

# ICSW DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2018

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## Introduction

### ICSW Mission

The International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW) is a global, non-governmental, non-political, non-sectarian and non-profit organization that represents a wide range of national and international member organizations seeking to advance social justice, social welfare, social work and social development. Its purpose is to help its members to network effectively, derive fundamental principles from their various endeavors, and bring these principles to the attention of governments, inter-governmental organizations and the general public by means of education and political action, moving from vision to policy, policy to programs, and programs to action. It is one of the oldest international non-government organizations (NGO), dating back to 1928. In 2018 ICSW celebrated the 90th anniversary of the organization. Its history is closely linked to international social work, but today its transnational activism goes much further, including issues related to social development, social justice, and social welfare everywhere in the world. Its current emphasis on social development in a broad sense complements its historical focus on social work and social practice.

On the basis of its integrated approach to development ICSW promotes socio-economic policies that aim to reduce poverty, hardship and vulnerability, especially among disadvantaged people; strives for recognition and realization of fundamental rights to employment, income, food, shelter, education, health care and security; promotes equality of opportunity, freedom of expression, freedom of association, participation and access to human services and opposes discrimination; promotes comprehensive policies and programs that strike an appropriate balance between social, economic and environmental goals; and seeks implementation of these objectives by governments, international organizations and non-governmental agencies in cooperation with its network of member organizations.

There is an alignment between global goals and action at the regional and global levels. The strength of the ICSW and its comparative advantage is in close coordination of global and regional activities, cross-fertilization and existing synergy.

**The ICSW's Global Program represents a strategic plan** of the organization designed to operate at the global, regional and national levels, setting goals and providing performance indicators for the Council's operations for 4 years. The next Global Programme 2020-2024 will be adopted by the General Assembly in Rimini, Italy in 2020. The Global Programme 2016-2020 is available at [icsw.org](http://icsw.org)

This report covers the period from 1st January to 31 December 2018. The activities of the organization are presented under the following six priority areas, in line with its Constitutional mandate and the 2016-2020 Global Programme:

- Promoting social justice, social development and human well-being;

- Improved engagement with stakeholders, networking and the quest for policy innovations;
- Revitalizing communication strategy;
- Global advocacy;
- Responding to regional challenges and promoting regional level cooperation;
- Knowledge-building, empowerment, and capacity- development

## Highlights of 2018

The organization celebrated its 90th anniversary in July 2018 in Dublin during the Joint World Conference on Social Work and Social Development. The commemorative symposium brought together speakers from around the world to discuss the complexities and challenges faced by social-development scholars and practitioners in such broad fields as poverty eradication, employment promotion, social inclusion, social protection and others, profiling the ICSW's role as a major global organization committed to improving human well-being. Its main purpose was to highlight achievements of the organization over the years, contemplating at the same time future strategies and options.

In 2018 there was a substantial renewal of the ICSW teams working at the regional level. The new regional Presidents were elected in the following ICSW regions: South Asia, Central and Western Africa, East and Southern Africa, South-East Asia and the Pacific.

**In the African region**, ICSW activities focused on capacity-building, promoting partnerships and addressing resource mobilization issues.

In 2018 the **Africa Platform for Social Protection (APSP)** joined the ICSW as an international member organization, bringing new opportunities to the organization as a whole. The Platform is a network of organizations and individuals operating at the grassroots, national and regional levels, with a commitment to promoting and strengthening the social contract between states and citizens.

**In Latin America**, 2018 signified new efforts by the ICSW to strengthen regional cooperation, promote networking and improve capacity-development. High-level meeting of ICSW Regional President Mrs. Nelsida Marmolejos with the president of the PARLACEN (Central America Parliament) focused on ways to improve joint activity in the Central America region, enhancing the image of ICSW and exploring opportunities for financing joint projects. Several important conferences and seminars convened in the region and beyond facilitated exchange of information on better process for engaging all international and domestic stakeholders. The issues of social security and social protection, including gender-sensitive social protection policies were on top of several international forums of 2018 held in Cancun (Mexico), Montevideo (Uruguay), Punta Cana (Dominican Republic) with ICSW–Latin America participation.

In 2018 members of **North East Asia Region** continued their work in promoting technology adoption and advancement to cater for the needs of population ageing in North East Asian societies. The Region organized the “ICSW North East Asia Regional

Symposium: Technology and Social Innovation for Ageing in North East Asia” in SWSD2018 to discuss the use of technology and innovative solutions in increasing the effectiveness and responsiveness in meeting the needs of older persons in the region.

The preparatory work was directed by **Mr Chua Hoi Wai**, the Chief executive of the Hong Kong Council of Social Services and the ICSW NEA Regional President.

The Joint Korea-China Forum on social policy was organized in September 2018 in Seoul, Republic of Korea by Korean National Council on Social Welfare in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Welfare of the country. The purpose of the Forum was to discuss social policy innovations and explore new possibilities in “the Era of the Internet and Big Data”.

**ICSW South Asia** region has been one of the knowledge partner in 6th Indian Social Work Congress (ISWC)2018 which was organised annually by National Association of Professional Social Workers in India, a member of ICSW from 1st November to 3rd November, 2018 at Convention Center of University of Delhi. The theme of 6th ISWC was " Human Development and Social Inclusion: Imperatives for Social Work Education and Practice " The newly-elected Regional President Prof. **Sanjai Bhatt** was instrumental in organizing a discussion meeting on Role of ICSW in promoting Social development on the sidelines of the Conference.

The **ICSW-Europe** under the leadership of **Mr. Ronald Wiman** is actively promoting comprehensive and integrated approach to social policy which has become a hallmark of the ICSW. Together with partners ICSW Europe aims at keeping the European Union responsible to its commitments, promoting Human and Social Rights and European values both in EU and non-EU countries.

Main platforms for of ICSW Europe for monitoring the European Union are the Social Platform and the SDG Watch and the AGE Platform Europe.

In 2018 ICSW participated in the First Social Platform Flagship Conference: Building Social Europe to monitor the European Pillar of Social Rights. The Conference took place in Lisbon, Portugal 29-30 November, 2018. Before, during and after the Conference ICSW liaised successfully, upon the request of Social Platform leadership, with Finnish Government to facilitate the second follow-up conference on the EPSR so as to prepare the ground for having the Conference during Finnish EU Presidency in Helsinki, Finland.

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.

**ICSW in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA)** region, under the leadership of **Prof. Driss Guerraoui**, the Regional President, closely collaborated with other civil society organizations in the region advocating for effective and people-oriented governance, responsible and sustainable at the central and territorial levels.

Provision of quality basic services, linking economic, social and environmental dimensions and adoption of the sector reforms aimed at poverty eradication, employment promotion and social inclusion—all these themes were explored in the MENA region, in the seminars and workshops. Social protection came strongly as one of the priority themes indispensable for achieving environmental sustainability.

**In the North America and the Caribbean Region** efforts were made to revitalize and strengthen the Region which comprises the United States of America, and Jamaica. The US Committee under the leadership of **Ms Joyce Higashi** has successfully re-established the regional Newsletter and is making important strides to improve the visibility of the ICSW in the North American region. There has been a lot of positive spirit to revamp and strengthen the activities in the region. Active cooperation with IASSW and IFSW continued in the preparation of the Third Report on the priority theme of the Global Agenda.

**In the South East Asia and the Pacific (SEAP) region ICSW** actively prepared and took part in 13th ASEAN GO-NGO Forum convened in November 2018 in Singapore. The theme of the 2018 annual GO-NGO Forum was “Realising the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025: Mainstreaming the Rights of Persons with Disabilities”. The Regional President, Mr. **Chinchai Cheechooen**, participated in the GO-NGO Forum and presented the work of ICSW, emphasizing the importance of convening the GO-NGO Forum on a regular basis.

