



INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL
ON SOCIAL WELFARE
A World Organisation Promoting Social Development

ICSW ANNUAL REPORT

2017

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Annual Report 2017

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Introduction

This report covers the period 1st January to 31st December 2017. ICSW activities for 2017 are reported under the following six priority areas, in line with its Constitutional mandates and 2016-2020 ICSW Global Programme:

- *Promoting social justice, social development and human well-being,
- *Networking and policy innovations in our work,

- *Communicating with our stakeholders,
- *On-going global advocacy and socially responsible global governance,
- *Regional level cooperation
- *Knowledge-building, policy dialogue and capacity-development

Highlights of 2017

- Guided by its mandate to promote socio-economic development which aims to reduce poverty, hardship and vulnerability, ICSW has continued its work on progressive and forward-looking policy agenda, particularly on social protection systems, including the Social Protection Floor Initiative. The Council has been a founding member of the Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors, bringing together over 100 NGOs working on issues of social protection and promoting SPFI.
- Among a selected few NGOs the ICSW has continued to take active part in the activities of Social Protection Inter-Agency Cooperation Board (SPIAC-B) established in June 2012 on the recommendations of the G20 Development Working Group. The Board is jointly chaired by ILO and the World Bank, and works on cooperation in the area of promoting universal social protection, monitoring frameworks to achieve a greater impact at the country level, and improving delivery tools.
- At the 55th session of the UN Commission for Social Development in February 2017 ICSW presented both written and oral statements on the priority theme "Strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all", concentrating on some new messages linked to a new policy space created for social development with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, as well as new initiatives to expand the boundaries of policy discourse and solutions. ICSW also contributed to drafting of the statement of the Global Coalition on Social Protection floors at the 55th session of the CSocD.
- The IASSW, the IFSW, and ICSW have worked throughout the year on a common Global Agenda on social work and social development. In 2017 the work on the Global Observatory to monitor the implementation of the Global Agenda has continued and the outcome report will be submitted to the Joint World Conference in Dublin in July 2018.
- The ICSW and International Association of the Schools of Social Work working in close partnership agreed to hold the 2020 Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development in Rimini, Italy in July 2020.
- ICSW continues its commitment to two refereed professional journals. ICSW provides subscription to Global Social Policy journal to all ICSW members as a membership benefit. ICSW is a partner with IASSW and IFSW in the journal *International Social Work*. ICSW regularly submits its analytical inputs containing views and analysis for publication in the above journal.

- Regional level cooperation remained an important part of the ICSW policy agenda. Vulnerability of social groups, along with analysis of ways and means aimed at addressing it, continued to be a focus of activities in several regions. Ageing came strongly as one of the cross-current priority themes attracting regional attention. The existing population dynamics and changing structure of the population has been one of the emerging concerns, high on regional and national policy agendas, and ICSW has been actively involved in finding policy solutions at the conferences and expert meetings convened to discuss these challenges.

The regional conference convened in Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic) in November 2017 sought to explore the opportunities and challenges of ageing in the Latin American region, in the context of economic development and human rights. The policy discourse was linked to Sustainable Development Agenda.

- ICSW South Asia Region continued collaboration with Head Held High Foundation, Bengaluru, India on global initiative called **GAP - [Global Action on Poverty](#)**. A movement to eradicate poverty globally, through thought and action, the **GAP initiative** brought together influential members of the civil society from India and the SA region.

In North East Asia region the EXPO cum Summit organised in June 2017 in Hong Kong by the ICSW NEA region in cooperation with the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government explored such issues as use of robotics in elderly care, innovative services to enhance quality care, ways to create age-friendly communities, solutions to enhance participation and social inclusion of the older persons as well as intergenerational issues.

- Members and officers of the ICSW SEAP participated in the 12th ASEAN GO-NGO Forum on Social Welfare and Development, held last 17 October 2017 at Yangon, Myanmar. The theme of the forum was "Strengthening Social Protection to Address Challenges of Ageing Societies". The 2017 forum was attended by 80 delegates from governments and non-governmental organizations; it is held annually and seeks to increase and strengthen cooperation between ASEAN region governments and civil-society organizations in establishing joint projects. The Forum has become an important platform for discussion the most acute issues of social-economic development, social policy and the welfare mix in the region, providing for a comparison of policy tools as well as of welfare outcomes.
- ICSW-Europe convened the international conference entitled "Human Well-Being, Social Cohesion and Sustainable Development: The Quest for the Responses to Contemporary Challenges" that took place in Moscow on May 18-19, 2017. Apart from ICSW Europe the co-organizers of the event were the Moscow City Government, the Moscow Department of Labour and the Social

Protection of the Population, the Moscow Institute for the Additional Professional Education of Workers for Social Services (IAPE of WSS) and the International School of Social Work. The conference was conceived with a specific focus on the effectiveness of social work and social development in promoting environmental and community sustainability in the context of the preparations for the 2018 Joint World Conference on Social Work and Social Development in Dublin. Around 250 participants from 15 countries of Europe and Asia and more than 12 regions of the Russian Federation took part in the event.

By and large the ICSW Global President, as well as the Regional Presidents have been actively involved in advocacy and capacity-building activities on behalf of the ICSW, promoting core messages of its Global Programme. Their personal contribution in shaping the work programmes, as well as in their implementation, represented an important factor in raising the profile of ICSW.

