

# ***Annual Report 2011***

## *Introduction*

This report covers the period 1st January to 31st December 2011. ICSW activities for 2011 are reported under the seven components of the International Council on Social Welfare, Global Programme 2009 to 2012 - *Strengthening civil society’s participation in social welfare and social development.* The programme can be found in English, French and Spanish at <http://www.icsw.org/publication/gp.htm>. The Global Programme was approved by the General Assembly of members in July 2008 and amended at the General Assembly of members in June 2010. The 2010 amendments recognised that ICSW, the International Association of Schools of Social Work, and the International Federation of Social Workers were embarking on an ambitious project to develop a Global Agenda on social work and social development. The report of the first stage of the Global Agenda was scheduled to be delivered to the United Nations on UN Social Work Day February 2012. The other major change to the Global Programme was a commitment to engage governments at all levels in promoting the social protection floor initiative.

The seven areas of the programme for the reporting period of 2011 are:

* Social welfare and social development,
* Networking and linking our work,
* Communicating with our stakeholders,
* On-going global advocacy and socially responsible global governance,
* Regional level cooperation,
* North-South partnerships, and
* South-South policy dialogue.

## *Highlights of 2011*

* An external review of ICSW resulted in a positive report from both internal and external commentators. The achievements referred to in the review were the Global Programme itself; ICSW’s part in developing the Global Agenda; international advocacy, for example the Social Protection Floor Initiative (SPFI); positive impacts on poverty reduction (through its membership); and increasing the capacity of national councils.
* Membership growth is steady and three government bodies have joined in the non-voting Associate Member Organisation category.
* ICSW has continued to promote and extend its support and work on the Social Protection Floor Initiative.
* At the 50th session of the UN Commission for Social Development in February 2011 ICSW presented a written statement on the priority theme, *Poverty Eradication*.
* The ten governments attending the sixth ASEAN GO-NGO Forum for Social Welfare and Development in September 2011 adopted the proposals presented by ICSW for the *Establishment of the Social Protection Floor on Social Welfare and Development within ASEAN.*
* The Central and West African region with support from the Commonwealth Foundation and SIDA held a capacity building programme for Commonwealth countries in the region in December 2011.
* The International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW), the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW), and ICSW have worked throughout the year on a common Global Agenda on social work and social development.
* ICSW continues its commitment to two refereed professional journals. ICSW provides Global Social Policy to all ICSW members as a membership benefit and distributes the electronic version of the *GSP Digest* to a wide network of social policy practitioners. ICSW is a partner with IASSW and IFSW in the journal *International Social Work*.

In 2011 the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) contributed financially to the ICSW programme. The Commonwealth Foundation provided a responsive grant for the conduct of training on the Social Protection Floor Initiative in Central and West Africa. The global and regional programmes are supported through the countless hours of voluntary work by ICSW members.

The administration of the Global Programme was conducted from the global offices in Australia and Uganda. The programmes in the ICSW regions are conducted from the offices of the Regional Presidents.

## *First Component: Social welfare and social development*

### DESCRIPTION

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

### OUTCOMES

**Links with academics in social welfare and development**

ICSW continued its commitment to social welfare and social development. ICSW provides a regular update on social welfare and social development issues in the journal *International Social Work*. The May issue carried an article on the Global Agenda and the November issue carried an article on Poverty Eradication (see references). Through a financial arrangement with Sage Publications, ICSW provides each ICSW member with an annual subscription to *Global Social Policy.* ICSW sends the electronic version of the *GSP Digest* to over 200 social policy specialists throughout the world.

**The Agenda and the Social Protection Floor Initiative (SPFI)**

The International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW), ICSW, and International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) started the development of a Global Agenda for social work and social development at the Joint World Conference held in Hong Kong in 2010. In 2011 this culminated in a meeting in Accra Ghana of the representatives of IASSW, ICSW, and IFSW to prepare the document for presentation to the UN on UN Social Work Day in 2012. ICSW has made the Social Protection Floor Initiative its major contribution to the combined Global Agenda. The SPFI is a set of basic social rights, services and facilities that a citizen should enjoy. ICSW promoted the SPFI at global level in its statement to the UN Commission for Social Development in 2011.

