



## **Annual Report 2016**

### **Introduction**

This report covers the period 1st January to 31st December 2016. ICSW activities for 2016 are reported under the following six priority areas:

- Promoting social development, social justice and human well-being,
- Networking and policy innovations in our work,
- Communicating with our stakeholders,
- On-going global advocacy and socially responsible global governance,
- Regional level cooperation
- Knowledge-building, policy dialogue and capacity-development

### **Highlights of 2016**

- ICSW has continued to promote and extend its support and work on social development, particularly on social protection systems, including the Social Protection Floor Initiative. The Council has been a founding member of the Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors, bringing together over 100 NGOs working on issues of social protection and promoting SPFI.
- Among a selected few NGOs the ICSW has continued to participate in the activities of Social Protection Inter-Agency Cooperation Board (SPIAC-B) established in June 2012 on the recommendations of the G20 Development Working Group. The Board is jointly chaired by ILO and the World Bank, and works on cooperation in the area of promoting universal social protection, monitoring frameworks to achieve a greater impact at the country level, and improving delivery tools. The ICSW participated in the Board meeting in New York in September 2016.
- At the 54th session of the UN Commission for Social Development in February 2016 ICSW presented both written and oral statements on the priority theme, "Re-thinking and strengthening social development in the contemporary world", concentrating on the new policy space created for social development with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda.
- At the 60<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women in March 2016 the ICSW submitted a statement to the Commission on the priority theme "Women's empowerment and its link to sustainable development", concentrating on gender and sustainability as cross-cutting priorities in development programmes.
- The Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development 2016 (SWSD-2016) was held in Seoul, Republic of Korea from 27 to 30 June 2016. On the initiative of the ICSW the joint outcome document was adopted-- the Seoul Declaration.
- The IASSW, the IFSW, and ICSW have worked throughout the year on a common Global Agenda on social work and social development. In 2016 the work on the Global Observatory to monitor the implementation of the Global Agenda has continued and the report was submitted to the Seoul Conference.
- The above three partner organizations agreed to hold the 2018 Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development in Dublin, Ireland in July 2018.

- ICSW continues its commitment to two refereed professional journals. ICSW provides Global Social Policy to all ICSW members as a membership benefit. ICSW is a partner with IASSW and IFSW in the journal *International Social Work*.
- Regional level cooperation remained an important part of the ICSW agenda. In 2016 the ICSW in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region continued its work on the theme “Promoting the dignity and worth of people” in cooperation with Friedrich-Ebert Foundation, and in the preparation for the Joint World Conference in Seoul.

The issue of dignity and human values was explored in the context of Latin America, carried by ICSW jointly with SESC of Brazil at the conference in San Paulo in March 2016 as an intermediary step leading to the Joint World Conference in Seoul. The publication “Dignity and Human Values: A vision of Latin America” was presented in Seoul.

- ICSW South Asia Region continued collaboration with Head Held High Foundation, Bengaluru, India on global initiative called **GAP - [Global Action on Poverty](#)**. A movement to eradicate poverty globally, through thought and action the **GAP initiative** brought together influential members of the civil society from India and the SA region.
- The 11th GO-NGO Forum held on the 24th September 2016 in Jakarta, Indonesia, was very successful, discussing the theme “Strengthening Social Welfare Development in Pursuing ASEAN Community vision 2025”. The Forum has become an important platform for discussion the most acute issues of social-economic development, social policy and the welfare mix in the region, providing for a comparison of policy tools as well as of welfare outcomes.
- ICSW-Europe convened a symposium on migration issues during the Joint World Conference in Seoul in June 2016
- ICSW-Europe, in cooperation with its Czech member also convened in May 2016 a seminar in Prague, Czech Republic devoted to exploring good social work practices when working with people in poverty.

By and large the ICSW Global President, as well as the Regional Presidents have been actively involved in advocacy and capacity-building activities on behalf of the ICSW, promoting core messages of its Global Programme. Their personal contribution in shaping the work programmes, as well as in their implementation, represented a decisive factor in raising the profile of ICSW.

The global and regional programmes are supported through the countless hours of voluntary work by ICSW members.

The administration of the Global Programme was conducted from the global offices in New York, USA and Kampala, Uganda. The programmes in the ICSW regions are coordinated and conducted from the offices of the Regional Presidents.

