

## REGION REPORT LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

### GENERAL MEETING, DUBLIN 2018

**Dr. Silvana Martínez President Region LAC-IFSW**

**Dr. Larry Alicea Rodríguez Vice President Region LAC-IFSW**

#### **1. Brief summary of the report - approximately three or four paragraphs.**

The Latin America and the Caribbean Region of the International Federation of Social Workers ( ALC-FITS ) currently has 17 members: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Uruguay, Bolivia, Peru, Colombia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Costa Rica, Panama and El Salvador. Although the language of our member countries is mostly Spanish, we also have members whose language is Portuguese (as in the case of Brazil) and English (as in the case of Grenada and Haiti) .

During the 2016-2018 period, he has worked hard on three aspects:

*Towards the interior of its members* with the aim of strengthening our organizations. For this, permanent contact has been established; visits to countries of member organizations; letters and political documents that supported as FITS-ALC the actions that our members are carrying out in order to rank the profession and improve working conditions; elaboration of videos with messages and greetings from the President and Vice President of the Region; participation in events organized by members; the regional commissioners of ethics, Human Rights and Indigenous Committee are working actively, the Regional Conference in Costa Rica has been successfully developed and the next one is being prepared for 2019 in Cuba, among other actions.

*Towards the IFSW Global*, the Region has participated in all the meetings of the Executive and the Via Skype meetings organized by the Global President and the Secretary General. All the reports and reports including that of the Global Agenda have been completed in a timely manner; Dissemination and organization of the activities of the World Day of Social Work and has collaborated in different instances via email and the IFSW Global has been made visible in every action carried out by this leadership. It has participated in the activities for the World Day of Social Work carried out at the United Nations in New York in March 2018.

*Outside* the organization, it has been in permanent contact with the socio-political problems of the countries of the Region and other Regions, based on this, pronouncements have been made with clear political positions regarding social problems and the violation of Human Rights, such as the case of Palestinian Social Worker Amira Munther detained by the Israeli army when he peacefully demonstrated in defense of children and adolescents arrested by the Israeli army .A letter of solidarity has also been drawn up with colleagues from Africa and Iran from the difficult situations they are going through. It has participated in the Ibero-American Congress for the purposes of close links between Regions, among other actions.

#### **2. 2016 - 2018 Regional Objectives**

The objectives for this period were:

- t) Strengthen the member organizations of the LAC Region
- b) Develop the LAC Region Conference in San Jose, Costa Rica in July 2017.
- c) That member organizations have quotas up to date with the IFSW Global
- d) Make visible and strengthen the activities of World Social Work Day

- and) Contribute with the information gathered from the Regional Observatory, to the Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development
- F) To endorse, advise and assist in legislative matters in those member countries that do not yet have a National Legislation that regulates the exercise of the profession.
- g) Establish contact with new countries in order to incorporate them as full members of the IFSW
- h) Work jointly with the Latin American Association of Teaching and Research (ALAEITS) and the Latin American and Caribbean Committee of Social Work (COLACATS)

### **3. Evaluation of the Region's goals**

All the objectives and goals of the region were satisfactorily fulfilled from the following actions:

It was organized and participated in the V Meeting of the ALC-FITS Region on July 18 in Costa Rica, in which 14 countries of the 17 members of the Region participated and also had the presence of the Secretary General of the FITS Dr. Rory Truell .

A GUARANTEE LETTER was prepared for the approval of the Draft Law on Professional Practice in Uruguay presented in the Parliament by the Association of Social Workers / Social Workers of Uruguay (ADASU). August 2017

An AVAL LETTER was prepared to the Association of Social Workers of Mexico (ATSMAC) in order that Social Work is recognized as a Profession and incorporate Social Work in the General Catalog of Professions that depends on the Ministry of Public Education, since in that country it still appears as an Office. October 2017

Periodic communication was established with the President of ALAEITS, Dr. Nilsa Burgos, for topics of common interest such as the publication on the process of the World Social Work definition, the formation of the Education Committee in the FITS, among others.

