



Annual Report 2009

Introduction

The report of ICSW activities for 2009 is captured under the seven components of the International Council on Social Welfare, Global Programme 2009 to 2012 - *Strengthening civil society's participation in social welfare and social development*. The programme can be found in English, French and Spanish at <http://www.icsw.org/publication/gp.htm>. The global programme was approved by the General Assembly of members in July 2008.

The seven areas of the programme for the reporting period of 2009 are:

- Social welfare and social development,
- Networking and linking our work,
- Communicating with our stakeholders,
- Ongoing global advocacy and socially responsible global governance,
- Regional level cooperation,
- North-South partnerships, and
- South-South policy dialogue.

Highlights of 2009

- The ICSW training programme to strengthen national councils is an integral part of ICSW's programme. The second training in the East and Southern Africa region was conducted in 2009.
- At the 47th session of the UN Commission for Social Development ICSW presented both a written and a verbal statement on the priority theme, *Social Integration*.
- ICSW was invited to speak at high level global and regional meetings including the Inter-Parliamentary Union.
- The ICSW South Asia Working Group created by the Management Committee in March 2009 has revitalised the South Asia region of ICSW.
- The South East Asia and Pacific region prepared for the 4th GO-NGO Consultation between the 10 ASEAN governments and representatives of civil society.
- Membership has continued to expand in the Global South.
- There are continual requests through our website to receive regional and global newsletters.
- Links with the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) and the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) is being strengthened. The three organisations have agreed to work on a common social policy agenda and conduct joint global conferences in 2010 (Hong Kong), 2012 (Stockholm) and 2014 (to be decided).
- ICSW continues its commitment to two refereed professional journals. ICSW provides Global Social Policy to all ICSW members as a membership benefit and contributes to the section *Southern Voices* in the *GSP Digest*. ICSW is a partner with IASSW and IFSW in the journal *International Social Work*.

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, contributed financially to the ICSW programme. The Ministry for Labour and Social Affairs of Norway provides direct assistance to the Past President to enable her to fulfil her responsibilities. The global and regional programmes are supported through the countless hours of voluntary work by ICSW members.

The administration of the global programme is conducted from the global offices in The Netherlands and Uganda. The programmes in the ICSW regions are conducted from regional offices or the offices of the Regional Presidents.

First Component: Social welfare and social development

DESCRIPTION

ICSW has a commitment to taking a lead in both social welfare and social development issues.

OUTCOMES

Links with academics in social welfare and development

ICSW continued its commitment to social welfare and social development. ICSW provides a regular update on social welfare and social development issues in the journal *International Social Work*. ICSW gives financial support to the journal *Global Social Policy* for the regular feature *Southern Voices*. Through a financial arrangement with Sage Publications ICSW provides each ICSW member with an annual subscription to *Global Social Policy*. ICSW sends the electronic version of the *GSP Digest* to social policy specialists throughout the world.

Social Protection Floor Initiative (SPFI)

ICSW, as its major contribution to *The Agenda* process (Joint World Conference 2010), is advocating a Social Protection Floor Initiative with a set of basic social rights, services and facilities that a citizen should enjoy. The UN and related international agencies propose the Social Protection Floor should consist of 2 main elements:

1. Ensuring availability, continuity, geographical and financial access to essential services, such as water and sanitation, food and adequate nutrition, health, education, housing and other social services such as life and asset saving information.
2. Realising access by ensuring a basic set of essential social transfers, in cash and in kind, to provide a minimum income and livelihood security for poor and vulnerable populations and to facilitate access to essential services. It includes social transfers (but also information, entitlements and policies) to children, people in active age groups with insufficient income and older persons.

UN Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)

In January UNRISD conducted a consultation with representatives of civil society including ICSW. The purposes of the consultation were:

1. to identify key emerging issues that might be addressed in future research, and to better understand the research needs and concerns of NGOs;
2. to seek suggestions on how to improve the communication of research results to the NGO community; and
3. to present the results of UNRISD research to NGO stakeholders.

