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International Council on Social Welfare

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## Working Together for a Better ICSW



***Professor Antonio López Peláez,  
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Dear fellow ICSW members, friends, and interested readers,

For at least the last 150 years, concern for social welfare, and the scientific tackling of poverty and inequality in industrial and post-industrial societies, has generated an array of helping professions, public and private institutions, and NGOs such as ours, the ICSW. Social work is part of this collective effort, based on science, to improve the living conditions of our fellow citizens. It is grounded in a long-established theoretical and epistemological body of knowledge and a permanent call to action. As a profession informed by praxis and concerned with the social and human dimensions of the vicissitudes of daily life, social work (as well as other helping professions) aims to transform reality by putting itself at the service of people.

Through this epistemic framework of human rights, social work attempts to understand and reflexively address historical circumstances by means of a dialectical logic. As such, social work is not free of controversy, especially with respect to the social order instituted in tension with the administrations, institutions, and individuals responsible for its management, thus giving rise to an intersection between critical engagement and the coercive forces of the established norms and systems of social organization.

Given this framework, those of us who dedicate ourselves to the profession—in any of its various spheres—have been witness to certain paradoxes and conflicts. For example, we are not mere processors, but we process resources; and because of our critical commitment, we are not mere instruments of the public administration, although we often form part of it. Throughout these processes, it is important to bear in mind historically constructed balances and tensions: social intervention is a form of assistance but also of control, and social action is transformative but also a question of adaptation and assimilation.

Even so, if the object of helping professions is the person-in-situation, that is, the person situated in a given context and at a given time characterized by multiple social dimensions, the challenge of our time is to address the effects of digitalization in an already digital environment. Today, both public administrations and companies, or citizens

in their work and leisure life, are immersed in social networks, either as users or as avid consumers of information and communication technologies (ICTs). It is precisely in this environment where social work must respond to the complex challenges and problems that arise. This includes processes of exclusion created by ICTs, such as the recurring case of the so-called digital divide, to the very nature of social networks and the interactions that occur within them (as Norman Davies pointed out in his book *Nervous States*, 2019) or the requirements to become integrated into a digital environment. Yet these challenges are not new. From the time humans first learned to control fire, technologies have always played a key role in shaping and ensuring the survival of societies. Indeed, the very technologies and artifacts we develop and produce condition us in turn, giving rise to unintended effects and winners and losers.

At the same time, the Sustainable Development Goals, which have to be achieved in digital societies, present us with a set of goals that guide our action, both as NGOs and as professions linked to social welfare. The old challenges are being redefined and have to be faced in a collaborative new ways. In September 2021, ICSW is organizing in cooperation with IASSW, UNICEF, FAO, KNCSW and UNED, the ICSW Online Conference "Addressing food insecurity in Africa: strategies for ensuring child-sensitive social protection" (Thursday, 9 September, 2021 8:00am ~ 11:30am (EST, NY time)). As Sergei Zelenev pointed out in the previous July Newsletter, "addressing a range of specific issues in the context of food security and child-sensitive social protection in Africa, the conference will provide perspective on areas of particular importance, including the role of key

stakeholders and their interaction". This conference is a further step in this new stage of the ICSW, in which we seek to work together, from a participatory approach, to contribute to the debate on social welfare, including in the public agenda issues as relevant as food insecurity in Africa:

<https://www.fundacion.uned.es/actividad/idactividad/25052&codigo=7153-OCAF>

Within these dynamics of mutual collaboration, it is important for all ICSW members and regions to work together as a team. For this reason, I would like to thank our colleagues from the region of Latin América region, who have sent us different articles where they share their projects and aspirations. My heartfelt thanks go out to all of you for making possible this cooperative project and a better ICSW for the 21st century.

**Take care and stay healthy!**

## The Impacts of COVID-19 in Brazil



***Cristina Riscalla Madi, Latin America President of International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW) and Manager, Management of Studies and Social Programs, Sesc São Paulo***

In early 2020, the pandemic caused by the new coronavirus met Brazil amid a deep crisis, a country moving towards a return to the hunger map.