***First priority area: promoting social development, social welfare and social justice***

## **DESCRIPTION**

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

## **OUTCOMES**

### **Promoting universal social protection**

This area is seen by ICSW as one of the key elements of progressive social policy. ICSW considers social protection as both a human right and a sound economic policy, and as investment in people rather than an expense. Social protection has been a constant theme in ICSW advocacy efforts regionally and globally, seen as a genuine channel for achieving poverty reduction and development goals. Relevance of social protection has increased in the wake of the global social and economic crisis; however, in many cases on the ground efforts to promote social protection remain fragmented. There is a need for coordinated responses to build forward-looking socio-economic policy aimed at universal public provision of basic social services and basic income.

The Social Protection Floor concept developed by the UN Social Protection Floor Initiative and defined in the ILO Recommendation No.202 is seen by the ICSW as a first step towards universal, rights-based and comprehensive social protection for all. The SPFI is a set of basic guarantees, social rights, services and facilities that a citizen should enjoy. ICSW promoted the SPFI at global level in its statements to the UN Commission for Social Development in 2011-2016.

ICSW is a co-founder of the **Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors**, joining forces with more than 100 NGOs and trade union organizations. The Coalition plays an increasingly important role in shaping the debate, raising awareness, achieving a national consensus on policy priorities and monitoring progress of SPFs. Within the Coalition the ICSW was instrumental in promoting the role of social protection in the process of formulating the new development goals for the post-2015 development agenda.

In October 2016 the Executive Director of the ICSW put forward the initiative and drafted a joint statement on behalf of the Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors that was delivered at the 55<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission for Social Development. In this policy-oriented statement the idea of a dedicated UN resolution on social protection systems was elaborated and presented; the statement appealed to that delegates of the Commission to consider adopting such a resolution, taking into account the deep links between social protection and sustainable economic growth.

### **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*. 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 over 200 social policy specialists throughout the world.

### **The Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development**

The International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW), ICSW, and International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) started the development of a Global Agenda for social work and social development at the Joint World Conference held in Hong Kong in 2010. ICSW has made the Social Protection Floor Initiative its major contribution to the combined Global Agenda. The Global Agenda Observatory structured around the four themes of the Agenda is aimed at gathering evidence on its implementation. The meeting of the partner organizations in Dublin in January 2016 was instrumental in advancing the goals of the Agenda. The ICSW contributed to the preparation of the Global Report of the three partner

organizations submitted to the Seoul conference on the theme of dignity. On behalf of the organization the ICSW Executive Director published an article in February 2016 in the *International Social Work Journal* reflecting ICSW views on the issue of dignity and social protection, in the context of the preparation for the Joint World Conference in Seoul.

## **Social protection interagency meetings**

### ***SPIAC Board has found its niche***

ICSW is one of a few international NGOs that have been invited to participate in the **Social Protection Inter-Agency Cooperation Board (SPIAC-B)** created in June 2012 on the recommendation of the G20 Development Working Group presented to the G20 summit in Los Cabos, June 2012. The Board aims at sharing information and promoting cooperation between partners in the area of social protection at the international and national levels. The Board is jointly chaired by the ILO and the World Bank, and ICSW takes part in every meeting.

At the 8th SPIAC-B meeting convened in September 2016 in New York several topics of joint response have been discussed: the launch of the Global Partnership on Universal Social Protection and the ONEUN SPF country operations and UNDG coordination which both serve as a platform for joint response, the interagency social protection assessment tools, capacity building and knowledge sharing (including the social protection gateway).

The current relevance and political momentum for social protection worldwide provides a unique opportunity to enhance policy coherence, cooperation and coordination of social protection actions at global, regional and national levels. SDG Target 1.3 calls for universal social protection (“implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable”). A clear mandate has been given to the international community on the extension of coverage of social protection systems, including social protection floors. Participants of the above meeting agreed that SPIAC-B, as the leading global issues-based coalition on social protection, should continue to take the lead in framing, monitoring and implementing the different aspects of the new agenda. Participating in the September 2016 meeting in New York, ICSW representative advocated for a new dedicated ECOSOC resolution on social protection, and was supported by both country representatives and the UN Secretariat.