### Social protection floor interagency meetings

ICSW is one of a few international NGOs that have been invited to participate in the UN/ILO interagency meetings to further the social protection floor initiative. ICSW representative Christian Rollet participated in the March Workshop on Communication and Capacity Building. The main outcome was the adoption of a statement of rationale for the SPFI - what it is and what it stands for and what clearly differentiates social protection from the minimalistic safety net approach. The SPFI is:

* based on a rights-based approach;
* about coordination and joint efforts with emphasis on the comprehensive, multidimensional, inter-sectoral and inter-ministerial character;
* a floor, a beginning or a first step, not a ceiling and part of an overall social protection system;
* built on what already exists.

**Report: *Social protection floor for a fair and inclusive globalization***

The President, Christian Rollet, attended the launch of the report *Social Protection Floor for a Fair and Inclusive Globalization* in Geneva on 8th November 2011. The report was prepared by the Advisory Group, led by Ms Michelle Bachelet.

**Signature campaign in support of the Social Protection Floor Initiative**

ICSW supported and promoted the New York based NGO Committee for Social Development signature campaign in four languages in support of the Social Protection Floor Initiative. The aim is one million signatures. The signatures will be used as an advocacy tool at national level and at the UN during the Commission on Social Development 2012, Commission on Status of Women 2012, and the International Labour Conference in June 2012.

**Health Promotion Forum Geneva November 2011**

ICSW supported the Forum organised by the Alliance for Health Promotion (A4HP). The forum was conducted to exchange ideas and practices and take a snapshot of current approaches, evidence, challenges and opportunities. It provided an opportunity to mobilise partners and members of the NGO community to participate in the planning, development and actions to fulfil the goal of A4HP to speak as a single unified NGO voice at the 8th Global Conference on Health Promotion to be held in Helsinki in June 2013.

**Central and West Africa training**

From 12th to 15th December 2011, representatives of national councils from Commonwealth Central and West African countries met to both learn about the SPFI and make their own plans to be involved in national social protection initiatives. The workshop was organised jointly by the ICSW member in Cameroon, Cameroon Women in Leadership and Development (CAWOLED), and ICSW. Funding for the workshop came from the Commonwealth Foundation and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). Technical support for the training was provided by the International Labour Organisation through Mr Butare Theopiste who provided in-depth understanding and appreciation of the SPFI. Each participant developed plans to work on social protection in their own countries in cooperation with their governments, UN agencies, and other partners. Each participant was urged to conduct national workshops on social protection to sensitise civil society and government to the possibilities in defining and extending social protection.

**South Asia and social protection**

ICSW South Asia was a partner of UNESCO South Asia Office, New Delhi in organising the third ministerial meeting of social protection policies in South Asia. The meeting was hosted by Mr Felix Perera, Minister of Social Services, Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka in Colombo 20th to 22nd February 2011. ICSW supported the attendance of ICSW delegates from India, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and the Maldives. The Executive Director, Denys Correll and Regional President A.S. Shenoy presented papers on social protection policies and moderated two technical sessions.

With the support of ILO and UNESCO the South Asia Regional Committee of ICSW with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences conducted a national consultation on: *From Social protection to social justice: addressing poverty and exclusion in India.* This was held in Mumbai in March. The chief guest was ICSW President Christian Rollet. The major outcomes in relation to social protection included a decision to form a research group to analyse the social security needs of vulnerable people, need for improved coordination of South-South dialogue, training in the SPFI, advocacy to governments, reinforcing legal entitlements and particular concerns for minorities and marginalised communities.

In addition to the partnership with the Tata Institute, the ICSW South Asia region established partnerships with the Rajagiri College of Social Sciences, Cochin, India and the Kadambari College of Social Sciences, Kathmandu, Nepal to promote the SPFI.