In the context of the Forum, ICSW SEAP organized a Preparatory NGO Meeting bringing together ICSW members to (i) discuss the work plan of SEAP for 2019, (ii) formulate recommendations for ASEAN, NGOs and disabled people’s organizations (DPOs), and governments to be presented at the GO-NGO Forum, (iii) have an open discussion on social welfare and development issues and formulate recommendations for the agenda of the upcoming AMMSWD that will be hosted by Lao PDR in 2019 and the SOMSWD that will be hosted by the Philippines in 2020.

ICSW SEAP took an active part in Thailand Social Expo in August 2018 contributing to its presentations.

## **First Priority Area: Promoting Social Development, Social Welfare And Social Justice**

### **OBJECTIVES**

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

### **Outcomes:**

Welfare reforms and promoting universal social protection.

The ICSW has consistently advocated going beyond GDP and tackling the more difficult part of measuring well-being, taking into consideration the structural changes pertinent to the evolution of modern economies, as well as multidimensional nature of poverty. In this context the emphasis on people's well-being has become as important as the emphasis on social welfare. It has been reflected in the ICSW publications and statements submitted to the UN. ICSW sees human welfare as a necessary feature of a decent and compassionate society.

Through the years the organization has consistently spoken against neoliberal attack on welfare systems, supporting social protection and advocating for prudence when reforms of social welfare are conceived or implemented. The motto of ICSW: people should be always at the center of all policy considerations and policy efforts. High standards of living and quality of life along with well-being for all have been high on the ICSW global agenda. In its advocacy efforts the ICSW supports income security and health care along the life-cycle, jobs and decent work for young people and beyond, and provision of quality basic services to all.

Investments in people, especially in their social protection, health-inclusive and equitable quality education are seen as essential to enhancing productivity in all sectors and a key to sustainable and equitable growth and poverty reduction.

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls are strongly supported by ICSW. Systemic gender mainstreaming is essential for progress across all of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets.

After the latest global financial crisis the global economy is still facing difficult macroeconomic conditions. In this light promoting universal social protection is seen by ICSW as one of the key tools on the road to sustainability; the organization is keen to emphasize that multiple crises put social protection on the forefront of social policy making.

Over the course of the recent years, this area has been supported 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 2011-2018.

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. Since its inception ICSW has been a member of the core group of the Global Coalition.

In January 2018 the ICSW Executive Director took part in the meeting of the core group of the Global Coalition and helped it with the preparation of the new terms of reference (TORs) of the Coalition, making TORs better attuned to the realities of today. This revision was prepared, submitted to the core group for comments, and was eventually adopted in January 2018 at the meeting of the core group of the Global Coalition in Nairobi, Kenya. Apart from the above, ICSW continued its advocacy efforts on behalf of the Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors to prepare a draft of the dedicated resolution on universal social protection for delivery at the 57th session of the Commission for Social Development. The parallel efforts were also undertaken within the NGO community in New York and Geneva; the Declaration prepared at the end of 2018 for the 2019 Civil Society Forum reflected many elements proposed by ICSW.

### **Creating a network of experts in the field of social welfare and development**

Striving to enhance its reputation as a knowledge-based organization with a global reach, ICSW has succeeded in creating a network of experts on social policy and social development issues, able and willing to come forward with innovative solutions to the existing social challenges. Both ICSW Distinguished fellows and many representatives appointed by the member organizations are fully capable to weight the evidence, evaluate the arguments, and come to an informed conclusion for the benefit of ICSW and societies at large. For example, to commemorate its 90-years' anniversary, the ICSW organized a symposium on 5th July 2018 in Dublin during the Joint World Conference on Social Work and Social Development. The symposium brought together speakers from around the world to discuss the complexities and challenges faced by social-development scholars and practitioners in such broad fields as poverty eradication, employment promotion, social inclusion, social protection and others, profiling the ICSW's role as a major global organization committed to improving human well-being. Its main purpose was to highlight achievements of the organization over the years, contemplating at the same time future strategies and options. More than 11 experts took the floor during the symposium.

The details of the discussion during the symposium is available on the ICSW website.  
<http://icsw.org/index.php/about-icsw>

A similar network of experts participated in the Joint symposium with International Association of Schools of Social Work also in July 2018 in Dublin exploring the synergies



between social work education and social development practice. The outcome of the above discussion is also available on the ICSW website.

The commitment of ICSW to investigating new frontiers in social welfare and social development has been upheld through various activities at the global and regional levels. Highlighting significant recent developments in important policy fields ICSW provides a regular update on social welfare and social development issues in the academic journal *International Social Work*. Through a financial arrangement with Sage Publications, ICSW provides each ICSW member with an annual subscription to *Global Social Policy Journal*.

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

The work on the implementation of the Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development conceived as a joint project together with IASSW and IFSW has continued in 2018. The Third Report of the Global Agenda—on *Promoting Community and Environmental Sustainability*—was released in Dublin in July 2018 during the Joint World Conference. ICSW was involved in the research and preparation of the Third Report providing various inputs to the draft as well as coordinating preparation chapters covering the North American Region.

Given the importance of the sustainability discourse and sustainable development agenda ICSW is keen to pay further attention to the conclusions of the Report, using them in its day to day activities globally and locally. Sustainable, resilient development is about reconciling short- and long-term, social, economic and environmental goals. The processes through which different socio-economic groups negotiate their development priorities and the future of their families and communities require joint efforts of multiple stakeholders. ICSW considers itself as one of such stakeholders and is keen to continue its efforts in this direction.

Preparation of the Report on the Fourth pillar of the Global Agenda is ongoing, and the Report will be released at the Rimini Conference. It will present the findings of the five Regional Observatories where ICSW is participating along with its tripartite partners.

## **Social protection interagency meetings**

### **ICSW contribution to the SPIAC Board**

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. The Board is an inter-agency coordination mechanism composed of representatives of international organizations and bilateral institutions to enhance global coordination and advocacy on social protection issues and to coordinate international cooperation in country demand-driven actions. The Board is jointly chaired by the ILO and the World Bank, and ICSW strives to take part in every annual SPIAC-B meeting.

The 10th Meeting of the SPIAC-B convened on 2 February 2018 in New York provided an opportunity for agencies and bilateral partners to present on their work to support SDGs 1.3 and the Global Partnership for Universal Social Protection USP2030. Mainstreaming of gender perspective in country programmes was explored and discussed.

The current focus of the international community on the need to reduce the extreme poverty and wide spread political momentum for social protection schemes 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 by the international community on the extension of coverage of social protection systems, including social protection floors. Participants of the SPIAC-B, as the leading global issues-based coalition on social protection, agreed that it should continue to take the lead in framing, monitoring and implementing the different aspects of the new agenda. In its efforts during the meetings of the Board the ICSW continued to advocate for the joint preparation of a dedicated ECOSOC resolution on universal social protection.

### **Global Health Promotion Forum Geneva 2018**

Alliance for Health Promotion (A4HP), an alliance of international NGOs involved in health promotion with an aim to empower communities and individuals to gain ownership over their own well-being and enjoyment of a healthy life. Supporting the annual one-day Forum organized by the Alliance for Health Promotion in November 2018, ICSW along with its partners supported the aim of the Global Conference on Primary Health Care to renew political commitment to place primary health care at the heart of achieving universal health coverage and the Sustainable Development Agenda. The topic of the 2018 Forum was “Health promotion for prevention and control of NCDs: Translating global declarations into community level action and impact”.

The Alliance for Health Promotion strongly advocates for health promotion strategies that increase the empowerment of individuals to take action by actively promoting health literacy, thus reducing risk factors such as tobacco use, physical inactivity and poor nutrition. By increasing health literacy through health promotion, individuals and communities are empowered with ownership of knowledge and means to be in better control of their health. The Forum provided an opportunity to comment on worldwide physical activity trends published by the World Health Organization (WHO).