For over a year we have been living a global pandemic scenario. The routines of us all were completely transformed after the alarming impacts of Covid-19 on our lives, whether by social isolation or the priceless mourning felt by the thousands of family members, friends and acquaintances lost during this period.

The sad conclusion is that we are living before and during a profound health crisis, one that has permanent effects, as evidenced by the enormous social and economic inequality in which we are inserted here in southern America.

The scenario faced by the Brazilian population reveals the growth of poverty, hunger, the dismantling of social policies, the privatization of services and the loss of labor rights. The class that lives from their labor sees it become

increasingly turned precarious, faces instability in their jobs, with reduced wages, growth of informal work, outsourcing and short-term contracts.

Reports by the UN, UNICEF and other leading human rights organizations around the world have already warned that inequalities have increased in Latin American countries during the pandemic. The rates of people in situations of misery grew, as well as those related to food insecurity. The populations in vulnerable situations, indigenous populations and quilombolas (descendants and remnants of communities formed by people who were enslaved) are the first to feel the impact of this crisis and the ones who feel it the most.

Allied to this context, the denialism of the disease expressed by the Brazilian Federal Government seems to be part of a political strategy and not of an inability to deal with the impacts of a health crisis of this magnitude. With thousands of lives lost to Covid-19, Brazil is plunged into a real national tragedy, an economic, social, sanitary, political and moral tragedy.

In Brazil, according to data from the Ministry of Health, from an estimated population of 214 million people, more than 545,000 people died and more than 18 million recovered by July 2021.

The crisis, of course, in a society marked by deep inequalities in class, gender, race/ethnicity, does not affect all people in the same way. We perpetuate violence in our daily lives, but the myth of Brazilian cordiality is not a mere thought, it is a specific behavior so a specific way of understanding and living reality can exist. Our self-image is of a passive, cheerful, welcoming and affectionate people, incapable of ethnic, religious, social and political discrimination.

In the context of social protection, one can notice

a huge failure by the State in the development of effective public policies. Millions of people cannot access the health care system. Thousands of children, adolescents and young adults had their school cycles interrupted due to lacking the means to access the digital technologies that made it possible for them to stay in primary, elementary and high school.

Repression against gender groups is considered a natural protection to the sacred values of the family, the destruction of the environment is seen with pride, a sign of progress and modernity, that is, all practices of violence receive an apparent justification of nonviolence. In our daily lives we reproduce racist, misogynistic, homophobic and heteropatriarchal practices as the pillars of Brazilian society, and we are far from denaturalizing violence in our country.

In addition to all the violations of rights, the uncoordinated, insufficient and denialist decisions of the health issue in Brazil lead to a serious situation of long-term consequences, further aggravating the historical problems of poverty and inequality in the face of social vulnerability in the country.

In 2021 the emergency aid for the population that does not have a regular source of income is being made available in the amount of 150 to 375 Reais, that is, between 30 to 75 Dollars. According to data provided by the Federal Government, Emergency Aid is benefiting more than 206,000 people. Of these, 142,531 are entitled to a quota of R\$150 (people living alone), 39,719 citizens will receive R\$250 (families with more than one member), while 23,876 are women who support their household alone and will receive R\$375.

Even in view of this situation, we must praise the

Brazilian institutions that dedicated themselves to research, to the production of vaccines and medicines, in addition to the numerous professionals working in the front lines against Covid-19.

The emergence of a virus that triggered a global pandemic has provoked us into thinking about our own humanity. We must be able to build a notion of humanity that covers all people. Where did we come from and where do we want to reach?

It is urgent that we think of actions that take into account the material needs imposed by the Covid-19 crisis, so we can also present proposals and alternatives that aim to reduce the enormous inequality produced between all of us. Planning and thinking about the political and social participation of the subjects in the process of building democratic societies is necessary, always considering citizenship and social justice for all.

