



CONSEJO INTERNACIONAL
DEL BIENESTAR SOCIAL
Una Organización Mundial para la Promoción del Desarrollo Social



Latin American Pre-Conference Preparatory for the World
Conference on Social Service/ Social Work, Education and
Social Development (SWESD 2020)

“Human relations and inequalities in Latin America”



PRESENTATION

The Social Commerce Service of Sao Paulo- Brazil (Serviço Social do Comércio), ICSW of the Latin America region and the Brazilian Center for Cooperation and Exchange of Social Services (CBCISS), realized on June 26 and 27, 2019, the Latin American Preconference on Social Service/Social Work, Education and Social Development “Human Relationships and Inequality in Latin America”.

This event realized at Sesc Santana, was a preview for the for the World Conference (SWESD2020), which is organized by the International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW) and the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW), to be held in Rimini – Italy, the 2020.

The Preconference aimed the exchange of experiences and inspirations in the social area, to conceptualize and practice the promotion of human dignity in a context of inequalities and challenges in the light of contemporary social issues, in addition to expand and strengthen the network of people, organizations, and official agencies that share common goals in Latin America.

Professionals from the social field of several countries of the continent, like Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Dominican Republic, and Uruguay, took part in the debates.

The ideas and experiences presented, analyzed, and discussed during the meeting are the base of the positions that Latin American branch of the ICSW, represented by CBCISS, reports in this document.

DESCRIPTION

During the two days of the event, Brazilian and foreign specialists held three conferences and four thematic discussions. The guests exposed themes about the inequalities of Latin American how to fight it, addressing space and territory, social care surveillance, the role of social service/social work before the contemporary crisis, the uncompromising defense of human rights, in addition to reporting inspiring social actions and debating how to make the world a better place until 2030.

The presentations of dialogues with the proposal to promote a reflection on the UN Global Agenda for 2030, focused on sustainable development and challenged by high levels of inequality in Latin America, were synthesized to participants in a plenary meeting at the end of the event, which exposed the most relevant aspects addressed during those days.

The contributions collected from the dialogues, generated the final version of this document with the purpose of being share in the SWESD 2020 in Rimini - Italy. The text expresses the reflections of Brazilian and other Latin American professionals on issues that affect the region.



Danilo Santos de Miranda



Ilda Lopes Da Silva



Nélsida Marmolejos



Eva Herrström-Holmberg

DEVELOPMENT

- Day 1– 6/26/19 -
 - Conference | Inequality: multidimensional phenomenon in Latin America

Vicente de Paula Faleiros (Brazil) - *Social assistant, specialist in Gerontology and Planning, PhD in Sociology and Post-PhD by the University of Montréal. He also has a Post-PhD by EHESS – School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences-Paris He is also emeritus professor of University of Brasília and 1- A researcher of CNPq, lecturer, author, and consultant.*

Citizenization: I use the word citizenization precisely to show the process of construction of human relationships, based on respect, on rights, on the implementation of these rights. Citizenship, the legal framework of human rights, the democracy assurance of the power of pressure is what increases the pressure for equality and for the implementation of universal access policies. Citizenization is the universalization of access and of the implementation of social policies.”

Denaturalization of inequality: “Inequality is not a natural phenomenon of the landscape. Therefore, one must see it as a relationship of power, a relationship of domination, a relationship of places in the structure. Historically, inequality is also included in social formations in a very complex way; it is not a phenomenon that has the same meaning everywhere.”

Equality and rights: “The theoretical dispute in the history of the discussion on inequality is the relationship between freedom and inequality. The French Revolution already addressed the issues of freedom, equality, and fraternity as a reverence of the bourgeois revolution for the rupture with absolutism. There is no equality without rights. This is the first relationship with the phenomenon of the discussion between freedom and equality. The bourgeois revolutions put the right of equality before the law: men are born and remain free and equal in rights.”

