

DRAFT PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

“MOBILIZING CIVIL SOCIETY FOR BOLD SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT”

Restitution of the Second World Social Summit (SWSS) on Social Development Outcome. Summit to develop a Civil Society Framework of Action (CSFA) to guide regional monitoring, reporting, and advocacy efforts.

Theme” Pathway and Partnerships for the Future after 30 years”.

**The SDK Conference Center,
Senegambia, The Gambia,
October 12-16, 2026.**

NGO - ACTION WEEK

Overview of NGO Action Week:

The NGO pre-summit, taking place from October 12 to 16, 2026, represents a pivotal moment for civil society's involvement in global social development efforts. This event seeks to generate momentum for a renewed and collaborative approach among NGOs, emphasizing the creation of a more inclusive and sustainable community in the wake of the 30th anniversary of the Copenhagen Declaration.

To maximize the impact of the Summit, the Chairperson of the NGO Coalition for Social Development and the Director of the NGO Affairs Agency, The Gambia, are jointly overseeing the NGO Action Week. Their leadership will facilitate a global gathering of NGOs at the SDK Convention Center in Senegambia, The Gambia. The initiative is centered on presenting a cohesive civil society voice in summit discussions, fostering forward-looking strategies and broad inclusivity. Furthermore, the event will provide opportunities for civil society to directly engage with representatives from UN agencies, Member States, Intergovernmental Organizations, and other stakeholders following the Second World Social Summit (SWSS) in Doha, Qatar, 2025.

The Action Week features several key events, including the NGO Mobilization Day on Wednesday, October 13, and the Social Development Action Week spanning October 12 to 16 at the SDK Convention Centre. The agenda will consist of plenary sessions and breakout groups focused on critical issues relating to NGO engagement. These sessions are designed to encourage active participation from members, state and party representatives, and honored guests, thereby ensuring that grassroots perspectives and civil society feedback are incorporated into discussions on the Doha outcome political declaration for social development. The workshop will be conducted in English and will be accessible by invitation only.

The five-day workshop is structured to produce a comprehensive civil society framework of action. This framework will guide ongoing and future efforts by NGOs to advance social development and shape policy outcomes. A structured mechanism to monitor, evaluate, and report government progress on commitments to the 2025 Doha Outcome. A recurring platform for dialogue, knowledge exchange, advocacy coordination, and global solidarity. New partnerships and collaborations have been formed to support ongoing social development processes. Participants are equipped with tools, strategies, and a shared understanding to influence national and global social development agendas. Consolidated civil society input to inform regional and global policy discussions, including future World Summits on Social Development.

The NGO Acceleration Day is set to demonstrate that transformative progress in key areas of NGO advancement is both possible and already underway. Notable speakers and participants will include Ministers, UN Principals, and representatives from the private sector, civil society, and other relevant stakeholders. These coalitions will commit to specific, tangible actions that align with national priorities, further strengthening initiatives and partnerships for social development.

5-DAY ACTION WEEK PROGRAM

“CIVIL SOCIETY IN ACTION: Advancing Civil Society Engagement in promoting the outcome of the 2025 Second World Social Summit for Social Development in Doha.”

Summary: Five-Day Workshop Structure and Approach

The five-day program is intentionally designed to empower NGOs and civil society actors, enabling them to take an active role in developing a comprehensive framework for monitoring and reporting on the outcomes of the Second World Social Development Summit held in Qatar. This workshop prioritizes a participatory methodology, which ensures that all attendees are directly engaged in discussions and activities tailored to their specific roles and capacities within their organizations and broader civil society efforts.

Throughout the duration of the workshop, participants will collaborate in sessions and breakout groups that foster input and exchange among diverse stakeholders. By centering the program on active involvement, the event aims to create a sense of shared responsibility and ownership over the resulting civil society framework. This approach supports meaningful contributions and collective decision-making, ultimately strengthening the mechanisms for tracking progress and influencing future social development initiatives.

Program Objectives:

- Unite civil society stakeholders in advancing social development priorities in alignment with the SWSS and the 2025 Doha Outcome.
- Develop a Civil Society Framework of Action (CSFA) to guide regional monitoring, reporting, and advocacy efforts.
- Launch “NGO-Common Space,” an annual civil society initiative designed to mobilize, connect, and amplify collective action.
- Strengthening grassroots resilience and coherence across sectors and regions by creating a collaborative platform for knowledge exchange.
- Highlight ongoing civil society initiatives and connect them with global advocacy campaigns and development processes.

