REPORT REGION LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN FITS
Period June 2016- July 2017

Participation of the First World Executive Meeting- Seoul-

On June 22, 2016, the First World Executive Meeting was held in Seoul, South Korea: Global Ruth Stark, Secretary General Rory Truell, support staff Pascal Rudin, Secretary of Human Rights Nigel Hall. For the Region Latin America and the Caribbean Silvana Martínez (Argentina) and Rodolfo Martínez (Uruguay), for Region Africa Daniel Asiedu and Noel Murdizo; By the region America Morell Cassie; By the Asia-Pacific Region Mariko Kimura and Rose Henderson, by the Europa Region Cristina Martins and Salomé Namicheishvili.

The topics dealt with were: regional reports. Organization of the Seoul Conference. Scholarships. Conference Dublin 2018. The budget was also approved for the next 2 years. Ethics and Human Rights Reports. A Manual was presented to the World Executive that collects and sorts multiple previously approved by the FITS documents. It analyzes the political context and the advance of right-wing conservative governments at the LAC level, among other issues.

Participation of the Global Agenda Symposium-Seoul-

A Symposium on GLOBAL AGENDA is held on June 23rd. The publication of the second report of the Global Agenda (2014-2016) "Promoting the Dignity and Value of Individuals" was presented by David Jones. In this report is the report prepared by our region through FITS-ALC, ALAEITS, COLACATS and CONICET / UNaM whose version (printed and digital) is in English and Spanish.

Participation of the World Assembly held in Seoul, South Korea

The FITS World Assembly was held on 14 and 25 June, the countries that were present in person or through the Proxies (powers) were: Azerbaijan, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Proxy, Proxy, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Grenada (proxy), Hong Kong, Iceland (proxy), India, Ireland, Japan, (Proxy), Puerto Rico, Romania, Russia, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, USA, Zimbabwe.

From our region: Argentina with Proxy from Grenada, Brazil with Proxy from Costa Rica, Uruguay, Puerto Rico with Proxy from Dominican Republic and Panama, Peru and Nicaragua with Proxy from Mexico

The agenda of the Assembly was extensive. This report summarizes the most important topics among which are: Approval of the previous Assembly Minutes held in Melbourne. The incorporation of three new countries: Poland, Lebanon and Moldova. The finance and budget report is approved for the next two years. The new FITS Constitution and Regulation was approved

During the General Assembly elections were held for seven of the twelve global executive positions. The Executive of the FITS 2016. From the left row, in front: Salomé Namicheishvili, Ana Lima Fernandez, Ruth Stark and Mariko Kimura. Row back: Dunja Gharwal, Noel Muridzo, Rory Truell, Larry Alicea, Rodriguez, Darrell Wheeler, Silvana Martinez, Rose Henderson. Dunja Gharwal of Austria was elected unopposed as Global Treasurer. Noel Muridzo of Zimbabwe was elected as the
Regional President of Africa, and was later appointed by the executive committee as the global vice president of the FITS.

Rose Henderson of New Zealand reaffirms her role as Deputy Regional Chairperson for the Asia-Pacific Region. (The position of the Vocal requirement but changes during the General Assembly as part of the Revision of the Constitution). Ana Lima Fernández of Spain was elected European Regional President. Larry Alicea Rodríguez, of Puerto Rico was elected Deputy Regional Chair for the Latin American and Caribbean Region. Darrell Wheeler from USA was elected Regional President of North America. Jan Christianson-Wood of Canada was elected regional vice president for the North American region.

The Assembly also presented the digitization work of the FITS files that had been entrusted to Fiona Robertson. It is available on the FITS website. In relation to the new FITS policies, two new documents were approved: one on Social Work and international trade agreements. At present, these include TPP (Transpacific Association), ATCI (Transatlantic Association for Trade and Investment) and TISA (Agreement on Trade in Services). The other document was about the rights of children and the negative impact of child labor. The creation of the Indigenous Committee was approved. In the framework of the World Assembly, MALVINA PONCE DE LEÓN's colleague from Chile has been given the highest recognition of the Federation's worldwide status, and awarded the Medal and Diploma Andrew Mouravieff-Apostol. A document prepared by the Global Coordinator of Ethics, Dr. Jorge Arturo Sáenz Fonseca, on the ethical principles of World Social Work is discussed. It is announced that the next World Assembly will be held in July in Dublin, Republic of Ireland, where the next World Conference on Social Work will also be held. The central theme will revolve around the theme of the Global Agenda set for this period "Promoting sustainable communities and environments"

**Participation of the Second World Executive Meeting**

On June 26, 2016, the Second World Executive Meeting was held with the new members. Present were: Global President Ruth Stark; Treasurer Dunja Gharwal; President of the Africa Region Noel Muridzo; President of the Asia-Pacific Region Mariko Kimura and Vice-President Rose Henderson; The President of the European Region Ana Lima Fernandez and the Vice-President Salome Namicheishvili; From the Latin American and Caribbean Region, President Silvana Martinez and Vice President Larry Alicea Rodriguez; Of the Americas region President Darrell Wheeler. The election of the Vice President of FITS among the members of the Executive was carried out and Noel Muridzo of Africa was elected.