### ***Health Promotion Forum Charlottetown October 2016***

ICSW supports the annual Forum organised by the Alliance for Health Promotion (A4HP). The forum was conducted to exchange ideas and practices and take a snapshot of current approaches, evidence, challenges and opportunities. It provided an opportunity to mobilise partners and members of the NGO community to participate in the planning, development and actions to fulfil the goal of A4HP to speak as a single unified NGO voice on key policy issues.

The 6th Global Forum on Health Promotion was held in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island (PEI), Canada from October 16 – 17, 2016. The theme for the event was Health Promotion ~ At the Very Heart of Sustainability, and it celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Ottawa Charter and highlighted the contributions of civil society and health promotion initiatives to sustainable development. The ICSW participated in the preparations of this event and contributed comments to the draft documents.

## ***Second priority area: Networking and policy innovations in our work***

### **DESCRIPTION**

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

### **OUTCOMES**

#### **Joint World Conference on social work, education and social development, Seoul, 2016**

After a high-intensity preparation process, the Joint World Conference on social work, education and social development was convened by three partner organizations-- International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW), ICSW, and International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) in Seoul, Republic of Korea from 27 to 30 June 2016. The Conference was a very well-organised, and well-attended global event, bringing together 2,581 participants from 83 countries, who in total made 1,540 presentations addressing the priority theme of the Conference, namely, "Promoting the Dignity and Worth of People".

Following the initiative put forward by the ICSW, the outcome document-- **Seoul Declaration** addressing the priority theme was adopted. Once again, the need to increase the ranks of the participants, bringing more social development practitioners, along with representatives of academic community to such global fora was emphasized by ICSW.

The ICSW Global, in cooperation with Korea National Council on Social Welfare, convened *international symposium* on the theme "Social Protection extension in the context of SDGs." The symposium was well-attended and generated policy-oriented discussion.

ICSW also convened in Seoul two symposiums organized by the regions.

The symposium organized by the *ICSW South Asia* aimed to create a platform for social work educators and practitioners in general and from the Global South in particular, to debate on newer approaches in order to address the emerging socio-political and economic realities. The discussion on various ideas of alternate educational and professional practices in social work concentrated at addressing issues of socio-economic and political marginalities of communities.

The symposium organised by *ICSW Europe* discussed complexities related to growing number of migrants worldwide, challenges related to protecting welfare of migrant workers as well the issues of marginalization and vulnerability.

In the wake of the Seoul conference ICSW has been actively involved in strengthening partnership arrangements with IASSW and IFSW and coordinated joint efforts aimed at making operational the Global Agenda Observatory to monitor the implementation of the Global Agenda.

#### **State of the Global Organization and regional challenges**

The meeting of the Supervisory and Advisory Board in Seoul in 2016 immediately following the General Assembly represented an important benchmark in the ongoing efforts aimed at charting the new paths for the organization, revitalising and re-building it, and proposing strategic approaches for the next two years. The in-depth, wide-ranging and open

discussions at the General Assembly and the Board were aimed at adjusting policy directions, making immediate goals more tangible and down- to- earth. The need for improved visibility of ICSW and maintaining strategic partnerships was emphasized. Strengthening member organizations and their activities in the regions was seen as a vital objective, along with such tasks as streamlining and re-orienting ICSW towards improved organizational structure, promoting membership building and ensuring financial sustainability.

The ICSW Management Committee chaired by ICSW President **Eva Holmberg-Herrstrom**, continued its practice of regular meetings convened over Skype, paying constant attention to the coherence of efforts in implementing decisions of the GA and the Board.

### **Keeping the membership informed**

The two global offices have maintained a high level of networking and keeping the Board, Management Committee and members informed of all initiatives and matters of interest from other regions or sectors. The Global Cooperation Newsletter has become an indispensable platform for presenting most update information on regional activities, as well as matters of international significance and of interest to the organization as a whole. The social welfare, social assistance and social protection issues were discussed both globally and regionally. Several regional Newsletter were re-vitalized, using such new methods of work as inviting guest editors. In both the global and regional Newsletters, members are informed of the ongoing efforts of the organization in various fields, including research into social development in their countries or regions. The featured articles and information materials presented at the Global Cooperation Newsletter highlight existing challenges, best practices and ongoing efforts of ICSW members at the global and national level. The practice of presenting the work undertaken at the regional level has become a standard practice of the Global Newsletter, establishing monthly responsibilities for its preparation among the regions. Every effort is made to solicit contributions to the Global Cooperation Newsletter of outstanding international scholars and well-known practitioners, to present experiences and know-how of other non-governmental organizations, keeping the readership well- informed of recent developments and about the global issues and challenges.

