

## **“Emerging Pathways Beyond GDP: Presentation of the High-Level Expert Group’s Emerging Recommendations and Intergenerational Dialogue with Youth Moving Beyond GDP”**

### **Official Solutions Session Second World Summit for Social Development *Concept Note***

This official Solutions Session of the World Social Summit will take place on Wednesday, 5 November 2025, from 3:00–4:15 PM AST, in person in Room 106 at the Qatar National Convention Centre and streamed live on [UN Web TV](#).

#### **I. Context**

The [Second World Summit for Social Development \(World Social Summit\)](#) offers a critical moment to accelerate progress on the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) as well as to advance the implementation of the [Pact for the Future](#). The Summit’s overarching goal is to foster inclusive social development and address key challenges to achieve well-being for all. However, progress and well-being continue to be assessed primarily through gross domestic product (GDP), a measure of economic output that is unable to capture crucial dimensions of sustainable development. GDP also fails to capture long-term impacts and distributional equity, limiting its usefulness as a comprehensive measure of progress on sustainable development, particularly in the context of the Second World Summit for Social Development.

In response, this Solutions Session marks the first public presentation of the interim report by the [UN Secretary-General’s High-Level Expert Group on Beyond GDP’s \(High-Level Expert Group\)](#), which was appointed by the Secretary-General in May 2025 following a request of Member States in the Pact for the Future. The interim report aims to provide an update on the work of the Expert Group, which is tasked with the development of a global framework that will guide future intergovernmental negotiations and policymaking at national and international levels. The framework seeks to complement and go beyond GDP by incorporating multidimensional indicators that better reflect inclusive, equitable, and sustainable development.

Central to the High-Level Expert Group’s work has been an inclusive and participatory process. The World Social Summit provides a key platform for this global dialogue on social development and social progress, ensuring that no one is left behind in our shared sustainable development journey. Key constituencies in this regard are young people and future generations, as they are not only the inheritors of existing systems but also active changemakers driving transformation. The [Youth Moving Beyond GDP](#) and its Youth Network on Beyond GDP operationalize this principle by fostering inclusive and transformative engagement of young people in shaping the Beyond GDP agenda, helping to break the “intergenerational glass ceiling” in global economic and social discourse.

## **II. Overview of the Solutions Session**

This Solutions Session serves as the forum for the first presentation of the High-Level Expert Group on Beyond GDP's interim report on new measures of progress toward sustainable development that complement and go beyond GDP. This presentation marks a key milestone for broader public dialogue and consultations with civil society and governments across the globe.

The session will feature insights from diverse stakeholders, including through the Youth Network on Beyond GDP, showcasing how intergenerational perspectives and cross-sector collaboration have shaped the recommendations. The session will also highlight perspectives from Member States who are crucial players in adopting, supporting, and implementing Beyond GDP frameworks.

A key outcome of the session is to respond to the strong calls from thousands attending the World Social Summit for fairer and more forward-looking measures of progress. The Beyond GDP agenda thus serves as a rallying point for the global social development community, aligning with the goals of the 2030 Agenda and the Pact for the Future.

## **III. Objectives of the Solutions Session**

This session aims to provide a multi-stakeholder and intergenerational space for exchange to:

- Reflect on how the High-Level Expert Group's work as outlined in the interim report can advance social development and drive progress on well-being priorities such as poverty eradication, full and productive employment, and social inclusion.
- Enable diverse contributions, including from young people and key constituencies engaged in the Second World Summit for Social Development, to support work of the Expert Group towards successful implementation and uptake of the Expert Group's work at local, national and global levels. Extensive consultations, such as this Solutions Session, will help to ensure that perspectives from all regions and sectors inform the work of the Expert Group.

Designed as a forward-looking, participatory, and collaborative dialogue, the session responds to the World Social Summit's call for interactive Solutions Sessions that promote co-creation and active participation to drive transformative change at all levels. It seeks to inform concrete commitments on inclusive well-being for all, anchored in the 2030 Agenda and the SDG (SDG Target 17.19), Action 53 of the Pact for the Future, and the Political Declaration of the World Social Summit, all of which call for new global frameworks that move beyond GDP.

## **IV. Format and speakers**

This in-person session is designed to create an open dialogue among the High-Level Expert Group, the Youth Network, and a wide range of stakeholders, including Member States, young people, and experts and civil society representatives from diverse sectors and regions.

The 75-minute session will include three segments:

Welcome & Framing (3.00-3.05 PM AST), by moderators

### **1. Opening Remarks (3.05-3.20 PM AST)**

The session will begin with 5-minute opening remarks that set the tone for the discussion on advancing Beyond GDP as the primary measure of progress. Speakers will highlight the work

of the Expert Group and emphasize the urgency of rethinking development metrics to ensure that economic, social, environmental, and intergenerational dimensions are fully integrated into global and national policymaking.

Speakers:

- H.E. Amina J. Mohammed, UN Deputy Secretary-General
- H.E. Yorleny León Marchena, Minister of Human Development & Social Inclusion, Republic of Costa Rica

**2. Presentation of the High-Level Expert Group's Interim Report (3.20-3.40 PM AST)**

The High-Level Expert Group will formally present its interim report, including elements of its conceptual framework and the overall roadmap proposed to advance the wider Beyond GDP movement.

Speakers:

- Ms. Nora Lustig and Mr. Kaushik Basu, Co-Chairs of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Expert Group on Beyond GDP
- Intervention by the Youth Network on Beyond GDP, presented by Ms. Palakh Khanna

**3. Interactive, intergenerational Dialogue: Reactions and Co-Creating Solutions (3.40-4.10 PM AST)**

An open dialogue will be facilitated, including representatives of the Youth Network on Beyond GDP, the Co-Chairs of the High-Level Expert Group, and other key stakeholders to share their reactions to the interim report by the Expert Group and highlight opportunities for participatory, transformative policymaking rooted in the Second World Summit for Social Development. Topics may include:

- Reactions to the High-Level Expert Group's interim report: What are initial reactions to the interim report and which aspects are most promising?
- Recommendations from the Youth Network: What makes a measurement framework intergenerationally equitable?
- From framework to action: How do we move from conceptual recommendations to real-world policy change? What are policy environments, institutional readiness, and research-policy linkages that support the uptake of Beyond GDP approaches?

Interventions: Open floor and discussion

Closing (4.10-4.15 PM AST), by moderators

**V. Organizers**

The Solutions Session will be hosted by the **High-Level Expert Group on Beyond GDP** and the **Beyond Lab** as the two lead organizers.

It will be co-hosted with the following organizing partners:

- Secretariat of the High-Level Expert Group on Beyond GDP: UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD), UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA), and the Executive Office of the UN Secretary-General (EOSG).
- Youth Moving Beyond GDP initiative: Beyond Lab, Rethinking Economics International, and UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) as core partners, with generous support from the Government of Germany through its Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).
- The Government of Qatar, as the host of the World Social Summit.

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