The consultation was organised to help UNRISD design the next phase of its research agenda (2010-2014), as well as to develop new approaches in the way the Institute relates to civil society organisations.

Civil society meets on Development Effectiveness Prague, June 2009.

In the Paris Declaration (2005) governments and donors made commitments to increase aid effectiveness. For the past few years, civil society organisations (CSOs), donors, governments and other development actors have been discussing and monitoring progress in implementing the Paris Declaration. Donors and governments have raised the question of whether the principles of the Paris Declaration can also be applied to civil society organisations.

The Czech NGDO Platform FoRS, Czech Forum for Development Cooperation, chose the topic CSO *Development Effectiveness* for their programme during the Czech Presidency of the EU (first half of 2009). 170 CSO representatives, including ICSW Vice President Charles Abbey attended the conference.

In the conference proclamation, the conference participants concurred that the added value of the CSOs in development cooperation is, among others, based on four particular aspects:

1. Access and commitment to use grassroots knowledge of local conditions, contexts and motivations,
2. Sensibility to human rights, understanding and empathy,
3. Genuine partnership based on common vision and interests, and
4. Diversity of actors in terms of legal status, size, experiences or roles.

The conference statement is at <http://www.trialog.or.at/images/doku/statement.pdf>.

Presentations are at http://www.fors.cz/en/eu_presidency/seminars_conferences.

UNESCO examines the global financial crisis

The UNESCO Management of Social Transformations (MOST) programme examined the impact of the global financial crisis (GFC) at its meeting in Paris in October 2009. ICSW was represented in the discussions by Charles Abbey, ICSW Vice President and Denys Correll, ICSW Executive Director.

7th Global Conference on Health Promotion

The WHO organised the 7th Global Conference on Health Promotion with the theme, *Promoting health and development: closing the implementation gap*. The conference was held in Nairobi, in October 2009.

Health and development today face unprecedented threats. The financial crisis threatens the viability of national economies in general and of health systems in particular. Global warming and climate change exert a toll on human life, especially in lower income countries. Security threats create a sense of shared uncertainty for communities around the world. In this context, health promotion has never been timelier or more needed.

ICSW Executive Director Denys Correll facilitated the sub plenary - *Civil society and NGOs: closing the implementation gap*. The sub plenary was organised by the NGO Alliance for Health Promotion.

Members of Parliament assess the economic crisis

The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) brought together 160 members of parliament (MPs) at the UN New York in November. The Parliamentary Hearing is a joint UN-IPU endeavour, designed to provide MPs with a unique opportunity to interact with high-level UN officials. ICSW Vice President Charles Abbey both moderated a session and spoke on behalf of ICSW. The conference reviewed the impact of the global response to the economic crisis following decisions taken in the past few months by the G20, the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions.

Charles Abbey compared the 1997 Asian financial crisis with the current global financial and economic crisis. Regardless of the two crises having different causes, the social impact is the same. "Reports are showing that, because of income shocks, poor households are withdrawing their children - often girls - from school so they can add to the household income by working in the informal labour market. This, as we all know, will just perpetuate the intergenerational transmission of poverty and reduce future income during adulthood."

Mr. Abbey concluded: "At the national and local levels, especially in the South, governments must take this crisis as yet another opportunity to put in place comprehensive social protection systems for its people because it is the moral and economically right thing to do."

Central and West Africa

In order to implement the ICSW global programme and to improve regional initiatives in social policy and social welfare research, the Regional President Emmanuel Agbemavi asked professors at the University of Lomé to prepare a report on older people and social security. This document involves a general study of the situation in the CWA region, the training of member institutions on actions to be taken in each country to manage the situation of older people more efficiently and to improve the lives of workers after retirement. Work on this document is in its final stages and the next step shall consist of in-depth research on how the recommendations can be implemented in the region.

