

International Federation of Social Workers  
Report to the General Assembly 2020 – Place: virtual

**Biennial Report 2018-2020 of the IFSW Representation to the UN in Nairobi, Kenya**

This report covers a critical period in the Nairobi UN representation for many reasons, principal of which is the fact that it covers a transition period. Transition from Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to **2030** Agenda for Sustainability Development. In 2016, soon after wake of MDGs, we lived in a world where more than 1 billion people had been lifted out of extreme poverty, child mortality had dropped by more than half and the number of out of school children had dropped by more than half. Hence, the world had just driven the most successful anti-poverty movement in history.

The ability to accelerate and sustain these gains poses inherent but manageable challenges in the coming years. Inequalities and poverty still persists in both the developing and developed world. These inequalities are most visible in cities where populations are isolated and divided geographically. Connected to these persistent urban issues are a set of emerging trends and conditions that include climate change conflict and crisis, urban insecurity and migration, which require consideration in the planning and management of cities in order to make them inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. A major resources that IFSW has in order to engage, is the diverse nature of the practice, huge membership with a geographical spread in cities, countries and regions across the world.

In 2014, an engagement platform known as General Assembly of Partners (GAP) was conceived with a purpose is to deliberating, building consensus and participating in a broad range of stakeholders forums. Today GAP has taken root, at a time when IFSW is deliberating on widening the representation not only to the regions and sub-regions, but also pegging the representations to specific practice areas of social work concern such as ; Children, Women, Human Rights, Migration, Indigenous People, Refugees, Climate Change, Food Security, Disability, Ageing, Homelessness and other key areas. It is beneficial that IFSW takes this engagement as priority in regions and where possible within specific national associations.

In – the past two years 2019/2020, the following events in which IFSW was represented took place at the UN-Habitat Nairobi.

1. A new policy response was formulated with the aim to transform the UN -Habitat governance and focus of the organization in order to provide a strong and structured response to countries demand in an integrated manner and accelerate the implementation of the SDGs. To IFSW and other partners and CSOs actors this means devolution and more collaboration at sub-regional and country levels through other UN entities .

2. The first session of UN-Habitat Assembly took place on 27-3 May 2019, among the key highlights was the approval of a Strategic Plan 2020-2025, and approval of the 1<sup>st</sup> General Assembly of Partners Business Plan.
3. There has been two partnership meetings focusing on administrative issues, in particular, capacity building for partnership. This is a priority for the IFSW representation as social workers at regions and county levels need to be involved in the monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the implementation of SDGs in countries where they are based .

On the biennial **World Urban** event, IFSW representation has been visible since inception in 2001. The event, among other issues examines some of the most pressing issues facing the world today; rapid urbanization and its impact on communities, cities, economies, climate change and policies. The event has now emerged as the World's premier conference on managing growing towns and cities I represented IFSW at the 10<sup>th</sup> World Urban Forum event which took place in Abu Dhabi on 8-13<sup>th</sup> February 2020. The event began with a call to action and concluded with “ **Abu Dhabi Declared Action** ”. These actions cumulatively brings together voluntary individual actions and diverse commitments by different partners and stakeholder groups in support of the New Urban Agenda and the SDGs. IFSW did make some commitments which mid –way and at **World Urban Forum11** in 2022 in Poland will be evaluated along other partners and stakeholders.

**Collectively within the General Assembly constituents group, IFSW made a commitments to:-**

- i. Work closely with the programme on Ageing Unit – UN-DESA.
- ii. Continue partnership with World Enabled on joint global Campaign for Assessable and Inclusive cities.
- iii. Work closely with UN-Habitat to ensure that issues related to global ageing are sufficiently visible in their strategic and action plans.

**Individually within the General Assembly constituent group, IFSW made commitments to:-**

- i. Revise the 2008 Policy on Ageing to include elements and concerns relating to New Urban Agenda.
- ii. Assist, encourage and influence National associations to work closely with their cities to ensure issues affecting older persons are included in the planning and implementation.
- iii. Ensure that thematic issues on older persons and people with disabilities are highlighted at the national, regional and global social work conferences.
- iv. Expand IFSW representation to region and sub-region where IFSW has membership.

The event was attended by over 13,000 participants from 169 countries. In a span of 5 days over 500 high quality knowledge exchanges were done through assemblies, dialogues, roundtables, urban talks and special session and events organizes by variety of stakeholders – thinkers and doers.

The next event, World Urban 11 will be held in Katou –Poland in February 2022. I strongly recommend that IFSW engage the Polish Association and maybe other associations in the European region to take cognizance of this event.

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Nairobi, May 2020