

Bern, 4st June 2014

IFSW Delegate Meeting Melbourne 6th - 7th July 2014

Motion concerning **The Role of Social Work in Social Protection Floors**

Submitted by AvenirSocial, Switzerland

Draft for Resolution of General Meeting 2014 in Melbourne

This General Meeting acknowledges that Social Protection Floors as stipulated by ILO in its Recommendation 202 are an effective, feasible and affordable instrument to eradicate poverty, to realise realize the right to social protection (Article 22 + 25 of Universal declaration of human right and Article 9 of Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights) and to promote economic and social equality as postulated in the Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development

and

calls upon IFSW Secretariat as a matter of urgency to publish a set of Guiding Principles for Social Workers concerning their role in the development, implementation, administration, provision of services of Social Protection Floors. For the elaboration of these guiding principles cooperation is to be sought with ICSW and IASSW, with UN Agencies such as UNHCHR and ILO, possibly UNDP, WHO and with global NGOs such as Public Service International, ATD Fourth World, FES

Objective

- Elaborate and publish a set of guiding principles for social workers worldwide to prepare them in the coming proliferation of Social Protection Floors.
- Establish (re-establish) cooperation with UN Agencies and allied NGOs.
- Strengthen the position of social work in social policy and social protection

Context

According to the first World report on Social Protection, The report of the Social Protection Floor Advisory Group chaired by Michelle Bachelet 'Social Protection Floor for a Fair and Inclusive Globalization' 80% of world population have no access to social protection systems meaning that 4 of 5 live in social insecurity when they lose income due to personal, economic or environmental crisis.

But Social Protection is a human right enshrined in the Article 22 and Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and Article 9 and followings of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

In 2012 the Right to social protection has been strongly brought forward by ILO Recommendation Nr. 202 on the implementation of national floors of social protection. This is one of the most promising initiatives for the international commitment in the fight for more social justice, less poverty and for more social and economic equality.

The implementation of social protection floors guarantees universal access to health services and income security (for children, assistance for unemployed and poor, income security for elderly and disabled).

Rights-based national social protection floors have already been successfully implemented on national level in several countries. They are ambitious but proved to be feasible and affordable. They are effective in the reduction of extreme poverty, in the reduction of inequality, promoting gender equality, improving educational and health status for underprivileged and vulnerable groups.

The international Federation for Social Workers along with 81 Civil Society Organisations and Trade Union Federations representing thousands of national and international organisations and through them millions of people who are working for social justice and social development are member of the **Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors** promoting the implementation of Recommendation 202 and proposing for a universal rights-based development goal on social protection for the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

The role of Social Services and Social Work in the implementation of Social Protection Floors

“In view of the scope and particular mandate of Social Protection Floors, it is clear that social services will be required for all aspects of the implementation of the floors.

Social service workers will be needed in particular to ensure the quantity, quality and sustainability of the services, including, specifically:

- Ø to ensure the access of all to the services to which they are entitled
- Ø to accompany the people who are entitled and ensure that those services are fully enjoyed by them
- Ø to provide services to persons directly, including children and persons who are ill, are old or are disabled, including persons who have two or more simultaneous needs
- Ø to ensure the quality of services
- Ø to ensure the sustainability of services
- Ø to ensure coherence across social services, to enable a just approach and ensure that the situations of persons in multiple need are met across services and over time

In this wide range of responsibilities, social care and social service workers including social workers will work in tandem with the administrators, who will administer the services and accountancy; health service professionals and support workers, who will deliver the essential health care; and persons from the numerous specialties for worker retraining and integration; specialized services for persons with disabilities; specialized services for children; and specialized services for older persons.

Social care is the network that binds these specialized services. It will also be in many cases the entry point for access to services. Social service workers are in closest proximity to all

the residents in a country who must have access to social protection in times of need, and among whom these needs will arise. They are at the interface of the social protection services and the population they serve.

Given that States are expected to “implement social protection floors within strategies for the extension of social security that progressively ensure higher levels of social security to as

many people as possible” (in accordance with ILO Recommendation No. 202), social service workers will be important at all stages in the development of social protection systems at national level.

To achieve this mandate, governments will need the full deployment of their public services and of currently employed social service workers as well as to attain a more encompassing and wider engagement of social workers and social care professionals into the public services.” (Odile Frank, Importance of the quality of social services for the functioning of the SPF. At IFSW side event at UN Human Right Council 24th March 2014: Social Protection: A Universal Rights-Based Development Goal. The Role of Social Services and Social Work)

Sincerely,



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