

# Report of the first international meeting of the thematic Network on the Right to Social Protection (NRSP)

Geneva, 29 and 30 November 2019



# I. Introduction

If we had to summarise the first international meeting of the thematic Network on the Right to Social Protection<sup>1</sup>, we would opt for energy, strength and determination.

Bringing together 40 people from 16 different countries across 4 continents (Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America), working together intensely over 6 full days, wielded enormous positive energy. Women and men from all walks of life, from all kinds of different social movements, from very different national contexts; women and men with a story and with real life experience. Grassroots experts in extending the right to social protection to people in their communities, and in their countries.

The 4-day participation in the “Global Social Protection Week”, organised by the ILO, allowed us to understand the existing national, continental and international opportunities for the implementation of universal social protection. In the framework of USP 2030, many international organisations (such as the ILO and the World Bank) but also national states and social movements are committed to universal social protection by 2030. It is essential for social movements to be concretely involved in this process so that these commitments and good intentions become a reality for the population. We must get involved so that public funding is effectively mobilised. We must stand up to ensure that social protection systems are based on solidarity, built by states and social movements, with the support of international organisations. We must ensure that these systems become effective and respond effectively to the needs of workers and populations, particularly those living in precarious and vulnerable situations.

The specific 2-day NRSP-meeting, which is the subject of this report, validated and deepened our strategy to expand the right to social protection. The social organisations present are all active in the NRSP, at national or continental level or both. They are committed to realising the right to social protection and they strongly believe that this network, their network, is an important tool to achieve that objective. In this network, they want to share their expertise, their experiences and stories with colleagues from other countries and other continents. Confronted with similar challenges in extending the right to social protection to working women and men in the informal economy, in precarious jobs and in rural areas, different strategies and approaches are tested and



<sup>1</sup> Hereafter the Network on the Right to Social Protection will be referred to with its acronym NRSP

tried. Indeed, connecting organisations that want to share is a genuine strength of the network; it constitutes a solid foundation on which to build the work of the network in different areas and at different levels.

Therefore, it comes as no surprise that the meeting confirmed that the NRSP should intensify its efforts, not only at national level and at continental level, but also at an international level. A number of priority actions have been identified in the field of advocacy, learning and capacity-building, communication and financing, which should contribute to the extension of social protection. They will be incorporated into a plan of action for the NRSP, covering the period 2020-2021. Finally, an intercontinental Steering Committee will be established to ensure concertation between the continental networks and to steer the work of the network at international level. As we enter a new decade, the NRSP is determined to play its role in realising the right of every person to social protection. We will do so starting from our own strength as civil society and in close cooperation with, whenever possible, policy makers and other relevant stakeholders, including the private sector.

The road ahead may at times be bumpy, bendy and steep, but this first meeting gave us a clear compass. We want universal social protection and we want civil society to be recognised as a key actor to realise this human right. We will transform social protection policy at every possible level, ensuring that no one is left behind.

The Global Social Protection Week organised by the ILO already has a report that is already available and is also an important contribution to our reflection.<sup>2</sup>

The following report primarily reflects the rich and diverse exchanges and discussions during the first international 2-day meeting of the NRSP. Every section highlights the key issues that were presented and discussed as well as the conclusions formulated at the end of the different sessions. Where possible, this report makes a reference to the relevant documents distributed and presentations made during the meeting.



2 The final document of the Global Social Protection Week is available here:  
[https://socialprotectionweek.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/GSPW\\_Outcome\\_Document\\_EN.pdf](https://socialprotectionweek.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/GSPW_Outcome_Document_EN.pdf)



## II. Opening session

At the opening of the proceedings, the President of WSM Fons DE POTTER was delighted to see all the actors present, demonstrating their willingness to go one step further with the NRSP. He recalled how the networking strategy is at the very heart of what WSM and its partner organisations have been doing for years: a key strategy to adapt to the ever-changing context and world of cooperation. This network, which focuses on the theme of the right to social protection, has already contributed to positive results and impacts, as could already be observed during field visits in recent years.

The representatives of the continental networks were then given the opportunity to express their expectations at the beginning of the meeting. Justo JIMENEZ LAYNEZ (Latin America), Gauri AUGUSTINE (Asia), Issa SISSOUMA (West Africa) and Ingrid MULAMBA (Central Africa) thanked WSM for the opportunity it gave them to be present at this first meeting. For some, it will be a real starting point to be able to exchange more with other participants from other parts of the world and to learn from other continental networks. Others referred to the work of the Global Social Protection Week, organised by the ILO from 25 to 28 November 2019, to confirm the importance of this NRSP. This network gives us access to these international fora and allows us to influence those international organisations that hold enormous power over the realisation of social protection in our countries. They express that the holding of this first meeting was long awaited and that it constitutes the starting point for the action of the NRSP at international level.



In his turn, WSM Secretary General Andre KIEKENS confirmed that the NRSP is a strategic choice. This thematic network is a very important lever to position ourselves as actors of civil society in a strong, legitimate and credible way towards political decision-makers and economic actors. Our strength and legitimacy will be measured by our capacity as civil society to work together. The thematic network is a specific expression of our willingness to bring together several actors (the multi-actor approach). Moreover, we should at the same time demonstrate our specific added value in future international cooperation. We are convinced that we as NRSP have a unique selling proposition in the field of social protection.

This and several other elements have been taken into consideration in a long process of redefining the visual identity of the organisation: WSM is both the NGO of the Belgian Christian Workers' Movement and the organisation that co-creates, facilitates and coordinates the NRSP. Based on its thematic expertise and a rights-based approach, WSM will continue to strengthen civil society organisations in their capacity to defend the right to decent work and the right to social protection. According to the Secretary General, we need to unite our struggles around the world to combat inequalities between the haves and have-nots. This is the importance of internationalisation: we are connecting social movements in 4 continents. Finally, we invest in advocacy work because we want to obtain structural changes that translate into regulatory frameworks.

All this work becomes easier and gains impact when we network. Therefore, WSM will continue to strengthen this network, together with the partners and organisations that choose to work together, from the national to the international level.

On 16 October 2019, WSM came out with its new visual identity, on the occasion of the organisation's 45th anniversary. We retain WSM as the unique name of the organisation. The baseline 'We Social Movements' gives a new content to this acronym, which is completed by a slogan that reflects what social movements do on a daily basis: Make change happen (EN), Changeons la donne (FR), Juntos logramos el cambio (ES).

### III. NRSP Itinerary

In this session, participants went back in time to revisit the reasons that motivated the creation of this multi-stakeholder network and took stock of its evolution since then.

#### A. The timeline

All participants were given the opportunity to mark important moments in the progressive construction of their national and/or continental network on a timeline, through press articles, photos, publications, campaign tools etc. Throughout the proceedings, Katrien VERWIMP regularly gave participants the opportunity to testify about these significant moment(s) between 2007 and 2019. Indeed, the exercise made it possible to appreciate the road already travelled over more than 10 years and to capture the questions, observations and suggestions of the participants about the network. At the same time, it was noted that no moment is fortuitous in a building process, all moments count.

#### B. The basis of the thematic Network on the Right to Social Protection

Returning the basis of the NRSP, Thierry MANHAEGHE first referred to the conclusions of the preceding Global Social Protection Week. In order to make USP 2030 a success, we need to reflect on how these conclusions and international commitments can become effective; since we saw in the past, the failure and dysfunction of many international development processes which were established without taking into account the contribution and participation of civil society. We are also aware that the private sector alone will not provide the solution for universal social protection.

Our hypothesis is that civil society and social movements have a key role to play in building inclusive and sustainable development, and that their contribution will be essential in achieving universal social protection.

The presentation focused on 3 points: starting from some general observations, he described the possible solutions as well as the specific approach developed by WSM and its partners.