### **Cooperation with other International NGOs**

#### ***Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors***

Closely working with Friedrich-Ebert Foundation and other partners ICSW continued efforts to explore new opportunities in promoting social protection at all levels, as well as exploring various instruments useful as national means of implementation. The statements prepared by the Global Coalition for SPF were used to articulate joint priorities in addressing the UN organs.

Apart from supporting a dedicated resolution on social protection, the Coalition also actively promoted establishing a dedicated financing facility that enables the global community of nations to systematically support national efforts to reduce poverty, insecurity and inequality through social protection.

The ICSW also supports a multi-country project of the Coalition that aims at promoting national policy dialogue processes on national social protection floors, in cooperation with the ILO.

#### ***Cooperation with IASSW and IFSW.***

Apart from the key role played by ICSW in the Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors described above, ICSW continues active tripartite cooperation with its sister organizations—IFSW and IASSW.

ICSW meets annually with the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) and International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) to further discussion on social policy and joint efforts. In January 2016 the meeting was held in Dublin, Ireland preceding the Joint World Conference. The meeting was attended by all three presidents of IASSW, ICSW and IFSW. The participants discussed the list of speakers selected by the IPC and proposed pertinent changes aimed at better geographical distribution as well as gender balance among the invited speakers. The need to develop a local and international promotional strategy was emphasized. The ICSW submitted a range of forward-looking recommendations to the International Steering Committee regarding the preparations of the Joint world conference in Seoul in 2016, including a need to have an agreed outcome document. The proposals were realised in practice.

### **Global Agenda Observatory**

Since its organizational meeting in Paris in November 2012 the IASSW, IFSW and ICSW periodically considered specific actions in the context of the implementation of the tripartite Global Agenda adopted earlier that year. In order to gather evidence about the activities of social workers, educators and social development practitioners who support the implementation of the Global Agenda and in order to give visibility and credibility to their contributions and promote further action, it was decided to establish a Global Agenda Observatory. The past three years provided an opportunity to draw some lessons from the process and suggest improvements.

This new entity is structured around the four themes of the Global Agenda commencing with the theme of *promoting social and economic equalities* (discussed in Melbourne). Apart from the above the theme *promoting the dignity and worth of people* was covered in Seoul in 2016. The future themes include *working toward environmental sustainability* (Dublin, 2018) and *strengthening recognition of the importance of human relationships*. A focus on ensuring an appropriate environment for practice and education will be maintained throughout. The Global Agenda Observatory is conceived as a mechanism for monitoring and reporting upon the implementation of the Agenda Commitments.

The Observatory aims at creating networks or consortia composed of institutions of higher education and professional/practice-based organizations that jointly conduct research, analyze, synthesize and report on Agenda activities. It aspires to establish a strong, credible monitoring mechanism over the next 10 years.

Established at the local, national, regional and international levels, and working through the existing structures and work plans, the Global Agenda Observatory aims at taking into consideration the existing priorities of each of our organizations.

The Report on the first priority theme-- on inequality-- was submitted to the Global Conference in Melbourne in 2014. The second report "Promoting the Dignity and Worth of People" was released in Seoul in 2016. The third report on the Global Agenda topic related to the environmental and community sustainability will be unveiled at the Joint World Conference in Dublin in 2018.

### **European cooperation**

ICSW Europe is an active participant of the **Social Platform** -- the largest platform of European NGOs (48 INGOs) working in the social sector and geared at promoting social

justice, equality and participatory democracy. Supporting effective social protection and welfare systems is one of key concerns of the members, and ICSW has a comparative advantage in building or expanding relationships with like-minded organizations. ICSW was actively involved in the task forces focused on important social and political issues like access to Services (TTIP & TISA), human rights strategy, governance, structural funds, social standards and civil dialogue. A position paper on minimum wage was adopted in 2015 with active support by the ICSW Europe. The European Union offers opportunities for cooperation with a broad range of socially- oriented NGOs (beyond those belonging to the Social Platform) as well as with EU citizens at large. ICSW Europe also participated in the study tours organized by countries during their Presidency of the European Union. ICSW Europe works closely with the group of INGOs affiliated to the **Council of Europe** in Strasbourg (France) in the field of social, economic and cultural rights. Apart from that the ICSW.

