



**NGO WORKING
GROUP TO END
HOMELESSNESS**

PROVISIONAL CONCEPT NOTE

**63rd Commission on Social Development Proposed Side Event
10 - 14 February 2025**

TITLE: Centering homelessness in the light of Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and achieving Agenda 2030

BACKGROUND:

The Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development envisioned a people-centered framework for social development and committed to ensuring that disadvantaged and vulnerable persons and groups be included in development.

Homelessness has been identified as “one of the crudest manifestations of poverty, inequality and social exclusion.” It affects people of all ages, genders, and socioeconomic backgrounds. Homelessness is also a gross violation of the human rights to adequate housing, to security of persons, to health, and to protection of the home and family. (ECOSOC, E/CN.5/2020/3, 1.3).

Ending homelessness is related to the achievement of all seventeen of the Sustainable Development Goals, which are integrated, indivisible and interlinked. Homelessness sits at the intersection of poverty, public health, disability, mental health, substance misuse, domestic violence, gender discrimination, racial and ethnic discrimination, social exclusion, under and unemployment, housing affordability, urbanization, land rights, climate change and natural disasters, wars and conflicts, and migration.

The NGO Working Group to End Homelessness event ties these themes together, calls for greater multi-stakeholder collaboration to end homelessness, and includes concrete examples of social policies and strategies related to homelessness that will lead to positive outcomes.

EVENT GOALS:

This event will draw connections between homelessness, the Sustainable Development Goals, the Copenhagen Declaration, and the forthcoming World Social Summit. The panel discussion will provide an opportunity for Member States, UN agencies, persons experiencing homelessness and civil society representatives to speak on the “most visible form of extreme poverty” which is homelessness and identify how we can achieve a social just future in which every person experiences the dignity and human right of a safe, habitable, affordable, secure home as part of the 2030 Agenda. The event will primarily discuss:

- The place of homelessness on the agenda of the 2nd World Social Summit
- Inclusive social policies and strategies to ensure adequate and affordable housing and land rights to address homelessness
- Interagency collaboration and stakeholders’ participation to end homelessness



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- The intersection between migration, internal displacement, conflict and homelessness.

CO-SPONSORS:

- NGO Working Group to End Homelessness
- NGO Committee for Social Development
- Worldwide Network Nigeria: Women in Development and Environment
- DePaul University Institute of Global Homelessness
- The NGO Committee on Migration
- Mercy International Association
- International Movement ATD Fourth World