The global and regional action frames most widely used included various interventions to draw attention to the ICSW goals and causes, lobbying activities and strengthening links with partners. The implementation of global and regional programmes would not be possible without countless hours of voluntary work by ICSW members.

The administration of the Global Programme was conducted from the global offices in New York, USA and Kampala, Uganda. The programmes in the ICSW regions are coordinated and conducted from the offices of the Regional Presidents.

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

OBJECTIVES

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

OUTCOMES

Promoting universal social protection

Over the course of the recent years, this area has been supported by ICSW as one of the key elements of progressive social policy. ICSW considers social protection as both a human right and a sound economic policy, and as investment in people rather than an expense. Social protection has been a constant theme in ICSW advocacy efforts regionally and globally, seen as a genuine channel for achieving poverty reduction and development goals. Relevance of social protection has increased in the wake of the global social and economic crisis; however, in many cases on the ground efforts to promote social protection remain fragmented. There is a need for coordinated responses to build forward-looking socio-economic policy aimed at universal public provision of basic social services and basic income.

The Social Protection Floor concept developed by the UN Social Protection Floor Initiative and defined in the ILO Recommendation No.202 is seen by the ICSW as a first step towards universal, rights-based and comprehensive social protection for all. The SPFI is a set of basic guarantees, social rights, services and facilities that a citizen should enjoy. ICSW promoted the SPFI at global level in its statements to the UN Commission for Social Development in 2011-2017.

ICSW is a co-founder of the **Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors**, joining forces with more than 100 NGOs and trade union organizations. The Coalition plays an increasingly important role in shaping the debate, raising awareness, achieving a national consensus on policy priorities and monitoring progress of SPFs. Within the Coalition the ICSW was instrumental in promoting the role of social protection in the process of formulating the new development goals for the post-2015 development agenda.

In November 2017 the ICSW Executive Director got a request submitted by the core group of the Global Coalition to help with the preparation of the new terms of reference (TORs) of the Global Coalition, making TORs better attuned to the realities of today. This revision was prepared, submitted to the core group for comments, and was eventually adopted in January 2018 at the meeting of the core group of the Global Coalition in Nairobi, Kenya. Apart from the above, ICSW continued its advocacy efforts on behalf of the Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors to prepare a draft of the dedicated resolution on universal social protection for delivery at the 56th session of the Commission for Social Development. The parallel efforts were also undertaken within the NGO community in New York and Geneva; the Declaration prepared at the end of 2017 for the 2018 Civil Society Forum reflected many elements proposed by ICSW.

Links with academics in the fields of social welfare and development

ICSW is committed to exploring new frontiers in social welfare and social development. Touching up significant recent developments in important policy fields ICSW provides a regular update on social welfare and social development issues in the academic journal *International Social Work*. Through a financial arrangement

with Sage Publications, ICSW provides each ICSW member with an annual subscription to *Global Social Policy Journal*.

The Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development

2017 witnessed a continuation of joint work on the implementation of the Global Agenda undertaken by the ICSW, International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW), and International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW). The three organizations started the development of a Global Agenda for social work and social development at the Joint World Conference held in Hong Kong in 2010. ICSW has made the Social Protection Floor Initiative its major contribution to the combined Global Agenda. The Global Agenda Observatory structured around the four themes of the Agenda is aimed at gathering evidence on its implementation. The meeting of the partner organizations in Dublin in March 2017 was instrumental in advancing the goals of the Agenda. The ICSW contributed to the preparation of the Global Report of the three partner organizations submitted to the Dublin conference on the theme of environmental and community sustainability. The Conference organized by ICSW Europe in Moscow, Russia in May 2017 was largely devoted to investigating linkages in the context of the third priority theme of the Global Agenda; its conclusions were used in the respective regional input prepared for the global implementation report. On the individual level, the article called "Environmental justice: A Call for action for Social Workers" was prepared by the ICSW South Asia (Prof. P.K. Shajahan in cooperation with Rooja Shama) as an input for the *International Social Work Journal*. On behalf of the organization the ICSW Executive Director Dr. Sergei Zelenev also published the article in the *International Social Work Journal* under the title: "Translating the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into local circumstances: principles and trade-offs".

Social protection interagency meetings

SPIAC Board has found its niche

ICSW is one of a few international NGOs that have been invited to participate in the **Social Protection Inter-Agency Cooperation Board (SPIAC-B)** created in June 2012 on the recommendation of the G20 Development Working Group presented to the G20 summit in Los Cabos, June 2012. The Board aims at sharing information and promoting cooperation between partners in the area of social protection at the international and national levels. The Board is jointly chaired by the ILO and the World Bank, and ICSW takes part in every meeting. The ICSW strives to take part in every annual SPIAC-B meeting.

The current focus of the international community on the need to reduce the extreme poverty and wide spread political momentum for social protection schemes worldwide provides a unique opportunity to enhance policy coherence, cooperation and coordination of social protection actions at global, regional and national levels. SDG Target 1.3 calls for universal social protection ("implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable"). A clear

mandate has been given by the international community on the extension of coverage of social protection systems, including social protection floors. Participants of the SPIAC-B, as the leading global issues-based coalition on social protection, agreed that it should continue to take the lead in framing, monitoring and implementing the different aspects of the new agenda. In its efforts during the meetings of the Board the ICSW continues to advocate for the joint preparation of a dedicated ECOSOC resolution on universal social protection.