*ENSACT*, the **European Network for Social Action**, is a network created through cooperation of ICSW Europe, the 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), the International Federation of Social Workers European Association (IFSW) PowerUs, Service Users in Social Work Learning Partnership and Social Work and Health Inequalities Network (SWHIN). ENSACT seeks to achieve professional quality and to voice the concerns of professional service providers and social professionals. ENSACT hosts the European Observatory which aims at monitoring, reporting and disseminating the contributions of social work and social development in building a 'society for all'. The European Observatory is part of the Global Agenda Observatory. The purpose is to gather evidence about the activities of social workers, educators and social development practitioners, in order to give visibility and credibility to their contributions and to promote further action.

### **ICSW cooperating with other NGOs at the UN**

ICSW plays an active role in various activities of the NGO Committees on Social Development in New York and Geneva. In this light ICSW maintains day- to- day partner relations with all Members of the NGO Committee and is actively involved in the preparations of the **Civil Society Forum** convened immediately before the substantive annual session of the Commission for Social Development in New York. The ICSW actively participates in the work of the Forum, including panel discussions and preparation of the outcome Declaration.

### ***Third priority area: Communicating with our stakeholders***

#### **DESCRIPTION**

*ICSW communicates its message through multiple mediums.*

#### **ICSW Website**

Responding to a clear need to make ICSW website more contemporary and user- friendly, a **major revamping of the ICSW website** was undertaken in 2014- 2015. A significant update was undertaken, resulting in the new structure and new possibilities of the website. Such features as adding images, changing the layout, expanding the size of the page and other improvements have become possible. The website continues to grow and represents a valuable tool of outreach and communication with ICSW audience and beyond. Language



editions of various documents are clearly visible and could be easily downloaded. Global and regional activities are duly reflected while many materials are kept in electronic archives.

Given overall importance of the website as a vital resource and communication medium there is a clear need to continue work aimed at keeping the website contemporary, interactive and sophisticated yet user-friendly.

## **Publications**

ICSW publishes most of its policy documents on the ICSW website. In addition, ICSW publishes some printed material (see publications section below).

### **Global Cooperation Newsletter**

The ICSW monthly Global Cooperation Newsletter is circulated in English, French and Spanish to stakeholders around the world dealing with social development and social welfare issue.

It is an important platform for discussion of acute issues of development and best practices in social field. All issues of the 2016 Newsletter as well as preceding issues are available at [www.icsw.org](http://www.icsw.org). The preparation of the Newsletter is done by the staff of the ICSW-- the Executive Director of the ICSW is the editor-in-chief of the Newsletter, while the Programme Director provides support in formatting and distributing this publication. The content reflects both global and regional dimensions of ICSW activities. The distribution of responsibilities among the regions in the preparation of the monthly editions helped to ensure that regional views as well as update on activities are properly reflected.

In June 2016 the first edition of the ICSW **Digest**, providing a compilation of some best articles published in the Global Newsletter in 2015, was unveiled during the SWSD-2016 in Seoul. This pioneering publication of ICSW, compiled and edited jointly by *Prof. P.K.Shajahan*, ICSW Regional President for South Asia, and *Prof. S.Zelenev*, ICSW Executive Director, was distributed for the information and promotion purposes through the ICSW booth during the deliberations of the Joint World Conference in Seoul, along with other specially prepared promotional materials on the profile and activities of ICSW globally and regionally, and was well received by the conference participants.

### **Regional Publications**

The year 2016 witnessed a continuation of the production of several regional Newsletters published by ICSW regional organizations. Some of them were either created from scratch or resurrected under the new editors. In some cases (e.g. South Asia) innovative features such as bringing eminent guest editors were introduced; this practice has proved its importance and validity. The regional Newsletters are also posted on the ICSW website. Most important they are sent to the ICSW-affiliated organizations around the world, going beyond the immediate region and facilitating exchange of best practices. The content of many Newsletters combines both the current regional information and in-depth analysis.