**Participation of the World Conference held in Seoul, South Korea**

Participate in the World Conference on Social Work: Brazil, Peru, Nicaragua and Chile (scholarships). The President of the ALC-FITS Region participates as a central lecturer, her lecture revolved around Power, politics and Social Work.

**Meeting of FITS / COLACATS in Panama**

Thanks to the financial contribution managed by the Association of Social Workers of Panama in the month of August 2016, a working meeting of FITS-ALC and COLACATS

Agenda items that were addressed at the FITS-ALC meeting
A summary of the work done by the President for the Region, Dr. Silvana Martínez. The report sent by Dr. Silvana Martínez on the FITS Global Assembly is read and discussed. The subject of the debate in the World Assembly is worked with particularity. The achievements of amendment to the constitution from the region are socialized. There is a debate on the issue of translation for the next International Assemblies and the issue of scholarships so that they can participate in the whole of the activities. It is suggested that we must leave the meetings with concrete issues for the collective and lead to the countries. It brings the suggestion of alliances with ECLAC to benefit our professionals. The effect of the study of working conditions is discussed. Jorge Arturo Sáenz Fonseca reports on his ethics management at a global level. This debate is being discussed at the international level. It is recommended to send everything there is about ethics in the countries to strengthen the positioning of ethics from Latin America and the Caribbean.

It is discussed that financing was obtained for the meeting in Costa Rica. It is proposed that for the World Social Work Day of TS in 2017, a concerted activity be carried out among the member countries. Likewise, it was agreed that in 90 days, countries would send proposals on how the event would be held and possible concerted activities to try to establish a regional agenda for World Day. It brings to the table the discussion on the Global Agenda and the need for countries to report how the issue of the Global agenda in their respective countries will work and the possibility of doing concerted activities in the region. Finally, according to the proposals proposed by the 11 countries present at the Meeting of Panama and having democratically voted each of the representatives of the member organizations, having obtained the majority of votes, is designated as Regional Coordinator Of the Ethics Committee to Ms. Marisa Kovensky of Argentina, as Regional Coordinator of the Human Rights Committee to Ms. Alicia Yañez Merino of Chile and as Regional Coordinator of the Indigenous Committee (Original Peoples) to Ms. Jenny Linares Vera of Peru.

Elaboration of the Proposal for financing of the Fifth ALC Region Meeting in Costa Rica

The Vice-President of the LAC-FITS region, Dr. Larry Alicea Rodríguez elaborates a proposal of work of the region in order to request to the FITS USD 14,523 (14,976.97 Swiss francs) in order to finance the V Meeting of the Region LAC by 2017. The region proposes to Costa Rica as the venue for our meeting. The activity will be July 17-21, 2017 at the Wyndham San Jose Herradura Hotel in San Jose Costa Rica. The Costa Rican Social Workers' College and its President, Dr. Jorge Arturo Sáenz Fonseca will be in charge of the logistics of the activity. The meetings will be held at the facilities of the Colegio de Trabajadores Sociales de Costa Rica. The objectives of the Fifth Meeting are: a) To inform and disseminate the work carried out by the FITS at the Global level; B) Inform and make visible on the work carried out by the FITS at the Regional level; C) To manage the incorporation of new countries to the FITF; D) Organize the work of the Global Agenda in the Region; E) To discuss situations that impact the professional practice in the countries and in the region; F) Participate in the International Congress of the Colegio de Trabajadores Sociales de Costa Rica; G) Outline a statement that directs the ethical political action of the profession in our countries; H) Organize the presence and participation of the Latin American and Caribbean Region in the World Assembly and World Conference in Dublin; I) To discuss the documents and political positions of the region related to the
International Federation of Social Work; J) Evaluate the regional activities related to World Social Work Day to be held in March 2017 and k) Evaluate the tasks of the regional coordinators of ethics, human rights and indigenous groups.

This proposal was submitted to the FITS and was approved by the President, the Vice President and the Global Treasurer of FITS, allocating to the Region 13000 Swiss Francs. It should be noted that our Region is the one that obtained the most funding for this period.