Work: “Inequality is based on the exploitation of work. Inequalities are determine for the relationships of labor exploitation, the social relationships of domination, and the dismissal of rights and work remains precarious with the high unemployment rate in Brazil. The underutilization rate of workers has increased greatly.”

Latin America versus inequality: “Latin America has a structure that, through the economic capital, the symbolic capital, the social capital, reproduces this concentration and accumulation of wealth. The French economist Thomas Piketty, brings the thesis that say wealthy people are always gaining both in growth and in crisis. In other words, the cake does not divided equally. There is a constant

concentration of wealth, a peripheralization of policies in contrast to universal rights. The state, despite being permeated by the implementation and constitution of rights, continues to retain the privileges of the dominant classes.”

Final suggestions: “Investment in promoting opportunities can be prioritized. The famous equality of opportunity, defended by the third way, has to come accompanied by a guarantee of rights. Because if you give the opportunity and do not give rights, the rope breaks. Maintaining universal public policies is essential. Health is universal, and the more this care is privatized, the more inequality increases. We must have human rights as a horizon.”

Mediator: **Aline Rodrigues (Brazil)** - *Cofounder and narrative manager of Periferia em Movimento, company of outskirt journalism. She is a journalist, Educator, and Libras interpreter. She is also advisor of the Vladimir Herzog Institute and is part of the organizing commission of the Vladimir Herzog journalism award.*

“I step on the periphery, I live in the periphery, and I listen all the time the people who are there, in the peripheries, in the slums, in the place where rights do not arrive properly, saying that they are guilty for not accessing rights. We, privileged ones, have the responsibility of showing that the problem are not the people who cannot access them. The problem comes from the people who have privileges and who do not let them go, who do not realize the easy access they have.”

- **Thematic discussion | Inequality, Space, and Territory**

Paola Andrea Jirón Martínez (Chile) - *Associate professor of FAU – School of Architecture and Urbanism of University of Chile. Former director of INVI – Institute of Habitation, current coordinator of the PhD in Territory, Space, and Society of University of Chile and director of MOVYT – Centre Millennium Mobilities and Territories.*

Urban inequality: “People do not live in their space equally. Age, gender, and race are some of the factors that determine each type of experience. Latin American cities are in general widely segregated, and the study of urban inequality usually done statistically with quantitative data. We can see how the inhabitants are static in their neighborhoods.”

Mobility: “The everyday experience reflects what happens to people since their body in the space. How to tell, to review different ways of understanding people, everyday life, and the experience of public life in the territory? How do people understand their territory, and how do we use this knowledge to intervene in this space?”

José Eduardo Martins Felicio (Paraguay) - *Licentiate in Law and Social Sciences by UFF – School of Law of the Fluminense Federal University. He participated in several permanent missions abroad and served as ambassador to Uruguay (2006 to 2010), Cuba (2010 to 2013), and Paraguay (2013 to 2016). He joined delegations from Brazil with OAS – General Assembly of the Organization of American States, IAEA – International Atomic Energy Agency, United Nations General Assembly, and Summit of the Americas. Since 2017, he is the executive director of the Mercosur Social Institute.*

Displacements: “If we consider the internal and external displacements as indicators of inequality, we are forced to conclude we are really far away from the good path to meet the tenth goal of the 2030 agenda to reduce inequality within countries and between them. The migration situation in the world is a great challenge to all of us. Violence, war, persecution, and poverty have forced a large number of people to flee from their home countries.”

Public policies: “Fighting inequalities raises the important question: will the market forces by themselves allow us to get there? The answer is that public policies in the social field are clearly necessary to promote education and health, protect workers, and fight hunger and poverty. They are at least required to ensure some kind of progress. However, for several years, almost every country in the world has advocated, instrumentalized and valued a multilateral trade system. Needless to say that it prevailed, and it still should prevail, the understanding that the respect for solid multilateral rules was the best defense of the vast majority of countries against possible abuses of the most powerful ones.”

