



Report on the activities of the IFSW UN Commission 2020-2022 Perspective for 2022-2024

The members of the UN Commission are:

- 1 Main and 6 Representatives, UN Office in Bangkok, Thailand*
- 1 Main and 4 Representatives, UN Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland*
- 1 Main Representative, UN Office in Santiago de Chile, Chile*
- 1 Main Representative, UN Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya*
- 1 Main and 4 Representatives (plus 2 Interns), UN Headquarters in New York, USA*
- 1 Main and 2 Representatives to the UN Headquarters in Vienna, Austria*
- 1 IFSW Global Commissioner*

A total of 22 Representatives from 13 different countries

Open position: for the Un Office in Santiago de Chile, Nairobi, and Geneva there are open positions for more details, please visit the website of IFSW

Statements

Here are some of the statements that have been submitted to the UN:

- *several statements and speeches on events in the Asia Pacific on the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals*
- *Statement on the situation in Afghanistan*
- *Statement on the convention on the right to development*
- *Statements on the annual meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women*
- *Statements on the sessions of the Commission for Social Development, New York*
- *Statement on the High-Level Political Forum on the SDGs*
- *Statements have been submitted or signed (f.i. the CONGO Statement on CoVid-19).*

Policy Papers

After the last General Meeting, (2020) when the Policy paper on Social work and the UN SDG had been discussed, the UN Commission included amendments and submitted it to the global board. In 2021, the Policy Paper on Social Work and the UN SDGs was accepted by the IFSW global board.

For the General Meeting in 2022, the policy paper "[The Role of Social Workers in Advancing a New Eco-Social World](#) " has been submitted.

Events

World Social Work Day events have taken place, namely in Bangkok, Geneva, and New York, and always in cooperation with UN offices.

Furthermore, events have taken place to promote the newly established policy paper at the regional conferences in Asia Pacific, Europe, and Africa. In addition, in the Asia Pacific, an event has been organized by the regional IFSW UN team. Our colleague from Africa has moderated events at the UN-Habitat 2020 in Abu Dhabi. Colleagues from New York



organized various events at the Indigenous Forum, and the conference on social development, while colleagues from Geneva and Vienna were working with World Health Organization, ILO, UNRISD, and various other UN Agencies and NGOs Committees.

Achievements

The UN Commission and current and previous representatives have advocated for Social Work as a profession and the situation of the communities we work with. It has always been the aim to build up and keep partnerships with UN agencies. It is therefore delightful for us to report:

- UNRISD, a Geneva-based UN agency, is a long-standing partner for World Social Work Day. Now, UNRISD is a partner for the people's summit 2022, initiated by IFSW.
- In 2020, there was a [High-Level Meeting between IFSW General Secretary and the deputy UN General Secretary](#), Ms. Amina Mohammed. She said that she and the UN Secretary-General appreciated our profession, commented 'We owe them our thanks.

Lesson learned

With representatives from 13 countries, the UN Commission is international itself. During our meetings, we expand our perspectives, and we can learn from each other. The CoVid-19 pandemic has changed the work and the themes of the United Nations, virtual exchange has replaced face-to-face meetings. On one hand, it is possible to participate better in events remotely and internationally. On the other hand, NGOs are more often left out and the number of Grounds Passes has been reduced; issues that concern us.

Steps ahead

Concerning the proposed program for the UN Commission (General Meeting 2018), phase one has been finished and we continue to work on Phase two.

Phase two: Building Capacity within the UN

Build awareness within the UN agencies that enables them to utilise a social work perspective in the development agendas. For example, forming partnerships with IFSW members, establishing a social work job description, co-creating campaigns on a global, national, and local level.

The collaboration with the IFSW Global Board and the General Secretary and its office has been excellent. On behalf of the IFSW U Commission, my warmest thanks to all of you!

I look forward to working with this professional team and I hope that IFSW members will also profit from our work.

IFSW UN Commissioner

Priska Fleischlin, Switzerland/ April 2022