**Preparation of Pronouncements**

During the period they reported several pronouncements were made:

**In favor of gender perspective:** the deep concern over the repeal of Circular No. 19214/2015 Charter and paragraph 9 of the general guidelines that refer to Public Policy Gender Equality was expressed, by the Department Of Education of Puerto Rico.

**Against the policies implemented by Donald Trump:** Worrying International Federation of Social Workers for the policies implemented by the US President Donald Tump, as visibly violate human rights and expressly reject policies that restrict the entry and stay Of Muslim refugees on US soil.

**Rejection Excellentia Group and the World Summit for Social Trabo:** Both FITS-ALC, COLACATS and ALAEITS as well as other trade and professional Latin American organizations had already been delivered in October 2015, repudiating the transnational commodification of social work in all Its forms and by some organization that does not respect the professional and academic organizations existing at international and regional level. In addition to explicitly rejecting this organization and all the events that it performs for lacking professional, academic, professional and regional legitimacy and international

**Support for the struggle that has carried out the Association of Social Workers Panama:** As representatives of the Latin America and the Caribbean of the International Federation of Social Workers (FITS), we headed to all Social Workers of Panama The effects of expressing our solidarity and vindicating the struggle that their union has been doing for more than two years with the representatives of the Ministry of Health and the Social Security Fund of Panama.

**I support the fight that took place caseworkers Colombia:** Professional and Academic Units Social Work Organizations who make up the International Federation of Social Workers of Latin America and the Caribbean Region (FITS-ALC), the Latin American Committee and Caribbean (COLACATS) and the Latin American Association of Teaching and Research of Social Work (ALAEITS) respectively, we accompany the struggle and mobilization of the professional group of Colombia in refusal to place Social Work in the field of Health and Social Welfare, We maintain that Social Work is Social Sciences.

**Condemnation and concern over the situation in Honduras:** We in the Latin American Association for Education and Research of Social Work (ALAEITS), the International Federation of Social Work Latin America and the Caribbean (FITS-LAC) and the Latin American Committee and Caribbean Professional Organizations Of Social Work / Social Service (COLACATS), we repudiate the murders of two leading peasants of the Unified Campesino Movement of the Aguán (MUCA) of Honduras. These two leaders had obtained protection from the Inter-American
Commission on Human Rights since May 2014. The number of murders of peasants has already risen to 150 since 2009, only in the Aguán Valley. MUCA is part of the Regional Agrarian Platform of the Aguán Valley, which includes about 15 organizations, which accompany movements fighting for land, territory and food sovereignty to contribute to the construction of a more just and Inclusive.

**Rejection of Resolution 154-E / 2017 the Ministry of Defense of the Nation Argentina:** rejection of Resolution 154-E / 2017 the Ministry of Defense of Argentina Nation, published in the Official Gazette on 24 February this year, Which authorizes the personnel of the Armed Forces to carry out socio-environmental reports as part of the task of internal intelligence of the country's citizens.

**Adherence to global unemployment in the International Women's Day:** adherence to international arrest Women ele March 8, 2017 and call on all professional social work organizations in member countries, to join the activities and marches that are made that Day to claim for justice, security, equity and recognition to more than 50% of the world's population on this planet: women

**Complaint to the attacks of neoliberal governments to Public Education:** Professional organizations and academic units of Social Work who make up the International Federation of Social Workers of Latin America and the Caribbean Region (FITS-ALC), the Latin American Committee and Caribbean (COLACATS) and the Latin American Association of Teaching and Research in Social Work (ALAEITS), respectively, denounce the continuing attacks of higher education in Latin America, particularly public universities, in implementing neoliberal policies. These policies undermine the right to an education and obviously affect the project of society in favor of and in defense of Public Education in the LAC Region.

**Statement on the death of Comandante Fidel Castro:** As a region we have sent a statement to the professional group of Cuba and the other members of the FITS, on the death of Comandante Fidel Castro, on 25 November 2016. One of the revolutionary leaders Largest of our America.

**Statement of solidarity with Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Panama and Peru:** As a region we have sent statements of support and solidarity to natural disasters which have had to spend the people of Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Panama with the "Hurricane Otto" and Peru With avalanches and floods resulting from the phenomenon known as the "Coastal Child". Both phenomena leaving fatalities and enormous material damages in each of those countries.