Through these focused activities, the workshop seeks to reinforce the pivotal role that NGOs and civil society organizations play in shaping social development policy and advocacy at both national and international levels.

Workshop Title:

"Partnership for the Future after 30 years: Civil Society Voices in the Second World Social Summit (SWSS) Process"

Target Audience:

Representatives of civil society, non-governmental organizations, Indigenous Peoples, people with disabilities, people of African descent, youth representatives, youth-led organizations, community organizations, faith-based organizations, academic institutions, representatives of workers and employers, and the private sector, with due regard to gender balance.

Key Outputs Delivered

1. Draft Civil Society Monitoring & Reporting Framework:

The primary outcome of the workshop was the collaborative development of a draft framework for civil society monitoring and reporting. This framework clearly outlines the overall monitoring goals and identifies priority indicators to be tracked. It also details effective data collection strategies, establishes defined roles for NGOs, networks, and community partners, and proposes mechanisms for coordination at both national and regional levels.

2. Action Plan for Implementation:

Participants reached a consensus on an initial roadmap for implementing the framework. This action plan includes the formation of a steering group responsible for finalizing and operationalizing the framework. It also involves organizing training and orientation sessions for local partners, conducting pilot testing of the newly developed monitoring tools, and setting a timeline for producing the first civil society monitoring report.

3. Strengthened Networks and Collaboration:

The workshop also played a pivotal role in facilitating the establishment of new partnerships and reinforcing existing networks. These strengthened connections enable ongoing collaboration and coordination among stakeholders in the monitoring of social development commitments.

ARRIVAL

The NGO summit mobilization day will take place on Sunday, October 11, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the SDK Convention Center in Senegambia, The Gambia. It will provide convening and mobilization opportunities for stakeholders across civil society, the private sector, youth, women, scientists, and local and regional governments.

11 October 2026 -OVERVIEW

Session	TIME	Where	Details
ARRIVAL OF DELEGATES	10:00 – 18:00	SDK Convention Centre	
BADGE COLLECTION OPENS	11:00 – 18:00		
COMMUNAL/SOCIAL DINNER	18:00 –20:00		

DAY 1: SETTING THE STAGE- OVERVIEW

NGO SUMMIT – Understanding the Social Summit Process (Introduction to the Second World Social Summit and its Political Context) and engaging in leading the process.

12TH OCTOBER 2026

Session:	TIME	Room	Responsibility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registration & Welcome Coffee 	8:30	Info	Event Team
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opening Ceremony 	9:00	Plenary Hall	Chair Local Host
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Animation (Interlude) 			Indigenous Performing Arts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome message 			Mayor of the City of Senegambia
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognition of the ancestral land of Senegambia. (Begin with Indigenous protocols, land acknowledgment, ceremony, blessing) 			Indigenous lead
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why is hosting the NGO Pre-summit in Senegambia, The Gambia, at this peculiar time of the year? 			Chair NGO Coalition
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keynote Panel: Lessons from Copenhagen+30 – Why Civil Society Input Matters 			Past negotiators, grassroots reps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introductory Briefing: The New Narrative of SWSS, What does that mean to CSOs? 			UN DESA / NGO Branch
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Animation (Interlude) 			Indigenous Performing Arts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Official Opening Ceremony speech 			Ministry
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Message from the President of The Gambia 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Picture and media Interviews, etc 			Lead Facilitator
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> End of plenary 	13:00		Lead Facilitator
Coffee Break			
Session 1: Presentation: Drafting framework and process, Timeline & mechanisms for input	13.30	Plenary	Lead Facilitators
Session 2: Mapping Strategy Session: What Do We Want to Change or Add? Priorities for Day: Strategic mapping exercise	17:00	CR (D)	Facilitators/thematic lead
Key Outputs:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shared understanding and meaning of the outcome of the DOHA declaration Expectations and outcomes from the workshop will be participants' comments, feedback, and group report. 			

