



**INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS
GENERAL MEETING – JULY 2014 – MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA**

**THE GLOBAL AGENDA FOR SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
PROGRESS REPORT**

INTRODUCTION

This report summarises activity to support The Global Agenda process since the 2012 General Meeting in Stockholm.

The Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development is the product of a collaborative initiative undertaken over at least a decade by the three international organisations representing the social work profession (IFSW), social work education (IASSW) and social development (ICSW).

BACKGROUND

The Global Agenda process was launched in 2006, reviewed at the General Meetings in 2008 and affirmed at the Hong Kong 2010 world conference (IASSW 2010), where around 3,000 conference participants and the 3 General Meetings endorsed the Agenda message.

The document was revised following consultation in 2011 (IASSW/ICSW/IFSW, 2012), presented to the United Nations and other global and regional bodies in 2012 and reviewed at the Stockholm 2012 world conference (Jones and Truell, 2012).

The process is explicitly designed to strengthen the profile and visibility of social work, to develop new partnerships, to boost the confidence of social workers and to enable social workers to make a stronger contribution to policy development (Abye, 2014). This represents a re-positioning of the global social work profession, together with social development professionals.

ACTIVITY 2012 - 2014

Following the Stockholm General Meeting, IFSW identified regional Coordinators for The Agenda process and launched a call for submissions to provide evidence for the first Global Agenda report.

The focus of the past 2 years has been on the first pillar of The Agenda, *Promoting Social and Economic Equalities*. The 3 organisations intend to focus on the subsequent pillars in the following years.

The Agenda has been a major element in regional consultations and conferences during 2012/4 in Istanbul, Kampala, Johannesburg, Jakarta, Lisbon, Rio de Janeiro, Manila, Montevideo, Curacao, Chile, USA and Canada.

The tripartite partnership with IASSW and ICSW has been actively steered by the Global Coordinators. IFSW has been represented by David N Jones and Rory Truell. The Global Coordinators have held an annual meeting to monitor progress, review documents and develop strategy. The group has reported to their respective Executives through the 3 Presidents. Meetings were held in Paris (2012) and Seoul, Republic of Korea (2014) (linked to the meeting to plan the 2016 Global Conference



in Seoul). There were also informal meetings at the regional conferences in Istanbul and Johannesburg.

Rory Truell and David Jones have held teleconferences on an almost weekly basis to monitor progress on the Agenda Commitments and report and to promote The Agenda process. This has included developing plans for World Social Work Days in 2013 and 2014 which have been linked to The Agenda theme. Social Work Days at the United Nations have also been linked to The Global Agenda.

News stories on the IFSW website have all included a reference to The Global Agenda whenever relevant.

IFSW has also been developing a close link with *The Guardian* newspaper and website in London. Several IFSW articles have been published on the website, most of which have included a reference to The Global Agenda. Articles about The Global Agenda have also been published in *International Social Work* journal and *The Encyclopedia of Social Sciences* (Elsevier, forthcoming 2015). An article is also planned for the *Encyclopedia of Social Work* (NASW/OUP).

The Guardian is the media partner for the 2014 world conference. They have launched a world conference website page (portal) and will carry several articles about The Global Agenda during and after the conference. We hope to publish articles about many of the submissions to The Global Agenda process in the coming weeks and to encourage more articles from around the world during 2014/16.

The Global Agenda has therefore provided a unifying framework for much of our activity over the past 2 years.

The first report on The Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development will be launched at the 2014 world conference in Melbourne, Australia. All conference participants will receive a copy, which is being published as a supplement to the *International Social Work (ISW)* journal. The report will therefore go to all ISW subscribers and will be available on the journal website.

GLOBAL OBSERVATORY FOR SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The 3 organisations are inviting proposals for the creation of Regional Observatories which will work together with the 3 global bodies to create a Global Observatory for Social Work and Social Development. We plan to complete the process by early 2015 so that these new entities will take forward the creation of future global reports on the Agenda pillars, to be published to coincide with and to provide the focus for future world conferences.