Laís Wendel Abramo (Chile) - *Sociologist, Master, and PhD in Sociology from USP – University of São Paulo. Director of the Social Development Division of ECLAC – Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Former director of the Brazilian office of ILO – International Labour Organization. She works with the themes of social policies, poverty, inequality, labor market, gender, and race.*

Poverty eradication: “Summarizing the main ideas of the 2030 agenda, it focused on eradication of poverty in all its forms, everywhere, without leaving anyone behind. Here we can find a very powerful idea of equality. It requires a balanced progress between the economic, social, and environmental dimensions. It also requires a great effort to put the social dimension at the center of the vision of development. It is a universal agenda. All countries have a commitment to this agenda and must follow its goals. The elimination of poverty and extreme poverty requires a growth in the economy, productivity, decent work, social protection, education, and health. The strategy policy of fighting poverty has not dissociated from these other goals. Gender equality is imperative, it is transversal, and it is also defined as a much more participatory agenda.”

Responsibility with the 2030 agenda: “Governments, states, have the main responsibility in implementing the agenda, but it also needs to open spaces for the participation of civil society, private sector, trade union organizations and academia, among others”

Mediator: **Suamit Marques Barreiro (Sesc 24 de Maio)** - *Bachelor degree in Spanish language and literature, attended the courses of Administration of People in Projects and Introduction to Leadership at FGV – Getulio Vargas Foundation and is post-graduated and specialist in folk songs. He is also an employee of Sesc São Paulo since 2010, as well as a teacher of Portuguese and Spanish.*

Conference | Social care surveillance: the exercise of diagnosis and evaluation

Carola Carbajal Arregui (Brazil): *PhD in Social Work from the Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo and post-doctorate in Economics from the Pierre Mendès France University in Grenoble/France. She is a professor of the Graduate Program in Social Work at the Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo. She has experience in the field of social policy research, social indicators, and monitoring and evaluation systems.*

Social care analysis: “Social care surveillance is one of the roles of social work policy. That is the role responsible for the production of information related to the demands brought by the population, of social protection and analysis of the policy itself. For us, especially for social work policy, conducting an analytical method of how inequalities has structured in the Brazilian and Latin American inequality is greatly important. In this sense, must be clear that what is happening today in Brazil is not an isolated expression of Brazilian society, it is a context that is affecting several countries in Latin America.”

Social function: “Both, Latin America and Africa have a social role, a role in the international labor division among the countries of the world, but at the same time, if we think about our economies – of Latin America and Africa – we are still in the colonial time. Our economies are at the basis of extractive economies, of the reexploitation of working conditions. It is no wonder that our countries reedit labor proposals – recently approved here in Brazil –, a set of reforms that reproduce the conditions of inequality of the population and that, in some way, are the ground of action of social work policy.”

Mediator: **Kelly Rodrigues Melatti** - *Social worker, Master, and PhD student in Social Work at PUC – Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo. She is a worker of the Unified Social Work System of the city of São Paulo; she has also worked undergraduate professor of Social Work and is currently advisor-president of the Regional Council of Social Work 9th region – São Paulo.*

- **Day 2 – 6/27/19**

Conference | Social Work before the contemporary crisis and the fight against inequality: theoretical and practical contributions

Yolanda Guerra - *Social worker, Master, and PhD in Social Work from the Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo. Professor at UFRJ – Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. Author and organizer of books and technical articles, among them “A Instrumentalidade do Serviço Social,” Cortez Editora, 1995.*

Professional culture: “The mediation of the state in social policies is fundamental. Our contribution expands when we have in mind that it is possible and desirable to think about a plural Latin American professional culture, that even with our differences, we know how to find unity and how to forge this unity and deepen it. This unity principles should base on, values and guidelines for creating academic-pedagogical and professional projects in the different countries, each with its particularities, but with some points in common. Already, this has attempted in the definition of social work, but with shy attempts. We need to move forward: to recognize - in this professional culture-, the importance of a rigorous and critical appropriation of the social processes.”

