



Annual Report 2020

Introduction

This report covers the period 1st January to 31st December 2020. ICSW activities for 2020 are reported under the following six priority areas:

- Promoting social development, social welfare and social justice,
- 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 2020

- Address the COVID-19 pandemic: The organization swiftly shifted its focus to the global crisis.
- Leadership on "Building Back Better": The ICSW leadership provided a forward-looking perspective on the pandemic crisis. The then President's June article, "A Changed World," moved the conversation from immediate response to a long-term vision for a more just and equitable post-pandemic world.
- Focus on the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region: ICSW dedicated significant attention to the social and political dynamics of the MENA region. This was highlighted through multiple articles, including "Rethinking the Social Issue" by regional president Driss Guerraoui, which analyzed ongoing social challenges.
- Framing global governance with the UN's 75th Anniversary: At the start of the year, ICSW used the milestone of the UN's 75th anniversary to call for a "global reality check," advocating for stronger international cooperation and more socially responsible global governance.
- Demonstrated organizational resilience: In the face of global lockdowns, ICSW showed its ability to adapt by rescheduling major activities, such as the Joint World Conference in Rimini, ensuring the continuation of its mission-critical work.
- In November 2000 there was a leadership change at the global level: Dr.Suh San-Mok was elected Global ICSW President and Prof. Antonio Lopez Pelaez was appointed Executive Director of ICSW
- The Joint World Conference on Social Work and Social Development scheduled to take part in Rimini, Italy, was cancelled.

OUTCOMES

1. Promoting social development , social welfare and social justice

- The pandemic brought issues of social justice into sharp focus, and our work centered on advocating for the most vulnerable.
- Responding to the pandemic: Our April newsletter was dedicated to the crisis. In his article "Covid 19 – Five aspects," Executive Director Tom Johannesen analyzed the multifaceted social impacts of the pandemic, advocating for responses that prioritized social protection, health equity, and support for marginalized communities.
- Addressing systemic failures: Early in the year, ICSW draw attention to the social challenges in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region as clear evidence of the need for more just and inclusive social policies.
- Reflecting on a "Changed World": In her June address, then President Eva Holmberg Herrström called for a fundamental rethinking of our social and economic systems post-pandemic, urging a global commitment to building a more equitable and resilient world.

2. Networking and policy innovations in our work

- While in-person networking was halted, ICSW innovated by strengthening virtual connections and adapting its collaborative models.
- Strengthening digital collaboration: Our ongoing work, particularly the deep collaboration with our regional committees like the one in the MENA region, shifted to a digital model, ensuring our policy dialogue and networking continued despite physical distance.

3. Communicating with our stakeholders

- In a time of uncertainty, clear and consistent communication was more critical than ever.
- Providing timely crisis analysis: We dedicated our publications to the most pressing issue of the day. The President's message, "Pandemic Times," and the Executive Director's analysis provided our stakeholders with timely insights and a sense of shared purpose.
- Setting the stage for the decade: At the start of the year, President Eva Holmberg Herrström's message to the ICSW members on the decade ahead and the 75th anniversary of the United Nations framed our work within the larger context of global challenges.

4. On-going global advocacy and socially responsible global governance

- Our global advocacy pivoted to address the governance challenges of the pandemic while maintaining a focus on long-term international goals.
- A "Global Reality Check": In January, we framed the UN's 75th anniversary as a critical moment for reflection on the effectiveness of global governance, setting the stage for

our advocacy throughout the year.

- Advocacy for a socially responsible pandemic response: Our analysis of the COVID-19 crisis served as a powerful advocacy tool, urging governments and international bodies to ensure their emergency responses were grounded in principles of social justice and human rights.

5. Regional level cooperation

- Our regional partnerships were a source of great strength in 2020, providing crucial on-the-ground insights.
- Deep dive into the MENA region: Our most significant regional cooperation in 2020 was with our MENA committee. We provided a global platform for the regional president, Driss Guerraoui, and his colleague Bachir Tamer to share their in-depth analysis of the "Social Situation in the MENA Region" and to "Rethink the Social Issue."

6. Knowledge-building, policy dialogue and capacity-development

- Throughout the year, we focused on providing analysis and fostering dialogue to help our members navigate the new global landscape.