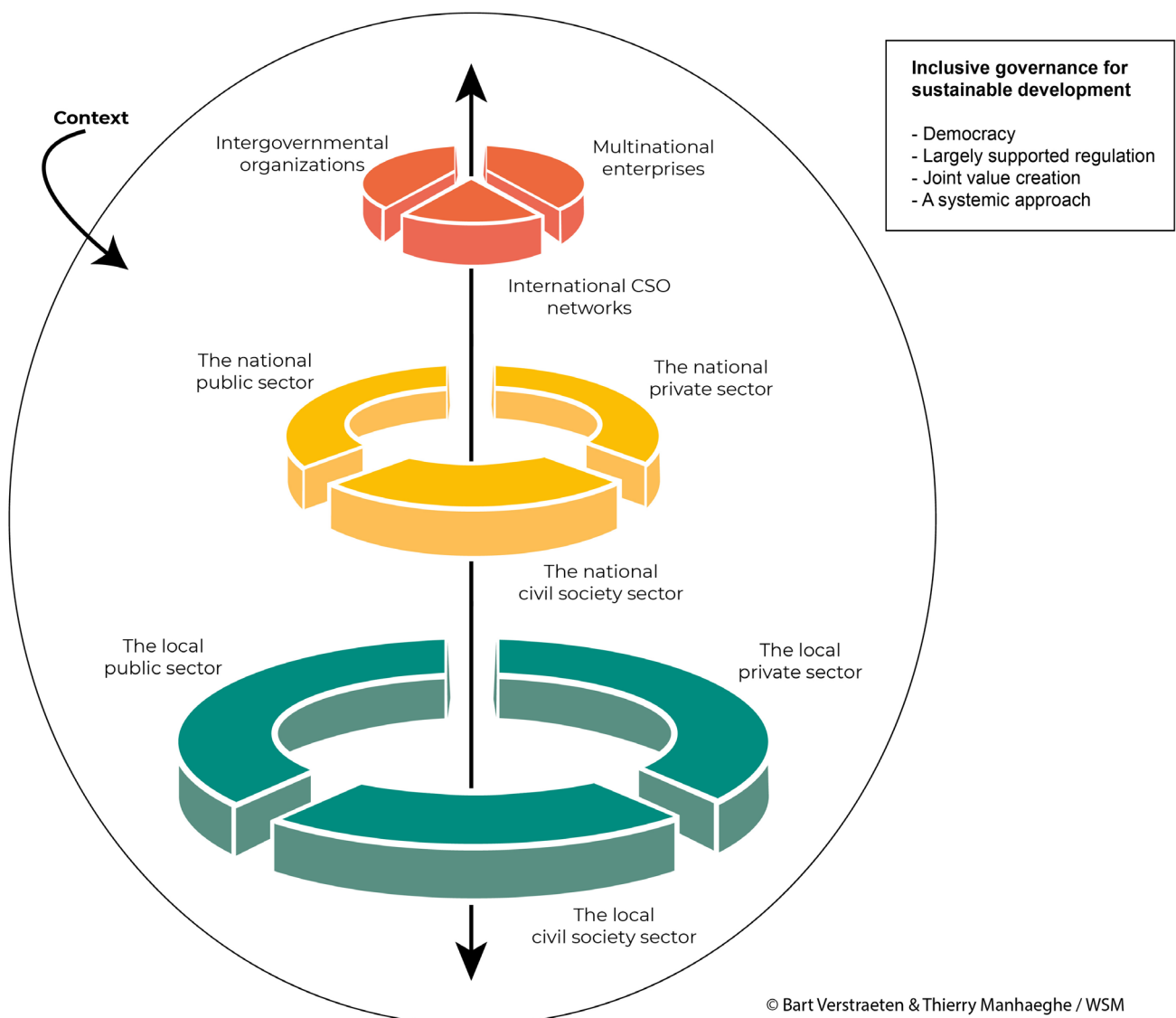
With regard to the findings, he recalled that efforts are being made worldwide to eradicate

poverty, but despite everything, the situation deteriorates. We notice a persistence of social inequalities, a disconnection from nature, the transition from a market economy to a market society, accentuating individualism, inequalities, etc. The consequence of such situations is social fragmentation at the local and global level, the starting point for the “fatalisation” of globalisation.

To remedy this, the reflections are oriented towards the strengthening of social links with a tendency to act and also to build –together with civil society and social movements- a favourable framework placing the human being at the centre. Whether at the local or international level, all advocate human rights built on universal values. The adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs, part of Agenda 2030) is part of this rights-based dynamic, calling for effective partnerships between governments, the private sector and civil society (SG 17) to transform the world and leave no one behind.

What WSM and its partners are explicitly promoting is a three-pronged model, focusing on effective and structural recognition and cooperation between the three parties mentioned above: governments, the private sector and civil society. Their mutual recognition and cooperation is:

- A way of concretely organising democracy in a society, beyond periodic voting.
- A way of guaranteeing the societal basis of the regulatory framework.
- A way to recognise, in a more adequate and appropriate way, that the production and redistribution of surplus value in a society is the responsibility of the 3 actors.



It also affirms that these 3 actors must be articulated at all levels in a systemic approach, starting from the local level, passing through the national and continental levels to the international level, always taking into account the principle of subsidiarity.

We also note that civil society is often fragmented and that this undermines its ability to engage with governments and the private sector. It is therefore essential that civil society and social movements organise themselves by creating alliances and synergies to play this role effectively.

It is indeed in this logic that WSM and its partners made the strategic choice to set up this thematic network, in order to be stronger, more legitimate and more credible. The strength of this network is the diversity of the actors who are part of it. Starting from their local and national roots, these social movements develop and test different strategies and services, with and for their social base. This gives them legitimacy. Although their experiences and expertise may vary, they share a common and integrated vision on the right to social protection (see above). This reinforces their credibility.

Based on this shared vision, the network has gradually been constructed, first at the national level (since 2008), then federating forces at the continental level (from 2014) and taking this important step here in Geneva (2019) to also organise itself at the intercontinental level. Through this strategy of multi-actor networking, the NRSP is pursuing 2 important objectives in general:

- Universal social protection<sup>3</sup>, i.e. the realisation of the right to social protection for all; and
- The recognition of civil society as a key actor for the implementation of national, global and widely supported social protection policies.

The networks (national and continental), according to their context of influence, work on the 4 areas of work which are:

- learning, capitalisation and capacity building;
- advocacy to influence policies;
- communication (internal and external); and
- the issue of funding.

## A round of questions and answers

### **Does WSM intervene in North Africa?**

For WSM, the most important thing is to have quality interventions in the chosen countries and not the occupation of the field. It is in line with the logic that there are other organisations working in other countries and other regions (see also the dynamics in the Decent Work Coordination Platform). Obviously, this does not exclude the possibility of involving strategic partners (from other regions) in the work of the network, if they subscribe to the common vision.

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<sup>3</sup> Universal social protection has become a buzzword in recent years. At present, the World Bank and the International Labour Organization (ILO) co-chair the 'Global Partnership for Universal Social Protection', USP2030. WSM is a member. For more information: [www.usp2030.org](http://www.usp2030.org)

## **Tripartism as defined by the ILO is rather limited, what place should be given to other civil society organisations?**

We start from tripartism as advocated by the ILO to demonstrate that it is possible to make the 3 cited actors work together, this mechanism has existed for a 100 years! At the same time, it should be noted that we are still talking about the tripolar model, precisely to underline that civil society is broader than trade union organisations. Therefore, the ILO organises a consultation mechanism for issues related to the world of work. At this level, we are already doing important work with ACV-CSC to build a bridge between the “workers’ group” and other social movements that also organise people, often workers as well (youth, women’s and migrant organisations, mutual health organisations, cooperatives, etc.). Then, for other issues, there is a need for other consultation mechanisms that are open to other civil society actors, for example, when it comes to education, health, the environment, ageing, etc.

## **Shouldn’t we seek more alliances with states at the national level?**

As a matter of principle, WSM and its partner organisations seek to cooperate with state actors where conditions allow it, particularly in the area of capacity building and advocacy. This cooperation is adapted to the realities of each country to achieve greater impact and results. In view of the forces and trends between the different parties, state actors can be either allies or adversaries. In some contexts, it is more appropriate to limit oneself to the role of civil society in the strict sense.

## **The question of an overly “Western” approach to man’s disconnection from nature and its collective dimension. Other cultures exist, in Latin America for example, that remain more collective and connected to the environment.**

The observation is that the economic system has effectively disconnected man from nature, with the latter becoming a natural resource, and man, having become individualistic, becomes a human resource. Positive approaches exist in Latin America, such as the social and solidary economy, which re-establishes the link with the environment and nature. These approaches can provide alternatives that should enable social movements to transform economic globalization.

## **Does the issue of competition also play at the level of civil society and weaken us?**

Taking on the world in competition is part of the work of social movements, which have to offer quality adapted services that best meet the needs of their target groups. For the communicator, competition must be seen from the perspective of diversity and emulation between the different parties present and not from the perspective of competition that calls for opposition and confrontation. Hence, the importance of making different social movements work in a network to have a stronger impact at the political level.