**6th ASEAN GO NGO Forum moves on social protection**

Representatives of ASEAN member countries met with civil society representatives at the 6th ASEAN GO-NGO Forum held in Bangkok, Thailand on 20th September to establish a regional approach to a social protection floor. Before the GO-NGO Forum, ICSW ran a two day intensive preparatory civil society workshop with inputs from the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO). The recommendations from the workshop form the basis for attaining Social Protection Floor Initiatives (SPFI) in each ASEAN Member State.

The sixth ASEAN GO-NGO Forum for Social Welfare and Development adopted the proposals presented by ICSW on the *Establishment of the social protection floor on social welfare and development within ASEAN.* The ICSW proposals were preceded by a preparatory paper: *ASEAN Member Countries and the UN Social Protection Floor Initiative*prepared by Mike Chai**.** As a follow-up, Malaysia conducted a Social Protection Floor workshop for both government and civil society representatives with the help of the regional ICSW officer and the International Labour Organisation.

**Latin America and Social Protection**

ICSW Latin America was active in supporting the implementation of the United Nations Social Protection Floor Initiative (SPFI) during 2011. The region paid particular reference to the policy issues related to addictions, child/adolescent sexual exploitation, and ageing. To promote the SPFI the Regional President, Mirtha Sosa Crevoisier, organised the First Latin American Conference on Social Welfare from the 12th to 14th May 2011, in Montevideo, Uruguay, together with the Uruguayan Association of Social Workers and academia (University of the Republic of Uruguay and the Catholic University of Uruguay). The main speakers were top professionals from Mexico, Chile, Argentina, Brazil and Costa Rica. There were more than 400 participants (mostly social workers) from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Venezuela, Spain and Uruguay). Participants evaluated the event as highly positive in its organisation and the quality of its academic content.

**Council of Europe Conference of INGOs**

ICSW Europe participated in the Conference of International NGOs of the Council of Europe in January 2011. Around 400 organisations have participatory status with the Council of

Europe. Several far-reaching decisions were taken to reform the Conference of INGOs as the result of a reform started in 2010. The INGO conference budget was reduced by approximately 50%, but a more efficient inner organisation was proposed which can respond more quickly and is a better match to the Council of Europe. The number of meetings of INGOs enjoying participatory status in the Conference of INGOs has been reduced from four to two meetings a year in Strasbourg. The six thematic committees and transversal groups have been reduced to three committees. The working names for the three new committees are: 1. Human Rights; 2. Democracy, Social Cohesion and Global Challenges; and 3. Education and Culture. The first two of these new committees are of most interest to ICSW. An INGO session will be held in the early summer to decide on work processes.

***Second Component: Networking and linking our work***

### DESCRIPTION

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

### OUTCOMES

**Joint World Conference on social work and social development**

2011 was the planning year for the joint world conference of International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW), ICSW, and International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW). The conference will be held from 8th to 12th July 2012 in Stockholm Sweden. During 2011 the Executive Director, Denys Correll, on behalf of the joint owners of the conference conducted negotiations with The University of Melbourne on the University’s bid to host the 2014 joint world conference.

**28th Annual Social Work Day at the United Nations**

ICSW was represented by the Vice President, Charles Abbey at the 28th Annual Social Work Day at the United Nations held 28th March 2011. The theme was: *Promoting human rights through social work and social welfare*. Prior to the UN Day a global social work student conference was held.

**Keeping the sector informed**

The two global offices have maintained a high level of networking and keeping the Board, Management Committee and members informed of matters of interest from other regions or sectors. For example, in the global and regional newsletters, members are informed of research into social development in their countries or regions.

**Cooperation with other International NGOs**

ICSW meets annually with the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) and International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) to further social policy. In 2011 the meeting was held in January in London. The meeting was followed by the annual meeting with the editors and publishers (Sage) of the *International Social Work* journal. ICSW has extended its links with other International NGOs with first discussions in 2011 being held with the International Association for Community Development (IACD).