Latin American reality: “We need to heavily invest in the research of Latin American reality. We do not know ourselves. Maybe we know ourselves a little more in terms of countries, but not in the Latin American reality. This is essential to subsidize the ways of fighting the roots of social inequalities.”

Mediator: **Tânia Maria Ramos Godoi Diniz** - *She has a PhD in Social Work from PUC – Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo; she has also been a university professor since 1988 and is currently part of the Faculty of the Social Work course of Unifesp/BS. She is a professor of the Graduate Program in Social Work and Public Policies from Unifesp – Federal University of São Paulo, campus Baixada Santista. She is advisor 1st Secretary of CFESS – Federal Council of Social Work, office 2017/2020. She is part of the expanded coordination of GTP Agrarian, Urban, and Environmental Issue and Social Work of ABEPSS – Brazilian Association of Teaching and Research in Social Work.*

Thematic discussion| Uncompromising defense of human rights

Beatriz Eugenia Sánchez-Mojica (Colombia) - *PhD in the Program of Advanced Studies on Human Rights at Carlos III University. Her work as an academic revolves around the protection of the rights of forced migrants.*

Migration: “Migration is, above all, a very complicated process. To talk about migration, especially the forced one, which is much more complex. We have to

consider the expulsion factors, which force people to leave their countries, and the attraction factors, which lead people to one country and not the other (such as good economic situation, similar culture, or ensured reception). There are also additional factors, which can facilitate or hinder movement. Migrants are always vulnerable people, always. After all, we are talking about someone who decided, more or less voluntarily, to go, or even someone, who has forced to move. In both cases, we talk about human rights holders.”

Refugees: “The refugee is a person who has been forced to leave their country. This person gathers certain conditions that lead them to special rights. States are obliged to protect them, are obliged to open their doors and ensure a number of rights.”

¿What to expect from 2030: “Prevention [so that people do not need to leave their homes, whether as a migrant or refugee] must be the top priority. The goals of the 2030 agenda show that states cannot act unilaterally; they need to work in a multilateral, regional way. We have to work seriously in the processes of violence prevention, of women’s empowerment. One must build public channels of dialogue between society and state.”

Lucinéia Rosa dos Santos (Brazil) -*She is a PhD in Human Rights from PUC-SP – Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo. As professional practice, she is a lawyer in the labor, social security, and third sector areas. She is also a professor at PUC-SP in the disciplines of human rights, refugee law, child and adolescent law, and race and gender law.*

Resistance: “We live in a time when we are at risk of several setbacks and, therefore, we must resist, so that these setbacks are not consolidated. This is our fight: to be resistant.”

Human rights and citizenship: “Human rights are those that meet everyone. The state has an obligation to extend these rights to all, which include the principles of human dignity, as well as protection regarding freedoms. When we talk about citizenship, we say there is only citizenship when we have full access to social rights, collective rights, and freedom rights.”

Equality: “Formal equality is in the law: all are equal before the law but there is an equality that has no equal treatment, many are unequal, which is the so-called material equality. While formally the law says we are all equal, materially we are not all equal. There are minority groups, now called vulnerable groups. These groups are on the fringes of society, they are the groups that are unable to have equal opportunities.”

Mediator: **Ana Carolina Balducci de Moura (Brazil)** - *She is Master in Human Rights, Migration, and Development from the University of Bologna, Italy. She is*

also a lawyer and advisor of mobilization of Resources and Projects of CEERT – Center for Studies of Labor Relationships and Inequalities.

