

IASSW Team at United Nations Geneva

Report to the Board of Directors

January 2018

Having got our accreditation in June 17, this is our first report as IASSW representatives at the UN Geneva. We have constituted a small team of four people:

- Anne Lavanchy, Professor at the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Geneva (HETS GE), *main representative*
- Laura Nicollin, Scientific Advisor at the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Geneva (HETS GE), *representative*
- Joëlle Libois, Head of the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Geneva (HETS GE), *consultative representative*

- Joël Gapany, Head of the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Fribourg (HES FR), *consultative representative* has joined us for 2018

1st Team meeting

The team (Lavanchy, Nicollin and Libois) has had a first meeting on 31.10 to define a common strategy and main commitment for our IASSW advocacy. Given the diversity and number of events taking place at the UN Geneva, and our limited resources, we have decided to focus on issues related to Human rights. This general topic allows us to have insights into areas tightly connected with the Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development, such as Migration; Racism and Discrimination; Gender Equality.

What we have done in 2017:

Up to now, our commitment as representatives has consisted of getting familiar with the UN Geneva and its structure, the NGOs present on the place and their specificities, and identifying the areas where we could have the most significant and relevant impact to advocate for IASSW. To do so, we have used the information on UN and UN-related institutions websites, and taken part (together, Laura Nicollin and Anne Lavanchy, or separately) to following events:

- Organisation and participation to the World Social Work Day 2017 (21-22.3.17) in close collaboration with IFSW (K. Kühne, P. Fleischlin) and UNRISD (UN Research Institute for Social Development). Besides our volunteer commitment and in cash contribution of partner organisations, the manifestation has been financially supported by Swiss institutions of social work (Avenir Social, HES SO),
- 10th session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (10-14.7.2017)
- Fab Labs for Peace and Development <http://www.osi-genevaforum.org/Participatory-Research-Citizen-Sciences-and-Fab-Labs-for-Peace-and-Development.html?lang=fr> (13.12.17)
- Informal Feedback Meeting on the 2017 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development (24.10.2017)

- Meeting on OHCHR's next Official Management Plan, which will set OHCHR strategic direction for 2018-2021. (21.11.2017)

What we aim to do in 2018:

- Achieve the World Social Work Day at the UN Geneva 2018, general topic (see Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development) = Social work and sustainable communities. Specific topic of the celebration at UN Geneva (see concept note as joined document) = Social Work and Youth: Towards Inclusive Sustainable Development, with presentations and workshops alongside four axis: youth, marginalization and discrimination; youth and the challenges of employment; youth and radicalization; youth and participation. After a very successful celebration in 2017, we continue this year our partnership with UNRISD and IFSW, and can newly count with the active participation of our colleagues from the University of Applied Sciences Fribourg (Pr. Sandrine Haymoz, Head Joël Gapany).
- Find ways to involve one or two students (BA and MA Thesis, project), besides the ones already committed to Social work and UN issues through their class in International Social Work (supervisor: Anne Lavanchy).
- Enhance our knowledge of NGO committees, how we can contribute to them, and how we can link with representatives of other NGOs sharing similar values and goals. In particular, we plan to get in touch with the NGO Working Group on Human Rights Education and Learning, whose objective is to ensure the participation of NGOs in the processes of global policy making on human rights education and learning in relation to the UN institutions, principally the UN Human Rights Council.

A Note about Budget:

Up to this point, we are happy to underline that we have managed to fulfil our mandate without requiring any budget. The only in cash participation of IASSW we have asked for is of 2000.- Swiss Francs for the WSWD 2017, an amount that each partner institution has also payed. We aim at restraining our costs to have them as low as possible, but we do not exclude the possibility to consider a demand to IASSW Board of Directors in case of special needs (paying students' fares, organizing a further event,... - none of these being planed up to this point).

For the Geneva Team of representatives:

Anne Lavanchy

Main Representative