### **Second Priority Area: Networking and Policy Innovations In Our Work**

#### **OBJECTIVES**

*Strengthen a global network of members, related individuals and organizations that are a powerful force for change.*

## **OUTCOMES**

The Joint World Conference on Social Work and Social Development in Dublin (2018) provided a unique opportunity to ICSW to enhance and widen its network of experts dealing with social development.

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.

Working with partners ICSW strived to have an impact on the agenda setting, suggesting innovative approaches, new ideas and advocating for new social norms. These approaches were proposed throughout in key policy fields outlined in the ICSW Global Programme; the attainment of the aspirations of the Agenda 2020 has become an important long-term policy with a view of strengthening a strategic framework for ensuring a positive socioeconomic transformation at the regional level and globally.

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

The meeting of the Supervisory and Advisory Board in Dublin in July 2018, followed by the Management Committee meeting was characterized by a businesslike and pragmatic approach to intra-organizational cooperation. At the same time the Board meeting represented an important step in the ongoing efforts aimed at charting new paths for the organization, revitalizing and re-building it, and proposing strategic approaches for the future. The tradition of in-depth, wide-ranging and open discussions at the Board was upheld. The discussions were aimed at adjusting policy directions, making immediate goals more tangible and down- to- earth. It was recognized that the 2030 Agenda provides an important framework for a range of issues-based NGO activities, and ICSW should be part and parcel of such activities.

The forward-looking decisions of the Board were aimed at finding new ways in the realms of membership building and strategic directions. It has been recognized that the reform of the membership and fees structures are highly desirable and acute for creating an environment conducive to wider scope and better effectiveness of ICSW operations in the regions. Two strategic working groups have been established aimed at building up new policy directions and improving membership and fee structures. This work is ongoing but is at early stages.

Following the decisions of the Board meeting in Madrid, additional efforts have been made to improve visibility of ICSW, including wider use of the website as well as modern means of communication, such as social media. Past- Presidents of ICSW have become contributors to ICSW website describing their personal experiences in overcoming the challenges of the time.

Continued work to bring new members, along with strengthening member organizations and their supporting activities in the regions were seen as vital objectives of the organization, along with such tasks as streamlining and re-orienting ICSW towards improved organizational structure and ensuring financial sustainability. Despite good name recognition of ICSW and its solid international reputation, complacency is not an answer in the face of numerous existing challenges.

Situation in some regions required particular attention in terms of widening the membership base, knowledge-building, better focus of activities and 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. The ICSW **Executive Director Sergei Zelenev** provided support to the activities in the regions, proposing innovative policy solutions in the area of welfare in general and in the social protection area in particular.

### **Organizational matters**

As a follow up to the Dublin Conference two working groups- on membership reform and strategic directions were set up and started their work.

ICSW travel policy document was proposed by the Management Committee, prepared by the Executive Director and was formally adopted in August 2018.

Fundraising proposals were prepared by the Executive Director and discussed by the Management Committee.

### **Keeping the membership informed**

The two global offices, in New York and Kampala, have maintained a high level of networking and keeping the Board, Management Committee and members at large informed of all initiatives and matters of interest from other regions or sectors.

The Global Cooperation Newsletter is an important communication and networking tool of the organization: it 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 Newsletters were re-vitalized, using such new methods of work as inviting guest editors and presenting updates of the most important current trends in the regions (for example, the Newsletters in South Asia and North America regions).

In both the global and regional editions, 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 in the ICSW Global Cooperation Newsletter highlighted existing challenges in social development practices, lessons learned and ongoing efforts of ICSW members at the global, regional and national level. Presenting the work undertaken at the regional level to the attention of the global audience has become a standard practice of the Global Newsletter, while the division of labour and establishing monthly responsibilities for its preparation among the regions improved overall efficiency.

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**

### ***(a) Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors***

Closely working with Friedrich-Ebert Foundation and other partners ICSW continued efforts to explore new opportunities in promoting universal 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 with active engagement of ICSW 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. ICSW participated in both of these initiatives.

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.

On behalf of ICSW the Executive Director prepared the updated draft of Terms of Reference of the Global Coalition that was adopted by the core group in January 2018 in Nairobi, Kenya. ICSW actively participated in the preparation of the letter to the IMF Director-General with comments on IMF documentation on social protection matters.

### ***(b) Cooperation with IASSW and IFSW: Global Conferences and beyond.***

Apart from the key role played by ICSW in the Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors and its core group 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 February 2018 the meeting was held in London, UK preceding the Joint World Conference. The meeting was attended by all three presidents of IASSW, ICSW and IFSW. The participants finalized the list of speakers selected by the IPC, making changing to secure 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 delegations also met with SAGE editors working at the International Social Work Journal to discuss the ongoing collaboration, submission of materials and existing challenges.

### ***(c) Global Agenda Observatory strengthened***

Since its organizational meeting in Paris in November 2012 the IASSW, IFSW and ICSW periodically considered specific actions related to the implementation of the tripartite Global Agenda on Social Work and Social Development. To collect 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 six years provided an opportunity to draw some lessons from the process and suggest improvements.

This 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 theme covered in Dublin was working toward environmental sustainability. The concluding theme of the Agenda is strengthening recognition of the importance of human relationships; it will be discussed by IASSW and ICSW in Rimini, Italy 2020 and in Calgary, Canada by IFSW. 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. By and large in the past years it succeeded with in establishing a strong, credible monitoring mechanism. 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. ICSW made special efforts to draw attention of the partners to the need to start working on the follow-up to the Global Agenda for 2022 –to 2030; this process will start in 2019 to be completed before the 2020 Global Conferences.

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 Environmental and community sustainability was presented to the Joint World Conference in Dublin in 2018.

***(d) Regional networking and cooperation***

**ICSW Europe membership covers both social policy organizations within European Union and those that operate in non-EU countries.** While the concrete issues may differ between these two regions and policy approaches inevitably vary as well, the commitments to some basic values, including strong emphasis on welfare promotion as part of its social policy, unifies the members. To be abreast of policy developments, ICSW Europe continues to keep two ‘liaison officers’ that attend the **Council of Europe** biannual International NGO meetings in Strasbourg, France.

The main challenge for the ICSW is that member organization in some countries of the region have stopped functioning. ICSW Europe is losing members from Denmark and Spain. Active efforts are being made to find other member organizations in those countries but alternations are few. Another challenge is that some members are turning from A to C category.

As of networking in European Union region, the **Social Platform (SP)** in Brussels has been the key link to influencing EU policies. A 49-member NGO network, funded mainly by the EU Commission, and having direct connections to EU Commission’s Directorates responsible for employment and social sector actions, remains an important entity for ICSW. 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.

ICSW Europe has taken an active role in the Social platform, having participated in the General Assembly (GA), in SP Flagship Conference in Lisbon, Portugal, in the Extraordinary GA, and at the request of the SP President and Director to the Steering Group of SP. Upon the request of SP ICSW Europe started facilitating the preparation of the Second Flagship Conference of SP to be convened in conjunction of the programme of the Finnish EU Presidency during the second half of 2019. The theme will be “*The Economics of Wellbeing*”.

Full Membership in Social Platform requires that ICSW has members at least in 14 of 28 EU countries. ICSW Europe has satisfied that criterion and used the existing opportunities for networking and promoting its objectives.

ICSW Europe has been also a member of EU’s Sustainable Development Goals Watch, but so far active participation in this body is still pending.

**Another important partner-- AGE Platform Europe--**was founded in July 2001 as an international non-profit organization. Its vision is social inclusion and promoting society

for all ages, mainly in the EU and the European Economic Space. To mark the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), on the 1st of October, AGE Platform, with partners active in the promotion of human rights, launched a 70-day awareness campaign against agism entitled "Ageing Equal". (blog: <http://ageing-equal.org/>).