**Letter to Zambian Social Workers**

A Letter of Support and Solidarity for the Social Workers of the Zambian Social Workers' Association was drawn up in January 2017 to mark the presence of the Secretary General of FITS, Dr. Rory Truell, in Zambia (Africa). The same was read in the framework of the activities developed there, who produced a very emotional video where the Zambian colleagues thank the gesture to the social workers of our region. To access it: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B1UUPIB9Rp7BX0pQZi02aDBwOUk/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B1UUPIB9Rp7BX0pQZi02aDBwOUk/view)

**Meetings via Skype**

The President and Vice-President of the ALC Region, we have participated in meetings Via Skype with Global President Ruth Stark and Secretary General Rory
Truell: In these have addressed issues related to the Global Agenda, the organization of activities for World Day Of Social Work, the state of progress of the World Conference and the organization of the V Meeting of the LAC region, among other issues that make the institutional life of the FITS;

**Global Agenda**

For the period 2016-2018 the theme of the Global Agenda is the "Promotion of sustainable communities and environments", as Region we have proposed that this issue, as the next are linked to the working conditions of social workers. A proposal has been prepared jointly with ALAEITS and COLACATS to collect and systematize experiences of Good Practices from LAC colleagues on the agenda item in order to prepare a report as a Region to be part of the Global Agenda Report for The Social Work to be published and presented in Dublin 2018 in the framework of the World Conference. The date for the organizations to send the systematizations of the selected cases is until Friday, August 18. From there, the selected cases will be analyzed and the final report will be elaborated.

**World Day of Social Work - March 21, 2017-**

The invitation to participate in a competition for the World Social Work Day poster 2017 has been socialized among our members. Several countries in the region have carried out activities within the framework of the World Day of Social Work: Argentina, Peru , Cuba, Costa Rica, Puerto Rico, Panama, Mexico and Grenada, among others.

The President and Vice-President of the ALC-FITS Region, Dr. Silvana Martínez and Dr. Larry Alicia Rodríguez, prepared and sent a video to FITS to disseminate the message of the Global Agenda in the context of World Social Work Day. Several countries in the region have joined this initiative and have also produced their video for this occasion. To access the videos on line http://ifsw.org/world-social-work-day-2017/

**Participation of the II and III International Congress of Social Work of Peru**

At the invitation of the President of the College of Social Workers of Peru Lima Region III, Lic. Jenny Linares Vera, the President of the Region ALC he has participated in the II and III International Congress. The II International Congress of Social Work had as its motto "A Look at the Road to Construction of the Social Poverty Observatory in the Country and was held on July 19 and 20, 2016 in the city of Lima. The III International Congress of Social Work had as its motto "Social Work, Family and Society, Commitment to Dignity and the Defense of Human Rights" and was held from February 1 to 3, also in the city of Lima. On both occasions we could observe the work and commitment of this College to rank and mobilize social work in Peru, being able to share the work we have been doing in FITS and in our region, as well as share experiences with colleagues, teachers and students present. It should be noted that the last conference was broadcast live via on line through the website of the Colegio de Trabajadores Sociales of Peru so that all colleagues and students from different parts of the country who could not attend, have the possibility to access the conferences And debates.

**Participation of the International Congress of Cuba**

Thanks to the invitation of the President of the Cuban Society of Social Workers of Health (SOCUTRAS), Mr. Damaris Ramos Tamayo from June 5 to 10, 2017, the
President of the LAC region will participate in the VIII International Congress of Social Work, X National Congress of Social Work and IV National Congress and International of Sociocupational Rehabilitation, under the motto "Development and Perspectives of Social Work in the world of today". Visits will also be made to several institutions where colleagues work on a daily basis.

**Participation of the First Ibero-American Congress of Spain**

Following the invitation of the President of the European Region and President of the Council of Social Work of Spain, Dr. Ana Lima and thanks to the financing of this school and the kind collaboration by the President of the College of Social Workers of Peru, Legion III Lima, Jenny Linares Vera, who will finance part of the air tickets, the President of the LAC Region, will participate in the XIII State Congress and I Ibero-American Congress of Social Work, entitled "Building Sustainable Communities: Dilemmas And challenges ", which will take place on 19, 20 and 21 October 2017, in Merida (Badajoz).

**Participation World Executive Meeting in Basel**

From 7 to 9 July, the World Executive Meeting will be held in Basel, Switzerland. We will work on issues related to: the consolidation and expansion of the FITS; The organization of the World Assembly and Conference to be held in Dublin 2018; (See the possibility of finding a more egalitarian way in establishing the payment of quotas given the variety of wages of social workers around the world); The agreements of the future editorial direction in addition to the future design of the International Journal of Social Work - SAGE; The interrelation between research and practice (thinking how, being the global body representing social workers, we will help develop the research base that will give us the evidence we need in the development of professional social work policies and practices); The future of the Tripartite Agreement between FITS, IASSW and ICSW (the tripartite agreement covers three main areas: The Global Agenda, the biennial World Conference and joint ownership of the International Social T.), among others.

Dr. Silvana Martínez Dr. Larry Alicea Rodríguez
President FITS-ALC Vice-President of FITS-ALC