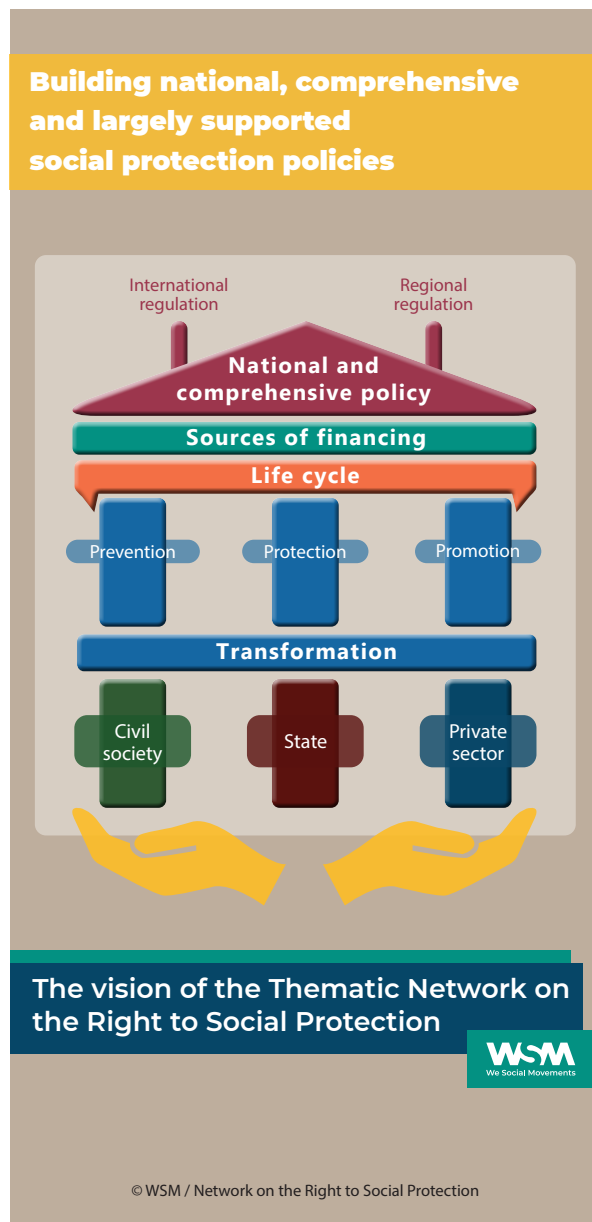
## **C. The NRSP’s vision and strategies**

The common basis for the launch of the NRSP was and remains the common, holistic, and integrated vision of the actors involved, explained Koen DETAVERNIER. This vision, taking the multi-stakeholder approach as its starting point (see above), considers that five key principles, or so-called building blocks, are essential for developing national, comprehensive and widely supported social protection policies:



- a rights-based approach (and therefore rooted in national regulation that draws on regional and/or international regulations);
- a combination of several measures (prevention, protection and promotion measures must be developed on the basis of the transformation);
- the effective participation of multiple stakeholders, i.e. the state, civil society and the private sector;
- the need for multiple sources of funding (national and international); and
- a life-cycle approach (from birth to death).

Through a playful and participatory methodology, Koen invited several colleagues to situate and explain the constituent elements of the 'house of social protection'. In this way, they all contributed to the construction - in a lively way - of the house, at each stage making the link with what is actually being done on the ground. Colleagues highlighted that the life cycle must be used to take into account the specific situation of women, young and old people in the development, implementation and monitoring of social protection policies. In addition, we need to consider the link between a social protection system and climate change: in some cases, the former must intervene with a benefit and/or service (ex-post); in other cases, the system must build the capacity of communities to deal with potential shocks (ex-ante).



The final version of the vision and strategy paper on the right to social protection of the NRSP was distributed to the participants in electronic and physical form<sup>4</sup>. It was



recalled that a draft circulated at the level of the continental networks in early 2019. On the basis of the received input, the text was reworked and is now presented for final validation by the NRSP. The opportunity was taken to thank Uzziel TWAGILIMANA for his multiple contributions to the construction of knowledge, and thus to the capitalisation of experiences of social movements in the field of extending social protection.

4 The electronic version is available on the WSM website: <https://www.wsm.be/files/files/netwerken/Vision-and-Strategy-Paper-NRSP-EN.pdf>

WSM was able to put its contributions to good use in the drafting of the NRSP vision and strategy document, both in the first version (dating from 2010) and the updated version (dating from 2019).

## Conclusions and follow-up

- The meeting validates the vision and strategies of the NRSP on the right to social protection.
- The [vision and strategies note](#) is approved. The note will be laid out as soon as the NRSP agrees on its new visual identity (see below).

## IV. Getting to know each other

This first international meeting should also give the participants the opportunity to discover and get to know the existing continental networks and other networking dynamics that are gradually being established.

First of all, the continental networks of West Africa, Latin America and Asia presented themselves, in turn, how they were established, their specific objectives, their structuring, the main activities carried out and their perspectives. The PowerPoint presentations are available to the participants.

These presentations show that networking has taken shape across the continents through an approach adapted to the realities of each context. Globally, the countries where WSM intervenes each have “a national multi-stakeholder network on the right to social protection”. All partner organisations of WSM, ACV-CSC and CM-MC are part of these national networks. A lead organisation is designated to oversee the dynamics at the national level. In addition, the national networks can involve other non-WSM partner organisations; a strategy to have a national scope and to increase the impact of the network. In West Africa, national networks in 6 countries have actively pursued this strategy and now bring together 78 social organisations. Some national networks in the sub-region even have a legal personality while others do not. This choice to institutionalise the network is often made if the context in the country requires them to have such legal personality in order to function. In other countries, networks prefer to take time to strengthen the links between organisations and to promote mutual trust first. They formalise their functioning with Terms of Reference to make explicit the mandate, tasks and decision-making process of the network.



These national networks in West Africa (6 in total), Latin America (4 in total) and Asia (5 in



total) have formed continental networks together as of 2014. These continental networks meet once or twice a year as part of a continental activity; between these meetings, the Steering Committee meets and steers the work of the network at the continental level. At the continental level, the networks forge alliances with strategic organisations, i.e. organisations that bring added value to the work of the continental network through their expertise, size and/or strategic weight. The Asia Network on the Right to Social Protection (ANRSP) organised a thematic seminar on the future of work and the future of social protection in March 2019 in Nepal. Two strategic partners, ITUC AP and NTSP<sup>5</sup>, actively participated in the reflections and planning of advocacy actions for 2019.



Sharing experiences strengthens networks. There is always a dynamic in both directions (from the bottom to the top and vice versa). The work of the national networks is the foundation and forms the common denominator for the work to be done at the continental level. The continental network makes it possible to share knowledge and experiences. This generates learning and subsequently enables national networks to innovate in the provision of services and other actions. Ultimately, it allows organisations and

networks to better position themselves in their context. In Latin America, the continental network actively promotes these exchanges between national networks on issues such as youth organisation in free trade zones, organising access to the social security system for workers in the informal economy and promoting the social and solidarity economy as an alternative for creating decent employment and social protection services.

Afterwards, the other networking dynamics were addressed. First of all, the colleagues from Central Africa highlighted the first actions that are being undertaken at the sub-regional level since the Kabgayi seminar (October 2018). For the moment, there is no network at the sub-regional level but the national networks (Burundi, Rwanda and DRC) have taken the initiative to already carry out some actions at the supranational level. These actions include a study on working conditions in subcontracting chains in Central Africa and a potential synergy with the Episcopal Conference of Central Africa (ACEAC). They should pave the way and show that there is a solid basis for a network in the sub-region.

Finally, some colleagues from WSM, ACV-CSC and CM-MC situated their work on the theme of social



5 ITUC AP is the regional organisation of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) in Asia Pacific. NTSP stands for 'Network for Transformative Social Protection'; this network for transformative social protection was established in 2009 within the framework of the Asia-Europe People's Forum

protection, at the Belgian and European level. Although these organisations already do quite a lot of work together, this work is not necessarily qualified as the result of a national network. Antoinette MAIA spoke in particular about their work in synergy in the framework of the campaign on universal social protection in 2015-2016 with 11.11.11 and the



CNCD. Annelies DE GENDT mentioned the exchanges and learning between OKRA, Gonoshasthaya Kendra (GK) and some organisations in Central Africa on the challenge of ageing. Then, Stijn SINTUBIN and Tom JOOS presented the work of their respective organisations, ACV-CSC and CM-MC, at national, European and international levels. These concrete examples suggest that their networking dynamics are real. At the same time, it is promising because their national network in Belgium could easily make the link with the European level through the work ACV-CSC is doing with the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) and CM-MC with the Association Internationale de la Mutualité (AIM). Andre KIEKENS concluded by saying that WSM, ACV-CSC and CM-MC want to commit themselves to better organise their work at the national and European level.

