



What is The Commission for Social Development (CSocD)?

The Commission for Social Development is part of another UN organ, ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council). ECOSOC was established under the United Nations Charter as the principal organ to coordinate economic and social work.

UN Charter

Article 55 creates the International Economic & Social Council (ECOSOC)

“ With a view to the creation of conditions of stability & well- being which are necessary for peaceful & friendly relations among nations.....

It works to establish:

a) higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress & development;

b) solutions of international economic, social, health & related problems.....”

What does the Commission do?

The Commission for Social Development (CSocD) assists the Economic and Social Council in monitoring, reviewing and appraising the progress achieved and the problems encountered in the implementation of the decisions taken by Member States. Since the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen in 1995, the Commission for CSocD has been the key United Nations body in the follow up and implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action.

Who are the members of this Commission?

The commission is made up of 46 Member States, elected by ECOSOC on equitable geographical distribution for four year terms. The Bureau which coordinates the work of the commission consists of a chair and four vice-chairs. They are elected by the Commission and serve a term of office of two years to coincide with a two - year action oriented implementation cycle.

Geographic distribution of the 46 Member States :

- **African States** (12members)
- **Asia-Pacific States** (9 members)
- **Eastern Europe** (5 members)
- **Latin America/Caribbean** (10 members)
- **Western Europe/Other States** (10 members)

What is the two-year implementation cycle?

It consists of a **review and policy cycle**. One year the commission reviews the implementation of plans and programmes of action pertaining to social groups and the second year of the cycle is devoted to the policy making needed to move forward.

When does the Commission (CSocD) meet?

It meets annually during the month of February. The 53rd. session was held in February 2015.

NGO Participation

Only representatives of NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC can attend sessions in the Commission. These NGOs can register several weeks in advance. The names of NGOs that register their participants are recorded in the official report of the Commission.

Can NGOs make statements at the Commission?

NGOs in Consultative Status with ECOSOC can submit written statements and make oral presentations at sessions of the commission. Statements and presentations should adhere to the topic of the priority theme of the session. Written statements must be in English or French and oral statements can be in one of the official UN languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian or Spanish.

(Resources: UN websites)