Thematic discussion | Inspiring social actions: promoting human relationships

Xanthis Suárez Garcia (Nicaragua) - *Graduated in Social Work with a Graduate Degree in Social Sciences. Journalist; International Relations of the Association of Social Workers of Nicaragua; Regional Human Rights Commissioner for Latin America and the Caribbean FITS/IFSW.*

Unitary agenda: “Nicaragua lives terrible moments that we never thought would be repeated. Exile to thousands, despair, hundreds of murders. We hold this meeting when we have a hundred political prisoners and the streets of Honduras at this moment are set on fire. If we want things to be different, we have to make them different. We have great challenges, but they cannot be part of an individual agenda or a sectoral agenda. There is no possibility of advancing without unity.”

Social work: Social work promotes the respect to the universal human rights. When we talk about social work and community human relationships for peace and well-being, for it to be effective and true, we cannot say that it is a task from 8 am to 5 pm, from Monday to Friday but a permanent task, 24 hours. We cannot be indolent when we see the pain through the Internet, how much violence is promoted, and how much the principle of human relationships is denied.”

Eugenio Scannavino Netto (Brazil) - *Sanitarian physician, he works in the Amazon since 1984 with the NGO Saúde e Alegria, of which he is founder and coordinator. Consultant in integrated and participative community development.*

Standing forest: My social work is strengthening communities, which are the true guardians of the forest. Communities defend the forest with their lives. Brazil is the country that most kills environmentalists in the world. Where there is community, there is forest. Where there is no unity, there is no forest. One must give social capacity, citizenship, and strengthening so that these communities can have competitive economic viability. All this with a standing forest, to make the standing forest be worth more than the cut forest.”

Sandra Carla Sarde Mirabelli (Brazil) - *Social worker at the Toledo Teaching Institution – Bauru, SP, post-graduated in Public Policy and Third Sector Management by the Toledo Teaching Institution. Master in Gerontology from PUC – Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo. PhD student in Social Work at PUC – Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo. Assistant of the Management of Studies and Social Programs of Sesc São Paulo.*

Fundamental principles: “Social Work is part of Sesc history”. Fundamental principles that guide the social work program and include the Code of Professional Ethics of the Social worker, we have in first place the defense of human rights; the position in favor of equity and social justice. Also, the respect for equality, freedom; fighting inequalities; participation; elimination of all forms of prejudice; respect for diversities; commitment to the quality of the services provided to the population and to professional improvement.”

Collective work: “It is very important to strengthen our network, it is very important to exchange our experiences in Latin America; after all, the work is more effective when done collectively. Zygmunt Bauman says everything is liquid: love is liquid, relationships are liquid – but I do not believe it. I believe we can transform this world, with our work, with our action.”

Ana Cristina de Almeida Carvalho (Brazil) - *Social worker, UERJ. Bachelor degree in Gender and Equality Policies, Flacso, Montevideo. Sexual educator by the Uruguayan Society of Sexology. Systemic Intervention in the Portuguese Society of Family Therapy, Lisbon, Portugal. Specialist in Care for Child and Adolescent victims of domestic violence, PUC, RJ. Coordinator of the Territorial Team of Family Follow Up. Institute of Children and Adolescents (INAU) and Ministry of Social Development of Uruguay (MIDES).*

Survival conditions: “I cannot work without assisting. When I work with a person who is on the threshold of poverty, a family that has no condition of material survival, because this family did not eat, I cannot say ‘people, let’s plan your future? Let’s see if your child goes to school?’ if that person did not eat, even with public policies that generate monetary transfers for food. We have this typical poverty of cities, which will continue to exist, that I call hard poverty. This hard poverty we have to put our feet firmly and say, “I am a social worker and I believe in assistance, in assistance as a right.” I do not do welfarism, because this is linked to the manipulation of people, it is linked to a neoliberal logic, it is connected to so much that we do not believe in.”

Assistance guarantee: “We have to ensure basic minimums. These people are not skanks; they just did not have the same opportunities. We have to rely on the new generations, but we cannot forget there is a group of people who will always be the population of assistance. Even if they are a population of assistance, even if they pass through all existing programs and cannot overcome the cycle of poverty and misery, they are entitled by the state and by the human rights to be supported in some way.”