Since vaccines are yet to be available for the entire population, our motto has been "vaccine shot on the arm and food on the plate!"

**Revisiting the subject of Partnerships: a decision beyond the public authorities to guarantee rights?**



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**The article “Partnerships: a decision beyond the public authorities to guarantee rights?” was presented at International Social Work Education and Development on line Conference 2021 from January-April 2021. Next, an expanded synthesis of that article will be presented with the aim of expanding access to the main ideas presented at the event.**

### **Introduction**

In Brazil, as in other countries, the growth of the Third Sector is a reality that coexists with two other sectors: the First Sector, represented by the government, which fulfills a legal and administrative function of public goods and services, thus corresponding to the actions of the State, at the district, municipal, state and federal levels; and the Second Sector, represented by the market, by private for-profit companies.

The so-called Third Sector has provoked much debate about its meaning, but in a simplified way, here it will be affirmed as a civil society organization, nonprofit, that provides services of public interest.

These different sectors face the challenge of a coexistence that should enhance social protection, considering the characteristics, roles and the real need of the population in a country that is cruel in its social inequality.

In this sense, this article brings a dialogue with the different forces and highlights the contributions that the Brazilian Center for Cooperation and Exchange of Social Services-CBCISS, a non-governmental, non-profit organization - has been making over its 70 years, based on its mission: “Maintaining dialogue with civil society and public authorities in search of strategies to promote Social Welfare, Development and Social Justice”.

With a trajectory guided by dialogue, CBCISS has established itself as an open space for discussion of Social Policies, exchange of national and international experiences, as recorded in its reports, allying itself in the search for a more human and fair world, having among its allies the International Council for Social Welfare - ICSW, a global non-governmental organization and the Social Service for Commerce, that has been standing out in Brazil for its set of initiatives guided by the mission of promoting socio-educational actions that contribute to social well-being and quality of life of workers, especially aimed at the commercial public, their families and communities.

In addition to these partnerships, universities, such as the Pontifical Catholic University - PUC-Rio, are noteworthy, among others.

The article is organized in two parts: in the first, it recognizes the Brazilian scenery in the process of guaranteeing social protection, showing that the different sectors, experiencing moments of advances and setbacks, were not always in balance in their efforts for a better world; in the second, the highlight is on CBCISS and its various initiatives to give visibility to the way social inequality happens in Brazil.

The article proposes reflections based on historical rescue and analysis of different contexts, based on documentary research, supported by categories such as social protection understood here, according to Jaccoud (2009) as a set of public or state-regulated initiatives for provision of services and benefits to face situations of social risk or social trials; by the non-governmental organization-NGO category, which in Brazil took a long time to be used naturally in the country.

Partnership is a present theme through various expressions in the State's executive action in the social area: through the establishment of cooperation bonds between the Direct and Indirect Public Administration and non-profit civil entities; through public-private cooperation models in the social area, always present, but intensified in recent years with the presence of private action in the complementary provision of social services directly to the population, opting for the Government to resort to cooperative action with the Third Sector instead of directly providing public services to citizens and establishing qualification and selection requirements for partner entities, the essential conditions of the cooperation bonds that must be imposed by the Public Power in order to guarantee the supremacy of the public interest. Such partnerships will be expressed in different legal forms.

It is a relationship that differs from the relationship with the social assistance network through grants and resource transfers. With these, the perspective is to help in the development of their own activities, while the partnership relationship involves collaboration in the execution of the activity in an articulated manner as means of promoting the achievement of results.

From the set of public policies and the partnership relationship, the public policy of Social Assistance will be highlighted at the moment under a historical look through which it will seek to answer the question: Partnerships - a decision beyond the public power in guaranteeing rights?