South East Asia and the Pacific

ICSW commissioned a new briefing paper: *The global financial crisis and its social impact in ASEAN countries*. The 2008 briefing paper: *Making the rights-based approach real for people with disabilities in the ASEAN Region* was updated with comments from NGOs and governments. Recommendations included the call for empowerment, care-giving, non-discrimination and full participation of persons with disabilities (PWDs), a shift toward a rights-based approach and promotion of self-help organisations of people with disabilities. Other recommendations included the eventual use of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) as a reference in classifying people with disabilities and ratification of the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities and the ILO Convention No.159 which calls for decent work and vocational training for PWDs by ASEAN Member States that have not done so.

Europe

Three key concepts - social rights, social cohesion and social integration are the foundation for the work of ICSW-Europe in 2009. ICSW Europe is a partner in the COPORE *Competences for Poverty Reduction* project that aims to define competencies and make recommendations for health, education and social work students and practitioners on how to contribute to poverty reduction strategies. The project aims to bring together all major actors in the field, identify good practice and develop a common language on the social determinants of health and indicators of poverty. The project is organised around five working groups, which will each take up one important strand. The work of the groups will constitute the COPORE report. The work will culminate in an international conference in April 2010 in which a number of ICSW members will participate.

Second Component: Networking and linking our work

DESCRIPTION

ICSW has a substantial global network of members, related individuals and organisations that are a powerful force for change.

OUTCOMES

Keeping the sector informed

The two global offices are the pivot for networking and keeping members informed of matters of interest from other regions or sectors eg the global offices disseminate country specific research from the UN Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) and the International Poverty Centre for Inclusive Growth (IPC-IG) to member organisations.

Cooperation with the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) and International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW)

ICSW meets annually with the IASSW and the IFSW to further social policy. In 2009 the meeting, attended by the Presidents of the three organisations, extended the relationship to adopt a process to develop and adopt common social development agendas. This comes into play at the World Conference in June 2010 when the three organisations will work on policies. The process is called *The Agenda*.

East and Southern Africa

In the first quarter of the reporting year, the ESA Region extended its networking to collaborate with the International Federation of Social Workers and the International Association of Schools for Social Work to plan for the 8th Pan African Conference for social work. The Theme of the Conference is: *Promoting social work education, practice and social development in Africa*. Judith Kaulem, Regional President, represented ICSW on the Scientific Committee. The Regional President pushed for the inclusion of social development in the conference themes. ICSW ESA Region partnered with the two traditional organisers of the Pan African conference (IASSW and IFSW) in the spirit of mirroring what was already happening at the global level with the planning for the Joint World Conference Hong Kong 2010.

South East Asia and the Pacific

Following the resignation of Mr. Michael Raper, the Management Committee appointed Ms. Braema Mathiapparanam, Regional President for South East Asia and the Pacific. Ms. Mathiapparanam is also Chairperson-Coordinator of MARUAH - Singapore Working Group for an ASEAN Human Rights Mechanism. Her appointment as Regional President offered opportunities for linkages with other networks involved in advancing social policy in the region.

European cooperation

ENSACT is the network created through the co-operation of ICSW Europe with European Association of Schools of Social Work (EASSW), Formation d'Educateurs Sociaux Européens / European Social Educator Training (FESET), Federation Internationale des Communautés Educatives (FICE), International Association of Social Educators (AIEJI), International Federation of Social Workers European Region (IFSW) and ICSW. ENSACT seeks to achieve professional quality and to voice the concerns of professional service providers and social professionals.

The European region conference of ICSW Europe in 2009 was organised jointly with ENSACT and took place in April 2009 in Dubrovnik. Romas Lazutka and Thea Meinema represented ICSW Europe in the Scientific Committee for this Conference.

Eva Holmberg-Herrström is the permanent representative of ICSW Europe in the board of ENSACT. For the next regional ENSACT conference 10th to 13th April 2011 in Brussels, Eva Holmberg-Herrström is a member of the steering committee. Thea Meinema will represent ICSW Europe in the programme committee.