The Vice President of ICSW Europe has been particularly active in the AGE network and its various activities.

### **ENSACT, the European Network for Social Action**

The European Network for Social Action - ENSACT- was established in 2007 to promote the human right based approach of social work education and social policies, with a view to producing solutions at the local and regional level. The network was 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. As its activity level declined, it was decided to review this network and its mission. At the invitation of the School of Social Work of Lund University, Sweden, a review meeting was organized on 15 October 2018. It was attended by the representatives of PowerUs (Chairing), FESET, EASSW, IFSW, ICSW, NASW and the Deputy Head of the School of Social Work in Lund and the International coordinator of the University of Lund.

ENSACT used to host the European Observatory which aimed at monitoring, reporting and disseminating the contributions of social work and social development in building a 'society for all'. The European Observatory has been a part of the Global Agenda Observatory.

The meeting decided to discontinue the ENSACT -cooperation because it seemed to wither away. However, it was agreed that such networking between European organizations in the social domain must continue. Thus a new unifying mission and a new cooperative structure would be needed. The renewed initiative will be established in 2019.

**In the African region,** ICSW activities focused on capacity-building, promoting partnerships and addressing resource mobilization issues.

In 2018 the Africa Platform for Social Protection (APSP) joined the ICSW as an international member organization, bringing new opportunities to the organization as a whole. The Platform is a network of organizations and individuals operating at the grassroots, national and regional levels, with a commitment to promoting and strengthening the social contract between states and citizens. To achieve this, the APSP



promotes active engagement of civil society organizations in the shaping of social protection policies, programs, and practices in Africa. Active collaboration between the APSP and the ICSW could be beneficial for both organizations in many ways, including their mutual quest for the reduction of vulnerability and for strengthening the resilience of individuals, families and households on the ground.

The ICSW is striving to continue its training programme to strength national councils that used to be an integral part of its work in Africa, representing a combination of bottom-up and top-down efforts. Apart from capacity-development, training sessions organized by the ICSW provide opportunities to strengthen existing links with the academic community and to build new knowledge-based networks.

**In Latin America**, 2018 signified new efforts by the ICSW to strengthen regional cooperation, promote networking and improve capacity-development. High-level meeting of ICSW Regional President Mrs. Nelsida Marmolejos focused on ways to improve joint activities in the Central America region, enhancing the image of ICSW and exploring opportunities for financing joint projects. The ICSW Regional President also concentrated on improving horizontal links and coordination of work within the region.

Several important meetings and capacity-development seminars were organized in Brazil by SESC São Paulo, in partnership with the Brazilian Center for Cooperation and Exchange of Social Services (CBCISS). These activates are covered in more details below.

### ***(e) Multi-stakeholder approach: ICSW networking at the UN***

Playing an active role in various activities of the NGO dealing with Social Development matters in New York and Geneva, the ICSW maintains day- to- day partner relations with all Members of the NGO Committees based in the “UN Cities”, and also works closely with other NGOs, governments and other stakeholders to advance goals of the organization. The SDGs offer a common global framework for a fair and green future for our world through which all stakeholders could play their part in responding to global challenges. The ICSW strives to undertake appropriate coordination in this field and also provide leadership when the situation requires it.

ICSW has been actively involved in the preparations of the Civil Society Forum convened annually, 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 its conceptualization and preparation, panel discussions and preparation of the outcome Declaration. The Executive Director traditionally participates in the conceptualization and drafting of the annual Declaration, outlining ICSW vision and main messages.

In the 2018 Civil Society Forum convened on 2 February 2018 adopted a declaration "Social Protection, Including Floors: A preeminent strategy to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development for all."

The webcast is available at <http://webtv.un.org/watch/civil-society-forum-56th-session-of-the-commission-for-social-development/5725063871001/>

The text of the Declaration is presented below:

<https://www.un.org/webcast/pdfs/180202-civil-society-forum.pdf>

Based on mutual trust, respect and good personal rapport ICSW and IASSW continued to cooperate actively and productively in convening side-events during annual sessions of the Commission for Social Development. Such side- events are important for communicating core values of ICSW to the world. Convening such events became a tradition, bringing good attendance of the UN delegates, other NGOs and other attendees of the Commission. Many other partners from the international organizations and member states join these side-events and participate in the discussions.

A side–event entitled **Strengthening the institutional structures for sustainable development: the role of social protection** was organized by the ICSW on the occasion of the 56th session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD) in February 2018 at United Nations Headquarters in collaboration with the International Association of Schools of Social Work, the ILO, and the European Union Social Protection Systems Initiative (EU-SPS). Conceived as an international seminar to address major policy issues of concern to the ICSW and its partners, with the purpose of gaining a deeper understanding of the interrelationships among the various factors of Agenda 2030, the side-event brought together scholars and practitioners interested in exploring the nexus between social protection and sustainable development. It was underscored that as a holistic framework, social protection grounded in universalism facilitates the quest for the most effective enablers of sustainable development, reducing vulnerability, strengthening resilience and promoting empowerment.

In that light the presenters focused on some conceptual issues, as well as practical solutions, pertinent to the work of the 56th session of the Commission for Social Development. Some of the specific issues chosen for discussion and put before the speakers were as follows: Should social protection be considered a new international social norm? What approaches are best in making social and environmental policies mutually supportive? What role can social protection play in changing mindsets, principles and rules so as to put sustainable development at the core? Lessons learned and obstacles encountered in building sustainable capacities for social protection at the national and regional levels was also one of the key threads. The event was moderated by Dr. Sergei Zelenev in his capacity as the Special Representative of ICSW to the UN.

### **Third Priority Area: Communicating with our stakeholders**

## **OBJECTIVES**

*ICSW communicates its message through multiple mediums.*

## **OUTCOMES**

### **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. In 2018 further updates of the website were introduced, resulting in the new additions to the existing structure and new possibilities of the platform. 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. Regional Newsletters are downloaded expeditiously and represent an important communication tool with our members.

The new features of the website introduced in 2018 include statements delivered by ICSW members, personal recollections of past Presidents, and availability of most publications done by ICSW authors.

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, informative and interactive. The new features, including new plug-ins to increase the scope of coverage, are considered.

### **Publications**

ICSW publishes most of its statements and other policy documents on the ICSW website. In addition, ICSW publishes some printed material (see publications section below). The archives section of the website contains Newsletter editions from the previous years as well as numerous policy documents.

#### ***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. The Newsletter represents an important platform for discussion of acute issues of development and best practices in social field. All issues of the 2018 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. The issues also cover global aspects of the ICSW activities, including detailed presentations of the side-events and conferences with ICSW participation.

### ***ICSW Global Cooperation Digest***

The second electronic edition of the Global Cooperation Digest 2016-2017 was prepared for the distribution during the Joint World Conference in Dublin. The Digest provides summaries of all articles published in the Global Cooperation Newsletter in 2016-2017.

It was distributed in electronic format during the Conference in Dublin.

### ***Promotion materials***

A commemorative brochure ***90 years of History: The ICSW at the forefront of Conceptual Thinking, Social Practice and Transnational Advocacy*** was prepared by ICSW and distributed during the Joint World Conference in Dublin.

### ***Regional Publications***

The production of several regional Newsletters published by ICSW regional organizations continued in 2018. 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 continued proving 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. The sequence of publishing differed: In Europe the Newsletter was produced on a quarterly basis, in North America and South Asia—twice a year, in North East Asia and South East Asia and the Pacific - once a year.

For more information on the Newsletters go to: <http://www.icsw.org/regions/regions.htm>

### ***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. 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 inputs to the News and Views section twice each year.