**European cooperation**

ENSACT is a network created through cooperation of ICSW Europe, the European Association of Schools of Social Work (EASSW), Formation d’ Educateurs Sociaux Européens/European Social Educator Training (FESET), Federation Internationale des Communautés Educatives (FICE), International Association of Social Educators (AIEJI) and the International Federation of Social Workers European Association (IFSW). ENSACT seeks to achieve professional quality and to voice the concerns of professional service providers and social professionals. The joint ICSW-ENSACT conference took place in Brussels from 10th to 13th April 2011. Over 600 participants – social professionals, social work educators, policy makers and users – from 29 European countries and several countries outside Europe joined in three days of debate on sustainable social development and economic challenges. More information and key-note speeches can be found at [htttp://www.ensact.eu](http://www.ensact.eu/).

The next ENSACT conference is planned in Istanbul in 2013.

***Third Component: Communicating with our stakeholders***

### DESCRIPTION

*ICSW communicates its message through multiple mediums*.

### OUTCOMES

The Executive Director, Denys Correll, contributed a chapter on ICSW in the *Handbook of international social work, human rights, development, and the global profession,* edited by Lynne M Healy and Rosemary J Link. This handbook is the first major reference text to provide a solid foundation of knowledge for students and researchers alike.

**ICSW Website**

The ICSW website continues to grow and is a valuable resource for social welfare and social development. The site contains ICSW global publications, regional publications and links to professional journals in the field of social welfare and development.

The number of pages downloaded from the website averaged 62,397 per month in 2011 (72,942 in 2010, 43,839 in 2009).

**Publications**

ICSW publishes most of its policy documents on the ICSW website. In addition, ICSW publishes some printed material (see publications and speeches section below). The 2010 joint world conference produced a myriad of papers most of which can be found at <http://www.swsd2010.org/en/programme.html>.

**Global Cooperation**

The monthly Global Cooperation newsletter is circulated in French, Spanish and English to stakeholders in social welfare and social development.

**Regional Publications**

Some ICSW regions produce newsletters (see <http://www.icsw.org/regions/regions.htm>. In 2011 the following newsletters were published:

**Central and West Africa**: None

**East and Southern Africa**: None

**Middle East and North Africa:** None

**South Asia:** five newsletters plus other publications that are referenced below in publications and speeches.

**South East Asia and the Pacific**: three newsletters

**Europe**: six newsletters

**Latin America**: six newsletters.

**Linkages to ICSW Website**

ICSW encourages member organisations to link ICSW to their websites.

**Global Social Policy**

ICSW’s link with the journal *Global Social Policy* commenced in 2006. ICSW, with the approval of the two major donors, provided financial assistance to sponsor the section *Southern Voices* until 2010 when reduced funding resulted in this sponsorship being withdrawn. The intention is to forge and maintain links with the academic community to access their vast knowledge and experience which can assist the practice of social welfare and development. Through an arrangement with Sage publications ICSW makes available to all ICSW members an annual subscription *Global Social Policy*.

**International Social Work**

ICSW is a legal partner with the International Federation of Social Workers and the International Association of Schools of Social Work in producing the journal *International Social Work*. Six issues are published each year by SAGE publications. ICSW contributes to the *News and views* section twice each year. The 2011 combined downloads total of 116,221 was a significant increase on 2010 and represents the journal’s largest yearly usage figure yet.

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

### DESCRIPTION

*ICSW advocates the strengthening and reform of the multilateral system. ICSW is extending its involvement through engagement with emerging processes focused on the reform of globalisation and global governance.*

### OUTCOMES

**Good Governance in ICSW**

During 2011 ICSW admitted four new National Member Organisations, four Other Member Organisations and three new Associate Member Organisations. As ICSW only admits one National Member Organisation from each country, the additional four members means ICSW has a presence in four more countries. Associate Member Organisation is a new non-voting category and is intended for government bodies. It is pleasing to see three countries have taken up this membership option.

The 2009 to 2011 contract with Sida required an external evaluation of ICSW. Although Sida later decided the evaluation was not compulsory, ICSW went ahead and engaged Westwood Spice to conduct the evaluation. The methodology included an on-line questionnaire, phone interviews with internal and external stakeholders and a meeting with the Supervisory and Advisory Board.