The fields or areas of work remain the same in the 4 continents, although the rate of activity may vary from one to another depending on the priorities set by the network:

- learning, capitalisation and capacity-building;
- advocacy;
- communication; and
- funding.

On several occasions, participants affirmed the importance of their service provision in the communities where the organisations operate. It is indeed at this level that social movements build solidarity links and strengthen community roots by offering very concrete social protection services: affiliation to the National Social Security Fund, cooperative organisation, vocational training, access to quality health care, collective bargaining to increase salaries, provision of occupational health, safety devices, etc.

## A round of questions and answers

### How to practically meet in such large continents?

Bismo SANYOTO explained that 6 countries in Asia are part of the ANRSP, which means distances are large. When the programme 2017-2021 was planned, an annual meeting for all participants was budgeted. Apart from the annual network meeting (often a seminar), the Steering Committee (SC) meets once a year or per Skype, with one delegate per country as well as a resource person from certain thematic groups: young workers, migrants, garment workers etc. The continent being extremely large, two sub-regions



(and therefore subgroupings) exist:

- South Asia, covering India, Nepal and Bangladesh – the partner organisations here are less active at the level of SAARC<sup>6</sup> since this institution is seriously hampered by political issues; and
- South East Asia: Cambodia, Philippines and Indonesia - where the political collaboration through ASEAN<sup>7</sup> is much more advanced. ASEAN and its Member States have also worked on a Social Protection Framework and Indicators, which allowed for more lobbying.
- Lastly, the Asia Europe Peoples Forum is a pan-Asian moment every two years where our partners participate, network and advocate together.

In Latin America, distances are also large, Georgina BRUNO explained. “We organise our joint work like the colleagues in Asia. At least one large network meeting with additional meetings of the Steering Committee (in person and via Skype)”.

### **Are there organisations involved that are not yet partners of WSM?**

Bruno DECEUKELIER indicated that the networking effort was complicated in Bangladesh with only 2 partner organisations, NGWF (a garment federation) and GK (an NGO with expertise in health and community-development). By jointly getting involved in other platforms, first on Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) and then on social protection in BSPAN (which stands for Bangladesh Social Protection Advocacy Network), it became easier to work together. In Indonesia, a joint workshop with other trade union confederations was recently held (6 November 2019). What wasn't possible for a long time, now seems to grow again, according to Bismo SANYOTO: an interest to join forces to further the agenda of universal social protection. Bruno also explained that for instance in India, it is complicated to involve other relevant organisations like SEWA (Self Employed Women's Association) or the Working People's Charter, since the limited budget offers little leeway.

### **What are some of the difficulties encountered when going zonal/continental?**

From West Africa, Uzziel TWAGILIMANA explained it can be a tricky process to build trust, for instance between trade unions and civil society. Working on common themes or issues is helpful to bring them together. In the beginning, it is important to focus on training to get to know each other's perspective and added value. In West Africa, there is a long tradition of involving other organisations than those already working with WSM for many years. Obviously, this required time since the network had to demonstrate what the added value is for others to join, such as stronger advocacy. In recent years, some national networks have obtained formal recognition by certain governmental instances (in Burkina Faso, Mali and Senegal). Issa SISSOUMA further added that the network has received recognition by the UEMOA<sup>8</sup>, the ILO, as well as the African Union.

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6 The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, this is a regional intergovernmental organisation and geopolitical union of states in South Asia

7 Association of Southeast Asian Nations, this is a regional intergovernmental organisation in Southeast Asia

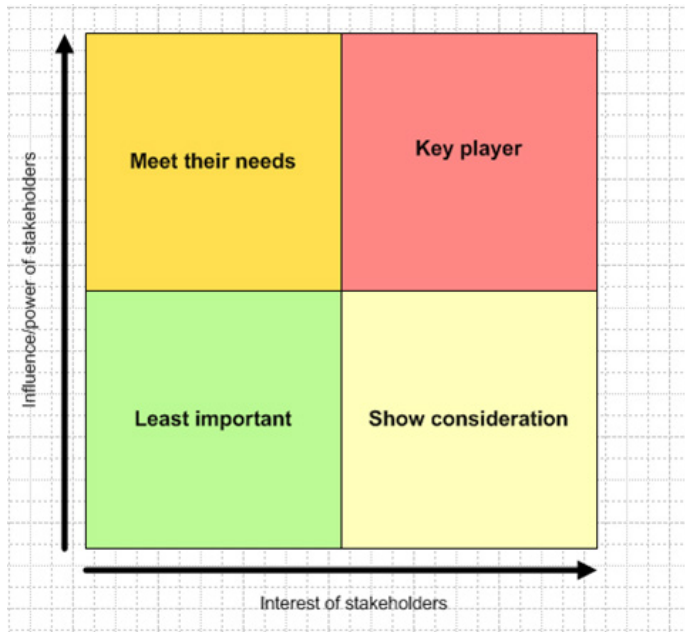
8 West African Economic and Monetary Union

## Key elements to remember from this session:

- As a thematic network, we have chosen to **focus on a specific theme**, which is important to remember. We are not an international network like ITUC, Oxfam, or Amnesty International because we do not have the same institutional and hierarchical logic. The organisations which are part of the network maintain their autonomy; in the network they connect with other organisations because of the added value it represents for them. Their networking dynamic is organised according to a set of rules which is often formalised in Terms of Reference.
- The real added value of this thematic network is **its multi stakeholder approach**. The network brings together the knowledge, experience and expertise of different social movements. All of them have developed and implemented different strategies to deliver services and advocate for social protection. All of these can easily be linked with the so-called five building blocks for national, comprehensive and largely supported social protection policies.
- We think it is important to recall that WSM and all of its partner organisations defend and promote the right to decent work and the right to social protection. Individual partner organisations undertake all kinds of actions in relation to the 4 pillars of the **ILO Decent Work Agenda**. The multi-annual programme 2017-2021 still allocates more than 85% of its funding to this work of the individual partner organisations. When it comes to networking, we have made the explicit and strategic choice to strengthen this thematic network. Therefore, the multi-annual programme 2017-2021 allocates between 5 and 10% of its funding the work of the NRSP.
- At the very beginning, there have been discussions on **how to deal with specific issues** such as the social economy, migrant workers or ageing. The answer is that we can consider these in relation to the key focus of the network and not as separate issues. The social economy is an important strategy to provide social protection services to people left behind. Migrant workers should enjoy access to social protection just as much as other working people do, which is a question of non-discrimination. Elderly people have specific needs when it comes to social protection, as do women and young people: a proper life cycle analysis would bring these to light and allows the network to come up with specific actions to support the realisation of their right to social protection.
- The network has identified, over the years, **4 key areas of work**. These are clearly articulated and mutually reinforcing. For an overview of these areas of work and the results achieved so far, please refer to the note providing an update about the NRSP.
- **A methodological tool** was developed some years ago, the so-called “roadmap towards the right to social protection” to support the networks to plan, monitor and evaluate their work. In the next section, this tool is discussed in more detail.
- **Formalisation versus institutionalisation:** the network is not organised in an institutional way (with articles of association, governance structures, legal personality etc.). The network has formalised a set of rules by means of Terms of Reference for the key entities that structure the work of the network, i.e. the steering committees at continental level. In the current phase, this seems to be the most logical choice to get to know each other and to build mutual trust. These Terms of Reference outline the mandate, key tasks, the functioning and composition of these Steering Committees. If the NRSP also wants to engage

at intercontinental level, it will need to establish a Steering Committee at that level as well (see below)<sup>9</sup>.

## V. Power mapping and stakeholder analysis



As mentioned above, WSM developed a methodological tool to support the planning, monitoring and evaluating (PME) work of the networks, in particular in the field of their respective advocacy work. Having a real influence on policy processes and achieving effective policy change at the national and continental level requires a strong technical and methodological preparation – a key factor to success. In that regard, the roadmap has to be considered a practical tool in support of this preparation. It is based on the concept of “action-oriented research” and identifies 4 different steps along the road towards the right to social protection:

- **Make a strategic mapping:** it aims to visualise the existing regulatory and policy framework, the different stakeholders (government and private for profit actors as well as civil society) and the actions they undertake (individually or in cooperation with each other), the financing mechanisms underlying their actions, as well as the target groups covered.
- **Formulate concrete policy objectives:** the analysis of the strategic mapping allows us to formulate concrete policy objectives based on the policy change(s) we should aim for as a matter of priority.
- **Develop an adequate advocacy strategy:** in this process, one needs to look at relevant stakeholders with interests and



<sup>9</sup> Some national networks (particularly in West Africa) have institutionalised themselves by acquiring a legal personality. In their context, this was indispensable to have official recognition by the public authorities. This option remains to be explored for the NRSP as such, taking into account the rapidly changing contexts and the fact that some cooperation with international organisations is only possible when one has a legal personality

influence, the kind of activities that may have the strongest impact in influencing the policy process, and the kind of advocacy instruments needed to support the advocacy work.