### **Fourth priority area: On-going global advocacy and socially responsible global governance**

#### **OBJECTIVES**

*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 2018 ICSW admitted several organizations as well as some distinguished individuals. The African Platform for Social Protection (APSP)-- a Pan African non-governmental organization working in the five regions of the African Union, namely, Central Africa, Eastern Africa, Northern Africa, Southern Africa and West Africa—was admitted as an international member.

##### **New members:**

##### **Category A Membership**

- 1- Association Haitian of Solidarity, Haiti (W.I)
- 2- National Association of Professional Social Workers in India -NAPSWI, India

##### **Category B Membership**

- 1- Hope World Wide – Pakistan & New Zealand
- 2- African Platform for Social Protection (Kenya based)

##### **Category C membership**

- 1-Mehrafarin Charity Institution – Iran
- 2-Japan National Council of Social Welfare (Zenkoku Shakaifukushi Kyougikai) - Japan

##### **Category E (individual category)**

##### **Distinguished fellows**

- 1- Mirtha Sosa Crevoiser
- 2- A.S. Shenoy
- 3- Judith Kaulem

### ***International development framework***

In 2018 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 – strategies for the eradication of poverty to achieve sustainable 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 **56th Session of the Commission** in February 2018 was devoted to the priority theme of the annual meeting: “Strategies for the eradication of poverty to achieve sustainable development for all”. This theme was on the Agenda of the Commission for 2017-2018 policy cycle. The ICSW statement focused on anti-poverty efforts undertaken globally and nationally in the context of the SDG framework. It was underscored that striking a balance between social, environmental and economic goals is essential to ensure that the benefits of growth reach all people, especially the poor. ICSW believes that the efforts aimed at poverty eradication are closely linked with mitigation and adaptation policies. Acknowledging the importance of comprehensive and integrated social policies at the national level, the statement emphasized the need for universal social protection. At the same time the existing evidence confirms that eradication of poverty can bring numerous opportunities and benefits to society, facilitating concrete actions on the road towards sustainable development. Income, food and nutrition security, jobs and decent work, poverty and hunger eradication, inequality reduction, social security and social protection floors are indispensable to achieving the goals of Agenda 2030.

In preparation of the statement the inputs provided by the ICSW regional members enhanced the credibility of the statement as the authentic “voice” of the ICSW at the UN.

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 2018 ICSW Statement can be found at:

<https://undocs.org/E/CN.5/2018/NGO/48>

### ***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 four years actively participates in the annual sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, contributing to the discussions on the respective main themes.

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

ICSW participates in the work of the Group in the last four 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**

### **OBJECTIVE**

*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***

Provision of quality basic services, linking economic, social and environmental dimensions and adoption of the sector reforms aimed at poverty eradication, employment promotion and social inclusion—all these themes were explored in the MENA region, in the seminars and workshops. Social protection came strongly as one of the priority themes indispensable for achieving environmental sustainability.

ICSW in the MENA region, under the leadership of **Prof. Driss Guerraoui**, the Regional President, closely collaborated with other civil society organizations in the region advocating for effective and people-oriented governance, responsible and sustainable at the central and territorial levels. His immediate predecessor **Prof. Bashir Tamer** played a crucial role earlier in the year in promoting social protection agenda in the region as well as attracting attention to youth development and intergenerational solidarity issues.

The increasing inequalities within societies represent huge challenge in the region. ICSW MENA region promotes a quest for more effective national dialogues in various areas seeing it as indispensable for maintaining social cohesion in the region and beyond.

## ***North East Asia***

In 2018 members of North East Asia Region continued their work in promoting technology adoption and advancement to cater for the needs of population ageing in North East Asian societies. The Region organized the “ICSW North East Asia Regional Symposium: Technology and Social Innovation for Ageing in North East Asia” in SWSD2018 to discuss the use of technology and innovative solutions in increasing the effectiveness and responsiveness in meeting the needs of older persons in the region.

The preparatory work was directed by **Mr Chua Hoi Wai**, the Chief executive of the Hong Kong Council of Social Services and the ICSW NEA Regional President.

The luncheon talk organized by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government in cooperation with Hong Kong Council of Social Service during SWSD2018 also provided a platform for members of ICSW, IASSW and IFSW to discuss the collaboration of local government and ICSW member in provision of welfare and social services for the elderly.

Members of NEA region kept organizing various capacity building programmes for local, regional and international practitioners. These training events did not only enlighten social workers with international experiences and good practices, but also enable NEA region members to maintain good networks with regional and international counterparts.

The Joint Korea-China Forum on social policy was organized in September 2018 in Seoul, Republic of Korea by Korean National Council on Social Welfare in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Welfare of the country. The purpose of the Forum was to discuss social policy innovations and explore new possibilities in “the Era of the Internet and Big Data”. Experiences and best practices in both countries in public and private sectors, provision of social services to the elderly and innovative solutions in this areas were discussed at length. The Forum takes place every two years alternating between the two capitals and is aimed at strengthening bilateral cooperation on social welfare and corporate social responsibility issues. Specifically, the 2018 Forum focused on innovations in social policies in the context of the ongoing IT revolution. The nexus between the rapid changes in the IT sector and the social policy issues was discussed throughout. The 5th Issue of NEA newsletter was published in July 2018. The main theme of the newsletter was “Current Issue/Trend of Social Welfare/Development”.

## ***South Asia***

In 2018 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). 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. In 2018 Prof. P.K. Shajahan was elected the Vice-President of ICSW. Since July 2018 ICSW activities in the Region have been conducted by professor **Sanjai Bhatt** who has been elected the President of the South Asia Region. Under his stewardship the ICSW priorities have been re-asserted and refined.

ICSW South Asia region has been one of the knowledge partner in 6th Indian Social Work Congress (ISWC)2018 which was organised annually by National Association of Professional Social Workers in India, a member of ICSW from 1st November to 3rd November, 2018 at Convention Center of University of Delhi. The theme of 6th ISWC was " Human Development and Social Inclusion: Imperatives for Social Work Education and Practice " The ICSW South Asia region has organised a discussion meeting on Role of ICSW in promoting Social development on the sidelines of eh Conference.

### ***The South East Asia and the Pacific (SEAP)***

In 2018 new officers for the SEAP region for 2018-2020 were elected and the new team started work since in July 2018. ICSW members elected **Mr. Chinchai Cheecharoen** (Thailand) as a Regional President; Ms. Nur Judy Binti Abdullah (Brunei Darussalam) as Regional Vice President; Mr. Teoh Ai Hua (Malaysia) as Regional Treasurer; and Ms. Khatijah Sulaiman (Malaysia) as Regional Executive Committee member.

ICSW SEAP Preparatory NGO Meeting and 13th ASEAN GO-NGO Forum were convened in November 2018 in Singapore. The theme of the 2018 annual GO-NGO Forum was "Realising the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025: Mainstreaming the Rights of Persons with Disabilities".

In the context of the Forum, ICSW SEAP organized a Preparatory NGO Meeting on 20 November, bringing together ICSW members to (i) discuss the work plan of SEAP for 2019, (ii) formulate recommendations for ASEAN, NGOs and disabled people's organizations (DPOs), and governments to be presented at the GO-NGO Forum, (iii) have an open discussion on social welfare and development issues and formulate recommendations for the agenda of the upcoming AMMSWD that will be hosted by Lao PDR in 2019 and the SOMSWD that will be hosted by the Philippines in 2020.

Recommendations for ASEAN, NGOs and DPOs, and governments, that were formulated during the Preparatory NGO Meeting, focused among others on engaging civil society and NGOs (in particular DPOs), building their capacity, and strengthening the implementation of the Enabling Masterplan.