Global Health Promotion Forum Geneva 2017

ICSW supports the annual 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 on key policy issues.

The 7th Global Forum on Health Promotion was held in Geneva, Switzerland on 14 November 2017. This one-day forum explored the role of health promotion from a Planetary Health lens. By bringing together health actors from various sectors the forum sought to increase awareness on the far-reaching impact of environmental factors on the well-being of populations globally, and shared ideas and approaches to address them. The theme for the event was Health Promotion At the Very Heart of Sustainability. The ICSW participated in the preparations of this event and contributed comments to the draft documents.

Second Priority Area: Networking And Policy Innovations In Our Work

OBJECTIVES

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

OUTCOMES

From Seoul 2016 to Dublin 2018

Follow-up to Joint World Conference on social work, education and social development in Seoul (2016) and preparations for the Joint Conference in Dublin (2018)

In the wake of the Seoul conference convened in 2016 ICSW has been actively involved in strengthening partnership arrangements with IASSW and IFSW and coordinated joint efforts aimed at making operational the Global Agenda Observatory to monitor the implementation of the Global Agenda.

Working with partners ICSW strived to have an impact on the agenda setting, suggesting innovative approaches, new ideas and advocating for new social norms. These approaches were proposed throughout in key policy fields outlined in the ICSW Global Programme and immediately linked with the outcome of the Seoul Conference.

State of the Global Organization and regional challenges

The meeting of the Supervisory and Advisory Board in Madrid in October 2017 represented an important step in the ongoing efforts aimed at charting new paths for the organization, revitalising and re-building it, and proposing strategic approaches for the future. The tradition of in-depth, wide-ranging and open discussions at the Board was sustained. The discussions were aimed at adjusting policy directions, making immediate goals more tangible and down- to- earth. It was recognized that the 2030 Agenda provides an important framework for a range of issues-based NGO activities, and ICSW should be part and parcel of such activities.

The need for improved visibility of ICSW, and wider use of modern means of communication, including social media, was emphasized as one of the priorities for the future. Continued work to bring new members, along with strengthening member organizations and their supporting activities in the regions were seen as vital objectives of the organization, along with such tasks as streamlining and re-orienting ICSW towards improved organizational structure and ensuring financial sustainability. Despite good name recognition of ICSW and its solid international reputation, complacency is not an answer in the face of numerous existing challenges.

Situation in some regions required particular attention in terms of the membership base, knowledge-building, better focus of activities and financial sustainability.

The ICSW Management Committee chaired by ICSW President **Eva Holmberg-Herrstrom**, continued its practice of regular meetings convened over Skype, paying constant attention to the coherence of efforts in implementing decisions of the GA and the Board. The ICSW Executive Director **Sergei Zelenev** provided

support to the activities in the regions, proposing innovative policy solutions in the area of welfare in general and in the social protection area in particular.

Keeping the membership informed

The two global offices, in New York and Kampala, have maintained a high level of networking and keeping the Board, Management Committee and members informed of all initiatives and matters of interest from other regions or sectors. The Global Cooperation Newsletter has become an indispensable platform for presenting most update information on regional activities, as well as matters of international significance and of interest to the organization as a whole. The social welfare, social assistance and social protection issues were discussed both globally and regionally. Several regional Newsletters were re-vitalized, using such new methods of work as inviting guest editors and presenting updates of the most important current trends in the regions (for example, the Newsletters in South Asia and North America). In both the global and regional editions, members are informed of the ongoing efforts of the organization in various fields, including research into social development in their countries or regions. The featured articles and information materials presented in the ICSW Global Cooperation Newsletter highlighted existing challenges, best practices and ongoing efforts of ICSW members at the global, regional and national level. The practice of presenting the work undertaken at the regional level has become a standard practice of the Global Newsletter, while the division of labour and establishing monthly responsibilities for its preparation among the regions improved overall efficiency. Every effort is made to solicit contributions to the Global Cooperation Newsletter of outstanding international scholars and well-known practitioners, to present experiences and know-how of other non-governmental organizations, keeping the readership well-informed of recent developments and about the global issues and challenges.

Cooperation with other International NGOs

(a) Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors

Closely working with Friedrich-Ebert Foundation and other partners ICSW continued efforts to explore new opportunities in promoting universal social protection at all levels, as well as exploring various instruments useful as national means of implementation. The statements prepared by the Global Coalition for SPF with active engagement of ICSW were used to articulate joint priorities in addressing the UN organs.

Apart from supporting a dedicated resolution on social protection, the Coalition also actively promoted establishing a dedicated financing facility that enables the global community of nations to systematically support national efforts to reduce poverty, insecurity and inequality through social protection. ICSW participated in both of these initiatives.

The ICSW also supports a multi-country project of the Coalition that aims at promoting national policy dialogue processes on national social protection floors, in cooperation with the ILO.

(b) Cooperation with IASSW and IFSW.

Apart from the key role played by ICSW in the Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors and its core group described above, ICSW continues active tripartite cooperation with its sister organizations—IFSW and IASSW.