### **Brazil and social protection**

Historically, Brazil has not taken a leading role in guaranteeing social protection for the population. This was, for a long time, in the hands of religious institutions, philanthropy and benevolence, which did not recognize rights to the needy, nor guarantee continuity of care, in addition to opening space for clientelistic use, to exchange favors, keeping the population in a position of subordination. This scenery has coexistence with State initiatives in the line of subsidiarity, that is, the entities were transferred resources to complement the expenses with the services offered to the underserved population. This scenery will undergo some changes in the 1940s, when the State increases its participation in the assistance sectors. At that time, the role of the voluntary sector started to be perceived as supplementary and a reduction in the voluntary sector was identified, as the State took over some services such as hospitals and others with more complete and decentralized care. This is a reality that does not last long.

According to Landim (1999) in his extensive

research on the topic of non-profit non-governmental organizations: "From the beginning of the 1960s, the voluntary sector began to exert influence again as new needs were identified and new means of collection were established. Its importance has not diminished since that time." The same author comments on the expression NGO, which is old, originated in the UN in the post-war period without much use in Brazil, in political contexts, as in academic and sociological contexts, and has gained notoriety in more recent times (1980-1990) appearing in newspapers, becoming the subject of academic works and debates in Brazilian intellectual circles, referring to a determined set of organizations whose origin dates back to the 1970s, with the consolidation of its history throughout the 1980's.

Noteworthy are the globalizing agencies of identity policies, which emerged since the 1960s in the United States and Western Europe, due to their international characteristics, also working in Brazil articulated to groups that defend specific or diffuse rights: environmentalism, women, black people with HIV, indigenous peoples, children and adolescents, etc., which happened in a fragmented way (LANDIM, 1999). The fact is that in the Military Regime, an authoritarian dictatorial period, it coexists with the modernization and social diversification of the country and with the creation of a new organized society, based on practices and ideas of autonomy in relation to the State. In this period, NGOs stand out not only for their performance in the social field, but also with political opposition.

The trajectory hitherto highlighted, always guided by the initial question: Partnerships: a decision beyond the government in guaranteeing rights? It takes advances in reflections on the materiality of State Duty.

Social protection must be understood beyond the field of social assistance, recognizing a set of other needs of the population, recognizing the social rights established in article 6 of the Brazilian Constitution of 1988: "Education, health, work, leisure, security, social security, protection of motherhood and childhood, assistance to the destitute are social rights, in the form of this Constitution". It is not possible to ignore that Brazil, for many years, did not assume a leading role in the social protection of the population, remaining, for a long time, in the hands of religious, philanthropic and charitable institutions.

The phenomenon third sector is not, therefore, the development of organizations in one "sector" at the expense of the crisis in another, but the alteration of a pattern of social response to the "social issue" (typical of the Welfare State), with the State's lack of accountability, the exemption of capital and the self-responsibility of the citizen and the local community (MONTANO, 2020, pp. 183, 184, 185)

The recognition of the need for more effective action by the State is identified in a very simplified way in the 1930s, with some advances in the 1940s, when the Brazilian Legion of Assistance – LBA was created, the largest assistance agency in the country, with operations present in almost all of Brazil. The LBA was extinguished in 1995, but it still has the important support of the philanthropic network today.

The State Duty in the provision of Social Protection appears more explicitly in the 1990s, without, however, relying on a service network made up of non-governmental entities, as established in the Organic Law on Social Assistance (Law 8.742 / 1993), revised in 2011, which defines "Social assistance entities and organizations are considered to be non-profit

organizations that, individually or cumulatively, provide assistance and advice to beneficiaries covered by this Law, as well as those that act in the defense and guarantee of rights.”

This is an important advance because the State calls responsibilities for itself, recognizing a set of entities that have been dedicated to the population, bringing them to a reorganization in which, through services / assistance, advice and defense of rights become part of the social assistance network, as highlighted in the National Social Assistance Policy (2004).

Therefore, the absence of the State, in the face of expressions of the social issue, had the presence of religious institutions, solidarity groups; a model that endures, even if accompanied by other initiatives that took shape from 1930 onwards, with the industrial revolution, giving visibility to social exclusion. At that time, the State recognizes workers' demands, assumes responsibilities in guaranteeing rights. However, people who were not included in the world of work continued to depend on philanthropy.

