
Concept note:

**CSF2022 Plenary Session 1 - Wednesday, February 9th
08:30 am - 09:30 am EST**

**Setting the Stage:
A global overview on poverty, human dignity and wellbeing**

Launching the Civil Society Forum 2022, this first plenary session will provide a global snapshot of the state of poverty and wellbeing in the world. Because of the global pandemic, new groups of people have fallen into poverty, adding to the 1.3 billion already living in multidimensional poverty. The session will look at how poverty, social exclusion and the lack of wellbeing impact the dignity of individuals, even more so in times of global crises. The objective is to show the importance of listening to those most affected and build upon their experiences when devising new strategies to achieve SDG 1 and 2, and the 2030 Agenda as a whole.

In order to highlight that efforts to eradicate poverty cannot be focused only on income, but must also be aimed at ensuring the well-being and dignity of all human beings, this session will provide a platform for a multi-level dialogue addressing experiences of poverty and discrimination. In the last two years, the various drivers of poverty have been exacerbated by COVID-19, exposing societies divided by discrimination, inequality of opportunity and access to social services, education, health care, and adequate housing.

As such, this session will reaffirm the urgent need for a New Social Contract, whereby social protections, access to affordable and nutritious food, decent work and access to the internet are recognized as fundamental rights for all. The approach of this session is to take stock of the situation of global poverty in the world, an analysis vitally needed as a point of departure in this discussion. It will establish a solid base for the next plenary session, where best practices and experiences will be exchanged and scrutinized.