- **Define a clear division of tasks:** considering several organisations are involved at the national and continental level, it is of the utmost importance to define a clear division of tasks to ensure a smooth and efficient operational functioning.

In a recent evaluation of our multiannual cooperation programme, South Research<sup>10</sup> recommended to “[...] foresee more time to discuss and analyse changes in the context and in the behaviour of important stakeholders and to define how to react to these changes and how to obtain national successes”. To respond to this relevant recommendation,

the NRSP could consider revising the methodological tool of the roadmap, by including a more dynamic stakeholder analysis and power mapping. Secondly, the NRSP should use and apply the adapted tool at regular intervals to maintain the right focus in our common advocacy work and to adapt our strategy depending on the interest and influence of the stakeholders.

Over 500 persons attended the ILO Global Social Protection Week in November 2019: ministers and their advisors, representatives of international (UN, ILO, World Bank,

IMF, UNICEF, FAO etc.) and regional organisations (EU, AU etc.), officials of line ministries in charge of social protection, officials of development agencies, representatives of workers and employers organisations, civil society and academics. In that sense, the Global Social Protection Week has provided us with ample opportunities to learn from the work of other organisations, to understand the current state of affairs as well as the opportunities and challenges in realising universal social protection by 2030 (USP2030). In short, this is an excellent starting point to undertake a joint stakeholder analysis and power mapping as NRSP.

When undertaking this exercise, we started from the shared purpose of the network which is to achieve universal social protection for all (in general) and to ensure that social movements are recognised effectively and structurally by the State and the private sector for their important role in realising the right to social protection (in particular). The group proceeded in 2 steps:

- Every continental network started with an analysis of the relevant stakeholders in their continent, labelling them in terms of **their interest** for the issue of USP and **their influence** to advance USP by 2030 (power mapping). The point of departure for this part of the exercise was the work of the network at continental level.
- Subsequently, we shifted our focus to the international level – which stakeholders are

<sup>10</sup> South Research is a co-operative consultancy firm that provides services to organisations that pursue equitable social relations. South Research offers training, support and evaluation services to a number of organisations, administrations and NGO's. For more information: see <http://www.southresearch.be/>



relevant to pursue USP by 2030 and on which organisations should we focus as NRSP to advance our objectives at the international level.

In light of the power mappings realised by the different continental groups, the following 3 actors were identified as being instrumental to advance the cause of USP2030: the ILO, the EU and other civil society organisations and/or networks.

The meeting concluded it was essential to prioritise, and thus we should focus our work on a number of targets taking into account the workload we have as organisations. In a next step, the power mapping allows the NRSP to identify the most adequate strategies:

- to increase or decrease the influence of a given actor;
- to increase, if relevant, the interest of a given actor.
- to ignore a certain actor with little interest, regardless of its power

## VI. Operational Planning for 2020-2021

Starting from the stakeholder analysis and power mapping, the participants had a first discussion about each area of work with a view to developing a first operational plan of action for the NRSP for the period 2020-2021.

### A. Advocacy

Advocacy has always been and will remain a key area of work for the network. The NRSP wants systemic change. As a result, it seeks to influence decision-making at the national and continental level. But even at the international level, the network has already contributed to ILO standard-setting procedures relating to transitioning from the informal to the formal economy (ILO Recommendation 204, 2014-2015) and to harassment and violence in the world of work (ILO Convention 190, 2018-2019).

The priorities of the NRSP at the intercontinental level are summarised as follows:

- **1st pathway: strengthen networking with other Civil Society Organisations (CSO's) /social movements and their networks.** There is a lot of interest for RSP in this group, but we need to strengthen their power.
- **2nd pathway: strengthen cooperation with the EU institutions.** They have a little less interest, but more influence (politically, financially). The EU is not one bloc, since different institutions (Council, Commission and Parliament) and different departments (within the Commission) have policies that are not always coherent. Their economic and trade policy often has a negative effect on social protection. In development cooperation, there are certainly allies.
- **3rd pathway: continue working with the ILO.** The ILO is present in the continents and countries, it is the reference when it comes to standard-setting in the field of SP and has a lot of technical expertise in assisting member states and social partners to develop and/or reinforce their SP policies. Their influence can be strengthened in the wider UN system and their standards should be better known by others. The NRSP can play a role in that.

## A round of questions and answers

### **Don't forget other regional blocks (UEMOA, ASEAN...)?**

Correct, but they remain the focus of advocacy efforts by the continental networks. Here we focus our joint advocacy work at international level. The EU does stand out at that level as well, as they play an important role in several UN-led coordination mechanisms such as UN SPIAC-B and USP2030.

### **What about the World Bank (WB)?**

Some argue that we should engage more with the WB because of their enormous power (they finance a lot of work in the field of SP). Others feel less comfortable since their vision does not align with our vision and strategies as NRSP. In any case, even though we do not like the positions of the WB and the IMF, we cannot ignore them since their policies and practices have a lot of impact on the national level. This does not mean we have to be 'allies', it will be our role as civil society to question their positions. In any case, we cannot ignore the WB any longer. At present, they co-chair (with the ILO) the 2 most important UN-wide coordination bodies, UN SPIAC-B<sup>11</sup> and USP2030. In fact, it is good to recall that the Global Partnership for Universal Social Protection (USP2030) has already managed to bring the vision and approaches of the ILO and WB a bit closer. WSM has decided to become a member USP2030 to ensure that civil society and trade unions are also taken into account when implementing the principles underlying this Partnership, which are well-articulated in USP2030's Call to Action. This gives us an entry point to engage with both the ILO and WB and remind them of the proper implementation of the principles contained in the Call to Action. The ILO also looks to us for more support on that front, because they realise they don't have all the power to keep the WB on track.

### **When it comes to working with CSO's, let's also take into consideration faith-based CSO's and their networks (CORDAID, Caritas...).**

In Central Africa, a first encounter with the Episcopal Conference (ACEAC) has taken place. It allowed WSM and the networks in Burundi, RDC and Rwanda to present their strategies in the sub-region. It could be the starting point for more synergy with the Caritas network to extend SP in the sub-region. The colleagues in Latin America have also identified the Episcopal Conference of Latin America (CELAM) as an important stakeholder – it is up to the continental network to refine the strategy further, if this is indeed deemed relevant.

### **Cooperation in one continent, with a certain actor, can also help us in the other continents.**

Absolutely, therefore this kind of exchange we have in the NRSP is important. We notice that the staff of these large CSO's like the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) or Caritas are not always aware of all the cooperation that is ongoing, be it at HQ or at country level. It is important for us in the network to connect the different open lines (be it in terms of

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<sup>11</sup> UN SPIAC-B was established upon the request of the G20 in the wake of the financial and economic crisis. It is co-chaired by the ILO and the WB and it is mainly a body allowing coordination among organisations (international) and countries (bilateral agencies as well as Member States) with technical cooperation programmes on social protection in beneficiary countries. There is no involvement of the recipient countries themselves. WSM is a member of UN SPIAC-B since 2016. More information available on: <https://www.ilo.org/newyork/at-the-un/social-protection-inter-agency-cooperation-board/lang--en/index.htm>

communication or cooperation).

## Conclusions from this session

- ILO: it is logical to continue to engage in standard-setting procedures. In this regard, the meeting is reminded of the upcoming recurrent discussion on social protection, which will build upon the conclusions of the discussion in the ILC Standards Committee in 2019<sup>12</sup>.
- World Bank: we acknowledge the different points of view. As suggested, we can proceed carefully and take more time to further refine our position. In the meantime, let's make use of our closer working relationship with the WB by means of USP2030 and UN SPIAC-B. WSM is part of these international bodies, together with other CSO allies like ITUC, HelpAge, Oxfam, FES, Bröt für die Welt (all members of the GCSPF<sup>13</sup>). This gives us some leverage to question the WB.
- EU and other regional organisations: first and foremost, the continental networks have to continue their work and engagement with the regional organisations. The EU, however, has a particular position considering its investment in SP by means of its international cooperation. We are about to acquire a new experience in that regard with the new EU Global Action in which WSM and the national networks in Nepal and Senegal will play an active role, together with the ILO, UNICEF, the EU Delegations and the national authorities.
- CSO networking: we will invest more in building broader alliances with a number of stakeholders. We already work together with some, while with others we are about to start such cooperation (see above). Some have been mentioned several times: ITUC, GCSPF, Caritas, FES... It is crucial to strengthen our alliance building efforts with these organisations at both the national and continental level: it is important to reach out to their national and continental affiliates/associates/partners.