IFSW Regional Presidents and executives will be invited to join IASSW and ICSW partners in selecting the bodies which will form the Regional Observatories following an open bidding process. IFSW at global and regional levels, together with our partners, will provide the governance for the Observatories. Those bidding for the privilege to take forward the Regional Observatories are expected to include representatives from social work practice and the profession (IFSW), social work education (IASSW) and social development Non-Governmental organisations (NGOs) (ICSW).



THE GLOBAL AGENDA MESSAGE - OUR COMMITMENTS

The 2012 Global Agenda document says:

'As social workers, educators and social development practitioners, we witness the daily realities of personal, social and community challenges. We believe that now is our time to work together, at all levels, for change, for social justice, and for the universal implementation of human rights, building on the wealth of social initiatives and social movements.

'We, the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW), the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW), and the International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW), recognise that the past and present political, economic, cultural and social orders, shaped in specific contexts, have unequal consequences for global, national and local communities and have negative impacts on people. Specifically, we recognise that:

- the full range of human rights are available to only a minority of the world's population;
- unjust and poorly regulated economic systems, driven by unaccountable market forces, together with noncompliance with international standards for labour conditions and a lack of corporate social responsibility, have damaged the health and wellbeing of peoples and communities, causing poverty and growing inequality;
- cultural diversity and the right to self-expression facilitate a more satisfactory intellectual, emotional, moral and spiritual existence, but these rights are in danger due to aspects of globalisation which standardise and marginalize peoples, with especially damaging consequences for indigenous and first nation peoples;
- people live in communities and thrive in the context of supportive relationships, which are being eroded by dominant economic, political and social forces;
 - people's health and wellbeing suffer as a result of inequalities and unsustainable environments related to climate change, pollutants, war, natural disasters and violence to which there are inadequate international responses.

'Consequently, we feel compelled to advocate for a new world order which makes a reality of respect for human rights and dignity and a different structure of human relationships.

Therefore:

'We commit ourselves to supporting, influencing and enabling structures and systems that positively address the root causes of oppression and inequality. We commit ourselves wholeheartedly and urgently to work together, with people who use services and with others who share our objectives and aspirations, to create a more socially-just and fair world that we will be proud to leave to future generations.

'We will prioritise our endeavours to these ends.



'We intend during the period 2012-2020 to focus our efforts on the following areas:

- Promoting social and economic equalities
- Promoting the dignity and worth of peoples
- Working toward environmental sustainability
- Strengthening recognition of the importance of human relationships

A commitment to ensuring an appropriate and ethical environment for practice and education runs throughout the process.

'The commitments are guided by and consistent with our core statements on the definition of social work (IFSW, 2000) and the ethical principles of social work (IASSW, 2004).'

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Appendix I

Regional Observatories on Social Work and Social Development Call for Proposals

Vision The three global partner organisations (International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW), International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW), International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW)) affirm the vision of the Global Agenda which makes explicit the contribution of social work and social development in building a 'society for all' in which every individual has an active role to play within a fair and just world.

Purpose of The Global Observatory

The Global Agenda Observatory is the mechanism for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of The Agenda Commitments. The Observatory will gather evidence about the activities of social workers, educators and social development practitioners, which support the implementation of the Global Agenda, in order to give visibility and credibility to their contributions and to promote further action. Activity is structured around the four themes of The Global Agenda: *Promoting Social and Economic Equalities* (2012-14) and *Promoting the dignity and worth of the person* (2014-16). The themes to be covered in subsequent years are: *Working towards environmental sustainability* and *Strengthening recognition of the importance of human relationships*. A focus on ensuring an appropriate environment for practice and education will be included throughout.

Observatory structure and process

The Global Agenda Observatory, established by IASSW, ICSW and IFSW, is a process and a structure which are evolving. It is our aspiration to have established a strong, credible Global Observatory within the first ten years. The Global Agenda Observatory will consist of regional networks or consortia composed of institutions of higher education and professional / practice-based organisations that jointly research, analyse, synthesise and report on Agenda activities.