ICSW European Regional Conference 2009

The joint ENSACT conference including ICSW was held in Dubrovnik, Croatia in April 2009. It focused on different legacies and common challenges among social workers, social work educators, social services providers and social policy makers. The conference inputs and discussions focussed strongly on social justice. ICSW Europe President Eva Holmberg-Herrström underlined three issues that are important to our work: Equal opportunities, social and economic development, and strengthening civil society. ICSW has a unique position in the ENSACT union, not teaching social work, but teaching policy makers how to make sound social policies. ICSW Europe will ensure that the next ENSACT conference will invite social policy makers and civil society organisations, social service providers, clients and user organisations, to provide a platform for debate with all social policy stakeholders.

Third Component: Communicating with our stakeholders

DESCRIPTION

ICSW communicates its message through multiple mediums.

OUTCOMES

ICSW Website

The website continues to grow and is proving to be a valuable resource in social welfare and social development. The site contains ICSW global publications, regional publications and links to professional journals in the field of social welfare and development.

Data to be inserted

Publications

ICSW publishes most of its policy documents on the website. In addition ICSW publishes some printed material (see publications and speeches section below). The 2008 ICSW global conference produced a myriad of papers most of which can be found at <http://www.icsw.org/globalev/globalev33e.htm>. In addition the French committee of ICSW published in 2009 in French, *Social Welfare in a Globalised World*, which provides an overview of the conference. The book will be published in English in 2010.

Global Cooperation

The monthly Global Cooperation newsletter is circulated in French, Spanish and English to stakeholders in social welfare and social development.

Regional Publications

The ICSW regions of Central and West Africa, East and Southern Africa, South Asia, South East Asia and the Pacific, Europe, and the Black Sea publish regional newsletters which are on the ICSW website: <http://www.icsw.org/region/regions.htm>.

Central and West Africa: two newsletters

East and Southern Africa: four newsletters

South Asia: six newsletters

South East Asia and the Pacific: two newsletters

Europe: ten newsletters

Black Sea: International Union of Black Sea NGOs (IUSBNGO) - two newsletters. In addition the IUSBNGO has its own website. There were more than 5000 visitors during the year.

Linkages to ICSW Website

ICSW encourages member organisations to link ICSW to their websites. Some have done this; examples being DNIKS Indonesia and MARUAH Singapore.

Global Social Policy

ICSW's link with the journal *Global Social Policy* commenced in 2006. ICSW, with the approval of the two major donors, provides financial assistance to sponsor the section *Southern Voices*. The intention is to forge and maintain links with the academic community to access their vast knowledge and experience which can assist the practice of social welfare and development. Through an arrangement with Sage publications ICSW makes available to all ICSW members an annual subscription *Global Social Policy*.

International Social Work

ICSW is a legal partner with the International Federation of Social Workers and the International Association of Schools of Social Work in producing the journal *International Social Work*. Six issues are published each year by SAGE publications. ICSW contributes to the 'News and Views' section twice each year.

Membership

Efforts went into mobilising organisations who were not yet members of ICSW to become members in most regions. In some regions there were some difficulties concerning payment of membership fees. The ICSW Africa Office has been diligent in working with Regional Presidents in following up slow fee payers.

Fourth Component: Ongoing global advocacy and socially responsible global governance

DESCRIPTION

ICSW advocates the strengthening and reform of the multilateral system. ICSW is extending its involvement through engagement with emerging processes focused on the reform of globalisation and global governance.

OUTCOMES

UN Commission for Social Development considers employment

The priority theme for the 47th Session of the UN Commission for Social Development was social integration. ICSW presented a statement to the Commission which can be found at <http://www.icsw.org/un/un.htm>.

The Executive Director said: "All governments can assist the process of social integration by adopting a global social floor". Under-Secretary General Sha said: "Governments should therefore consider introducing a social protection floor for the most vulnerable and marginalised groups as another concrete step toward social integration".