For more information on the Newsletters go to: <http://www.icsw.org/regions/regions.htm>. In 2015 the following newsletters were published and available at ICSW Website:

**Central and West Africa:** None

**East and South Africa region:** quarterly

**Middle East and North Africa:** None

**South Asia:** quarterly

**South East Asia and the Pacific:** annually

**North East Asia: once a year**  
**Europe: quarterly**  
**North America and the Caribbean: none**  
**Latin America: twice a year.**

### **Linkages to ICSW Website**

ICSW encourages member organisations to link ICSW to their Websites.

### **Global Social Policy**

ICSW's link with the journal *Global Social Policy* commenced in 2006. ICSW, with the approval of the two major donors, provided financial assistance to sponsor the section *Southern Voices* until 2010 when reduced funding resulted in this sponsorship being withdrawn. 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 in a partnership 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. The 2016 combined downloads total of 119,231 was a significant increase on 2010 and represents the journal's largest yearly usage figure yet.

### **Fourth priority area: On-going 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**

##### **Membership growth in the ICSW**

During 2016 ICSW admitted several organizations and distinguished individuals. National Member Organisations (category A), were admitted from the Czech Republic and Mongolia; organizations from Armenia, Italy, Moldova and Russian Federation were admitted as category C members. Associate Member Organisation is a new non-voting category and is intended for government bodies. At the GA meeting in Melbourne ICSW introduced a new membership category E-- "Distinguished Fellows". In 2016 five new Distinguished Members (in E category) have been admitted. The total number of persons in category E at the end of 2016 was 11. This group of people represents a pool of highly qualified professionals, with significant potential for ICSW.

##### **Post-2015 development framework.**

ICSW took an active part in the preliminary discussions and consultations on the shape of Post-2015 development framework. We supported inclusion into the outcome document of stand-alone goal on social protection and stand-alone goal on equality. ICSW took part in the meetings of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals

as well as in numerous NGO meetings to discuss the content of the future development agenda. The process leading to the adoption of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda was duly reflected in the Global Cooperation Newsletter.

In 2016 ICSW continued its activities at the UN level seeking to leverage the position of its members into various UN documents and platforms, including the documents pertinent to implementing the 2030 Agenda.

### **UN Commission for Social Development – rethinking and strengthening social development**

ICSW takes part in every annual session of the UN Commission for Social Development held in New York, using it as an opportunity to present its vision of social development priorities to the world. The statement made by ICSW at the **54<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission** in February 2016 was devoted to the priority theme of the annual meeting: "Rethinking and strengthening social development in the contemporary world". This session of the Commission completed the two-year cycle of the discussions on the above priority theme. UN Member States, civil society and other stakeholders examined the need to respond to new opportunities and challenges of development. The statement made by ICSW underscored new opportunities for the stakeholders created with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda. It was reiterated that strengthening social protection is not only one of the best ways to reduce insecurity and inequality in the world, but also an effective means to reinvigorate the development agenda and come up with new solutions to a range of old and new social ills. The written statements made at the Commission are available in all six official languages of the UN and are published at the UN website. The 2016 Statement can be found at:

<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N15/373/43/PDF/N1537343.pdf?OpenElement>

### **UN Commission on the Status of Women**

Taking into consideration a high priority of gender issues and gender relations as well as their cross-cutting nature, the ICSW for the last three years actively participates in the annual sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, contributing to the discussions on the respective main themes. In the statement made in March 2016 at the 60th session of the Commission the ICSW spoke on women's empowerment and its link to sustainable development. It was underscored that women have a vital role to play in the realization of the sustainable development agenda; their voices must be heard, and should be recognized and promoted. The position of the ICSW regarding gender and sustainability emphasizes the cross-cutting nature of these priority policy goals of development at the national and international levels. The written statement submitted by ICSW can be found at the following UN-WOMEN website: <http://undocs.org/E/CN.6/2016/NGO/67>

### **UN Open-ended Working Group on Ageing**

ICSW participates in the work of the Group in the last three years. The UN General Assembly established the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing for the purpose of strengthening the protection of human rights of older persons by considering existing international frameworks and identifying possible gaps and how best to address them. ICSW supports elaboration of a new legal instrument and measures on rights of older persons, and works actively and closely with various partners to promote rights of older persons.