DAY 2: UNPACKING THE ZERO DRAFT – OVERVIEW

NGO SUMMIT – Text, Language, and Political Implications (Language Matters – Analyzing the Zero Draft of the Political Declaration)

13TH OCTOBER 2026

Session:	TIME	Room	Responsibility
Coffee & Reflections Wall: Participants reflect on what language or ideas must be included	8:30	Coffee Corner	Event Team
Recap of Day 1 & Goals for Day 2	9:00	Plenary	Workshop Leads
Session 7: Drafting framework and process, Timeline & mechanisms for input (Cont'd):	9:30	CR(A)	
Session 8: (Live text input using editable working drafts) Breakouts by clause or theme Collaborative drafting workshops, Facilitators	9:30	CR(B)	Rapporteurs + Thematic Experts
Session 10: Finalize Frame of Action Contributions. Group Editing	9:30	CR(C)	
Session 11: Tactics for Influence Action Planning: Who to engage? When and how? National consultations, regional forums, UN missions, Op-Eds and campaigns, Strategy planning, Roles, responsibilities, and deadlines for follow-up	9:30	CR(D)Panel	Advocacy Trainers + Civil Society Veterans
Lunch Break	12:30		
Session 12: Feedback Session: Present NGO Contributions to Drafts. Priority phrases/language, Thematic recommendations	1:30	Plenary Report	One rapporteur per group
Session 13: Coordination and Roadmap Planning -. Next steps & shared tools		Plenary Report	NGO Network Coordinator
Session 14: Closing Commitments Circle: Each participant shares one commitment to action		Plenary Report	Hosted by Youth & Indigenous reps
Key Outputs:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expectations and outcomes from the workshop • Identify patterns and best practices 			

DAY 3: GRASSROOTS ENGAGEMENT - OVERVIEW

NGO MOBILISATION DAY – This one-day program on NGO Mobilization with Indigenous Peoples on Social Development is designed to foster inclusive collaboration, strengthen Indigenous-led development efforts, and build sustained partnerships between NGOs and Indigenous communities.

14TH OCTOBER 2026

Time	Session Title	Format	Lead / Facilitator
08:30	Arrival & Registration / Morning Tea	Informal networking	Event Team
09:00	Visit to local NGOs / Indigenous community Opening Ceremony: Indigenous welcome (land acknowledgment, blessing, drumming or song)	Cultural Protocol + Welcome	Indigenous Elders / Leaders
09:20	Opening Remarks: NGOs and Indigenous Partnership in Social Development	Plenary	NGO Coalition Chair
09:40	Keynote Panel: Indigenous Leadership in Social Development: Lessons from the Land	Plenary Panel + Q&A	2–3 Indigenous leaders
10:15	Break	Tea/Coffee	—
10:30	Listening Circle: Stories from the Ground – Community Priorities & Challenges	Rotating talking circles	Indigenous community reps (by region/theme)
11:30	Interactive Workshop: Co-Creation of Ethical Partnership Principles	Small group breakout	Mixed teams of NGO & Indigenous reps
12:30	Lunch Break (food, if possible)	sharing	Catered / local community
13:30	Visit to the Gambian Parliament “Knocking at the Hills)—advocacy meeting with members of parliament, etc.	Lobbying with the new Parliamentarians	Moderated by Indigenous youth/facilitators
16:00	Commitment Circle: Each organization/representative shares one concrete step they will take	Reflections from Indigenous youth Circle sharing	Facilitated by Elder / Youth Representative
16:30	Closing Ceremony: Traditional song/dance, collective blessing, and gratitude	Cultural Closure	Indigenous Leaders / Cultural team
20:00	Dinner (Traditional or local Indigenous foods, if possible)	Cultural sharing	Catered / local community
Output <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint “Declaration of Intent”: A short document summarizing values, commitments, and next steps. • Action Roadmap: Concrete steps to support Indigenous social development priorities. • Contact list & community folder for ongoing collaboration. 			

DAY 4: THE GAMBIA PARTNERSHIP - OVERVIEW.

“Partnering with Government for the Report”. One-day program designed for NGOs on how to effectively engage with the Government of The Gambia in the preparation of the S Report (WSDR).