ICSW meets annually with the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) and International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) to further discussion on social policy and joint efforts. In March 2017 the meeting was held in Dublin, Ireland preceding the Joint World Conference. The meeting was attended by all three presidents of IASSW, ICSW and IFSW. The participants discussed the list of speakers selected by the IPC and proposed pertinent changes aimed at better geographical distribution as well as gender balance among the invited speakers. The need to develop a local and international promotional strategy was emphasized. The ICSW submitted a range of forward-looking recommendations to the International Steering Committee regarding the preparations of the Joint World conference in Dublin in 2018, including a need to have an agreed outcome document. The proposals were realised in practice.

The tripartite meeting in Paris convened in September 2017 and attended by the global Presidents of the three partners organizations resulted in a surprise decision of the IFSW to withdraw from the tripartite coalition in the organization of the 2020 Global Conference. While IFSW signed a separate agreement with the University of Calgary to convene a conference there, the ICSW and IASSW decided to convene a joint world conference 2020 in Rimini, Italy. This regrettable split may have unforeseen consequences for the future partnerships in the organization of global conferences as well as other forms of cooperation. The ICSW- IASSW joint statement reflecting their positions in this respect could be found at the ICSW website.

(c) Global Agenda Observatory

Since its organizational meeting in Paris in November 2012 the IASSW, IFSW and ICSW periodically considered specific actions in the context of the implementation of the tripartite Global Agenda adopted earlier that year. In order to gather evidence about the activities of social workers, educators and social development practitioners who support the implementation of the Global Agenda and in order to give visibility and credibility to their contributions and promote further action, it was decided to establish a Global Agenda Observatory. The past five years provided an opportunity to draw some lessons from the process and suggest improvements.

This new entity is structured around the four themes of the Global Agenda commencing with the theme of *promoting social and economic equalities* (discussed in Melbourne). Apart from the above the theme *promoting the dignity and worth of people* was covered in Seoul in 2016. The future themes include *working toward environmental sustainability* (Dublin, 2018) and *strengthening recognition of the importance of human relationships* (Rimini, 2020). A focus on ensuring an appropriate environment for practice and

education will be maintained throughout. The Global Agenda Observatory is conceived as a mechanism for monitoring and reporting upon the implementation of the Agenda Commitments.

The Observatory aims at creating networks or consortia composed of institutions of higher education and professional/practice-based organizations that jointly conduct research, analyze, synthesize and report on Agenda activities. It aspires to establish a strong, credible monitoring mechanism over the next 10 years.

Established at the local, national, regional and international levels, and working through the existing structures and work plans, the Global Agenda Observatory aims at taking into consideration the existing priorities of each of our organizations.

The Report on the first priority theme-- on inequality-- was submitted to the Global Conference in Melbourne in 2014. The second report "Promoting the Dignity and Worth of People" was released in Seoul in 2016. The third report on the Global Agenda topic related to the environmental and community sustainability will be unveiled at the Joint World Conference in Dublin in 2018.

(d) European cooperation

ICSW Europe is an active participant of the **Social Platform** - the largest platform of European NGOs (48 INGOs) working in the social sector and geared at promoting social justice, equality and participatory democracy. Supporting effective social protection and welfare systems is one of key concerns of the members, and ICSW has a comparative advantage in building or expanding relationships with like-minded organizations. ICSW was actively involved in the task forces focused on important social and political issues like access to Services (TTIP & TISA), human rights strategy, governance, structural funds, social standards and civil dialogue. A position paper on minimum wage was adopted in 2015 with active support by the ICSW Europe. The European Union offers opportunities for cooperation with a broad range of socially- oriented NGOs (beyond those belonging to the Social Platform) as well as with EU citizens at large. ICSW Europe also participated in the study tours organized by countries during their Presidency of the European Union.

ICSW Europe works closely with the group of INGOs affiliated to the **Council of Europe** in Strasbourg (France) in the field of social, economic and cultural rights. Apart from that the ICSW.

ENSACT, the **European Network for Social Action**, 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), the International Federation of Social Workers European Association (IFSW) PowerUs, Service Users in Social Work Learning Partnership and Social Work and Health Inequalities Network (SWHIN). ENSACT seeks to achieve professional quality and to voice the concerns of professional service providers and social professionals.

ENSACT hosts the European Observatory which aims at monitoring, reporting and disseminating the contributions of social work and social development in building a 'society for all'. The European Observatory is part of the Global Agenda Observatory. The purpose is to gather evidence about the activities of social workers, educators and social development practitioners, in order to give visibility and credibility to their contributions and to promote further action.

(e) ICSW cooperating with other NGOs at the UN

ICSW plays an active role in various activities of the NGO Committees on Social Development in New York and Geneva. In this light ICSW maintains day- to- day partner relations with all Members of the NGO Committee and is actively involved in the preparations of the **Civil Society Forum** convened annually, immediately before the substantive annual session of the Commission for Social Development in New York. The ICSW actively participates in the work of the Forum, including its conceptualization and preparation, panel discussions and preparation of the outcome Declaration. In the 2017 Civil Society Forum convened on 30-31 January 2017 the ICSW Executive Director was invited to participate in the panel discussion as a speaker. The theme of the Forum was "Social Protection, including floors". The outcome declaration of the Forum is available at:

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/csocd/2017/csf-declaration-en.pdf>

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

In February 2017 a side-event **Thinking long-term: Making poverty eradication and environmental policies mutually supportive** was organised at the United Nations Headquarters at the occasion of the 55th session of the Commission for Social Development by ICSW, Permanent Mission of Finland to the UN, IASSW, UNRISD and UNESCO. The side-event, including its core, the panel discussion, sought to highlight compatibility of the poverty eradication efforts and environment-friendly policies, as well as existing opportunities and challenges in this regard. Apart from ICSW and IASSW the list of speakers included representatives of the Government of Finland and Namibia, Director of the UNRISD, Programme Specialist of UNESCO and a representative of the US national research institution. The event was moderated by Dr. Sergei Zelenev in his capacity as the Special Representative of ICSW to the UN.

