDG 8 and 10 (main SDGs to be discussed during this year's CSocD). The aim is to ensure that all people – including young and older persons – recognise themselves as owners, drivers, and beneficiaries of the SDGs.

Intergenerational dialogues are a great way for different generations to share their views and experiences. Where young generations can learn from the progress that the generations before them made, older generations can learn from the new battles that younger people are facing and jointly think of ways to challenge them. As such, intergenerational dialogues are learning processes between generations.

Agenda

- 1.15pm** Welcome by Hung Ly, Youth Delegate from Finland
- 1.17pm** Opening remarks by H.E. Ms. Ana Mendes Godinho, Minister of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security of Portugal
- 1.20pm** Moderated Intergenerational Dialogue. Mr. Vasilis Louziotis (AGE Platform Europe), Dr. Cynthia Stuen (Chair of NGO Committee on Ageing), Ms. Erica Dhar (AARP's Office of International Affairs), and 3 Youth Delegates will be engaging around the following questions:
- How can intergenerational dialogue and participation address the increased polarization of the labor market, exacerbated in particular by digital technologies, and thus overcome ageism in the labor market?*
- What are in your views the opportunities and/or the challenges offered by intergenerational dialogue and participation to facilitate access to work, both formal and informal, for young and older persons?*
- 1.50pm** Presentation of a UN funded project in Guinea-Bissau on Intergenerational Dialogue and short remarks by the Organization Voz di Paz.



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2.00pm Views of experts from UN system around the importance of Intergenerational Dialogue and participation

- Ms. Claudia Mahler, UN Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all Human Rights by Older Persons;
- Ms. Marija Vasileva-Blazev, on behalf of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth;
- Mr. Srinivas Tata, Director of the Social Development Division in UNESCAP.

2.27pm Closing remarks by Ambassador Silvio Gonzato, Deputy Head of Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations

2.30pm Closing by the moderator



COMMISSION for SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

United Nations Headquarters, New York



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