In the 1990-2000 decade, although greater advances were desired, there is an important development of what was established in the 1988 federal constitution and which is closely related to the proposal of this article: the implementation of Public Policy Management Councils throughout Brazil. This was yet another step in the consolidation of the Democratic State of Rights, in a country that lived through more than 20 years of Military Dictatorship; it was a call to civil society to participate in decisions in organized spaces with parity between the government and civil society that should be represented by users who demand protection, the professionals who work in the provision of care and the entities that make up the network

social assistance in social protection together with the public authorities.

From 2003 to 2016, the country was under the leadership of a popular democratic government led by President Luís Inácio Lula da Silva (Lula) for two terms, followed by President Dilma Rousseff whose second term was interrupted by a Political Coup. The period was very significant of achievements for the population due to initiatives in other areas of social rights such as housing, work, etc. In the field of social assistance, the advances were very significant: the Organic Law of Social Assistance (1993) finally has the configuration of its decentralized model with the structuring of the Unified Social Assistance System - SUAS.

The set of these services has socio-familial and community coexistence as a matrix for their work and reference units for serving the population. This work model has spread across all Brazilian municipalities, seeking to gradually advance the coverage of demand.

In addition to the services, the Benefits were a priority with the expansion of the Continuous Payment Benefit (salary for the elderly and people with disabilities unable to provide) and the “Bolsa Família” Program (Family Allowance Program), which unified a set of income transfer programs that pulverized the assistance to families and systematized the assistance to them, making it possible to face misery and poverty, significantly changing the lives of families with improvements in important indicators, for the country, in health and education, for example.

It was also a period of broad popular participation in public policy councils and the holding of several conferences, in addition to other methodologies for decentralizing the popular debate and good



dialogue between the managers of the three spheres of government (Union, states, Federal District and Municipalities) in the public management agreement, ensuring clear rules for co-financing and organization of services.

Despite being a period marked by the recognition of the State's duty, a citizen's right, the social assistance network has always been present and recognized for its historic contribution, as mentioned above, highlighting the fact that it will be reordered in the Customer Service Network, Advisory and Defense of Rights and to become part of the National Register of Social Assistance Entities (CNAS Resolution No. 04/14).

It is a management instrument, the responsibility of the public administration, which stores information about organizations and socio-assistance offers operating in the national territory; it allows the approximation between the State and civil society, making it possible to monitor service to policy users and recognizing the importance of organizations within the scope of SUAS. For the policy managers, the Register allows the knowledge and monitoring of the organizations that are part of the social assistance network.

The organizations / entities in the Register allow for the signing of partnerships and the receipt of funds from parliamentary amendments. To users of the social assistance policy, through the consultation of referred register and the Map of Civil Society Organizations, the public can check which organizations and offers are available in their municipality and / or in the state. With regard to entities, it is worth highlighting another important achievement, known as the Regulatory Framework for Civil Society Organizations (CSO), approved after extensive discussion through Law

N. 13.019 of 2014, which, according to the Presidency of the Republic (2016) the objective of improving the legal and institutional environment related to Civil Society Organizations and their partnership relations with the State.

Regarding the sources of income destined for Civil Society Organizations, it is important to mention that, although government resources can be mobilized by Brazilian CSOs, a part of them does not depend on the State and, historically, its sustainability is based on its own resources and private donations from society itself.

It identifies a period of important initiatives in the administrative and financial order, the concern with the dialogue form of construction seeking to involve a wide representation of civil society. There is a set of advances in the relationship between public power and civil society, which, unfortunately, has not been identified in recent years.

What we are seeing recently is the dismantling of a social protection model, it is an initiative that goes beyond the reduction of public funding with the clear intention of dismantling rights and exempting the State.

In this sense, we are witnessing the introduction of programs that go hand in hand with the design of the Unified Social Assistance System, causing many losses to the population, particularly in this pandemic period, where the population experiences unemployment, hunger and abandonment by the population government.