Third Priority Area: Communicating with our stakeholders

OBJECTIVES

ICSW communicates its message through multiple mediums.

OUTCOMES

ICSW Website

Responding to a clear need to make ICSW website more contemporary and user-friendly, a major revamping of the ICSW website was undertaken in 2014- 2015. In 2017 significant updates of the website were undertaken, resulting in the new structure and new possibilities of the website. Such features as adding images, changing the layout, expanding the size of the page and other improvements have become possible. The website continues to grow and represents a valuable tool of outreach and communication with ICSW audience and beyond. Language editions of various documents are clearly visible and could be easily downloaded. Global and regional activities are duly reflected while many materials are kept in electronic archives. Regional Newsletters are downloaded expeditiously and represent an important communication tool with our members.

Given overall importance of the website as a vital resource and communication medium there is a clear need to continue work aimed at keeping the website contemporary, interactive and sophisticated yet user-friendly.

Publications

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

Global Cooperation Newsletter

The ICSW monthly Global Cooperation Newsletter is circulated in English, French and Spanish to stakeholders around the world dealing with social development and social welfare issue.

It is an important platform for discussion of acute issues of development and best practices in social field. All issues of the 2017 Newsletter as well as preceding issues are available at www.icsw.org. The preparation of the Newsletter is done by the staff of the ICSW-- the Executive Director of the ICSW is the editor-in-chief of the Newsletter, while the Programme Director provides support in formatting and distributing this publication. The content reflects both global and regional dimensions of ICSW activities. The distribution of responsibilities among the regions in the preparation of the monthly editions helped to ensure that regional views as well as update on activities are properly reflected.

Regional Publications

The year 2016 witnessed a continuation of the production of several regional Newsletters published by ICSW regional organizations. Some of them were either created from scratch or resurrected under the new editors. In some cases (e.g. South Asia) innovative features such as bringing eminent guest editors were introduced; this practice has proved its importance and validity. The regional Newsletters are also posted on the ICSW website. Most important they are sent to the ICSW-affiliated organizations around the world, going beyond the immediate region and facilitating exchange of best practices. The content of many Newsletters combines both the current regional information and in-depth analysis.

For more information on the Newsletters go to: <http://www.icsw.org/regions/regions.htm>. In 2017 the following newsletters were published and available at ICSW Website:

Central and West Africa:	None
East and South Africa region:	quarterly
Middle East and North Africa:	None
South Asia:	quarterly
South East Asia and the Pacific:	annually
North East Asia:	annually
Europe:	quarterly
North America and the Caribbean:	quarterly
Latin America:	twice a year

Linkages to ICSW Website

ICSW encourages member organisations to link ICSW to their Websites.

Global Social Policy

ICSW's link with the journal *Global Social Policy* commenced in 2006. Through an arrangement with Sage publications ICSW makes available to all ICSW members an annual subscription *Global Social Policy*.

International Social Work

ICSW is in a partnership with the International Federation of Social Workers and the International Association of Schools of Social Work in producing the journal *International Social Work*. Six issues are published each year by SAGE publications. ICSW contributes to the *News and Views* section twice each year.

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

OBJECTIVES

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

OUTCOMES

Membership growth in the ICSW

During 2017 ICSW admitted several organizations as well as some distinguished individuals.

Name of Organisation	Country
The Outreach Social Care Project (OSCAR) Category C	DRCongo
Armenian Association of Social Workers (AASW) Category A	Armenia
Institute of Social Policy and Research (ISPR) – Category D	Namibia
Denys Correll – Category E	Australia
Prof Heung Bong Cha – Category E	Korea

Post-2015 development framework.

ICSW took an active part in the preliminary discussions and consultations on the shape of Post- 2015 development framework. We supported inclusion into the outcome document of stand-alone goal on social protection and stand-alone goal on equality. ICSW took part in the meetings of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals as well as in numerous NGO meetings to discuss the content of the future development agenda. The process leading to the adoption of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the first stages of its implementation were duly reflected in the Global Cooperation Newsletter.

In 2017 ICSW continued its activities at the UN level seeking to leverage the position of its members into various UN documents and platforms, including the documents pertinent to implementing the 2030 Agenda.

UN Commission for Social Development – strategies for the eradication of poverty to achieve sustainable development

ICSW takes part in every annual session of the UN Commission for Social Development held in New York, using it as an opportunity to present its vision of social development priorities to the world. The statement made by ICSW at the **55th Session of the Commission** in February 2017 was devoted to the priority theme of the annual meeting: "Strategies for the eradication of poverty to achieve

sustainable development for all". The stimulating and inspiring nature of the priority theme was acknowledged in the ICSW statement as it firmly puts anti-poverty efforts undertaken globally and nationally in the context of the SDG framework. It was underscored that striking a balance between social, environmental and economic goals is essential to ensure that the benefits of growth reach all people, especially the poor. When poverty is rampant, forcing people to survive from one day to another, then the lofty goals of "green growth" and sustainable development pale in comparison with the immediate needs of the poor and vulnerable. ICSW believes that the efforts aimed at poverty eradication are closely linked with mitigation and adaptation policies. At the same time the existing evidence confirms that eradication of poverty can bring numerous opportunities and benefits to society, facilitating concrete actions on the road towards sustainable development.