A WhatsApp group of members of the LAC region was created to establish direct and fluid contact. July 2017

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A video was prepared greeting the Social Workers of Mexico who participated in the "National Forum of Social Workers: Towards the dignification of the professional and work conditions of the Social Workers of Mexico" October 2017.

An AVAL LETTER was worked for the Association of Social Workers of El Salvador (ATSES) in order to accompany the initiatives that the Association has carried out in the Health Committee of the Parliament of that country, in order to request derogation the subsection "ñ" of Article 24 of the Health Code that links the TS in the field of Health. We also accompany the actions that are being carried out in the Ministry of Education (MINED) for the purpose of Social Work being recognized as a Social Sciences Profession. October 2017

A WRITTEN LETTER was prepared to the National Council of Social Work of Chile in order to accompany the initiatives that the Association has carried out in the Parliament of that country, for the purposes

of the Social Work Profession in order that the Work Social is recognized as a profession that is qualified to intervene in the field of health, claiming the modification that was made in the Draft Amendment of the Health Code, Book V, articles 112 to 120. Requesting not to exclude Social Workers from the Code Sanitary of that country since it entailed placing at risk the continuity of 4000 Social Workers who are working in the field of health in Chile. November 2017

A GUARANTEE LETTER was prepared for the School of Social Workers of Río Negro (Argentina) requesting the modification of the Law on Professional Exercise of Social Work in the framework of the Federal Social Work Law No. 27072. September 2017.

A POLITICAL-INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT DOCUMENT was prepared for the actions carried out by the Association of Social Workers of Panama, in defense of the rights of Social Workers, given that the institutions of that country have not made the payment of the Salary Scale. according to Decree No. 15 dated March 3, 2017. This breach violates Law No. 16 enacted on February 12, 2017 and its Regulatory Decree No. 143, dated September 4, 2014. Regulations that seek equity and equality in the remuneration of the salaries of the Social Workers of Panama.

Permanent contact was established with our members through emails, in order to socialize information and make collective decisions.

#### **4. Regional achievements**

Our members are actively working within their countries to strengthen Social Work as a profession and improve the working conditions of Social Workers.

All countries have incorporated the importance of celebrating World Social Work Day to make visible the importance of our contributions to the themes of the Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development.

All members of the region have the 2017 fee payable to the IFSW. There are even members that in 2017 have paid 2018 and 2019.

The V Meeting of the LAC region held in Costa Rica was organized in July 2017 and has been a success. Of 17 members have participated 14. The regional conference had very prestigious speakers and more than 500 participants. It was also attended by the Secretary General of the IFSW Dr. Rory Truell.

Contact has been established with new countries and we are in communication with Paraguay, Honduras, Guatemala and Venezuela for a future incorporation to the IFSW.

Our members are constantly being advised in case of consultations, problems with the exercise of the rights of Social Workers and support to member countries that do not yet have Social Work legislation.

Work is being done jointly with the Latin American Association of Social Work Teaching and Research (ALAEITS) and the Latin American and Caribbean Social Work Committee (COLACATS).

At present, there is NO conflict between the members of the Region thanks to the leadership and work of their representatives and the permanent democratization and consultation in decision making.

It has produced very important pronouncements regarding socio-political problems in the region and problems that social workers in their countries are going through.

It has participated in the activities for the World Day of Social Work carried out at the United Nations in New York in March 2018.

An agreement was signed with the Cooperativa y Revista de Trabajo Social y Ciencias Sociales "Margen" of Argentina, to obtain discounts to our members in distance update courses. March 2018.

Press conferences were held in several countries, highlighting the IFSW and the contributions of Social Work in the topics of the Global Agenda and the social problems that affect each country.

He has participated in numerous events in the Region where the IFSW Region LAC and the IFSW Global have been made visible.

Participated in the V International Congress of Social Work and I International Forum of Social Work of Peru in July 2017 in Cusco and Lima respectively and the II International Forum of Social Work of Peru in April 2018.

He participated in the III Meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Committee of Social Work (COLACATS) on July 17 in Costa Rica.

