

Written submissions to the Peacebuilding Commission's Ministerial Meeting - UN

International Federation of Social Workers, United Nations Commission

The New Agenda for Peace recognizes that trust, partnership and solidarity are the foundation of a peaceful world; with social workers globally committed to forwarding the New Agenda. Every day social workers are working to prevent conflict and working with communities to address the underlying drivers of violence and insecurity. As we mark the halfway point of the SDGs it is clear that things cannot continue the way they are if we want to avert social and environmental catastrophes. The SDGs continue to highlight a top-down approach to addressing global conflicts, inequality and the climate emergency. These interconnected crises serve as a call for transformative action towards new eco-social contracts that are co-built with communities from the bottom-up, leaving no one behind. Peace requires a truly multilateral approach, and that is one where communities are active participants in developing and implementing solutions.

The *New Agenda* presents a way forward that recognises the importance of people-centered approaches and this must be a common cause for all Member States to take immediate action. This includes implementing key preventative measures such as assuring a universal social protection floor so people have access to affordable health and mental care, social support services, financial independence, housing, fair wages and adequate working conditions, a healthy environment and support diversity that fosters communal resilience.

The Peacebuilding Commission is well-placed to address these issues and must take action to make sure that all voices are included in decision-making processes. The UN system as a whole needs to provide clear avenues for participation, including circular models that are measurable and accountable through the collection of data and frequent reporting on processes and outcomes. Limited consultations are not enough and engagement must be met with systemic reform and this should be a major focus of the Summit of the Future.

As social workers, we know that when people are involved in governmental decision-making processes, trust is built and actions can succeed. As stated in the *New Agenda*, the UN system itself needs to lead by example and develop inclusive systems that give some of the most marginalized groups and communities an opportunity to co-build solutions. These efforts (This

key approach) will be strengthened by the centering of professional and community knowledge into the policy agenda; prioritizing collaboration in order to build transdisciplinary solutions for complex situations.

While proposals for promoting participatory approaches are highlighted in Secretary-General's *Our Common Agenda* report, the IFSW has seen little progress in this space. In the absence of such processes, civil society groups worldwide have established their own forums advocating for new eco-social contracts. which provide a model and way forward, including the *People's Global Summit for Co-building a New Eco-social World* and the *People's Charter*. We believe that the UN and the Summit of the Future can draw insights from and partner with civil society processes to ensure broken social contracts are transformed into eco-social contracts and ensure peace for all.

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Written by four members of the commission, located in three different continents.

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