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

The written statements made at the Commission are available in all six official languages of the UN and are published at the UN website. The 2017 ICSW Statement can be found at:
<https://undocs.org/E/CN.5/2017/NGO/32>

UN Commission on the Status of Women

Taking into consideration a high priority of gender issues and gender relations as well as their cross-cutting nature, the ICSW for the last four years actively participates in the annual sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, contributing to the discussions on the respective main themes.

UN Open-ended Working Group on Ageing

ICSW participates in the work of the Group in the last four years. The UN General Assembly established the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing for the purpose of strengthening the protection of human rights of older persons by considering existing international frameworks and identifying possible gaps and how best to address them. ICSW supports elaboration of a new legal instrument and measures on rights of older persons, and works actively and closely with various partners to promote rights of older persons.

The statements made at the sessions can be found at: <http://social.un.org/ageing-working-group/documents/fourth/statements/International%20Council%20on%20Social%20Welfare.pdf>

Fifth Priority Area: Regional Level Cooperation

OBJECTIVE

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

OUTCOMES

Middle East and North Africa

2017 saw a continuation of work started in the region by ICSW on the themes of social protection as well as environmental sustainability. The personal involvement of Prof. **Bachir Tamer**, President of ICSW and Prof. **Driss Guerraoui**, Vice-President were crucial for the success of this work. It was reflected in the publications submitted in 2017 by the region to the Global Cooperation Newsletter, with its emphasis on social protection of the vulnerable groups.

North East Asia

The ICSW-affiliated councils based in the region are working in the area of ageing and disability. The EXPO cum Summit organised in June 2017 in Hong Kong in cooperation with the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government explored such issues as use of robotics in elderly care, innovative services to enhance quality care, ways to create age-friendly communities, solutions to enhance participation and social inclusion of the older persons as well as intergenerational issues. The preparatory work was directed by Mr **Chua Hoi Wai**, the Chief executive of the Hong Kong Council of Social Services and the ICSW NEA Regional President.

South Asia

In 2017 ICSW South Asia Region continued its innovative work aimed at finding more effective solutions to address poverty and inequality. The organization continued its collaboration with Head Held High Foundation, Bengaluru, India on global initiative called **GAP - Global Action on Poverty**. A movement to eradicate poverty globally, through thought and action the GAP 2015 Summit brought together 100 Changemakers (those who are working on the ground in various aspects of poverty eradication) and about 70 Catalysts (people and organizations who support Changemakers through resources, connections, funds and advice). ICSW Regional **President Prof. P.K. Shajahan** in his capacity as a Catalyst with GAP is geared at setting up a GAP Lab at Tata Institute of Social Sciences as an Institutional platform for the Changemakers to translate their ideas into action. The involvement of Prof. Shajahan was crucial in revamping the regional Newsletter and introducing numerous innovative features.

South East Asia and the Pacific

Members and officers of the ICSW SEAP participated in the 12th ASEAN GO-NGO Forum on Social Welfare and Development, held last 17 October 2017 at Yangon, Myanmar. The theme of the forum was "Strengthening Social Protection to Address

Challenges of Ageing Societies". The 2017 forum was attended by 80 delegates from governments and non-governmental organizations; it is held annually and seeks to increase and strengthen cooperation between ASEAN region governments and civil-society organizations in establishing joint projects. The Forum has become an important platform for discussion the most acute issues of social-economic development, social policy and the welfare mix in the region, providing for a comparison of policy tools as well as of welfare outcomes.

The ICSW representative for the 12th GO-NGO forum was Vice-President, Madam **Khatijah Suleiman**, the President of Malaysian Council of Rehabilitation and the deputy President of the MAKPAM. Her role was crucial in the preparation of the 12th Forum as well as the preceding one. The regional Newsletter was also resurrected under her leadership.

The recommendations from the Forum focused on implementation of the recommendations made in previous GO-NGO forums, along with new approaches. Acting as a co-convener ICSW brought together national member councils from the region and representatives of expert organisations.

The national seminar on ageing issues was convened in April 2017 in Kuala Lumpur by Malayan Council on Social Welfare (MAKPAM), the ICSW member. It brought together representatives of government, academic community, NGOs and other stakeholders to discuss most acute issues related to ageing in Malaysia in the context of 2030 Agenda.

Latin America

The 2017 witnessed the implementation of key regional frameworks and mutually-agreed decisions achieved during the previous two years at the regional forums.

The regional conference convened in Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic) in November 2017 sought to explore the opportunities and challenges of ageing in the Latin American region, in the context of economic development and human rights. The policy discourse was linked to Sustainable Development Agenda. On behalf of ICSW, Madam **Nelsida Marmolejos** the Regional President for Latin America whose role has been vital in all ICSW activities in the region, maintained the important links with the Vice-Presidency of the Dominican Republic on the above issues.