The open discussion touched upon a variety of topics such as capacity building of NGOs in general, laws and measures of governments to support NGOs, the work of NGOs to meet SDGs and ASEAN Vision.

The newly-elected Regional President, Mr. Chinchai Cheecharoen, participated in the GO-NGO Forum and presented the work of ICSW, emphasizing the importance of convening the GO-NGO Forum on a regular basis. The first GO-NGO Forum set up by ICSW and ASEAN took place in 2006 in Bangkok, Thailand and was convened annually ever since. The ICSW regional President also presented the recommendations formulated by NGOs on 20<sup>th</sup> November for consideration by the Forum. The group discussions focused on children, working-age adults, and elderly with disabilities.

As a follow up of the meeting, the Regional President participated in the 14th SOMSWD meeting where results from the GO-NGO Forum were discussed.

Regional cooperation was in focus strengthened when Board Member National Council of Indonesia visited ICSW SEAP following the annual GO-NGO meeting to explore possible avenues for collaboration on social welfare and development issues in the region. ICSW took an active part in Thailand Social Expo in August 2018. Regional President, Mr. Chinchai Cheecharoen participated in different panels including the open ceremony, the second meeting for the network of Experts on Inclusive Entrepreneurship for ASEAN. He also acted as a speaker on the panel on Child Support Grant and Social Protection, Productive Welfare the Way Forward in Thai Society, and The Role of Third Sector in Thai Society and ASEAN.

The regional Newsletter has been produced twice a year.

### ***West Africa region.***

**Mr Amacodou Diouf**, the Head of the Senegalese development association Action humain pour le développement intégré au Sénégal (AHDIS) was elected President of ICSW, West Africa region.

AHDIS is a Senegalese development association. Its objective is to facilitate sustainable and socio-economic development by providing assistance to local communities in agriculture, education, capacity building, financing and developing sustainable structures on the ground. Their core values are participation of local communities and individuals, responsibility and transparent communication.

AHDIS provides technical assistance, advisory support, technical assistance and training related to microfinance, agriculture and natural resources management, technical capacity building, policy advocacy, among others.

### ***East and Southern Africa***

**Rev. Fr. Taylor Nyanhete** is the National Director of Zimbabwe National for the Welfare of Children (ZNCWC) has been elected Regional President in 2018. He has more than 30 years of non-profit experience in the areas of management, socio-economic development and social protection advocacy, including children rights. Working actively at the community level, he has led numerous social change initiatives addressing child welfare, the prevention of gender violence, and the promotion of family well-being. He has much experience addressing the needs of vulnerable groups, particularly persons with disabilities, providing spiritual guidance and family counseling. He is an Ordained Minister of Religion in the Episcopal Anglican Church. He is also the Organizing Secretary of the Zimbabwe Association of Professional Counselors and Family Therapists (ZAPCFT) and Executive Committee member of the Child Rights Network of Southern Africa (CRNSA).

Working actively in the area of public advocacy, Rev Nyanhete is guided by the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC), as well as the United Nations Convention on the Right of the Child (UNCRC) and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (UNCRPD). Currently, he is lobbying for the alignment of the nation's laws on children with the constitution of Zimbabwe.

### ***Latin America***

*The implementation of key regional frameworks and mutually-agreed decisions achieved during the previous two years at the regional forums continued in 2018.*

**In Latin America**, 2018 signified new efforts by the ICSW to strengthen regional cooperation, promote networking and improve capacity-development. High-level meeting of ICSW Regional President Mrs. Nelsida Marmolejos with the president of the PARLACEN (Central America Parliament) focused on ways to improve joint activity in the Central America region, enhancing the image of ICSW and exploring opportunities for financing joint projects. The ICSW Regional President also concentrated on improving horizontal links and coordination of work within the region. These issues were discussed at length during the face-to-face meetings with ICSW Vice president, representing the ICSW Brazilian member—Social Service of Commerce (SESC Sao Paulo). The President also has meetings with a delegation of Workers of the Confederation of Christian Trade Unions (CSC) of Belgium, held in Santo Domingo, convened by the Autonomous Trade Union Confederation (CASC). Several important conferences and seminars convened in the region and beyond facilitated exchange of information on better process for engaging all international and domestic stakeholders. The issues of social security and social protection, including gender-sensitive social protection policies were on top of several international forums of 2018 held in Cancun (Mexico), Montevideo (Uruguay), Punta Cana (Dominican Republic) with ICSW–Latin America participation.

Several important meetings and capacity-development seminars were organized in Latin American region **in Brazil** by SESC São Paulo, in partnership with the Brazilian Center for Cooperation and Exchange of Social Services (CBCISS). The purpose was to exchange experiences and foster a dialogue between researchers, professionals,

students and those interested in the areas of social development. Some of the profiled topics were: complexity and interdisciplinary nature of social services; broad understanding of social protection policies, and social protection at the crisis times; child labor and racism, among others. The capacity-development efforts were also significant, aimed at addressing some key issues to increase awareness and facilitate work of managers and technicians in the social area bringing increased efficiency, efficacy and effectiveness. The training courses offered to the participants covered issues such as work ethics, support to vulnerable groups, the nexus between social work and professional work and other issues.

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

Efforts were made to revitalize and strengthen the Region which comprises the United States of America, and Jamaica. The US Committee under the leadership of **Ms Joyce Higashi** has successfully re-established the regional Newsletter and is making important strides to improve the visibility of the ICSW in the North American region. There has been a lot of positive spirit to revamp and strengthen the activities in the region.

### ***Europe***

The ICSW-Europe under the leadership of **Mr. Ronald Wiman** is actively promoting comprehensive and integrated approach to social policy which has become a hallmark of the ICSW. Together with partners ICSW Europe aims at keeping the European Union responsible to its commitments, promoting Human and Social Rights and European values both in EU and non-EU countries.

Main platforms for of ICSW Europe for monitoring the European Union are the Social Platform and the SDG Watch and the AGE Platform Europe.

ICSW Europe receives all communication from those networks and comments the draft statements as relevant and feasible.

In 2018 ICSW participated in the First Social Platform Flagship Conference: Building Social Europe to monitor the European Pillar of Social Rights. The Conference took place in Lisbon, Portugal 29-30 November, 2018. Before, during and after the Conference ICSW liaised successfully, upon the request of Social Platform leadership, with Finnish Government to facilitate the second follow-up conference on the EPSR so as to prepare the ground for having the Conference during Finnish EU Presidency in Helsinki, Finland. This will enable Social Platform and ICSW to channel their messages to the EU policy process as high level Governmental meetings take place in Helsinki the same week.

ICSW Europe tries to be a functioning two-way channel of members in non-EU countries to the European mainstream social dialogue. One of our liaison officers to the Council of Europe is preferably from that region.

Well- familiar and well- connected to the global processes through its current President Ronald Wiman who has a background in global social policies and participates in a number of international processes in his other roles, the ICSW Europe took part in some key intergovernmental activities like annual sessions of the UN Commission for Social Development, also participating in its side –events.

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.

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.

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

#### **OBJECTIVES**

*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**

One way or another every region has organized capacity- building activities. The range and scope of these activities varied reflecting priorities of the regions and availability of resources.

ICSW Europe organizes regularly in conjunction of the GA a Capacity Building Seminar. In 2018 it was organized on November 22nd, 2018 in Vienna Austria to discuss such issues as the advantages of and benefits from the ICSW network and ways and means

of contributing to our common mission. ICSW Europe supports financially relevant conferences by members.

European Institute for Gender Equality – EIGE organized a Civil Society Annual Consultation Meeting in Vilnius, Lithuania on 20-21 February 2018. ICSW Europe Lithuanian member actively participated in the event.

The European contribution to the Report of the Global Agenda Observatory PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT was published 1 April 2018. It was produced by the European Network for Social Action instrumental for the work done within the Global Observatory established by the ICSW together with its global partner organizations.

