

International Federation of Social Workers IFSW

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Submission of IFSW for the Summit of the Future

Chapeau

The International Federation of Social Workers with 150 national associations and over 5 million Social Workers acknowledges and appreciates the consultation with Civil society organizations (CSOs) and we look forward to the Summit of the Future. With this distinctive professional background, knowledge and skill set, the IFSW co-led with UNRISD a unique partnership to convene [The People's Summit](#) through an inclusive process, which brought about the [People's Charter](#). The People's Global Summit, held online on 29 June – 2 July 2022, was initiated by 26 diverse global organizations representing hundreds of millions of people. The Summit gathered

increasingly excluded from extensive areas of social life, education and the economy. Electronic technologies have become a new tool for social work and community development, and this has been key to providing supports to people in remote areas. Without adequate infrastructure the advancements are not experienced equally and leave people and communities behind.

Recommendation:

Civil society organizations (CSOs), such as professional associations, struggle to engage in meaningful and qualitative participation in UN processes to make their voices heard. The opportunities to participate in UN formal processes are restricted and are not enough for effective advocacy. For example, the Human Rights Council allows for 90-120 seconds of speaking time for CSOs with consultative status with the ECOSOC. CSO's inputs are treated as a matter of protocol and there is no engagement or feedback on the input. Moreover, the process of consultation itself is top-down, in which agenda-setting is owned by UN agencies and involves no relationship-building.

UN processes that intend to promote bottom-up engagement are often not sufficiently collaborative and "people-centered" in practice, failing to foster dialogue or partnership. CSOs need a new modality of engagement with the UN if we are to achieve new eco-social contracts.

The lessons from the sessions were consolidated by a diverse core group in the form of a People's Charter as "a living document and reference point that will grow as the world's populations share their solutions to our joint challenges, so all people can live with confidence, security, and peace in a sustainable world". As stated in the People's Charter for an Eco-Social World, this can only be achieved through co-developing reciprocity and joint ownership of positive change, co-building peace, co-living with nature, co-creating social justice, and co-realizing equality.

The process is a model for the creation of eco-social contracts and presents a way forward that could inform UN reform:

- First, it enabled a variety of actors to come out of the silos that divide communities to work together and co-ideate and co-construct policies, practices and action based on inclusion, intergenerational respect and recognition of indigenous and grassroots knowledge.
- Second, it involved transnational organizations, movements, federations and coalitions across sectors, professions, geographies and faiths bringing together fine-grained knowledge and lived experiences that were mutually recognized and valorized in view of co-constructing a vision for a new eco-social world.
- Third, the virtual opportunity of the current digital age was leveraged to invite contributions in a variety of formats including academic presentations, blogs, storytelling, panel discussions, TikTok videos, poetry, etc.