The statements made at the sessions can be found at: <http://social.un.org/ageing-working-group/documents/fourth/statements/International%20Council%20on%20Social%20Welfare.pdf>

## ***Fifth priority area: 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**

#### **Middle East and North Africa**

2016 saw a continuation of work started in the region by ICSW on the theme of the human dignity and worth of persons. In June 2015 the ICSW in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region convened a high-level Forum in collaboration with Friedrich-Ebert Foundation of Germany on the concept of human dignity and its perception in the Arab region and internationally. The personal involvement of Prof. **Tamer Bachir**, President of ICSW and Prof. **Driss Guerraoui**, Vice-President were crucial for the success of the meeting as well as for the follow-up process. The work of the Forum reflected one of the priority themes set up in the Global Agenda of IASSW, ICSW and IFSW. It was reflected in the publications submitted to the Global Cooperation Newsletter.

#### **North East Asia**

The ICSW-affiliated councils working in the region joined forces in the preparation of the Global Conference in Seoul in 2016 under the leadership of Prof. **Heung Bong Cha**, the NEA President. The NEA closely collaborated with the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics (IAGG) in the work of UN Open-Ended Group on Ageing as well as preparatory work for special events during the Joint World Conference in Seoul in 2016. The joint international symposium for social protection extension was organised by the Korean member in cooperation with ICSW-global. The election of the new president of the NEA region **Mr. Chua Hoi Wai** in June 2016 signified continuation of the work on ageing and other acute social development issues pertinent for the region.

#### **South Asia**

**In 2016 ICSW South Asia Region** continued its innovative work aimed at finding more effective solutions to address poverty and inequality. The organization continued its collaboration with Head Held High Foundation, Bengaluru, India on global initiative called **GAP - Global Action on Poverty**. A movement to eradicate poverty globally, through thought and action the **GAP 2015 Summit** brought together 100 Changemakers (those who are working on the ground in various aspects of poverty eradication) and about 70 Catalysts (people and organizations who support Changemakers through resources, connections, funds and advice). The 2 day event was held at Sabarmati Gandhi Ashram & Gujarat Vidyapith in March, 2015. ICSW Regional President Prof. **P.K. Shajahan** in his capacity as a Catalyst with GAP is geared at setting up a GAP Lab at Tata Institute of Social Sciences as an Institutional platform for the Changemakers to translate their ideas into action. The involvement of Prof. Shajahan was crucial in revamping the regional Newsletter and introducing numerous innovative features.

#### **South East Asia and the Pacific**

The 11th GO-NGO Forum held on the 24th September 2016 in Jakarta, Indonesia, was very effective and productive, discussing the theme “Strengthening Social Welfare Development in Pursuing ASEAN Community vision 2025”. The Forum has become an important platform for discussion the most acute issues of social-economic development, social policy and the welfare mix in the region, providing for a comparison of policy tools as well as of welfare outcomes.

The ICSW representative for the 11<sup>th</sup> GO-NGO forum was Vice-President, Madam **Khatijah Suleiman**, the President of Malaysian Council of Rehabilitation. Her role was crucial in the preparation of the 11th Forum as well as the preceding one. The regional Newsletter was also resurrected under her leadership.

The recommendations from the Forum focused on implementation of the recommendations made in previous GO-NGO forums, along with new approaches. Acting as a co-convenor ICSW brought together national member councils from the region and representatives of expert organisations.

## **Latin America**

### **The 2016 witnessed the implementation of key regional frameworks and mutually-agreed decisions achieved during the previous two years at the regional forums.**

The follow-up work continued in 2016. On behalf of ICSW, Madam **Nelsida Marmolejos** the Regional President for Latin America whose role has been vital in all ICSW activities in the region, participated in the conference "Dignity and Human Values: A vision of Latin America" convened in March 2016 in San Paulo, Brazil as an intermediary stepping stone in the preparation of the Global Conference in Seoul. She also participated in the VIII Ministerial Forum and 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean hosted by Dominican Republic and aimed at empowering people and promoting inclusive social policies. The ICSW in the region, including the Dominican Republic proper, has been working closely with child care and old-age centers, monitoring the quality of service delivery. Madam **Nelsida Marmolejos** maintained the important links with the Vice-Presidency of the Dominican Republic on the above issues. The presentation of the book on dignity and human values was done in Seoul during the SWSD-2016. The Founding Act of the Ibero-American Network of Social Work/Social Service was also signed there with active participation of the regional ICSW.

