



THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WELFARE

International Seminar

On the theme:

**“From Exclusion to Belonging:
Promoting Inclusive Practices to Strengthen Social
and Community Ties”**

Program

Marrakech, October 22–24, 2026

Wednesday, October 21, 2026

Arrival and registration of participants

Thursday, October 22, 2026

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Opening Session

- **Welcome Address** – **Driss Guerraoui**, Vice President of ICSW, **Morocco**
- **Welcome Remarks** – **Max Rubisch**, President of ICSW Europe, **Austria**
- **Opening Address** – **Sergei Zelenev**, President of ICSW, **United States**

Plenary Session I

Keynote Address

- **Chakib Benmoussa**, High Commissioner for Planning, **Morocco**

Plenary Session II

Building Caring Communities: Practical Strategies to Reduce Loneliness

Chair: **Bachir Tamer**, ICSW President for the MENA Region, **Morocco**

Rapporteur: **P.K. Shajahan**, Professor, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, **India**

Speakers:

- **Demographic Trends and Social Change in Morocco**

Driss Guerraoui, Vice President of the ICSW, **Morocco**

- **The Paradox of Loneliness and Social Exclusion in Today's Society and the Role of Supportive Communities**

Axel Ågren, Associate Professor in Social Work, Linköping University, Sweden. Division of Social Work. ICSW Sweden, ICSW Europe, **Sweden**

- **Designing Supportive Neighborhoods: Practical Strategies for Reducing Loneliness**

Claudia Otte, Policy Officer of German Association for Public and Private Welfare, **Germany**

- **Aging and Social Protection: The Case of Egypt**

Saleh Hachem, Social Protection Expert, **Egypt**

- **Good Neighbors: Discovering Hidden Sources of Community Support**

Sug Pyo Kim, President of the Daegu Council on Social Welfare, **Republic of Korea**

12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.: **Discussion**

12:30 p.m.: **Lunch**

2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Plenary Session III

Human Connections in the Digital Age: Harnessing Technology for Social Inclusion

Chair: Fen-Ling Chen, ICSW Regional President for Northeast Asia, **Taiwan**

Rapporteur: Layal Bou Harfouch, Expert in child protection and social policy, **Lebanon/United States**

Speakers

- **Digital Vulnerability: The Challenges of Social Inclusion in the Age of AI**
Antonio López Peláez, Executive Director of the ICSW; Professor at UNED, **Spain**
- **National Digital Inclusion Initiatives in Morocco**
Amine Mounir Alaoui, Expert in Digital Transformation, **Morocco**
- **The Role of ICTs in Building an Inclusive Social Protection System**
Gloria Kirwan, Member of the ICSW Executive Committee; Professor at Trinity College Dublin, **Ireland**
- **Mauritania and the Challenge of Inclusion: Building a Society of Cohesion, Participation, and Belonging**
Djindha Mohamed Moustapha Bal, Social Policy Expert, **Mauritania**
- **New Approaches to Community Engagement in the Age of AI: The Indian Experience**
P.K. Shajahan, Professor, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, **India**

5:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.: Discussion

8:00 p.m. : Social and cultural activities

Friday, October 23, 2026

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Plenary Session IV

Designing Health and Social Services Together: Participation, Empowerment, and Inclusion

Chair: Gloria Kirwan, Senior Lecturer, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, **Ireland**

Rapporteur: Nino Shatberashvili, founder and Member of Directorate of Georgian Association of Social Workers; Substitute Representative of ICSW for INGOs at Council of Europe, **Georgia**

Speakers:

- **Economic Vulnerability, Social Isolation, and Supportive Communities: Challenges and Lessons Learned from Aging in Norway**
Aysel Özdemir, Social Policy Researcher, Deputy Leader of a Professional Committee for Social Workers and Welfare Professionals, **Norway**

- **A Risk Reduction Framework for Child Protection**

Layal Bou Harfouch, Expert in Child Protection and Social Policy, **Lebanon/United States**

- **Toward Inclusion: Refugee Children in Georgia's Social Systems**

Nino Shatberashvili, founder and Member of Directorate of Georgian Association of Social Workers; Substitute Representative of ICSW for INGOs at Council of Europe, **Georgia**

- **Social Work and Community Intervention**

Jorge M. L. Ferreira, Professor at ISCTE – Instituto Universitário de Lisboa, **Portugal**

- **"Using the Scientifically Validated Social Inclusion Experience Scale to Assess and Strengthen Social Inclusion in Order to Consolidate Community Ties—Key Findings to Date from the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare"**

Jukka Petteri Haapakoski, CEO (MSoSc), The Finnish National Organisation of the Unemployed, **Finland**

- **Dignity as the Foundation of Belonging: Toward a Humanistic Approach to Combating Social Exclusion**

Kamel Mohanna, President of the Amel International Association, **Lebanon**

- **Social Transformations in Tunisia: Young People Facing the Challenges of Exclusion and Social Integration**

Abdellatif Hannachi, Professor of Contemporary History, University of Manouba, **Tunisia**

12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.: **Discussion**

12:30 p.m.: **Lunch**

2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Plenary Session V

From Vision to Action: Policy Directions and Concrete Commitments

Chair: Max Rubisch, President of ICSW Europe, **Austria**

Rapporteurs:

- **Layal Bou Harfouch**, Expert in child protection and social policy, **Lebanon/United States**

- **P.K. Shajahan**, Professor, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, **India**

Speakers:

- **Presentation of the Draft Marrakesh Declaration**

Driss Guerraoui, Vice President of the ICSW, **Morocco**

- **Conclusions of the International Seminar**

Sergei Zelenev, President of the ICSW, **United States**

8:00 p.m.: **Social and cultural activities**

Saturday, October 24, 2026

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.: Social activities

1:00 p.m.: Lunch

3:00 p.m.: Cultural activities

8:00 p.m.: Closing gala in honor of the participants

Sunday, October 25, 2026

Participant's departure





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