Mediator: Júlio Dojcsar (Brazil) - *Member of the collectives’ casadalapa and Frente 3 de Fevereiro. His work is focus on the rights to the city. He coordinated the project Casa Rodante (2014-2016) in the region of Cracolândia, with actions of harm reduction and neighborhood building through artistic interventions.*

Thematic discussion | How can we make the world a better place until 2030

Nélsida Marmolejos (Dominican Republic) - *She studied Political Science and Public Administration. She is the director of DIDA – Directorate of Information and Defense of Social Security Affiliates. President of the International Council on Social Welfare – Latin America. Recently recognized by the OISS – Ibero-American Social Security Organization for her contribution to gender equity in Ibero-American social protection.*

Welfare: “The notion of welfare is subjective, each one has their own. For me, welfare is the satisfaction with what one does.”

A better world: “For years we have lived with the utopia of living in a better world and making the world a better place should be part of our philosophy of life, our priorities, both socially, professionally, and personally. This implies a multitude of aspects, from care for the environment, professional development, education among young people, inclusion, the most basic and fundamental respect for human life. Only those who have social and economic opportunities have full participation in society.”

Maria Carmelita Yazbek (Brazil) - *Master and PhD in Social Work by PUC-SP – Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo. Professor and researcher of the Graduate Program in Social Work. Post-doctorate in Brazilian Political Thought by IEA-USP. Visiting professor of universities from Africa, Portugal, and Argentina. She has written several books and articles on topics such as poverty, income transfer, and social work. She is part of the Scientific and Academic Committee of the Social Work Area at the National University of La Plata (Argentina).*

Importance of Social Work: “Currently, Brazil is gloomy and inhumane, thus now, and increasingly, Social Work is of great importance.

The profession has questioned, so the needs challenged of constructing of the rights and other political ideological mediations, especially expressed by actions of resistance and strategic alliances in the game of politics in its multiple dimensions within institutional spaces especially in the context of social struggles in our daily professional practice. Also, the institutional space where we operate, politicizing our initiatives. Seeking new practices, places to occupy, such as councils, forums among others, considering the several struggles and the proposals of resistance that arise in society or supporting the daily resistance of the subaltern classes in their broader struggles in our society, expressing professionally that we walk together with a population that requires our services daily. ”

Challenge: “The challenge is to build the right in adverse times, supporting and strengthening the struggles of the population with which we work, understanding that, since rights are public, they have universality as a perspective, involving

collective interests. It is a huge challenge, it is immeasurable, and it takes place in our work, especially in everyday life, in the day to day of the institutions, in our organizations, in our agencies, in our processes of vocational training, in the dispute for the meanings of societies in the unequal struggle against the dismantling of rights.”

Mediator: Ilda Lopes Rodrigues da Silva (Brazil) - *Social worker, professor of Social Work – UGF, professor at PUC-Rio, coordinator of the Ethics Committee of PUC-Rio, president of CBCISS. She develops studies in the areas of ethics; social work; human rights; and childhood, adolescence, and youth.*

CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE FEDERAL COUNCIL OF SOCIAL WORK (CFESS) AND THE REGIONAL COUNCIL OF SOCIAL WORK (CRESS-SP)

Tânia Maria Ramos Godoi Diniz - *Counsellor, First Secretary of the Federal Council of Social Work (CFESS)*

“The Latin American reality is very diverse. Inequalities that have been point out require a deepening. We cannot homogenize these inequalities. They are different; they are of various forms, of various types. As has been said, Latin America has 20 countries. Twenty diverse countries, twenty completely different countries. This is a task that this preconference addresses: the importance of constructing, elaborating a document that shows this diversity, but that also shows what unifies us in terms of facing this diversity. What we see is an inequality that is expressed in the intense repression of the poor and black people, in the criminalization of social movements, in an ever-increasing presence of a penal state rather than a protective state, in an intense process of demolition of rights.”

