



**INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL
ON SOCIAL WELFARE**
A World Organization Promoting Social Development

CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL
DE L'ACTION SOCIALE
*Une organisation mondiale
pour le développement social*

CONSEJO INTERNACIONAL
DEL BIENESTAR SOCIAL
*Una organización mundial
para el desarrollo social*



*Acto 5 Receber
1280
Em 7/6/98*

8 June 1998

PRESIDENT
Julian Disney

Dear Ms. Pintasilgo,

I shall be attending the Social Policy Forum in Brussels in a fortnight's time, which I understand that you may also be attending. I am writing to inquire whether it would be possible to meet with you while you are there.

VICE-PRESIDENTS

AFRICA
Hemsing Hurrymag

ASIA & PACIFIC
Kay Ku

EUROPE
Marjalliisa Kauppinen

**LATIN AMERICA
& CARIBBEAN**
Maria da Penha
Silva Franco

NORTH AMERICA
Patsy George

ICSW is a broadly representative global organisation which is becoming increasingly involved in developing and advocating policy at various international levels. In case it is of interest to you I sending herewith a copy of a brochure about ICSW and our work. We are currently focusing on the key problems addressed by the Copenhagen Summit on Social Development in 1995, namely poverty, unemployment and social exclusion. In doing so, we give special attention to underlying causes and to preventive action.

ICSW has been very active in preparations for the Copenhagen Summit and subsequently in pursuing implementation of the agreements which were made at it. As you will know, the United Nations General Assembly will convene a Special Session in 2000 to review implementation of the Copenhagen agreements. ICSW has proposed the appointment of a Comité des Sages to assist in evaluation of implementation of the agreements, and to be an independent source of recommendations to the Special Session about high priority, practical action at international levels in order to achieve further progress. We have also proposed a number of measures, relating for example to aspects of international governance and finance generation, which are similar to recommendations by your Independent Commission on Population and Quality of life.

TREASURER
Elizabeth Mullen

I would greatly appreciate an opportunity to discuss some of these issues with you in Brussels, including your experiences with the mechanisms of a Comité des Sages and an Independent Commission. I expect be in Brussels from the afternoon of 24 June until the morning of 26 June. If you think that there may be a possibility for us to meet, I would greatly appreciate an indication of the time or times which might suit you.

**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR**
Stephen King

Yours sincerely,

Head Office
380 Saint-Antoine W.
Suite 3200
Montréal, Québec
Canada H2Y 3X7
Tel: (1-514) 287-3280
Fax: (1-514) 287-9702
Email:
icswintl@colba.net

Julian Disney
President

What is ICSW?



Our Members

Founded in 1926, ICSW is a non-governmental organization. Our membership consists of global, regional, national and local organizations, of varied backgrounds and expertise, from every region of the world. We are represented in more than 70 countries, most of which are in the developing world.

ICSW's members are from countries like Brazil and Benin; Ghana and Guatemala; India and Indonesia. They are from Canada and Cyprus, Finland and Fiji, Slovakia and Senegal. They are from Jamaica, Jordan and Japan. They also include major global organizations, such as the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, HelpAge International and The Salvation Army International.

ICSW's member organizations collectively represent tens of thousands of community organizations which work at the front line in their own countries and localities to promote social welfare, social development and social justice.

Within their own communities, many of these organizations provide help for people who are starving, ill, disabled or frail. They help young and older people. They help families, indigenous peoples, refugees and people in societies of transition. They also help people who cannot earn a livelihood or who are oppressed. Many organizations consist mainly of people who are themselves experiencing poverty, hardship or insecurity.

Other ICSW members are concerned with establishing and strengthening community

organizations, and with advocating improved government policies.

Our Officers and Staff

ICSW is fully democratic and accountable. Our governing bodies at the global and regional levels are elected by the membership at regular intervals in accordance with our constitution and by-laws.

The global Executive Committee comprises a President, Treasurer, Past President and four representatives from each of ICSW's five regions. It also includes three representatives from global organizations. Each region also has an Executive Committee, led by the regional President.

The staff of ICSW is headed by a Secretary General who reports regularly to the President and the Executive Committee. In addition to the head office staff, there are regional staff and also representatives accredited to the United Nations and other inter-governmental organizations.

Our Funding

ICSW's core activities are funded principally by fees and donations from our members. Some core activities and individual projects are funded by special grants from private foundations, governmental and intergovernmental sources.

ICSW has the highest level of consultative status with the United Nations in relation to the work of the Economic and Social Council. It is also accredited to FAO, ILO, UNICEF, UNESCO, WHO; and to regional intergovernmental organizations.

What does ICSW do?

ICSW and our members are active in a wide range of fields within the general areas of social development, social welfare and social justice.

They include: food and nutrition, health, housing, education, social security, human rights and urban development as well as many aspects of economics, finance and taxation.

We look at these issues from the viewpoints of children, young people, families, men and women, older people and diverse groups of people who have special needs.

Fundação Guidaro Futuro

Information and Ideas
ICSW gathers and distributes information to community groups, other non-governmental organizations, governments and intergovernmental organizations throughout the world.

It publishes a quarterly *Social Development Review* with information, opinion and news about a wide range of issues and events at national and international levels.

ICSW also publishes a series of *Policy Issues Papers* in which experts from inside and outside our network identify problems, discuss options and propose solutions.

Other ICSW publications include our official policy statements on particular issues, global and regional newsletters for ICSW members, and collections of papers delivered at ICSW conferences, seminars and workshops.

Training and Support
*ICSW conducts training seminars and workshops for our members and other organizations, especially in developing countries. Different training programs deal with the establishment and operation of front-line community organizations and of national representative organizations, as well as various aspects of social welfare work.

ICSW prepares kits to help our members and other organizations with organizational development, research and lobbying. We also support individual member organizations with particular information and advice, and with assistance to convene conferences. In turn, many of our members then help other organizations in their communities with training, information, advice and other assistance.

ICSW obtains funding to enable its members to represent their concerns at key international meetings, and our officers and staff to visit members in order to plan and conduct regional or national seminars and training.

Research and Advocacy
ICSW researches key social and economic issues, and also encourages academics and other independent researchers to pursue projects which we regard as important.

We also develop policies on a wide range of issues and advocate them to governments and intergovernmental organizations at global, national and regional levels. We prepare written submissions and address UN and other meetings, lobby governments and comment on drafts under consideration at key international meetings.

Where appropriate, ICSW works together with other non-governmental organizations in developing and proposing policy, especially by convening or attending joint forums and delegations in connection with intergovernmental meetings.