The *first phase* of The Global Agenda Observatory (2012-14) involved a joint activity around promoting socio-economic equality, organised through the regional structures of the 3 global partners and facilitated by global and regional Coordinators appointed by each of the 3 partners.

The 3 partner organisations are now launching the *second phase* of The Global Agenda Observatory process. This phase involves the selection of regional Observatory arrangements to generate evidence on the implementation of the priority themes of the Global Agenda, informing the regional reports which will form the basis of the 2016 global report on *Promoting the dignity and worth of the person*.

The second Observatory Report will be launched at and form the focus of the 2016 Joint World Conference in Seoul, Republic of Korea. It is intended



that the report will be published as a supplement to *International Social Work* journal and reported widely in the international media.

The benefits of becoming a Regional Observatory partner

The 3 global partners are confident that the award of the status of Regional Observatory will bring significant benefits not only to the 3 global partners but also to the institutions that host the Regional Observatories. The Regional Observatories will provide the core material for the bi-annual Observatory Report, which will be published by the 3 global organisations and widely promoted at world conferences and beyond. We anticipate that these reports will become standard points of reference for global partners such as the United Nations, as well as for professional bodies and educational institutions. We hope that consortia will attract significant additional human and financial resources to the host organisations, which will also be beneficial to the global bodies. The bodies anticipate that the hosting institutions will achieve a higher profile and recognition, enhancing their international reputations through participation in the Regional Observatory and as a result should be able to attract additional human and financial resources.

The bid and decision making process

IASSW, ICSW and IFSW invite concrete proposals from interested bodies as the first stage in the selection process. **The bidding process will be publicised through the websites of the 3 partners and by notification to members.**



Global observatory timeline to the 2016 global conference in Seoul

Before July 2014

The three global partners agree the process for engaging with bidders and conducting the selection of bids for the regional observatory bodies.

July 2014

The first Global Observatory report is launched at the world conference in Melbourne.

The selection process for the Regional Observatories is formally launched at the world conference.

30 October 2014

Deadline for receipt of bids, to be reviewed by regions facilitated by the global organisations

30 November 2014

End of screening process and start of formal engagement with bidders (ie discussions and exchanges about improvement of bids and possible merger of bids to form regional consortia)

19 December 2014

End of formal engagement process and dialogue

5 January 2015

Deadline for submission of revised tender bids. Start the process of selection facilitated by the global organisations.

31 January 2015

Selection of Regional Observatory consortia complete.

Regional Observatory partners formalise the arrangements and start the process of gathering evidence for the 2016 report. The global bodies facilitate contact between regions and confirm expectations.

March 2015

The regional structures of the global bodies in cooperation with the global organisations review progress and offer support where needed.

March 2016

Global report completed by the global bodies, in cooperation with the regional structures, including global overview analysis, coordinated with the publication timetable for the possible publication of a supplement to the International Social Work journal (ISW) (see below).

June 2016

The 2nd Global Observatory report published as a supplement to International Social Work and launched at the Seoul world conference.



**APPENDIX II
IFSW GLOBAL & REGIONAL AGENDA COORDINATORS**

GLOBAL AGENDA COORDINATORS AND EDITORS

IASSW	ICSW	IFSW
Tassé Abye	Charles Abbey	David N Jones
Lena Dominelli	Sergei Zelenev	Rory Truell

REGIONAL AGENDA COORDINATORS

Africa

IFSW	Global Link
Charles Mbugua	Abye Tassé
	Charles Abbey

Asia-Pacific

IFSW	Global Link
John Ang	Sergei Zelenev
Mariko Kimura	

Europe

IFSW	Global Link
Maria Moritz	David N Jones

Latin America

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Rodolfo Martínez	Rory Truell
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North America

IFSW	Global Link
Morel Cassie	Lena Dominelli
Jeanne Anastas	