8 July 2020

**I. Member Countries:**

1. Argentina
2. Bolivia
3. Brazil
4. Chile
5. Colombia
6. Costa Rica
7. Cuba
8. El Salvador
9. Haiti
10. Grenada
11. Mexico (Requesting Member)
12. Nicaragua
13. Panama
14. Paraguya
15. Peru
16. Puerto Rico
17. Dominican Republic
18. Uruguay.

**II. Board of Directors:**

a. Larry Emil Alicea - Puerto Rico - President
b. Tania Ramos - Brazil - Vice President
c. Commissioners
i. Xanthis Suárez - Nicaragua - Human Rights
ii. Jenny Linares - Peru - Native Peoples
iii. Kenya Batista - Panama - Ethics and Elections Officer
iv. Alicia Yáñez - Chile - Representative to the UN Santiago
v. Iván De Jesús - Puerto Rico - Global Agenda Coordinator
vi. Marinilda Rivera - Puerto Rico - Interim Education Commission

**III. Best Practices Developed and Achievements**

a. Guidelines for social work in the Region and call for action in the context of the COVID
b. Seminar on Social Work in the Context of COVID 19 (Webinar) World President, Dr. Marinilda Rivera and Maestra Violeta Flores (200 participants)
c. Seminar (Webinar) on de-professionalization in social work with perspectives from Uruguay, Brazil, El Salvador, Panama, Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico (500 participants zoomed in, over 30,000 on Facebook and You Tube)
d. Discussion and regional work in Panama to delimit issues of the global agenda for the region.
e. Regional discussion and work to delimit themes from the region for global education standards.
f. New code of ethics in El Salvador.
g. Socio-educational guides to work with social themes from Puerto Rico.
h. Webinars on social work actions in the context of COVID 19 and other issues such as gender, social policies, union work in countries like Costa Rica, Puerto Rico, Argentina, El Salvador, Colombia, Panama, Mexico, Dominican Republic.
i. Translation into Spanish of ethical guidelines in the context of COVID 19.
j. Study of the Region's Needs (Online Survey)
k. Elaboration of training proposals based on needs in El Salvador
l. Trade organization in Argentina to facilitate communication between regions.
m. Campaigns and professional guides against racism worked from Brazil.
n. Chile worked from grassroots organizations for COVID's response in the populations at greatest risk of contact.
o. Chile continues historical research on colleagues tortured under the dictatorship.
p. Costa Rica hired a Social Work professional to develop social research.
q. Colombia implemented policies oriented to COVID prevention and personnel protection.
r. Puerto Rico proposed a bill to consider social work as an essential professional service during the pandemic.
s. Costa Rica developed an observatory of working conditions.
t. Integration of work among unions and academic units in Puerto Rico, Argentina, Costa Rica, Chile, and Brazil.
u. Strengthening of virtual platforms in the countries to provide services to union members.
v. Puerto Rico developed ethical guidelines for remote consultation services.
w. El Salvador had an impact on laws on domestic violence, repealing an article in the health reform, and on the reform of adoption laws.
x. El Salvador has social worker representation as peer evaluators in the ministries of higher education.
y. El Salvador developed a consulting process with UNICEF with a rating of excellence.
z. El Salvador is working with academia on a proposal for the first Master's degree in social work in the country.
aa. Mexico conducts a national diagnosis and national online forum for several days.
bb. Nicaragua is working on the search for scholarships and internships for its members.
cc. Multi-organizational work with groups of professions in the context of COVID 19 from Panama.
i. Support to hotels and hospitals.
dd. Work from Panama for the request of the World Assembly for 2022.
ee. e-Guides to participants from Panama.
ff. Approval of the law that regulates social work in Paraguay and Uruguay.
gg. Creation of affiliates in several countries to organize the work of the union.
hh. Paraguay is working on protocols for intervention in health.
ii. Virtual courses from Paraguay for members of the Association
jj. Development of national and international congresses in Peru.
kk. Positioning on social issues in different countries and from the region.
i. 6 declarations from the region
ll. Increase in membership in most organizations
mm. Participation of the Region in the meeting of the Indigenous Committee in Calgary
nn. Work to combat the deprofessionalization of Social Work in Peru through the bill.
oo. Regional and international defense against attempts to place social work outside of the social sciences and as a medical discipline within the health field.
pp. The organization in Brazil is in charge of defending and monitoring the profession in Brazil.
qq. The organization in Puerto Rico controls by law the continuing education.
rr. Ethical political projects organized in Puerto Rico, Brazil and developing in other countries.

**IV. Challenges**

a. Weakening of some unions in the face of the upsurge of actions from neoliberal governments that prevent the development of membership and undermine the economic subsistence of the organizations.
b. Work to strengthen the articulation between associations and academia.
c. Development of laws to strengthen the union in countries where it does not exist.
d. Strengthen work against de-professionalization and precarization of working conditions.
e. Development of a survey to know the professional needs of the COVID.
f. Promote the visibility of social work in the media.
g. To develop formal communications with the world organization of work to combat de-professionalization.
h. To influence the debates on the global agenda and education standards with epistemologies and knowledge from the South.
i. Working and lobbying to overcome language barriers in IFSW
j. Promotion of social services as essential services in the countries of the region
k. Achieving membership in non-affiliated countries.

Submitted by:

Larry Alicea, President FITS LAC
Tania Ramos, Vice-President FITS ALC