After the meeting ICSW sent each member organisation the statement made by their national representative at the Commission. ICSW is keen for members to know what their governments are saying on behalf of their citizens. Government statements are at <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/csd/2009.html>.

Human Rights

ICSW was one of the joint signatories to a statement submitted by international organisations that are in consultative status with the UN. The statement is titled: *Human*

right to peace versus racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance. The statement can be found at http://www.dzeno.cz/?c_id=17739.

Good Governance in ICSW

The relatively new ICSW structures of a Supervisory and Advisory Board (Board) and a Management Committee are proving instruments for good governance and social policy development. The Board, consisting mainly of Regional Presidents, has worked tirelessly on social development issues and fulfilling the aims of global and regional programmes. The Management Committee has worked consistently and responsively on management issues.

The Board met in June 2009 in Johannesburg after over 30 members participated in the capacity building workshop for East and Southern African members. Britta Holmberg, officer in Global Programmes of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency attended the first day of the Board meeting. In addition to procedural matters the Board considered: working with regional groupings of governments and regional NGOs; North-South projects; South-South strengthening national councils programme; policy work by regions; and fund raising for regional activities.

South Asia

As a result of concern that activities in South Asia were negligible, the Management Committee appointed a South Asia Working Group under the Chair of Dr. Mary Joseph. This followed a visit in January 2009 by the global President and Executive Director to Rajagiri College of Social Sciences, Kochi, Kerala, India to meet members. The South Asia Working Group was given the task of creating a regional programme, identifying policy issues to be pursued in the region, proposing new members in the region, establishing national councils training in the region and establishing links with South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). The Working Group achieved excellent results after conducting national programmes in five countries (Nepal, Sri Lanka, India, Maldives and Bangladesh).

As a result of the activities of the Working Group, ICSW achieved two new ICSW National Member Organisations in Sri Lanka and India. Three more countries (Nepal, Maldives and Bangladesh) are working toward becoming National Member Organisations.

Europe

ICSW Europe has been established as an independent legal entity under Dutch law while remaining an integral part of the global ICSW. Its constitution and by-laws make ICSW Europe a fully democratic, participatory and accountable organisation. In the regional governing body, the General Assembly, all European members are represented. The members elect a board that takes responsibility for preparation and implementation of its programmes and policies.

Fifth Component: Regional level cooperation

DESCRIPTION

ICSW facilitates the cooperation of civil society with regional intergovernmental bodies to achieve better regional social policies and the development and adoption of social programmes in Southern regions.

OUTCOMES

Central and West Africa

Economic Commission of West African States (ECOWAS) Ministers of Labour and Employment 2nd Conference, Grand Bassam, Ivory Coast

Emmanuel Komlan Agbemavi ICSW Regional President for Central and West Africa and the Vice President, Charles Abbey, represented ICSW at the 2nd conference of Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in April 2009.

The ECOWAS Ministers of Labour and Employment adopted the regional labour and employment policy, two documents designed to address all matters relating to labour and the workplace in West Africa. The policy rests on four cardinal principles that include the need for pro-active, preventive policies for unemployed and inactive persons, job creation and entrepreneurship, greater adaptability and mobility in the labour market, development of human capital and life-long learning as well as increased offers of work and people remaining longer in the labour market.

In Togo, the Regional President met with the ECOWAS representative, the President of the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID) and initiated the possibility of collaboration. If this initiative is successful, it will enable the implementation of projects aimed at training youth of ICSW regional member organisations in micro enterprises and the possibility of accessing funding from the Bank, with an aim of attenuating the unemployment problem.

The 36th Summit of (ECOWAS) Heads of State and Government

The meeting, held in Nigeria in June 2009, approved the *ECOWAS Labour Policy* for the region. ICSW Vice President Charles Abbey was a member of the Experts Group that considered and reviewed the Draft Labour Policy in 2008.