## **East and Southern Africa.**

The regional ICSW Newsletter, resurrected under the leadership of Mr. **Benjamin Mutie**, ICSW Regional President, has become an influential publication on social development matters, highlighting key regional events.

## **North America and the Caribbean Region**

Efforts were made to revitalize and strengthen the Region which comprises the United States of America, Canada and Jamaica. The US Committee hosted a regional meeting in June with the Council of Voluntary Social Services – Jamaica and the Canadian Council on Social Development to chart the way forward and elect officers for the Region.

## **Europe**

The ICSW Europe closely and fruitfully cooperates with IFSW and EASSW, as well as with East European sub-regional Association of the Schools of Social Work, particularly in the context of Social Platform activities and exchange of information. Recently the membership of the ICSW Europe has increased, with 2 new members admitted in 2016: the Czech Republic and the Russian Federation. In 2016 members from Armenia, Italy and Moldova

have also come on board. ICSW Europe participates in several scientific, educational and practical projects (like Horizon). The organization is also a founding member of the new Covenant on Demographic Change in partnerships with the AGE Platform. ICSW Europe jointly celebrated the World Social Work Day with its sister organizations-- IFSW Europe, EASSW and its members.

The ICSW Regional President, Prof Miloslav Hettes before his grave illness played a key role in 2016 conceptualization of all regional conferences as well as in resurrecting the regional Newsletter which is now published four times a year and has its own ISSN 2411-9709 with several hundred subscribers. The Regional President promoted ICSW mission in the context of several international events oriented at social work education, history of the social work, and promotion of the "smart cities".

Activities, reports, minutes of the ICSW Europe are open to the public, and in the spirit of transparency published in newsletters. The Board of the organization meets monthly via Skype.

Among the priority areas of the organization within the Social Platform are the following: access to services; monitoring implementation of SDGs; advocacy efforts to promote social standards; job search for a long-term unemployed; implementation of the advocacy strategy to promote investment in services, including social investment; the quest for influence upon the negotiations of trade agreements such as TTIP and TiSA, as well as measuring the social impact.

In the context of SWSD-2016, the ICSW Europe organized a special symposium focused on social problems of migrants, discussing some salient issues raised earlier at the seminar in Spain devoted to migration challenges.

The leadership of ICSW Europe President Ad Interim Mr Jean-Michel Hote was crucial at a difficult time of transition that started immediately after the SWSD-2016 due to the illness of Miloslav Hettes; the President Ad Interim carried his duties with professionalism and dedication, much appreciated by the members.

### ***Sixth priority area: knowledge-building, policy dialogues and capacity-development***

#### **DESCRIPTION**

*ICSW will enhance the sharing of information, knowledge and experience between all stakeholders. The stakeholders 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**

##### **Knowledge sharing and capacity-development**

The regional conferences, seminars and expert meetings organized by ICSW and affiliated organizations substantially benefited from exploring and comparing best practices of other members within the region as well as stakeholders and partners from outside of the region. These policy dialogues have proven to be a useful cross-fertilization tool to enhance the quality of the discussions and the relevance of the outcomes. It has also contributed to better understanding of changing international social norms, exchange of ideas, and promoting most effective ways to address concerns and needs of vulnerable sections of the population.

The main focus of discussions and policy dialogue has been on sharing knowledge and experience on the social protection systems and Social Protection Floor Initiative (SPFI). The methodology used in regional training programmes has been the provision of expert knowledge linked to the sharing of experiences between South practitioners. This was evidenced in the programmes implemented in Europe, Middle East and North Africa, South Asia, South East Asia and Latin America.

In this light the Global and regional Newsletters provide a forum for sharing ideas and knowledge not only within a region but between the regions.

### ***Publications and Speeches***

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

### ***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.

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.

The information on the structure of the ICSW, its officers and staff could be found on the ICSW website:

<http://icsw.org/index.php/about-icsw/officers-and-staff>