“It is important that we strengthen ourselves as social workers from Latin America and the Caribbean because only then can we build barriers, confront this wicked capitalism that has been destroying and withdrawing the rights of the working class. In this sense, a document as a product of these two intense days of work is important because it shows that the profession, as Maria Carmelita Yazbek said, was challenged, questioned, but also knows how to respond from its ethical principles and its political commitments.”

Fábio Rodrigues - *Advisor of the Regional Council of Social Work of São Paulo 9th Region (CRESS-SP)*

“We, as organized social workers, are the frontline in confronting the expressions of the so-called social issue, in the work we do in public policies. By the way, Public policies have routinely attacked. We can say that in recent times, in a much more intense way, the rights of the working class, those rights historically conquered, are at risk.”

“In Brazil, we live the imminent risk of the destruction of Social Security, which is the guarantee of survival of the working class. Today, we live a moment of resistance rather than progress. In some historical periods, we were able to move forward. At other times, we must resist. As a profession, this resistance goes through the defense of our category, our ensemble – which brings together CFESS, CRESS, ABEPSS, and ENESSO –, in a direction that we have historically conquered and defended as an ethical-political project, which being together with the working class. We are from the working class and we defend this class.”

“Let us be strong, have resistance, and be together to face what is coming.”

GENERAL PLENARY MEETING

SYNTHESIS, ANALYSIS OF THE EXPOSITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE WORLD CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL WORK, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT.

“We fight for a world where we are socially equal, humanly different and totally free,” taught the philosopher Rosa Luxemburg, remembered by the social worker Yolanda Guerra. The discussion between freedom and equality guided the two days of the Latin American Preconference “Human Relationships and Inequality in Latin America,” a preparatory event for the World Conference on Social Work, Education, and Social Development, which will be held in Rimini, Italy, in 2020. The positions of the Latin American Committee of ICSW – represented by CBCISS – the positions compiled in the pre-conference will be exposed and discussed in the Rimini conference.

Vicente de Paula Faleiros, PhD in Sociology and emeritus professor of the University of Brasilia (UnB), opened the round of conversations addressing the topic “**Inequality: multidimensional phenomenon in Latin America,**” and began talking about Brazil, which goes through a moment of challenges.

Faleiros commented that we are experiencing a crisis of citizenization, in which we lack respect and, above all, rights. The professor emphasized that equality does not exist without rights and showed a historical panorama of the issue, addressed worldwide since the bourgeois revolutions that put the right to equality before the law. Another focus of the lecture was work, more precisely, the precariousness of work. For him, work is the foundation of a better social insertion.

As an urbanist, the Chilean Paola Jirón Martínez approached the theme “**Inequality, Space, and Territory,**” focusing on mobility. For her, better situating the reflection of what occurs in Latin America is an urgent matter. We bring theoretical milestones that do not necessarily serve us. It is important to rethink approaches, methodologies, and conceptual frameworks to understand much better what happens on our continent.

It is necessary to understand Latin America. This has raised also by the Master and PhD in Social Work Yolanda Guerra, at the conference “**Social Work before the contemporary crisis and the fight against inequality,**” which proposed a challenge: to know Latin America and seek the collectively build of a professional culture that allows us to advance together in the fight against social inequality. For her, we do not know ourselves. Maybe we know ourselves a little more in terms of countries, but we do not know the Latin American reality. Yolanda believes that this is essential and that it can subsidize the ways of fighting the roots of social inequalities. Our contribution expands when we think it is possible and desirable to think about a plural Latin American professional culture. Even with our differences, we must know how to find unity, forge it and deepen it.