Therefore, at the same time that institutionalized forms of service to the population appear or are dismantled, the challenge of reflecting on them instigates professionals such as social service workers and non-governmental organizations

such as CBCISS in the perspective of what this represents in guaranteeing rights. This is a challenge that requires rethinking what is done, in direct service and in the way that the partnership relationship is established.

### **CBCISS and partners and their performance in the Brazilian scenery**

The set of representation of the professional category, represented by the Federal Council of Social Work has acted intensely, in the same way as the Brazilian Center for Exchange and Social Services - CBCISS (1946) with the purpose of contributing to the socioeconomic and cultural development of the country, through actions and services, maintaining dialogue with the public authorities aiming at levels of social well-being, social equality, rights and social justice; stands out as an incentive for cooperation and exchange between institutions and professionals working in the field of social services. In this process of debates, important partnerships have been counted on, such as the Social Service of Commerce.

The two institutions were present in the Brazilian scenery in the same year, having specific missions, but in line. Perhaps this explains the partnership maintained between the two and the dialogue in the search for joint construction. In Brazil, and in other countries, the growth of the Third Sector is a reality that coexists with two other sectors.

This is a coexistence that should enhance social protection, considering the characteristics, roles and the real need of the population in a country that is cruel in its social inequality. In this sense, engage in dialogue with these different forces and highlight the contributions that the Brazilian Center for Cooperation and Exchange of Social

Services-CBCISS, a non-governmental, non-profit organization, has been making over its 70 years, in view of its mission: "Maintain dialogue with civil society and government in search of strategies to promote Social Welfare, Development and Social Justice".

With a trajectory guided by dialogue, CBCISS has established itself as an open space for discussion of Social Policies, exchange of national and international experiences, as recorded in its reports, allying itself in the search for a more human and fair world, having among its allies the International Council for Social Welfare-ICSW.

The actions shared between CBCISS and Social Service of Commerce in São Paulo State (SESC / SP) have dealt with issues relevant to the moment of social inequality that Brazilian society is experiencing, aggravated by the health and socioeconomic crisis resulting from the pandemic of the new coronavirus of COVID-19.

Highlight should be given to two actions that were developed in a virtual way:

- Meeting of the World of Knowledge and Society: Challenges and Possibilities. It involves holding monthly meetings (face-to-face and virtual) for exposure, discussion, exchange of knowledge and experiences, aiming to provide subsidies to social and public policies.
- National Seminar on Social Work in the World of Football. Theme: Social Work in the Defense of Human Rights in Sports Training for Children and Youth. This event is already in its fifth edition and shows that football is a passion and a means of commerce. It is important for society to take ownership of the knowledge of what happens in this field of work and for the professionals involved in it

to observe the responsibility that is theirs to the infants who seek to fulfill a dream - Becoming a Soccer professional.

- Another relevant action concerns the representation of the CBCISS in the instances of social control. The Councils are made up on an equal basis with representatives of civil society and the government with normative and supervisory duties on public and private actions in policies.

The CBCISS has an accent, by election, in the Municipal Council of Social Assistance of Rio de Janeiro, in the State Council for the Defense of the Elderly, and in the Elderly Rights Forum.

This brief presentation cannot fail to highlight the participation of CBCISS in an action shared with Social Service of Commerce in São Paulo State (SESC / SP), to be held in the city of São Paulo, the Preparatory Pre-Conference to the ICSW International Conference in Rimini - Italy in 2020, which was postponed due to the pandemic.

It was a rich opportunity to meet the representatives of the South American and Caribbean Regions, with the intention of an appointment for another meeting.

Still in the dimension of international participation, CBCISS was present at the ICSW online General Assembly in November 2020, when the election of the new president for the Region took place, being elected the representative of Social Service of Commerce in São Paulo State (SESC / SP).

