

Social Workers as a stakeholder in Co-building, promoting, and sustaining an eco-social world

On July 7, 2022, IFSW hosted a side-event, “Social Workers as Stakeholders in Co-Building, Promoting and Sustaining an Eco-Social World” as part of the UN High-Level Political Forum (UN HLPF) on Sustainable Development. Drawing upon the UN HLPF theme “Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, the virtual side-event drew social workers and a multi-disciplinary audience from across the globe.

Evelyn Tomaszewski, IFSW UN-NY Representative, facilitated this dynamic panel. After a brief and highlights of specific SDGs, participants were welcomed by Rory Truell, IFSW Secretary-General. We heard his insights from the June 2022 Global People's Summit, a gathering of individuals and key NGOs committed to building a new eco-social world, and the [People's Charter for an Eco-Social World](#).



Joachim Mumba, IFSW Global President, spoke about the importance of Ubuntu, noting that is not about what we achieve individually but what we achieve together, and Ubuntu as an approach to co-building an eco-social work and as a tool for social networking and building social capital. Kathryn Conley Wehrmann, Global Social Services Workforce Alliance Steering committee Chair, highlighted social protection programs and policies that promote eco-social practices across communities, addressed the impact of environmental degradation and natural and human-made disasters on communities. Hilary Weaver, IFSW Global Indigenous Commissioner, noted the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on Native Americans and the importance of recognizing and respecting Indigenous structure. She spoke of the strengthening partnership through a shared world, drawing upon the ideal that “together we must polish the chain’ to build and create the partnerships central to the success of SDG 17.

This side-event created an opportunity to discuss the importance of a holistic human rights approach, and the role of social workers in co-building our collective sustainable shared futures. It is clear that social workers as stakeholders in developing and sustaining partnerships that establish and deepen an interdisciplinary multi sectoral approach to advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

As social workers, we have a dual role as both rights holders and duty bearers. Through our commitment to promote and work for social, racial, economic, and environmental justice, social workers and have a great opportunity as well as a role in ensuring that the SDGs are attained.

Follow the discussion here: [Social Workers as a stakeholder in Co-building, promoting, and sustaining an eco-social world - YouTube](#)

Submitted by Evelyn P. Tomaszewski and Linda Levin