

UN-Report, Nairobi

Relationship and collaboration between IFSW and UN-HABITAT has continued to grow over the years. The official presentation of the **Global Agenda** blue print by Dr. Rory Truell to the Deputy Executive Director of UN-HABITAT three years ago marked a new beginning of this renewed relationship. Significantly, the document has been widely circulated within the UN circles hence, creating anxiety and space for the consequent implementation reports. Collaboratively, with other civil society actors, IFSW has been visible in crucial matters of tremendous influence in promoting global development initiatives. As a key member of the Civil Society caucus, IFSW has during the UN Governing Council sessions participated in open dialogue often held before the main plenary sessions. The output summary of the dialogue is then fed into the main Governing Council proceedings through a summary statement read at the main plan by a Civil Society representative. Two notable outcomes of these efforts is the passing of a Resolution recognizing CSOs, NGOs and Local governments and allowing them have direct communication with UN-HABITAT just like the state actors. The second is the establishment of World Urban Forum, a UN biennial event where Governments, CSOs/NGOs, UN partners and agencies meet formally as equal partners to have a political and technical debate, network and also exchange experiences and information on critical issues on equity, inclusive growth and sustainable social development. In 2012, IFSW had a Networking event in Italy, and in April 2014 had a representation by proxy in Medellin, Columbia. At this event,

notions such as human rights, inequality and gender disparities were discussed as part of conceptual framework.

Discussions arising from this event will be fed into the preparatory process of (3rd UN Conference on Housing and Urban Development) **Habitat III** to be held in 2016. This Conference is expected, not only to define global urban priorities for the next 20 years, but will also be the 1st implementing conference of the post 2015 Agenda. To a great extent, the conference will influence how Social Development Goals (SDGs) are shaped, fulfilled and how they will be implemented.

The roadmap to **Habitat III** has an enormous potential to link the outcomes of the Global Agenda priorities with decisions expected to be made in the coming 20 years, and which will impact and define the future of 70% the world population who will be living in cities. With representation in Bangkok and Chile, IFSW can now engage with UN-HABITAT more strategically as we focus on post 2015 Agenda.

Charles Mbugua
UN Rep. Nairobi

Nairobi, June, 2014.