Participated in the International Social Work Conference organized by the Dr. Andrés Bello University in El Salvador in the month of December 2017

Participated in the I International Seminar of Social Work developed in Ayacucho and Trujillo of Peru in the month of April 2018.

He participated in the XIII State Congress and I Ibero-American Congress of Social Work of Spain, held in Mérida, Badajoz, Spain between the days of October 19 to 21, 2017.

## 5. Workshop on World Social Activities 2017 and 2018



2017

Perú



Argentina



Costa Rica



Panamá







**El Salvador**



**2018  
Puerto Rico**





**f LIVE**

**Desarrollo Sostenible en Puerto Rico:  
Reflexiones desde el Trabajo Social**

Desde el Colegio de Profesionales del Trabajo Social de Puerto Rico

**CPTSPR** COLEGIO PROFESIONALES DEL TRABAJO SOCIAL DE PUERTO RICO

Martes 20 de marzo 10:00 a 11:00 am  
Y conversatorio de 11:00 am a 12:00 am

**PROMOVENDO COMUNIDADES Y ENTORNOS SOSTENIBLES**

**DÍA MUNDIAL DEL TRABAJO SOCIAL  
20 MARZO 2018**

www.itsw.org

1 FIN DE LA POBREZA  
2 HAMBRE CERO  
3 SALUD Y BIENESTAR  
4 EDUCACIÓN DE CALIDAD  
5 IGUALDAD DE GÉNERO  
6 AGUA LIMPIA Y SANEAMIENTO  
7 ENERGÍA ASEQUIBLE Y NO CONTAMINANTE  
8 TRABAJO DECENTE Y CRECIMIENTO ECONÓMICO  
9 INDUSTRIA, INNOVACIÓN E INFRAESTRUCTURA  
10 REDUCCIÓN DE LAS DESIGUALDADES  
11 CIUDADES Y COMUNIDADES SOSTENIBLES  
12 PRODUCCIÓN Y CONSUMO RESPONSABLES  
13 ACCIÓN POR EL CLIMA  
14 VIDA SUBMARINA  
15 VIDA DE ECOSISTEMAS TERRESTRES  
16 PAZ, JUSTICIA E INSTITUCIONES SÓLIDAS  
17 ALIANZAS PARA LOGRAR LOS OBJETIVOS

**AGENDA 2030**  
Lograr el desarrollo sostenible en un mundo diverso

**OBJETIVOS DE DESARROLLO SOSTENIBLE**

**20 de marzo  
Día del Trabajo Social**

**CPTSPR** COLEGIO DE PROFESIONALES DEL TRABAJO SOCIAL DE PUERTO RICO

**20 DE MARZO DE 2018  
DÍA MUNDIAL DEL TRABAJO SOCIAL  
PROMOVENDO COMUNIDADES Y ENTORNOS SOSTENIBLES.**

**CPTSPR** COLEGIO DE PROFESIONALES DEL TRABAJO SOCIAL DE PUERTO RICO

**Perú**

**TRABAJO SOCIAL PERUANO, COMPROMETIDO CON LA PROMOCIÓN Y PREVENCIÓN DE ESTILOS DE VIDA SALUDABLES, PARA UN MEDIO AMBIENTE SOSTENIBLE.**

**DÍA MUNDIAL DEL TRABAJO SOCIAL  
20 DE MARZO 2018**

**TRABAJO SOCIAL UNIDO PARA PROTEGER EL MEDIO AMBIENTE**

**PROMOTING COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**

**WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY  
20TH MARCH 2018**

www.itsw.org



## Argentina



## Panamá





## 6. Aspirations of the region of 2018 - 2020 and beyond

The aspirations as an LAC region is to continue growing and strengthening Social Work in Latin America and the Caribbean. Incorporate new members. Continue with the strengthening of Social Work leaders in each of the countries. Achieve the sanctions of laws that regulate professional practice even where it does not exist. Generate strategies to improve the working conditions of Social Workers. Be interlocutors with the National Governments in social and Human Rights matters. To be able to present projects in international organizations in order to have financing that allows us to develop greater actions with our members.