## B. Learning, capacity strengthening and capitalisation

The dynamics of this network meeting clearly demonstrated the need organisations feel to share their work and learn from good practices. The simple act of exchanging ideas strengthens the capacities of all those involved and helps them reflect on their own strategies and approaches. At present, quite some learning, capacity strengthening and capitalisation takes place at national and continental level. In this session, we asked ourselves the question: how can we strengthen this at intercontinental level?

Antoinette MAIA and Katrien VERWIMP introduced the discussion with some examples

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<sup>12</sup> The ILO also has a role in technical cooperation. At national level we need to be more structurally involved, they have to give trade unions and other social movements their due place

<sup>13</sup> The Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors (GCSPF) comprises over 100 non-State actors, civil society organisations and trade unions. It advocates the implementation of universal and human rights-based social protection systems and floors – in line with human rights instruments, international labour standards, in particular ILO R202 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. WSM is a member since 2016. More information: <http://www.socialprotectionfloorscoalition.org/>

of recent exchanges, research documents and articles that were produced.

## Exchange of ideas

- Recently, colleagues of MOC/CSC/MC Liège and their colleagues of CNTB/RAMS/MUFEDE Burkina Faso visited the Dominican Republic. The visit aimed at sharing the experience of the different organisations in the Dominican Republic (AMUSSOL/CASC/CONAMUCA/FEI/MOSCTHA) in organising people in vulnerable positions (informal economy, rural economy, migrant workers) and how to extend SP to them.
- Can we also exchange on how to cooperate with the state? This is different in every country: some states crush down civil society, but in others there is good cooperation. Obviously, this can be part of the exchanges.
- There is a willingness to build a sub-regional network on the right to social protection in Central Africa (like the one in West Africa). It would be good to draw on the experience and expertise of the other continental networks.
- Experience in Indonesia and Nepal: the social security system is open to informal economy workers. This would be very helpful in Africa, where our existing SP policies do not include these working women and men.
- It would be good to document more good practices (capitalisation) about the ratification of international standards, in particular C102, R202 and R204.
- The most recent brochure on AMUSSOL is available in the 3 languages of the network. We should/could make similar documents to learn about and disseminate each other's experiences.
- Financing is probably the area we do not have much experience in. However, there are good practices in some countries. Could we organise intercontinental workshops or seminars to learn more about these?
- Several years ago, we had a specific section in our multiannual cooperation programme dealing with capacity building, learning and capitalisation. This helped to organise and structure our workload. At the same time, it is important to remain realistic, because we also tend to plan many activities but we do not have the capacity to do everything.
- The dimensions of environment and gender: these are rarely touched upon. There have been trainings in the past (in West Africa), and there was an attempt to use specific tools to mainstream both themes in our work (see continental seminars in 2015). In this area, we can step up our efforts.
- In addition, demographic change is an important 'change' that is happening right now. There has been an exchange on ageing between a number of organisations for elderly people in Central Africa in 2014. GK and OKRA are also sharing their experiences and they are currently looking at what they want to do together in the field of ageing and access to social protection. Can other organisations benefit from this?





## Conclusions from this session

- Strong agreement to develop more joint work in this area as NRSP.
- Let's develop our 'knowledge bank'. There is so much going on, in different forms and shapes (field visits, seminars, studies etc.).
- We need to organise this in a more systemic way and we need to be creative.
- Intercontinental exchanges are definitely seen as an added value of the NRSP. Topics for such exchanges were suggested, decisions need to be taken in light of needs and priorities of the different continental networks.

## C. Financing

Thierry MANHAEGHE introduced the session, underscoring the importance of mobilising together the necessary funding for social protection in general and for the NRSP in particular. The network can be an important instrument to work with other donors (such as the ILO, UNICEF, EU...) and to gain access to different funding streams. The organisations of the network can develop joint proposals to allow for joint actions and to expand the network.

During the ILO Global Social Protection Week, several speakers underlined that although there is sufficient money to fund SP, it is not allocated to that end. This is a missed opportunity given the important redistributive role of SP. As NRSP, we need to advocate for adequate investment in SP while ensuring that there is also sufficient funding given to civil society to empower people and their communities to claim their right to SP.

A first opportunity that presents itself is a new Global Action, funded by the European Commission (EC, DG, DevCo) that seeks to increase the population's universal social protection coverage in 8 partner countries of the EU by strengthening the design, implementation and financing of their social protection systems. The four-year global action will be implemented primarily by the ILO, UNICEF and the Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors (GCSPF), in 8 countries (Angola, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Uganda, Senegal, Nepal, Cambodia, and Paraguay). The GCSPF has been asked to facilitate the active participation of social protection-focused civil society in Cambodia, Nepal, Senegal and Uganda. 3 organisations were identified to take a coordinating role: HelpAge (Uganda), Oxfam (Cambodia) and WSM (Nepal and



Senegal).

Uzziel TWAGILIMANA and Bruno DECEUKELIER will take the lead for WSM in these 2 countries. They will coordinate and facilitate the new dynamic this Global Action should foster in these countries. They both presented the approach they have taken so far in order to identify the relevant civil society organisations in these countries that may be willing to play a role in this new programme. Their starting point has been the existing national multi-stakeholder networks; they also reach out to other members of the GCSPF active in the country, including other networks that work on SP.

- In a first instance, the effort will be geared towards building mutual trust and confidence.
- Secondly, they will have to build and enhance their capacity in the field of social protection systems and the financing mechanisms that should underpin them. It is important that the group has a shared understanding.
- Thirdly, they will have to see how they can engage structurally and effectively with the other stakeholders, such as the national authorities, ILO, UNICEF and the EU delegations.

## A round of questions and answers

### **Can you give us a bit of an insight into the finances?**

22,9 million EUR, 1 million is granted to the GCSPF. This comes down to 250.000 EUR per country.

### **How did the ILO and UNICEF decide on the countries?**

Also Indonesia is interested! Choice of the countries: the EU has selected the countries, looking at political will, relevant stakeholders, ongoing policy processes, etc. ILO and UNICEF were consulted but the decision was taken by the EU.

### **What principles underlie this Global Action?**

To develop a comprehensive and inclusive social protection system, the intervention logic highlights important cross cutting issues. Namely; the importance of strengthening national capacities, the adoption of a rights-based approach and the establishment of national, participatory processes (including social and national dialogue), gender responsiveness, disability inclusiveness and non-discrimination, paying attention to the environmental dimension, addressing the needs of informal economy and migrant workers.

### **There is an opportunity for Burkina Faso and Cambodia, where other organisations have the lead.**

Indeed, we can pass on important information to the respective networks in these countries, but it is up to them to take a pro-active role and reach out to the EU Delegation in the country or the ILO/UNICEF office, requesting to be involved in the process there.

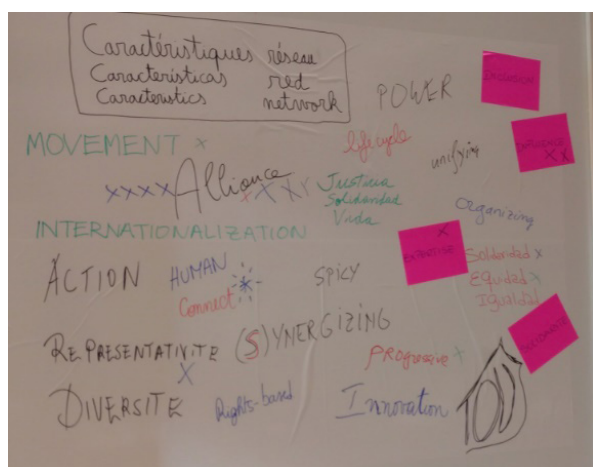
## Key points from this session

- WSM will report back to the continental networks on the progress and setbacks made during the implementation of this programme because we can draw important lessons from this experience.
- We do hope that if this work outs fine, other international organisations may want to replicate this experience. Especially in USP2030 and UN SPIAC-B, all eyes are on this new Global Action for that reason.
- This is also a good opportunity to be more visible as NRSP and to expand our network beyond those active in them to date, especially in Nepal and Senegal.

## D. Communication

Santiago FISCHER introduced this session, stating that WSM and its partner organisations definitely recognise the importance of communication for the network both internally and externally: to share good practices, publish research, disseminate joint positions etc. Different communication channels are used in the different continents. WSM and its

partner organisations are aware that effective and appropriate communication is key to support our work, to raise the profile of the network and make its unique selling proposition visible. In that sense, communication supports our joint work in the field of advocacy and of learning, capacity-building and capitalisation. Moreover, communication allows us to be a network, as it connects all the organisations from Africa, Asia, Latin America and Belgium as well as their networks at national and continental level.