East and Southern Africa.

The regional ICSW Newsletter, resurrected under the leadership of Mr. **Benjamin Mutie**, ICSW Regional President, has become an influential publication on social development matters, highlighting key regional events.

North America and the Caribbean Region

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

Europe

The ICSW-Europe under the leadership of Mr **Ronald Wiman** seeks to shed light on blind spots and expand frontiers of ICSW engagement in social policy making regionally and globally. To know better in the new global context requires better alertness and versatility of the organization, innovative approaches and vision.

ICSW-Europe convened the international conference entitled "Human Well-Being, Social Cohesion and Sustainable Development: The Quest for the Responses to Contemporary Challenges" that took place in Moscow on May 18-19, 2017. Apart from ICSW Europe the co-organizers of the event were the Moscow City Government, the Moscow Department of Labour and the Social Protection of the Population, the Moscow Institute for the Additional Professional Education of Workers for Social Services (IAPE of WSS) and the International School of Social Work. The conference was conceived with a specific focus on the effectiveness of social work and social development in promoting environmental and community sustainability in the context of the preparations for the 2018 Joint World Conference on Social Work and Social Development in Dublin. Around 250 participants from 15 countries of Europe and Asia and more than 12 regions of the Russian Federation took part in the event.

The ICSW Europe closely and fruitfully cooperates with IFSW and EASSW, as well as with East European sub-regional Association of the Schools of Social Work, particularly in the context of Social Platform activities and exchange of information.

Activities, reports, minutes of the ICSW Europe are open to the public, and in the spirit of transparency published in newsletters. The Board of the organization meets monthly via Skype.

Among the priority areas of the organization within the Social Platform are the following: access to services; monitoring implementation of SDGs; advocacy efforts to promote social standards; job search for a long-term unemployed; implementation of the advocacy strategy to promote investment in services, including social investment; the quest for influence upon the negotiations of trade agreements such as TTIP and TiSA, as well as measuring the social impact.

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

OBJECTIVES

ICSW will enhance the sharing of information, knowledge and experience between all stakeholders. The stakeholders will learn from each other successful practices in participating in regional governance, new modes of decentralised provision of social services and new approaches to social and economic security.

OUTCOMES

Knowledge sharing and capacity-development: some reflections

ICSW has strengthened its role a knowledge-based organization. Knowing and doing are intertwined. To prepare the organization for the future we must stay abreast of conceptual thinking, creative initiatives and participatory practices promising to make our own lives more fulfilling and rewarding.

The regional conferences, seminars and expert meetings organized by ICSW and affiliated organizations substantially benefited from exploring and comparing best practices of other members within the region as well as stakeholders and partners from outside of the region. These policy dialogues have proven to be a useful cross-fertilization tool to enhance the quality of the discussions and the relevance of the outcomes. It has also contributed to better understanding of changing international social norms, exchange of ideas, and promoting most effective ways to address concerns and needs of vulnerable sections of the population.

In this light the global and regional Newsletters provide a pertinent forum for sharing ideas and knowledge not only within a region but between the regions, enhancing the professionalism of knowing, principles and values of continuous learning.

The main focus of discussions and policy dialogue has been on sharing knowledge and experience on the vulnerable social groups as well as social protection systems and Social Protection Floor Initiative (SPFI). This initiative remains of the pillars of the ICSW activities globally and regionally.

The institution of social protection, including floors, is one of the clearest means of fulfilling the vision of eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable development for all. The concept of protecting at risk or vulnerable citizens is rooted in the recognition of the equal moral worth of all members of society, putting people at the center and leaving no one behind. Every member of society has the human

right to social protection, which must translate into the establishment and maintenance of social protection floors as a fundamental element of national social security systems. Progressively, social protection - in order to fulfil its potential of involving all people in the development of their communities - must gradually extend beyond the implementation of floors towards ever more comprehensive systems. Moreover, social protection is a vital mechanism to provide citizens with the opportunity to develop their inherent capacities for the advancement of their own communities and nations. Inclusive dialogue preceding implementation of social protection policies fosters cooperation between institutions and empowers all to contribute to the well-being of all citizens. Such processes are based on and reinforce values such as equality, solidarity, and inclusion, and capitalize on the cultural diversity of communities as a tool for coherent development.

Even if the SPF concept is very broad, in many ways our agendas, particularly regional agendas, go even further. These agendas must reflect priorities on the ground, there is no "one size-fits all solutions".

The key questions for the ICSW as the organization are: can our agendas inform and inspire a passion for action to achieve transformative change? What synergies we as organization could identify to make a difference in a positive sense? How to confront inertia, to promote opportunities for innovation and explore ways for knowing and acting better. Answers to these questions are essential for our future.

Publications and Speeches

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

Employees

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

All employees are given equal opportunity and, where appropriate and possible, special training to enable them to progress both within and outside the 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.