The report includes practical examples derived from European experience that demonstrate the contribution of social work to sustainable development and sustainable communities. The examples have been provided by social work practitioners, educators, policy makers and researchers from social work organizations and social development institutions in Europe. The Report was publicized in conjunction with the Dublin Conference in July 2018.

Furthermore ICSW Europe participated in the GA of the Global ICSW and was proactively involved in the administrative processes of the Global Board in Spain Spring 2018 and in Dublin July 2018.

Important meetings and capacity-development seminars were organized in Latin American region **in Brazil** by SESC São Paulo, in partnership with the Brazilian Center for Cooperation and Exchange of Social Services (CBCISS). The purpose was to exchange experiences and foster a dialogue between researchers, professionals, students and those interested in the areas of social development. The capacity-development efforts addressed some key issues to increase awareness and facilitate work of managers and technicians in the social area bringing increased efficiency, efficacy and effectiveness. The training courses offered to the participants covered issues such as work ethics, support to vulnerable groups, the nexus between social work and professional work and other issues.

In several regions thematic approaches prevailed: In North-East Asia the emphasis in capacity development conferences and seminars was on ageing while in SEAP region it was on disability. More details have been provided above in the section on regional activities.

### **Knowledge sharing and capacity-development: some reflections**

Known as the organization of social development practitioners, the ICSW strives to enhance its profile as an organization of top-notch professionals in the social policy field, working at the forefront of conceptual thinking, advocacy and training. Creating a quality space for discussion on the most acute and highly relevant policy issues in every region

where the ICSW works, as well as at the global level, is seen as one of its priorities. In that light, the ICSW regional and global publications play a most important role, serving as an organizing and binding medium for members, and as a platform for informing members of ongoing activities and facilitating the dissemination of best practices. With the further development of information technology, the updating of the regional and global websites becomes equally important, as it is complimentary with the dissemination of the newsletters that the ICSW publishes.

In 2018 ICSW has strengthened its role a knowledge-based organization. The role was obvious in two symposiums that ICSW organized during the Joint World Conference in Dublin bringing together scholars and practitioners. Knowing and doing are intertwined. As was reiterated by the ICSW-affiliated speakers during both symposiums in Dublin preparing the organization for the future requires that we stay on the forefront of creative initiatives and participatory practices.

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 vulnerable social groups as well as social protection systems and Social Protection Floor Initiative (SPFI). This initiative remains of the pillars of the ICSW activities globally and regionally.

Promoting of social protection, including floors, is one of the clearest means of fulfilling the vision of eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable development for all. The concept of protecting people when they need social protection along the life-cycle is rooted in the recognition of the equal moral worth of all members of society, putting people at the center and leaving no one behind. Every member of society has the human right to social protection, which must translate into the establishment and maintenance of social protection floors as a fundamental element of national social security systems. But we should not forget the perspective: progressively, social protection, fulfilling its potential of involving all people in the development of their communities must gradually extend beyond the implementation of floors towards ever more comprehensive systems. Moreover, social protection is a vital mechanism to provide citizens with the opportunity to develop their inherent capacities for the advancement of their own communities and nations. Inclusive dialogue preceding implementation of social protection policies fosters cooperation between institutions and empowers all to contribute to the well-being of all citizens. Such processes are based on and reinforce values such as equality, solidarity, and inclusion, and capitalize on the cultural diversity of communities as a tool for coherent development.

Given that SDGs are based on two key operational principles—namely universality and “leaving no one behind”, ICSW **has a possibility to contribute to largely uncharted territory of translating these principles into practice.** ICSW has been an active participant of numerous projects regionally and globally involving multiple stakeholders. The organization considers such cooperation as a means by which ambitious international principles could be realized as well as ensuring that joint efforts are well-coordinated, efficient and productive.

The strength of ICSW is deep alignment between its global goals and regional and local action. At the same time the Agenda 2030 offers new opportunities for us. If we could suggest better ways for including non-governmental stakeholders like ICSW in the delivery of the SDGs, our contribution to advancing social development could be substantially strengthened and visibility enhanced.

Going beyond sectoral concerns and consistently advocating for integrated approach to development ICSW strives to mobilize intellectual capacity and practical skills of its members towards achievable goals without losing sight of the most pressing issues of our times such as poverty eradication and climate change, seeing measures pertinent to mitigation and adaptation as necessary for immediate social action. Integrating sustainability with social policy framework has become one of the crucial contemporary priorities for the organization.

The challenges of multiculturalism and social diversity, raising inequality within and between countries, the need to increase work opportunities and ensure social protection, equity and social justice—all these issues attract attention of ICSW members and require proactive responses. Policy implications of these processes for civil society are enormous. The key questions for the ICSW as the organization are: can our global and regional agendas inspire action to achieve transformative change? Could we offer a positive vision for the future in the areas we are active? What are the better ways to confront inertia, to promote opportunities for policy innovation and explore ways for knowing and acting better? Answers to these questions are essential for the ICSW future.

## **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 favorable treatment on the grounds of age, race, colour, nationality, religion, ethnic or national origin, gender, marital status, sexual orientation or disability.



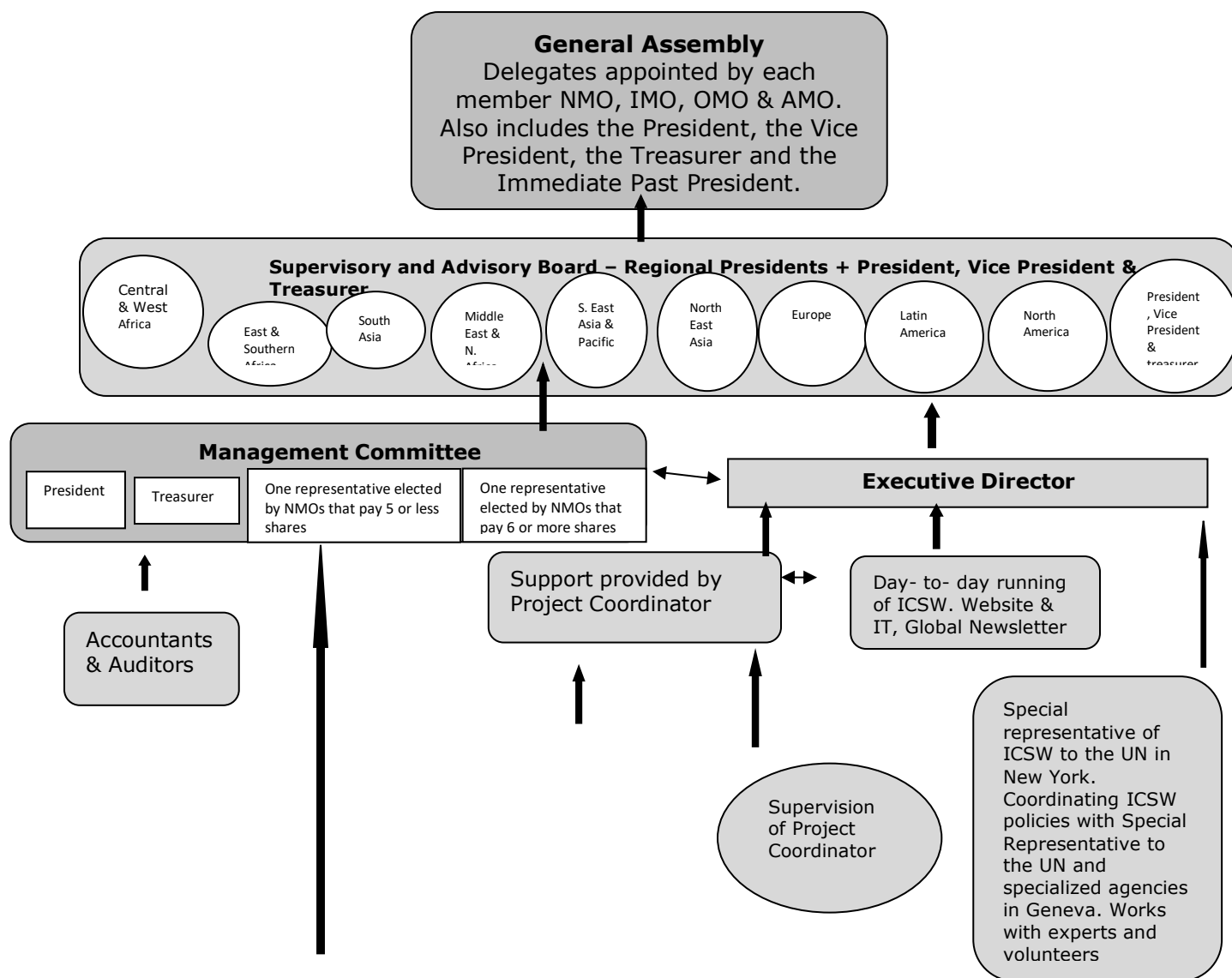
All employees are given equal opportunity and, where appropriate and possible, special training to enable them to progress both within and outside the organization. The International Council on Social Welfare is committed to a programme of action to make this policy effective, and brings it to the attention of all employees.