Evaluation feedback on the ICSW Global Programme and its benefits was broadly positive on its seven components. The perceived challenges for ICSW with the current Global Programme related to: issues of better communicating the programme messages and maintaining the support of northern stakeholders.

Overall the evaluation concluded the ICSW Global Programme is substantial, consistent, comprehensive and established and provides an underlying rationale and direction for international social welfare and development activities.

In assessing achievements, the evaluation identified the Global Programme itself; ICSW’s part in developing the Global Agenda; international advocacy (for example the Social Protection Floor Initiative); positive impacts on poverty reduction (through its membership); and increasing the capacity of national councils.

Stakeholders saw the strengths of ICSW as a lean organisation with efficient administration and governance; having meaningful engagement by members with ICSW and other members; and ICSW’s collaborative rather than competitive approach.

The challenges were seen as an unclear profile and identity of ICSW which presents challenges in ‘selling’ key messages to different audiences; some ICSW regions have minimal membership or do not engage with global ICSW; Northern regions and Northern members have diminished resources to support global social initiatives; and there are persistent international language and communication barriers.

The weaknesses identified by stakeholders included the lack of ICSW staff and resources for the scale of the global challenge; that priorities and activities can change; along with membership changes (the consultants believed this is not necessarily a weakness - depending on the context).

The concluding phase of the evaluation was the meeting between the consultants and the Board in May. Nine planning themes emerged: finance, members and membership, performance, regional issues, leadership and human resources, policy and research, partnerships and relationships, communications and finally ICSW’s identity - who or what is ICSW?

As a consequence of the evaluation the President, Christian Rollet established a search committee to identify suitable external candidates for the position of President to take office in July 2012. The search committee consisted of Ms Isabel Ortiz, UNICEF; A.S. Shenoy, Regional President South Asia; and Amacodou Diouf, Regional President Central and West Africa.

**Archives**

The Treasurer, Marijke Steenbergen and the Executive Director, Denys Correll, conducted discussions with the International Institute of Social History in Amsterdam to hold the ICSW archives that go back to 1928. The archives will be delivered to the Institute in 2012 and after processing by the Institute will be available to researchers and ICSW members for viewing on site.

**UN Commission for Social Development – Poverty Eradication**

ICSW was represented at the 49th Session of the Commission for Social Development held in New York from 9-18 February under the priority theme *Poverty Eradication*. UN Member States, civil society and other stakeholders examined poverty’s interrelationship with social integration, full employment and decent work for all. Social protection was chosen as the emerging issue of the 49th session by the Economic and Social Council (resolution 2006/18). ICSW made an extensive statement on the theme and social protection – this can be found at: <http://www.icsw.org/un/un.htm>.

In preparation for the 2012 UN Commission meeting the President, Christian Rollet, represented ICSW as an observer at an Expert Group Meeting on *Poverty Eradication* that the Division for Social Policy and Development of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with the International Labour Organisation, conducted in Geneva, Switzerland 20-22 June 2011.

**Europe**

ICSW Europe is an independent legal entity under Dutch law while remaining an integral part of the global ICSW. The constitution and by-laws make ICSW Europe a democratic, participatory and accountable organisation. All European members are represented in the regional governing body, the General Assembly. The members elect a board that takes responsibility for preparation and implementation of its programmes and policies. The General Assembly of ICSW Europe took place in Brussels 10 April 2011. ICSW Europe decided to continue its general work on equal opportunities with a focus on the working poor, child poverty and the elderly. The world conference in Stockholm in July 2012 was discussed and ICSW members were invited to take part in the preparations for the conference with ideas on themes and workshops. The next General Assembly will be in Stockholm in July 2012 in connection with the *Joint World Conference Social Work and Social Development: action and impact*.