### Some Considerations

We started the article with a question: From the set of public policies and the partnership relationship to the public policy of Social

Assistance from a historical perspective, is it possible to say that partnerships is a decision beyond the public authorities in guaranteeing rights?

It is necessary to recognize the importance of the civil society's social assistance network in the provision of protections. These are expressed in different ways: in the concrete offering of services to different segments of society, in the production of informative lectures on the law, in the offered cultural productions and, more recently, in the combination of efforts to reach the population with food, hygiene products and inputs for protection due to Covid-19.

Such initiatives should rely on public power to be recognized as a right. The partner work carried out in particular by Social Service of Commerce (SESC) and CBCISS and which has the recognition of society and of the government itself is a valuable contribution, but does not replace the state responsibility for reaching out to the population.

Therefore, shared actions aimed at guaranteeing Social Protection Rights are fundamental for reaching a world that recognizes the values inherent to human dignity and the State cannot give up its duty to guarantee social protection to the population.

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## Meeting with UNRISD Director Paul Ladd



**René Schegg, ICSW Special Representative for the United Nations in Geneva**

From the 29<sup>th</sup> of June to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July 2022, the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) will host a conference with stakeholders from civil society under the topic of "Co-building a New Eco Social World: Leaving no one behind". I had the pleasure to meet the UNRISD Director Paul Ladd in Geneva to discuss the preparations of the conference and to elaborate possible contributions. Paul Ladd explained during this informal meeting the importance of a new eco-social contract. The eco-social contract addresses mainly three challenges: First, the contract aims to ensure human rights for all—importantly, this means bringing in those not fully benefitting from previous social contracts, such as women, informal workers and migrants. Second, it shall ensure larger freedom for all, including security and protection. Third, it must spur the transformation of economies and societies to halt climate change and environmental destruction.

I have expressed interest and willingness to face the challenges ahead of us and as ICSW we will use our organizational expertise and the one from our members to support the transformation of societies and economies addressing the

protection of essential ecological processes, overcoming historical injustices and ensuring gender justice and introducing new forms of solidarity.

Together with other NGO's, UNRISD will most likely invite to join for a governing body and as equal partners with other social and ecological organisations and associations, ICSW is committed to work for the new era of sustainable development.

We invite members to share their visions on how to make the new eco-social contract a reality. We will include your feedback into the conference planning.

Thank you.

### More Activity at ICSW - Save the Date!

#### ICSW Online Conference

**"Addressing food insecurity in Africa: strategies for ensuring child-sensitive social protection"**

**Thursday, 9 September, 2021  
8:00am ~ 11:30am (EST, NY time)**

ICSW in cooperation with IASSW, UNICEF, FAO, KNCSW and UNED

Food and nutrition security is one of the key issues among the development priorities of many African countries. The existing food insecurity in Africa is a huge and complex

challenge that is closely linked to the risk of malnutrition, health care, education, political stability, poverty as well as overall national development priorities and directions. Gaining a better understanding of the multidimensional nature of the challenge of food insecurity especially its complex impact on children can facilitate concerted actions and better targeting of interventions by national governments, international bodies and civil society organizations.

Addressing a range of specific issues in the context of food security and child-sensitive social protection in Africa, the conference will provide perspective on areas of particular importance, including the role of key stakeholders and their interaction. There are roughly two major sets of issues to address. First, conceptual and general issues pertinent to food insecurity in Africa, analysis of vulnerabilities, measures aimed at promoting inclusive growth, efforts aimed at strengthening cooperation with various stakeholders and strategies to improve capacity development. Second, national case studies that may illustrate changing approaches to the above issues, various dimensions of the existing situation and national best practices.

The projected outcome could bring an improved understanding of the whole spectrum of policy issues and trade-offs in the context of food security and child –sensitive social protection in Africa and could be used by ICSW and partners in their advocacy and policy advice.

More information:

<https://www.fundacion.uned.es/actividad/idactividad/25052&codigo=7153-OCAF>

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**Contributions to the newsletter are  
welcome!**