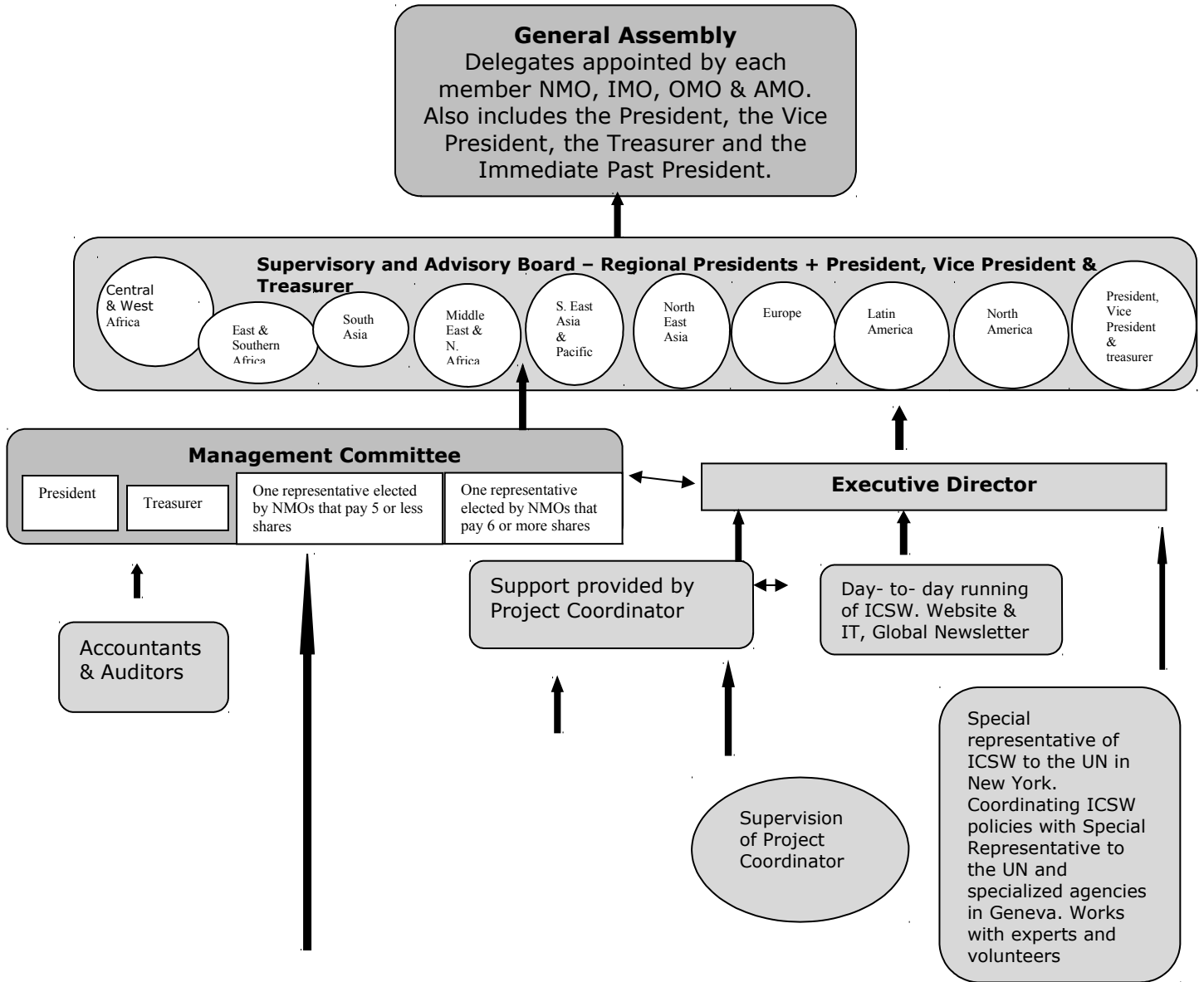
The information on the structure of the ICSW, its officers and staff could be found on the ICSW website:

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

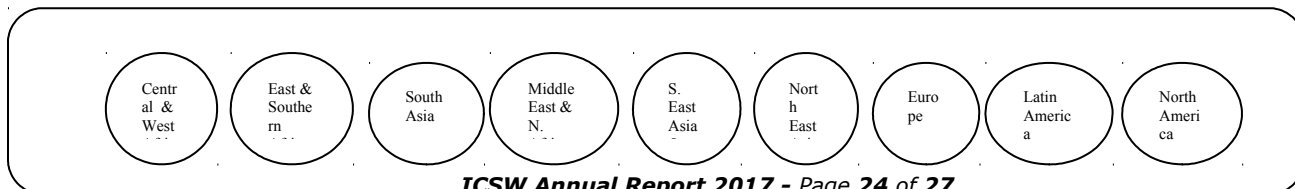
The organigram of the organization is attached in the Annex.

ANNEX 01

ICSW Organization chart



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



ICSW bodies and functions

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

Abbreviations:

NMO = National Member Organisations also known as Category A organization

IMO = International Member Organisations also known as Category B org.

OMO = Other Member Organisations also known as Category C org.

AMO = Associate Member Organisations also known as Category D org.

IM = Individual Members/Distinguished Fellows – Category E membership

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

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

<p>5. South East Asia and the Pacific 6. North East Asia 7. Europe 8. North America and the Caribbean 9. Latin America</p> <p>Regional ExCo members are nominated by any member of any category in a region. NMO and IMO members in a region may vote.</p>		
<p>Secretariat Managed by the Executive Director</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Executive Director may attend all meetings of all organs, may participate but may not vote; 2. Executive Director is responsible for hiring and dismissal of staff; 3. Secretariat assists committees in their tasks, coordinates the work programmes of committees, prepares and organises meetings of the General Assembly, the Board and the Management Committee. 	