## *Fifth Component: Regional level cooperation*

### DESCRIPTION

*ICSW facilitates the cooperation of civil society with regional intergovernmental bodies to achieve better regional social policies and the development and adoption of social programmes in Southern regions.*

### OUTCOMES

**Central and West Africa**

The forum in Doula Cameroon in December was enhanced through the participation of the ILO. The media provided coverage of social protection issues.

**Middle East and North Africa**

Mr Driss Guerraoui ICSW Regional President Middle East and North Africa and President of the Moroccan network of ICSW welcomed delegates from 10 countries to the first meeting of an Arab network of ICSW. The focus of the two day meeting at the end of May was social protection in the Arab region. The building of a civil society network will strengthen the position of social welfare and development in Arab countries. The region has as its major aims: combatting poverty, exclusion, and building solidarity between government and civil society.

**South Asia**

The Region through its President, A.S. Shenoy, has established a partnership with UNESCO, New Delhi office for implementing the Social Protection Floor Initiatives (SPFI) in the region. A consultative meeting on the SPFI was held in Mumbai in March 2011 with support of ILO and UNESCO. As referred to above, ICSW South Asia was a partner of UNESCO South Asia Office, New Delhi in organising the third ministerial meeting in Sri Lanka of social protection policies in South Asia.

**South East Asia and the Pacific**

The 6th ASEAN GO-NGO Forum for Social Welfare and Development was held in Bangkok in September 2011. It was organised by the ASEAN Secretariat and the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security of Thailand. ICSW facilitated the attendance of civil society leaders from the ten ASEAN member countries - Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam.

The declaration adopted by the ASEAN Ministerial meeting closely aligned with the proposal from the Government–Non Government Organisations (GO-NGO) Forum. This was the 6th GO-NGO Forum organised by ICSW and the ASEAN Secretariat. ICSW brought together national member councils of ICSW and representatives of expert organisations.

**European Platform of Social NGOs**

ICSW Europe is a member of the European Platform of Social NGOs and International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs) of the Council of Europe. ICSW Europe representatives participated in the social platform activities. They attend meetings of the Steering Group, the Working Group on Social Policy, the Working Group on Social Services of General Interest, expert meetings and conferences.

ICSW has taken part in consultation processes on social policy issues, such as the consultation on European public procurement rules (green paper). The Social Platform adopted a position paper in April. Additionally, ICSW has presented amendments for a report of the European Parliament concerning the *Future of social services on general interest* (the ‘so called’ De-Rossa Report, accepted 5 July 2011).

19th European Social Services Conference

Three hundred and fifty (350) social directors, service managers, senior professionals, political decision-makers, researchers and campaigners from 32 countries came together at the European Social Services Conference in Warsaw, 6-8 July, 2011 organised by the European Social Network (ESN) in Warsaw. The German ICSW National Committee and its research project *Observatory of socio-political developments in Europe* attended the conference and offered two workshops – one on cooperation between voluntary welfare agencies, youth welfare and social authorities, guardianship and family courts in Germany and those abroad to handle international family-conflicts and another on innovative approaches for a future-oriented policy for senior citizens.

**European capacity building**

In October 2011 a capacity building seminar was arranged in Stockholm for the representatives in the Social Platform, the Council of Europe and the Board. It was an intense seminar with good ideas and reflections on how to develop communication in ICSW and to strengthen the impact at the European level.

**Latin America**

In July 2011 ICSW Latin America organised the 3rd Regional Meeting of Networks for Children and Adolescents. This meeting was inspired by the Social Protection Floor Initiative and examined the vulnerable population group of children and adolescents. The meeting reviewed the possibilities of achieving cooperative agreements between countries of Mercosur, this time including Brazil, through a process of joint effort, shared experiences, and developing and implementing projects in this area.

In October 2011 Mirtha Sosa Crevoisier, Regional President, Latin America participated in the XI Meeting of Civil Society with the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) held in Asuncion, Paraguay. The event was an important step in strengthening Latin American civil society and discussing its responsibility in developing countries and communities in the areas of climate change, education, youth, diversity and social inclusion, and public safety.