The Labour Policy has seven key pillars including the labour and employment vision for the region, the scope of its application, objectives, guiding principles, framework for its making it operational, areas of interaction and process of implementation (available from: <http://news.ecowas.int/presseshow.php?nb=038&lang=en&annee=2009>).

Governance in the Maghreb countries (Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia)

February saw the first regional conference of Maghreb countries on the subject of *Governance: individual rights, economic development and social and cultural advance*. The conference was hosted by the newly established Amadeus Institute. There were four panel discussions on governance in four fields: politics, economics, social and territories. In the panel on social matters ICSW Global President spoke on the role of the civil society in the building of an inclusive society and good governance in social policies.

East and Southern Africa

ICSW was represented at the 5TH SADC Civil Society Forum in Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo by Regional President Judith Kaulem and ICSW Programme Coordinator Roselyn Nakiryia. The Forum was held in September 2009 with the theme: *Transformation of SADC-towards equitable and people driven regional integration*. Despite the richness of the forum, the participants continued to lament that CSOs remain outside the Heads of State

and Government summit. It was noted in the workshop that to date the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between SADC and the SADC Council of NGOs still remains very loose hence making the CSOs' effectiveness in influencing the SADC decision-making processes minimal.

South Asia

Representatives of the ICSW South Asia Working Group met with Mr. Hassan Shifau, Director Social Affairs Division at the SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu in July 2009 and later in Delhi. The discussion with Mr. Shifau centred on how to work with SAARC. Mr. Shifau noted the ICSW South Asia Working Group efforts to strengthen civil society organisations. He suggested that when the ICSW network includes all South Asian countries, a federation of South Asia could apply for recognition and consultative status with the SAARC.

South East Asia and the Pacific

The Fourth ASEAN GO-NGO Forum was to be held in Singapore in December 2009 but was postponed to January 2010.

A full report of the ASEAN GO-NGO Forum will appear in the 2010 report. In the lead up to the Forum ICSW worked to strengthen and improve GO-NGO collaboration and provide opportunities for dialogue on key regional social welfare and development issues between ICSW member organisations and ASEAN Senior Officials for Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD). To this end ICSW representatives met in Jakarta with the ASEAN Secretariat, AusAID and the ASEAN Foundation. At the meeting with the ASEAN Secretariat progress was made on the Terms of Reference for the GO-NGO Forum to be submitted to the January 2010 meeting of the ASEAN Senior Officials (SOMSWD) to formalise organisational arrangements, responsibilities of GO and NGO Focal Points, reporting to SOMSWD and participation of NGOs.

Europe

ICSW Europe is a member of the European Platform of Social NGOs and the International Non-governmental organisations (INGOs) of the Council of Europe. ICSW Europe representatives together with representatives from the German ICSW Committee participated in the Social Platform activities. They attended meetings of the Steering Group, the Working Group on Social Policy, the Working Group on Social Services of General Interest, some expert meetings and conferences.

A Lithuanian ICSW delegation consisting of Angele Cepenaite, Leta Dromantiene and Aiste Stancikiene, participated in the European meeting with Belgian civil society that took place in Brussels from November 30 to December 1 2009, organised by the Social Platform.

Pierre Alviset took part in the first Council of Europe INGO meeting in 2009. Since his departure as board member he has been replaced by Thomas Goldberg from the Swedish ICSW Committee.

On 20 and 21 November 2009, the 20th anniversary of the UN convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), an expert seminar was held in Stockholm on child poverty in the Nordic countries. It gathered representatives from five Nordic countries - Denmark, Finland, Greenland, Norway and Sweden - with a total of 30 participants. The presentations showed that child poverty also exists in the Nordic welfare countries and that the situation is very similar in all Nordic countries, except in Greenland where it is even worse. The presentations also outlined different outlooks on the problem of child poverty. The full report from the seminar is available on the ICSW website: <http://www.icsw.org/region/e.htm>.