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

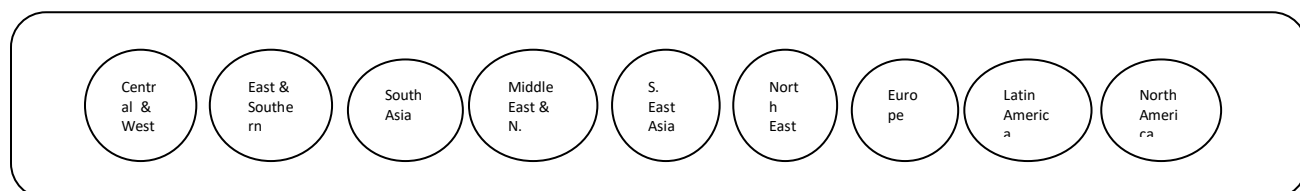
<http://icsw.org/index.php/about-icsw/officers-and-staff>

The organigram of the organization is attached in the Annex.

## ANNEX 01 ICSW Organization chart



### Regional Executive Committee –Regional President, Vice President, Treasurer & up to 3 ExCo members for each region listed below



## ICSW bodies and functions

(as set out in the ICSW Constitution and By-Laws - amended June 2014)

### Abbreviations:

**NMO = National Member Organizations also known as Category A organization**

**IMO = International Member Organizations also known as Category B org.**

**OMO = Other Member Organizations also known as Category C org.**

**AMO = Associate Member Organizations also known as Category D org.**

**IM = Individual Members/Distinguished Fellows – Category E membership**

Organ	Functions	Membership / Composition
<b>General Assembly</b>	Supreme governing body	
Delegates appointed by each member organization including NMOs, IMOs, OMOs, AMOs, & Distinguished Fellows/Individual members  Meets biennially	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Amends constitution</li> <li>2. Adopts four-year global programme</li> <li>3. Adopts biennial budget framework</li> <li>4. Elects Supervisory and Advisory Board</li> <li>5. Elects President, Treasurer, and the two other Management Committee members, one of whom will be elected as Vice President</li> </ol>	2 voting delegates from each NMO 1 voting delegate from each IMO, 1 non-voting delegate from each OMO & AMO Plus President Vice President Treasurer Immediate Past President
<b>Supervisory and Advisory Board</b>		
Elected by General Assembly biennially Meets once every year	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Creates and amend By-laws</li> <li>2. Establishes and restructures ICSW regions</li> <li>3. Supervises and monitors the Management Committee</li> </ol>	Each Regional President – voting member President, Vice President and Treasurer – non voting members
<b>Management Committee</b>		
Elected by General Assembly	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ensure the Council functions according to the Constitution, By-laws, decisions of the General Assembly and the Board;</li> <li>2. Represent the Council at the global level;</li> <li>3. Prepare the Global Budget Framework and report on the financial position of the Council to the General Assembly and the Board;</li> <li>4. Approve and monitor the annual budget including allocations from donor funds;</li> </ol>	President. - four year term (C9.e) Treasurer. – four year term (C9.e) 1 person* elected by NMOs which pay 5 or less shares - four year term. 1 person* elected by NMOs paying 6 or more shares – four year term. *One of these two NMO elected members of the Management Committee is elected Vice President by the General Assembly and so the

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Oversee the financial and general management of the Council;</li> <li>6. Approve contracts;</li> <li>7. Submit to the official auditors draft annual financial statements and authorise the signing of the annual accounts;</li> <li>8. Determine membership applications on the basis of By-law 2;</li> <li>9. Supervise the Executive Director;</li> <li>10. Approve and amend personnel policies;</li> <li>11. Suspend or declare vacant any position on any Council committee where a person holding a position ceases to have the support of their Council member;</li> <li>12. Fill a vacancy in any committee by appointing a person to serve until the next meeting of the General Assembly or Board;</li> <li>13. Determine what fundraising activities should be undertaken;</li> <li>14. Approve the appointment of Special Representatives.</li> </ol>	Vice President is one member of the four- person Management Committee
<b>Regional Executive Committee</b> There are nine regions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Central and West Africa</li> <li>2. East and Southern Africa</li> <li>3. Middle East and North Africa</li> <li>4. South Asia</li> <li>5. South East Asia and the Pacific</li> <li>6. North East Asia</li> <li>7. Europe</li> <li>8. North America and the Caribbean</li> <li>9. Latin America</li> </ol> Regional ExCo members are nominated by any member of any category in a region. NMO and IMO members in a region may vote.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Establish regional policies and activities;</li> <li>2. Approve regional plan;</li> <li>3. Approve regional budget.</li> </ol>	Regional President Regional Vice President Treasurer Up to three other Executive Committee members.

<b>Secretariat</b> Managed by the Executive Director	1. Executive Director may attend all meetings of all organs, may participate but may not vote; 2. Executive Director is responsible for hiring and dismissal of staff; 3. Secretariat assists committees in their tasks, coordinates the work programmes of committees, prepares and organises meetings of the General Assembly, the Board and the Management Committee.	
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<b>Management Committee</b>  <b>President: Ms Eva Holmberg-Herrström</b>  <b>Vice President: Prof. P.K. Shajahan</b>  <b>Treasurer: Mr Emmanuel Ndlagamandla</b>  <b>Member of the Management Committee: Ms Cassandra Goldie</b>	
<b>Regional Presidents</b>	
Central and West Africa (CWA)	<i>Mr Amacodou Diouf, Senegal;</i>
East and Southern Africa (ESA)	<i>Rev Taylor Nyanhete, Zimbabwe</i>
Middle East and North Africa (MENA)	<i>Mr Driss Guerraoui, Morocco</i>
South Asia (SA)	<i>Prof. Sanjay Bhatt, India</i>
South East Asia and the Pacific (SEAP)	<i>Mr Chinchai Cheecharoen, Thailand</i>
North East Asia (NEA)	<i>Mr Chua Hoi Wai, Hong Kong</i>
Europe	<i>Mr Ronald Wiman, Finland</i>
North America and The Caribbean (NAC)	<i>Ms Joyce Higashi, USA</i>
Latin America (LA)	<i>Ms Nelsida Marmolejos Dominican Republic</i>
<b>Staff</b>	
<b>Executive Director</b>	<i>Dr Sergei Zelenev</i>
<b>Programme Coordinator</b>	<i>Ms Roselyn Nakirya</i>