## *Sixth component: North-South Partnerships*

### DESCRIPTION

*ICSW promotes partnerships between Northern and Southern member organisations with the aim of promoting a socially responsible approach to globalisation, strengthening capacity of Southern ICSW members, and enabling learning experiences for all partners involved.*

### OUTCOMES

**North South Project**

The North South project in development cooperation is being conducted by the Finnish Federation for Social and Health (STKL) and the Tanzania Council for Social Development (TACOSODE). ICSW is a partner in the project.

The overall objective in the North South project is to create a stronger TACOSODE to support its more than 250 member organisations in their work to reduce poverty. By strengthening TACOSODE there will be a stronger civil society and enhanced opportunities for citizens to participate and make a difference in the reduction of poverty levels in Tanzania.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland has approved funding of the second phase of the project for the years 2011 to 2013. In the second phase, the project will focus on networking of local NGOs not only at local and national levels, but also at a regional level. Regional network NGOs will be supported and their professional capacity strengthened in terms of advocacy on social policy issues at regional level.

In 2011, the project focussed on two main topics in terms of social policy advocacy work: the situation and rights of women in Tanzania, and the funding and sustainability challenges of NGOs in the country. On the first topic, one national and one regional seminar were conducted in which women and NGOs working for women’s rights discussed the current situation and challenges facing women and resulting policy implications. On the second topic, a national seminar was conducted, with participation of local NGO representatives, members of government, members of the academic world, and international development partners. New strategies for facilitating NGO funding were discussed.

A further focus of the project was promoting regional networking of NGOs in Tanzania and enhancing the professional capacity of regional network NGOs. In 2011, the project focussed on the Mbeya region in Western Tanzania and facilitated a regional seminar to improve NGO networking and assisted regional network NGOs with IT equipment and internet access for improved communication.

In the years 2012 and 2013, the project will continue in the form of a partnership between the newly formed Finnish umbrella organisation SOSTE Finnish Society for Social and Health and TACOSODE in Tanzania.

## *Seventh component: South-South Policy Dialogue*

### DESCRIPTION

*ICSW will enhance the sharing of information, knowledge and experience between South actors. Actors 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

**Social protection**

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

The regional newsletters provide a forum for sharing knowledge not only within a region but between regions.

## *Publications and Speeches*

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

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* Mathiaparanam, B. 2011. *Establishing the Social Protection Floor within ASEAN.* 6th ASEAN GO-NGO Forum, Bangkok, Thailand. September 2011. Available from: <http://www.icsw.org/region/seap.htm>
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## *Financial review of the year*

During the year the government of Sweden continued its commitment to supporting the work of ICSW in achieving its global programme: *Strengthening civil society’s participation in social welfare and social development*. The specific commitment is from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). ICSW entered into an agreement with the Commonwealth Foundation to support a programme to further social protection initiatives in Central and West Africa. ICSW made an application to the UN Democracy Fund (UNDEF) and was short-listed for funding. The resulting interchanges with UNDEF demonstrated their processes were far in excess of reasonable and ICSW withdraw its application.

The financial result for the year showed a positive result of a €70,565 surplus.

## *Employees*

During the year, Anne Herdt retired from the position of ICSW UN Special Representative in Geneva. Anne held the position for 30 years which is a remarkable achievement. ICSW recruited Jacqueline Heinen as the new ICSW UN Special Representative in Geneva. Jacqueline is Professor Emeritus of Sociology at the University Versailles-St-Quentin, France.

The International Council on Social Welfare is an equal opportunities employer and applies objective criteria to assess merit. It aims to ensure that no job applicant or employee receives less favourable treatment on the grounds of age, race, colour, nationality, religion, ethnic or national origin, gender, marital status, sexual orientation or disability.

Selection criteria and procedures are regularly reviewed to ensure that individuals are selected, promoted and treated on the basis of their relevant merits and abilities. All employees are given equal opportunity and, where appropriate and possible, special training to enable them to progress both within and outside the organisation. The International Council on Social Welfare is committed to a programme of action to make this policy effective, and brings it to the attention of all employees.