However, equality cannot be thought of only posteriori. Laís Wendel Abramo, director of the Social Development Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) recalled, during her speech at the discussion **“Inequality, Space, and Territory,”** the idea of “let’s first wait for the cake to grow and then distribute it.” The most recent period in Latin America, between 2012 and 2014, shows, from ECLAC data, that it is essential to distribute to be able to grow. Grow to equalize, equalize to grow. The division of the pie is also a central factor for growth and for development in the broader sense. According to Laís, this division plays a key role in boosting sustainable development, contributing to innovation, increased productivity, and environmental sustainability. It is not only the result of an economic system, but it is a condition for its long-term operation.

In the same conversation, José Eduardo Martins Felicio, executive director of the Mercosur Social Institute, raised internal and external displacements as indicators of inequality. According to him, considering these factors. We are forcing to conclude we are far from the path to fulfill the tenth goal of the 2030 agenda: reducing inequality within countries and between them. Fighting inequalities raises an important question: will the market forces alone allow us to get there? The answer is that public policies in the social area are clearly necessary to promote education and health, protect workers, and fight hunger and poverty.

Beatriz Eugenia Sánchez-Mojica, specialist in the protection of the rights of forced migrants, attended the discussion **“Uncompromising Defense of Human Rights.”** Shedding light on the migration of vulnerable people, she gave attention to the situation of Venezuela, a country that crosses a serious economic, political, and humanitarian crisis, with about three million Venezuelans living forced, outside their country. Beatriz believes some key points should be improved to support these people, such as working seriously in containing violence, in women’s empowerment, and in the construction of dialogue channels between state and society.

Alongside Beatriz, Lucinéia Rosa dos Santos, professor and PhD in Law from PUC-SP, addressed human rights, outlining an overview of the theme. She explained to the audience from the basics: human rights are those that meet everyone and ensure the principles of human dignity even the protection regarding basic freedoms. Lucinéia also talked about the direct relationship between citizenship and human rights. The importance of strengthening and exchanging our experiences in Latin America, considering that a work is only effective when performed collectively, was emphasized at the discussion **“Inspiring Social Actions,”** of which participated Sandra Carla Sarde Mirabelli, Ana Cristina de Almeida Carvalho, Eugenio Scannavino Netto, and Nicaraguan Xanthis Suárez Garcia. At the current moment we live, of setbacks, a lot of resistance is required. There are many challenges, which can be achieved only with unity. Unity gives us more strength.

The discussion that ended the two days of this intense and constructive event asked, **“How can we make the world a better place until 2030?”** Nélsida Marmolejos, director of DIDA (Directorate of Information and Defense of Social Security Affiliates), was the first one to answer. The Dominican social scientist and public administrator based her speech on the meaning of welfare, which is subjective to each one. For her, welfare is satisfaction for what one does. Nélsida also said that making the world a better place must be part of the philosophy of life of all, and concluded saying that the education of young people and inclusion are the bases of human life.

Maria Carmelita Yazbek, Master and PhD in Social Work by PUC-SP, in turn, sketched a current picture of Brazil, described as gloomy and inhumane. In this context, she pointed the importance of social workers. The concern about the subject treated, about the future of the planet in 11 years, is not only ours. According to Carmelita, for example, IMF, World Bank, and UN also show this concern and Social Policy is a solution for this issue.

The event counted with approximately 220 participants that intensely interacted with each other taking advantage of the occasion to promote a rich exchange for sharing in their own environments, beyond the constitution of complex subsidies, aiming to contribute to the expansion of the discussions and proposals that will come from the World Conference in 2020.

Responsible:

ICSW Latin America Region: Nelsida Marmolejos, Regional President (Dominican Republic / Cristina Riscalla Madi (Brazil), Regional Vice President.

Sesc, Sao Paulo: Danilo Santos de Miranda

CBCISS: Ilda Lopes Rodrigues Da Silva

Special Guest: Ms. Eva Holmberg, Herrstrom, ICSW, Global President

Support Team: Sandra Carla Mirabelli, Silvinia Frias and Julissa Magallanes (SESC-ICW).