15th OCTOBER 2026

Time	Session Title	Format	Lead / Facilitator
08:30	Registration & Breakfast	Informal networking	Event Team
09:00	Opening Remarks: The Role of Civil Society in the Second WSDR	Plenary	Government of The Gambia official
09:20	Setting the Stage: Overview of the Second WSDR – Themes, Goals, Process	Presentation	UN DESA Rep / Government Liaison
09:45	Panel Discussion: Canadian Civil Society Perspectives on Social Development	Panel + Q&A	NGO leaders from health, housing, Indigenous, youth, etc.
10:30	Break	Coffee	—
10:45	Interactive Workshop: What Should The Gambia Contribute to the World Report? “Identify key messages, best practices, challenges, and data gaps.	Thematic breakout groups	Facilitators per WSDR theme
12:00	Report Back: Emerging Canadian Priorities & Contributions	Plenary	Rapporteurs from each group
12:30	Lunch	Networking	buffet
13:30	Dialogue Session: Mechanisms for NGO-Government Collaboration. How can NGOs be consulted and represented? What data, stories, or innovations can NGOs share?	Roundtable Discussion	Co-facilitated by NGO rep + Gov rep
15:30	Building Momentum: Toward a National Civil Society WSDR Platform, Discuss inclusive engagement of youth, Indigenous, and marginalized groups	Action Planning Session	NGO Coalition + Government facilitator
16:45	Closing Remarks & Next Steps	Plenary	Host NGO + Government Rep

Expected Outputs:

- NGO Priority Brief to feed into The Gambia’s official input to the WSDR
- Draft Framework for NGO-Government Engagement for WSDR preparation.
- Launch a contact list and task force for ongoing coordination with civil society.
- Summary report with recommendations and proposed indicators for inclusion

DAY 5: Moving Forward – OVERVIEW

NGO SUMMIT – Consolidation and Strategy (Sustaining Civil Society Engagement Beyond the Workshop) =Next Steps

16TH OCTOBER 2026

Session:	TIME	Room	Responsibility
Recap & Day 5 Objectives Session 15: Finalization of Civil Society Contributions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closing argument: Reflections, Commitments, and Next Steps 	9:00	Plenary	Reporter + Thematic Experts
Session 16: Validation of outcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present the finalized feedback document Group endorsement and sign-off process Presentation: Timeline and Milestones Discussion: Sustained Engagement – Monitoring, Follow-Up, and Accountability 	11:30	Plenary	Rapporteurs + Thematic Experts
Coffee Break	12:30		Responsibility
	13:00	Plenary	
Session 17: Closing Ceremony & Commitments		Plenary	Event Team /Lead Facilitator
Arrival of government officials and diplomatic mission at the Plenary		Plenary	Indigenous Performing Arts
Animation (Interlude)		Plenary	Indigenous lead
Recognition of the ancestral land of Senegambia. (close with Indigenous protocols, land acknowledgment, ceremony, blessing)		Plenary	Chair of the NGO Coalition for Social Development.
Presentation of the draft framework and the launching of the NGO Common Space.		Plenary	UN DESA / NGO Branch
Remark from UN NGO Branch/ DESA		Plenary	Indigenous Performing Arts
Animation (Interlude)		Plenary	H.E.
Official Closing Statement from the Minister	15:00	Plenary	
End of NGO Pre-summit			
Outputs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compiled Civil Society Recommendations Report for submission to UNDESA / Government of The Gambia. Advocacy Toolkit (talking points, infographics, quote bank). Civil Society Framework, including national and regional advocacy plans. Formation of a Drafting Coordination Group and an online workspace (Google Drive, shared folder, etc.). 			

CROSS-CUTTING ELEMENTS THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

- Daily Briefings:** Updates on negotiations, emerging issues, and political context
- Media & Social Engagement:** Coordinated messaging and public visibility
- Translation & Accessibility:** Ensure multilingual and inclusive participation
- Documentation:** Real-time notetaking and documentation team

Expected Outcomes:

- A consolidated civil society feedback document on the UN Political Declaration and "Food for Thought."
- Enhanced participant capacity in policy language suggestion, text negotiation, and drafting.
- A clear advocacy roadmap to ensure timely submission and follow-up with the UN Secretariat and Member States.

Materials & Logistics:

- Pre-read: Zero Draft Political Declaration & "Food for Thought" document
- Flipcharts, markers, drafting templates, and laptops
- Dedicated notetaking & rapporteur support
- Simultaneous interpretation as needed (ENG/FR/ES), Arabic where relevant

Optional Add-Ons

- **Evening Reception (Day 1):** Dialogue across NGOs, academics, and diplomats.
- Side Exhibits:** Highlighting grassroots innovations in social development.