Sixth component: North-South Partnerships

DESCRIPTION

ICSW's Northern members seek to engage with national ministries of development to ensure more effective overseas development assistance and a socially responsible approach to globalisation by Northern governments.

OUTCOMES

North South Project

The project in development cooperation is being conducted by the Finnish Federation for Social Welfare and Health (STKL, Finland) and the Tanzania Council for Social Development (TACOSODE). ICSW is a partner in the project.

At the 31st International Conference of ICSW held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in September, 2004 the Executive Committee of ICSW adopted the programme, *Globalising Social Policy*, as part of its measures to reduce global poverty. The North South component of the project is to encourage ICSW councils from the global North to partner global South national councils. The North councils are to work to strengthen the South Councils.

The overall objective in the Finnish/Tanzanian project is to create a stronger TACOSODE to support its more than 250 member organisations in their work to reduce poverty. By strengthening TACOSODE there will be a stronger civil society and enhanced opportunities for citizens to participate and make a difference in the reduction of poverty levels in Tanzania. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland is making a substantial financial contribution to the project.

In September the steering group for the project met in Dar es Salaam where TACOSODE in cooperation with the Finnish Federation for Social Development and Health (STKL) and ICSW held a seminar on land reforms in Tanzania and the current global debate on farmland 'grabs' in Africa. The seminar, *Land policy in Tanzania: current issues and social aspects* highlighted the social, political, economic as well as environmental implications of the farmlands grabs by global North, Arab and North East Asia countries.

Since June 2009, the Central and West Africa and Europe regions have discussed the possibility of a North-South partnership. The Regional Presidents of CWA and Europe have discussed the possibility of a partnership as well as the necessary requirements for its establishment.

At the Johannesburg meeting, initial discussions were commenced by the South African NGO Coalition (SANGOCO) and Sweden to start a North South partnership.

The French committee of ICSW (Comité français pour l'action et le développement social) has resolved to provide resources to create a North-South partnership between ICSW and the Middle East and North Africa region.

Seventh component: South-South Policy Dialogue

DESCRIPTION

ICSW will enhance the sharing of information, knowledge and experience between South actors. Actors will learn from each other successful practices in participating in regional

governance, new modes of decentralised provision of social services and new approaches to social and economic security.

OUTCOMES

Central and West Africa

The Regional President published a regional newsletter each quarter of 2009. This newsletter reported on activities in the field of social development and activities that had a significant impact on the lives of the people in the region.

East and Southern Africa

In June 2009 ICSW conducted a three day capacity building programme for most of the national umbrella councils in Eastern and Southern Africa. The capacity building programme was developed on the basis of advice and feedback from member councils that attended the first workshop held in Mauritius in 2007. At the conclusion of the Mauritius workshop participants completed national plans to be submitted to their boards. Before this workshop in Johannesburg each participant provided ICSW with a progress report on the implementation of the plans. Many success stories emerged including training programmes for board members, governance manuals, new strategies for budget influence, growth in membership of national councils, new forms of recognition of national councils by government and adoption of value and policy statements by the boards of national councils. The workshop was co-sponsored by the Southern Africa Development Community Council of Non-Governmental Organisations (SADC-NGO) and the South African National NGO Coalition (SANGOCO).

A day was devoted to policy analysis to better equip national councils in developing policy advice to government. The participants (most of whom were executive directors) shared knowledge of their sources of income and exchanged information on trends in fund raising. Further work was done on project planning and management with the emphasis on understanding the 'Logical Framework Approach'.

The final session was led by Professor Vivienne Taylor, author of the report prepared for the African Union: *Social protection in Africa: an overview of the challenges*.

Five Regional Presidents of ICSW regions were engaged in the workshop (Central and West Africa, South East Asia and the Pacific, South Asia, North East Asia and Europe). Evaluations completed by the participants indicated a high level of satisfaction from their participation in the workshop.