Jefferson FLORES YUGAR, Bruno DECEUKELIER and Valère PIHOUN KOFFI presented how the networks organise their communication. Most networks have a blog, a Facebook-page and a WhatsApp group. Some have a newsletter, in electronic form and hard copies. Some networks have invested in the realisation of videos which can be downloaded on their blog<sup>14</sup> or via YouTube. The presentations were distributed to all participants.

### Summary:

- We notice that we communicate well, but in a dispersed manner.
- It will be important to find a common visual identity to reinforce the image of our network and to reinforce our joint communication as NRSP.



<sup>14</sup> A more general introduction to the network is accessible on the WSM website, with links to the blogs of the different continental networks: <https://www.wsm.be/en/our-network/networks/>

## In search of a visual identity

Subsequently, Santiago invited the participants to engage in an individual exercise, based on 2 questions listed below. The photo of the flipchart shows the elements captured during this brainstorming session.

- What do you think the image of the network is today? List 3 characteristics (positive or negative) in order of importance. Then explain why.
- According to you, which characteristic should we rely on more in the future? Mark it with an X.

In the next phase, the group proceeded to assess the following question: on the basis of the brainstorming, do you envisage a change/evolution of the name of the network? You can also share visual ideas emanating from such a change.

Next, the group looked at how to better organise our common communication. We all seem to agree that the network, at different levels, has an impact, changes the living conditions of people and influencing policy processes. These results are important, we have to enhance the visibility of the network for that reason; e.g. the recently adopted ILO Convention 190 concerning the elimination of violence and harassment in the world of work.

## Exchange of ideas

- It is important to post news on the website and to have access to the website so you can see experiences from other countries. This is possible now on the new WSM website. This new website has quite some basic information about the countries, the partner organisations and the network available in 4 languages ([www.wsm.be](http://www.wsm.be)).
- Some colleagues indicated that they would like to have more information on how certain organisations go about certain issues in different countries/continents. Obviously, we cannot deal with all questions of this nature because it would mean we need to translate everything and that is not possible for now. At the same time, we do want to have that openness and determine whether it makes sense to translate certain documents, papers, articles into the 3 working languages of the network. WSM would certainly post them on its website on the page concerning the NRSP.
- On that webpage, there are links to the different blogs of the continental networks. The question is asked whether these blogs can be harmonised? This is indeed the plan for 2020, once we have decided as NRS on our new visual identity. Then we can adapt the blogs harmonising their look and feel. We would involve a communication specialist to help us with the development of this visual identity, on the basis of the input in this session.
- Communication starts with writing something: an article, a paper, a petition. The core of this work remains at national and continental level. We need to ensure that people take responsibility for this work. Understandably, not everyone is as fluent but we should be able to rely on some people to produce input. Should we work with a division of tasks?
- Some argue that they don't have the time for writing short articles, even though they agree on the importance of communicating.



## Key points from this session

- The first step is to develop and agree on a new visual identity for the NRSP. A follow-up group is established with 1 person per continental network (to serve as link with the network and with communication skills to engage in discussions on visual identity) and 1 person for WSM. Together, they will facilitate this workstream and will come up with a proposal for the network. By the end of March 2020, we want to agree on the visual identity of the NRSP.
- Similarly, we will look at organising our communication better and linking our efforts in the countries and continents with the intercontinental level.
- Any other ideas or suggestions: please contact [santiago.fischer@wsm.be](mailto:santiago.fischer@wsm.be).

## VII. Cooperating at the international level

At the international level, the network partners are already working with WSM, ACV-CSC and CM-MC to influence different political processes, said Gijs JUSTAERT while introducing this session. For many years, they have jointly participated in the International Labour Conferences (ILC), actively collaborated with ITUC, AIM, RIPESS, FES and GCSPF, and facilitated exchanges and learning between organisations from different countries and continents.

When we consider the action points arising from the planning we have done for the period 2020-2021, it is obvious that we need to get organised. That is why Gijs presented a draft Terms of Reference for the establishment of an “Intercontinental Steering Committee”.

The Network on the Right to Social Protection (NRSP) organizes multi-actor networking at national, continental and international level



From the outset, it is important to stress that the Steering Committee at intercontinental level is conceived as a space where continental networks can exchange and jointly decide on the actions they wish to undertake at international level. On the basis of the principle of subsidiarity, actions taken at international level must be motivated and aimed at strengthening the actions of the respective networks at the national and continental level.

Next, the content of the Terms of Reference was presented and shared, which formalises the mandate, key tasks, functioning and composition of the intercontinental Steering Committee.

As part of its commitment to the thematic network and its active

participation in the process of co-creating the network, WSM is recognised in its role as the “coordinating organisation” of the NRSP. This role differs at different levels of the network. At the national level, WSM mainly supports the national networks by allocating technical



and financial resources. At the continental and intercontinental level, WSM supports (technically and financially) the dynamics of networking, but also facilitates meetings (convenes, prepares and ensures the follow-up of meetings and agreed points of action) and provides its experience as a knowledge centre with other organisations of the Christian labour movement in Belgium.

## A round of questions and answers


### **Should the intercontinental Steering Committee be allowed to meet at least once a year?**

For the moment, a physical meeting is planned every 2 years, but we will organise meetings by Skype more regularly. Workload, cost and environmental impact must be taken into account. Several participants still insist that physical meetings should be planned because it facilitates a lot of things. This can also be organised like this one, in the margins of an international event.

**Gender equality in the representation of the continental networks in this intercontinental Steering Committee must be ensured as well. In the same vein, the participants call for the inclusion of youth as well as the diversity of social movements in the NRSP.**

### **Conclusions of this session**

- The participants approved the Terms of Reference, which are annexed to this report.
- The Steering Committees of the continental multi-stakeholder networks on the right to social protection (West Africa, Latin America and Asia) each designate 2 representatives (m/f) to sit on the Intercontinental Steering Committee, taking into account the importance of balanced representation (gender, youth, diversity of social movements).
- Pending the establishment of steering committees in Central Africa and Europe, these regions may each designate 1 representative to participate in the Intercontinental Steering Committee as an observer, taking into account the importance of balanced representation (gender, youth, diversity of social movements).
- WSM is recognized in its role as the coordinating organization of the NRSP. As



such, WSM is in charge of the preparation and facilitation of the Intercontinental Steering Committee meetings, as well as the follow-up of the action plans between meetings.

## VIII. Evaluation after the event

Here is a brief summary of the main, positive feedback received from the participants:

- Participants were interested to learn from each other's good practices;
- They underlined the importance of mutual reinforcement of capacities, on specific topics;
- Communication, power mapping and stakeholder analysis will be used by the participants in their work;
- Participants especially appreciated the following: the strategic planning, timely interventions and close monitoring of the meeting;
- They felt committed, determined and connected;
- It was felt by some that an annual meeting and future field visits would further enhance cooperation.

It's safe to conclude that we need to seize the momentum and continue our intercontinental network in the chosen direction with joint enthusiasm. The network stands united in its fight for social protection for all. We can and will make it happen!

## IX. ANNEXES

- *List of participants*
- *Terms of Reference of the Intercontinental Steering Committee*

# List of Participants

1st International Meeting of the Thematic Network on the Right to Social Protection  
Geneva, Switzerland - 30/11/19

