



GVMUN at the United Nations: CSocD64

For Immediate Release — February 2026

Global Virtual Model United Nations Represented at the Sixty-Fourth Session of the United Nations Commission for Social Development

Global Virtual Model United Nations (GVMUN) is proud to announce its representation at the opening day of the Sixty-Fourth Session of the United Nations Commission for Social Development (CSocD64) at United Nations Headquarters. GVMUN was represented by Ayushmaan Mukherjee, Secretary-General, who participated in high-level discussions on social development, inclusive policy frameworks, and the advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Opening Plenary: Coordinated Approaches to Social Development

The opening ceremony and plenary sessions featured remarks by Charles Katoanga of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), who emphasized the importance of policy coordination and cross-cutting approaches to social development. Highlighting whole-of-society and whole-of-government strategies, Katoanga underscored the need for integrated policymaking to address complex and interconnected social challenges. Sabine Alkire of the University of Oxford further expanded on these themes, discussing advancements in poverty measurement methodologies, the role of Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), and the growing importance of integrated social protection frameworks.

Rethinking Development Beyond GDP

In addition to plenary sessions, Mukherjee attended side events featuring Prof. Ram Ramanathan, Vice President of the International Consortium for Social Development (ICSD). Reflections on ICSD's Golden Jubilee in Kerala reinforced the importance of moving beyond GDP as the sole measure of progress, instead centering development frameworks on decent work, social cohesion, and well-being. Tools such as the Responsible Nations Index were highlighted as promising alternatives for capturing holistic social outcomes.

Strengthening Multistakeholder Approaches to Social Progress

Further insights were shared by Dr. Sergei Zelenev, President of the International Council on Social Welfare, who stressed that meaningful social progress cannot be achieved by governments alone. Discussions addressed persistent challenges including fragmented data systems, policy silos, capacity gaps, and uneven political will, while also pointing toward solutions such as inter-ministerial coordination, joint budgeting, and strengthened civil society coalitions. Initiatives such as the Global Coalition for Social Impact Floors were cited as examples of coordinated, multi-stakeholder action.

Youth Engagement and Civil Society Dialogue

In parallel, Mukherjee engaged with youth leaders including Jaewon Choi, Caleb Lee, and Fabiola Thomas, and learned more about the work of organizations such as the Youth Publications & Socioeconomic Forum, SDG Youth Connect, and the DMUN Foundation. These exchanges highlighted the essential role of youth-led organizations in advancing inclusive, evidence-based policymaking within multilateral spaces.

Trade, Labor, and Just Transitions in a Changing Global Economy

GVMUN was also represented at a CSocD64 side event co-hosted by Cornell University's ILR School and the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations, which examined how evolving trade, labor, and economic policy frameworks can better support social development amid green and digital transitions.

From Standards to Implementation in Global Value Chains

Chris Kip of the UN Global Compact emphasized that credibility in social development hinges on implementation, noting the shift toward mandatory human rights due diligence and the importance of building local capacity for compliance. Agata Wozniak of the European External Action Service discussed the European Union's increasing linkage of labor standards and sustainable development objectives to trade policy, including through due diligence and forced labor regulations such as the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD).

Bridging Policy Ambition and Domestic Reality

Maria (Marily) Mexi further challenged assumptions that economic and social policy have historically advanced in tandem, drawing on case studies from Kenya and Indonesia to illustrate persistent gaps between ambitious trade and labor provisions and domestic implementation. Additional perspectives were provided by Jason Judd of Cornell University, who moderated the discussion, as well as Oliver Hoehne of the Swiss Mission and Cynthia Samuel Olonjuwon of the International Labour Organization, who reflected on the evolution of global labor frameworks, the social justice deficit in the global economy, and the importance of multilateral approaches to just transitions.

Bridging Policy Ambition and Domestic Reality

Participation in CSocD64 reaffirmed the value of inclusive and evidence-based policymaking. Platforms such as the Commission for Social Development play a critical role in amplifying youth perspectives and fostering cross-sector collaboration. GVMUN extends its gratitude to the Major Group for Children and Youth for facilitating youth participation and looks forward to continued engagement throughout the remainder of CSocD64.

About GVMUN

GVMUN is an international student-led 501(c)3 dedicated to fostering global awareness, diplomacy, and leadership through high-quality Model United Nations conferences, research initiatives, and educational programs. Serving students from around the world, GVMUN provides accessible opportunities for engagement with global issues while promoting academic excellence and meaningful collaboration.

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