Latin America

In August 2009 Latin American members of ICSW met with civil society and representatives of government in Montevideo Uruguay for a seminar: *Social politics in the 21st Century: national strategies in the region*.

In March 2009 the Regional President of ICSW for Latin America and the Caribbean hosted a workshop in Bertioga-Sao Paulo. The desired objectives were:

- to fortify the representatives of the countries of the region of Latin America and the Caribbean toward ICSW,
- to establish an agenda for the two-year period 2009-2010 endorsing to expand the action and increase the visibility of ICSW in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean, and
- to promote the exchange of experiences and partnerships among the institutions, by area, sector or sub-region.

Publications and Speeches

All publications and speeches are on the ICSW website: <http://www.icsw.org>.

- Abbey, C. 2009. *Building political support and implementing effective responses to the global economic crisis*. Session 3 - Addressing the social impact of the crisis: safety nets, public goods and workers' rights at the Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations November 2009. Available from: <http://www.icsw.org/publication/pp.htm>.
- Correll, D. 2009. *Globalisation: Benefit or aggravation? The perspective of ICSW*. Presentation to Finland Seminar Global Social Policy Issues 2009 and beyond: challenges and steps forward. Available from: <http://www.icsw.org/publication/pp.htm>.
- Correll, D. 2009. *The International Council on Social Welfare as an international organisation*. Presentation to the Norwegian Forum of Health and Social Issues, Centenary Conference, 29th October 2009 Available from: <http://www.icsw.org/publication/pp.htm>.
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- Correll, D. 2009. *News and Views*. International Social Work 52(2): 259–262. Available from: <http://www.icsw.org/publication/isw.htm>.
- Destremau, B. et al 2009. *Social welfare in a globalised world: 33rd ICSW Global Conference*. Presses se L'École des Hautes Études en Santé Publique.
- Eriksson, B. 2009. *Child Poverty in the Nordic countries*. International Council on Social Welfare documentation from an ICSW conference of experts on child poverty in Stockholm, 20-21 November 2009. Available from: <http://www.icsw.org/region/e.htm>.
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Financial review of the year

During the year the governments of Finland and Sweden continued their commitment to support the work of ICSW in achieving its global programme: *Strengthening civil society's participation in social welfare and social development*. The specific commitments are from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, The Ministry for Labour and Social Affairs of Norway and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA). ICSW is entering an agreement with the Comité français pour l'action et le développement social to provide €15,000 to support a North-South project with Middle East and North Africa.

The financial result for the year showed a **XXXX**

Funding submissions for regional capacity building workshops for National Councils were made by ICSW South East Asia and the Pacific to the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung and other donors (outcome unknown at time of writing).

A study, *Impact of the Global Economic Crises on Civil Society Organizations* by Eva-Maria Hanfstaengl, was undertaken in 2009 for the NGO Committee for Social Development and was supported by the UN Secretariat. The study measured the impact of the economic crisis on the operating capacity of 640 civil society organisations (CSOs) around the world. The overall result was that CSOs reported "substantial reductions in their funding in the wake of the global financial and economic crisis" and "they are concerned that this threatens their ability to deliver the services and activities that are required." ICSW is experiencing difficulty in accessing new funding sources. The common response is that demand has gone up,

resources down and the donor is contributing only to organisations that are currently being supported.

Employees

The International Council on Social Welfare is an equal opportunities employer and applies objective criteria to assess merit. It aims to ensure that no job applicant or employee receives less favourable treatment on the grounds of age, race, colour, nationality, religion, ethnic or national origin, gender, marital status, sexual orientation or disability.

Selection criteria and procedures are reviewed to ensure that individuals are selected, promoted and treated on the basis of their relevant merits and abilities. All employees are given equal opportunity and, where appropriate and possible, special training to enable them to progress both within and outside the organisation. The International Council on Social Welfare is committed to a programme of action to make this policy effective, and brings it to the attention of all employees.