Name	Organisation	Country
<b>Africa Delegation</b>		
SISSOUMA Issa	UTM	Mali
SOARE Drissa	CNTB	Burkina Faso
BELEM Aïsha	RAMS	Burkina Faso
NIANG Mahmoud	CNTS Sénégal	Senegal
TWAGILIMANA Uzziel	WSM	Bénin
PIHOUN KOFFI Valère	WSM	Mali
VERWIMP Katrien	WSM	Belgium
MANGALA Antatole	WSM	RDC
GASORE Séraphin	COTRAF	Rwanda
NSABIMANA Idesbald	MUNASA	Burundi
MULAMBA Ingrid	CDS	RDC
<b>Asia Delegation</b>		
AHMED Kadir Manzur	GK	Bangladesh
AFRILESTON Sulistri	KSBSI	Indonesia
AUGUSTINE Gauri	AREDS	India
SAMARISTA Alonzo Errol	IYCW	The Philippines
SANYOTO Bismo	WSM	Indonesia
DECEUKELIER Bruno	WSM	Nepal
DETAVERNIER Koen	WSM	Belgium
<b>America Latina Delegation</b>		
JIMÉNEZ LAYNEZ Justo Borromeo	MTC	Guatemala
COTERA FRETTEL Alfonso	RIPESS-LAC	Peru
FLORES YUGAR Jhefferson Alvaro	CRISOL	Bolivia
JIMENEZ PANIAGUA Francisca	AMUSSOL	Dominican Republic
MARTINEZ DE MARTE Maria Bizenny Altagracia	MOSCHTA	Dominican Republic
JUSTAERT Gijs	WSM	Dominican Republic
BRUNO Georgina Celeste	WSM	Dominican Republic
FISCHER Santiago	WSM	Belgium
<b>Belgium-Europe Delegation</b>		
KIEKENS Andre	WSM	Belgium
VERSTRAETEN Bart	WSM	Belgium
MANHAEGHE Thierry	WSM	Belgium
DE GENDT Annelies	WSM	Belgium
MAIA Antoinette	WSM	Belgium
DE POTTER Fons	WSM	Belgium
DE BOER Joris	WSM	Belgium
JOOS Tom	CM-MC	Belgium
SINTUBIN Stijn	ACV-CSC	Belgium
EL OTMANI Youssef	ACV-CSC	Belgium



# Terms of Reference of the Intercontinental Steering Committee

To date, the thematic network on the right to social protection fosters multi-actor networking on the right to social protection at national and continental. The multi-actor approach is essential because different social movements join forces around a shared vision on the right to social protection.

Building on the existing national and continental multi-actor networks, WSM and its partner organisations now want to join their forces also at the intercontinental level to further strengthen their impact at national and continental level.

At international level, the partners of the network are already active with WSM, ACV-CSC and CM-MC to influence different policy processes. Since many years, they participate jointly in the annual International Labour Conferences (ILC) to further develop the ILO's normative framework. As such, we have made valuable inputs in the negotiations on decent work for domestic workers (C189 and R201), on social protection floors (R202), on transitioning from the informal to the formal economy (R204) and on violence in the workplace (C190). At the same time, the partners in the continents and WSM, ACV-CSC and CM-MC have been actively working together with ITUC, AIM, RIPESS, FES and the Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors etc. by organising joint activities such as the ITUC/FES/WSM Global Conference on Financing Social Protection (September 2018), the AIM International Conference on 'Investing in Mutual Health Organisations in the 21st Century' (January 2019) and the Living Wage Seminars (July 2019). In addition, they liaise with and have become part of important international alliances such as the UN Social Protection Interagency Cooperation Board (UN SPIAC-B), the ILO Global Flagship Programme for Social Protection Floors and the Global Partnership for Universal Protection (USP2030).

It is obvious: all this work has contributed to the growing recognition of social protection as a key strategy for inclusive and sustainable development, reason for which social protection is now mentioned in 5 distinct SDG's (1/3/5/8/10) of the Agenda 2030. To date, WSM wants to take this one step further and structurally strengthen the cooperation between the continental networks to guide and steer their joint work on the right to social protection at international level.

Connecting organisations and their respective networks at the intercontinental level is therefore the next logical step we step together. We therefore reaffirm that the Thematic Network on the Right to Social Protection (NRSP) is an open and action-oriented network. National organisations are part of the network since they are a member of a national multi-stakeholder network; these national networks are part of the continental networks and they designate their representatives in the steering committee at continental level. At this state, we reaffirm our willingness to connect the continental multi-stakeholder networks on the right to social protection to organise our joint work at the intercontinental level. This requires clarity on the roles and responsibilities for those who want to engage. These terms of reference aim at formalising the mandate, the key tasks, the functioning and composition of the intercontinental steering committee.

From the onset, it is important to underline that the steering committee at intercontinental level is designed a place where the continental network can exchange and decide together on the actions they wish to undertake together at international level. Based

on the principle of subsidiarity, the actions undertaken at the international level should be motivated by and aim at strengthening the actions of the respective networks at national and continental level.

### 1. Mandate of the Intercontinental Steering Committee

To allow the network to organize the internationalisation of our common vision and strategies on the right to social protection, the Intercontinental Steering Committee is mandated to:

- Coordinate and facilitate the contributions and inputs of the various continental networks in the planning, implementation and monitoring of joint advocacy work at international level.
- Coordinate and facilitate the demand and supply of the continental networks in the field of learning, capacity-building and capitalization at international level.
- Ensure the coherence of the work of the network in the areas of communication and financing, in close cooperation with the steering committees of the continental networks.
- Guide the work of WSM as the “coordinating organisation” of the NRSP.

### 2. Key tasks of the Intercontinental Steering Committee

In the execution of its mandate, the Intercontinental Steering Committee is responsible for the development, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of the work of the NRSP at international level, in relation to the 4 objectives (work areas) identified above :

- Develop and implement a joint strategy and work plan regarding international advocacy actions, by organizing thematic and strategic discussions on international policy processes, by defining common policy positions based on the priorities of the continental networks and convey them to international political bodies. When relevant, they can work together with other networks or strategic partners.
- Develop and implement a joint strategy and work plan regarding learning, mutual capacity-building and capitalization at international level. Much of this work already happens at national and continental level. Where considered relevant, the International Steering Committee can decide to document and capitalise the experiences, expertise and knowledge available within the network also at international level. Furthermore, it can meet the capacity building and learning needs in the network by facilitating exchanges on the right to social protection between the continental networks, between the continental networks and organisations of the Christian Labour Movement in Belgium as well as triangular exchanges between all these entities, international (triangular) exchanges related to the right to social protection.
- Oversee and ensure the coherence of the work done in the field of communication and financing, to support and strengthen the strategic objectives of the NRSP.

### 3. Functioning of the Intercontinental Steering Committee

The Intercontinental Steering Committee steers the work of the thematic network

at international level, that finds its legitimacy in the organizing and transformative power of social movements rooted in their communities. The NRSP is based on the connections and relationships between the organisations and their respective networks at continental level which are part of the network, bringing in their expertise and willing to create together added value.

The Intercontinental Steering Committee is a space for exchange and strategic concertation. It decides how to act upon the issues being discussed. In order to promote a bottom-up and democratic decision-making process, the Intercontinental Steering Committee brings together the positions and views from the different continental networks, which in turn bring together (representatives of) the national multi stakeholder networks on the right to social protection.

For reasons of good governance, it is important that the International Steering Committee and the coordinating organisation, fully respect a set of common core values, underpinning the work of the network as a whole, such as: effective participation and joint decision-making, inclusion and equity, autonomy and democratic ownership as well as transparency and accountability.

- The Intercontinental Steering Committee shall meet at least once every two years.
- In between these meetings, members can consult in writing and by Skype regarding specific requests, positions to take or texts to amend.
- All members can place items on the agenda of the Intercontinental Steering Committee, when instructed by the continental networks.
- The Intercontinental Steering Committee encourages decisions made by consensus.

#### 4. Composition of the Intercontinental Steering Committee

The Intercontinental Steering Committee aims to bring together the representatives of the different regional dynamics within the network. Therefore, the members of the Intercontinental Steering Committee are the continental multi-stakeholder networks. The steering committees of the continental networks designate their representatives for the Intercontinental, for a period of 3 years.

The Intercontinental Steering Committee is composed by :

- Two (2) representatives (m/f) of each steering committee of the continental multi-stakeholder networks on the right to social protection. He/she is therefore mandated by their respective steering committee, with which he/she prepares the meetings at international level (in advance) and to whom he/she reports back (afterwards) on the follow-up of the decisions made. These representatives can be accompanied by the thematic coordinator of the continental network, when the Steering Committee decides so.
- Pending the establishment of steering committees in Central Africa and in Europe, these regions can each designate one (1) representative to partake in the Intercontinental Steering Committee as an observer.
- A representative of WSM, as coordinating organisation. In this capacity, WSM takes responsibility for the preparation and facilitation of the meetings of the Intercontinental Steering Committee meetings, as well as the follow-up in between the meetings.

The members of the International Steering Committee may also invite ad hoc

representatives of organisations or networks whose presence is deemed useful considering the issues under deliberation.

As part of its commitment to the thematic network and its active involvement in the ongoing process of co-creating the network, WSM is recognised in its role of 'coordinating organisation' of the NRSP. This role differs at the various levels of the network. At national level, WSM mainly support the national networks by allocating technical and financial resources. At continental and intercontinental level, WSM supports (technically and financially) the networking dynamic but it also facilitates its meetings (convenes, prepares and provides the follow-up of meetings and agreed action points) and provides its expertise as a knowledge centre together with the other organisations of the Christian Labour Movement in Belgium.