

INSP!R

International Network for
Social Protection Rights



INSP!R NETWORK ACTIVITY REPORT

2020

Connected by **WSM**



INTRODUCTION

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he history of the international network INSP!R officially begins in November 2019. But in reality this story goes back much further: the idea of working in synergy, in a network, of bringing together a wide variety of actors around the same common goal of fighting inequalities has always been the DNA of WSM organisation, which acts as a facilitator of the INSP!R network.

Because above all, it is a matter of “world solidarity”, the original name of our organisation, since 1974. A solidarity which transcends borders and brings together organisations from all over the world – trade unions, mutual health organisations, organisations of women, young people, older persons, migrant or precarious workers – so that they are no longer alone in the face of social injustice, in front of employers, in front of governments. So that they can share their experiences and learn from each other, strengthen the visibility of what they are demanding and defend together **the ideal of universal social protection**.

‘the best way to get populations out of exclusion and precariousness is a real system of solidarity that supports them throughout their lives, and helps them cope with difficulties, in complete autonomy.’

Over the years of working hand in hand with these so distinct and yet so similar organisations, the theme has refined. Together, the network’s players are convinced that the best way to get populations out of exclusion and precariousness is to build or consolidate a real system of solidarity that supports these women and men throughout their lives, and helps them cope with difficulties, in complete autonomy. This system, social protection, is based on a certain number of human rights, recognised as universal since 1948. This system no longer needs to be invented but must be developed and safeguarded. It has proven its worth and can be implemented anywhere, **provided it is supported both by the political and economic actors and by the civil society**.

INSP!R NETWORK

97

member organisations
Including **75** social movements
active in the field

8

continental strategic
partners

19

national networks

5

continental networks

12

members of the steering
committee

22 million

direct beneficiaries
globally

1 THEME
THE RIGHT TO
SOCIAL PROTECTION

INSP!R: from local experience to global approach

All the member organisations of the network share a common conviction, forged from their **field experience** with their members and target populations: the importance of defending the right to social protection for all. The diversity of this network is its strength: trade unions, mutual health organisations, organisations of women, young people or older persons, social and solidarity economy initiatives, etc. This **multi-actor approach** gives the network all its legitimacy.

But in order for these organisations and the people they advocate to stand up for universal social protection, it was undeniably necessary to **broaden their scope of influence**.

Create links between organisations in the same country, to have a **national** reach. Build on struggles in neighbouring countries to defend a **continental** approach. Finally, connect the continental multi-actor networks to organise joint work at the **intercontinental** level under the banner of the right to social protection.

Why the name INSP!R?

INSP!R stands for an acronym in English, which underlines its **international dimension**. But as such it has the advantage of finding meaning in many languages, referring to inspiration – which can suggest either breathing or creativity. So far we have been talking about the right to social protection, but in reality **this right encompasses many different rights**: the right to health, to a decent pension, to unemployment benefits, to family allowances, etc., hence the use of the plural for the original name.

AN INSPIRING NETWORK

Mission

The objectives of INSP!R are to contribute to **universal social protection (USP)** and to advocate for the **leading role of civil society** in the implementation of national, comprehensive and widely supported social protection policies.

Vision

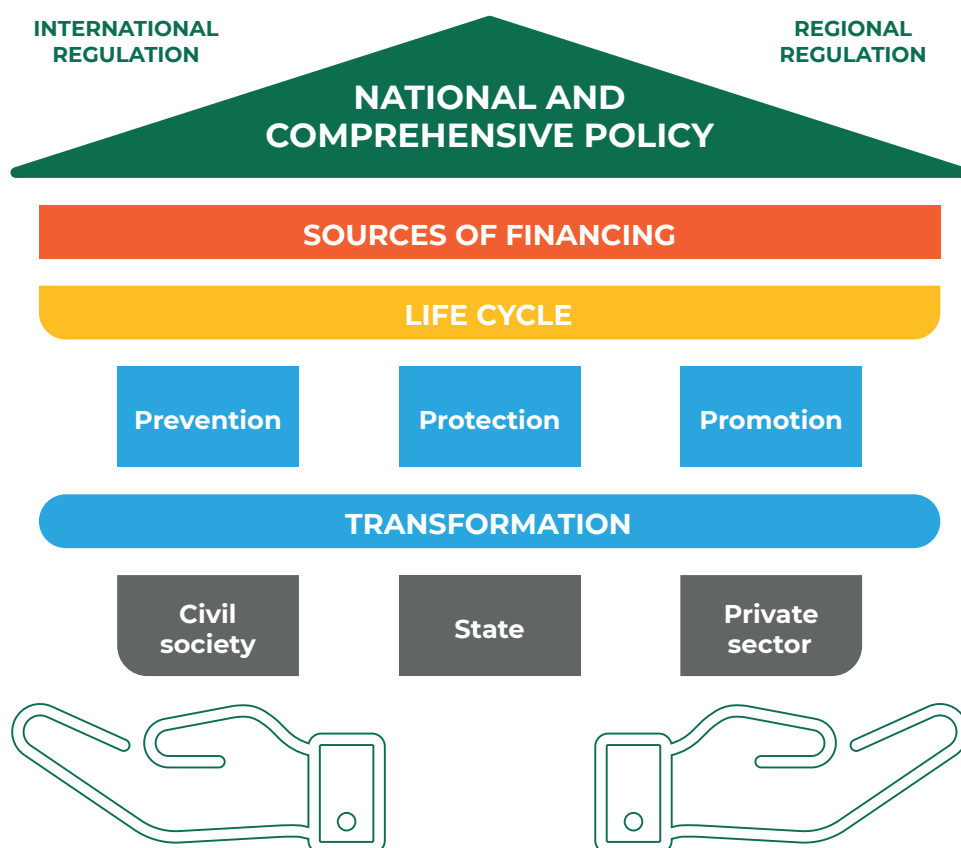
Key principles for successful social protection policies:

- 1) a **rights-based** approach (anchored in national, regional and/or international regulations);
- 2) a **combination of several measures** (prevention, protection, promotion) to provide benefits (in cash and/or in kind) to individuals;
- 3) effective **multi-stakeholder** participation (state, civil society, private sector) to continuously transform the existing policy;
- 4) the need for multiple sources to ensure **sustainable funding** (national and international); and
- 5) a **life-cycle** approach (from birth to death).

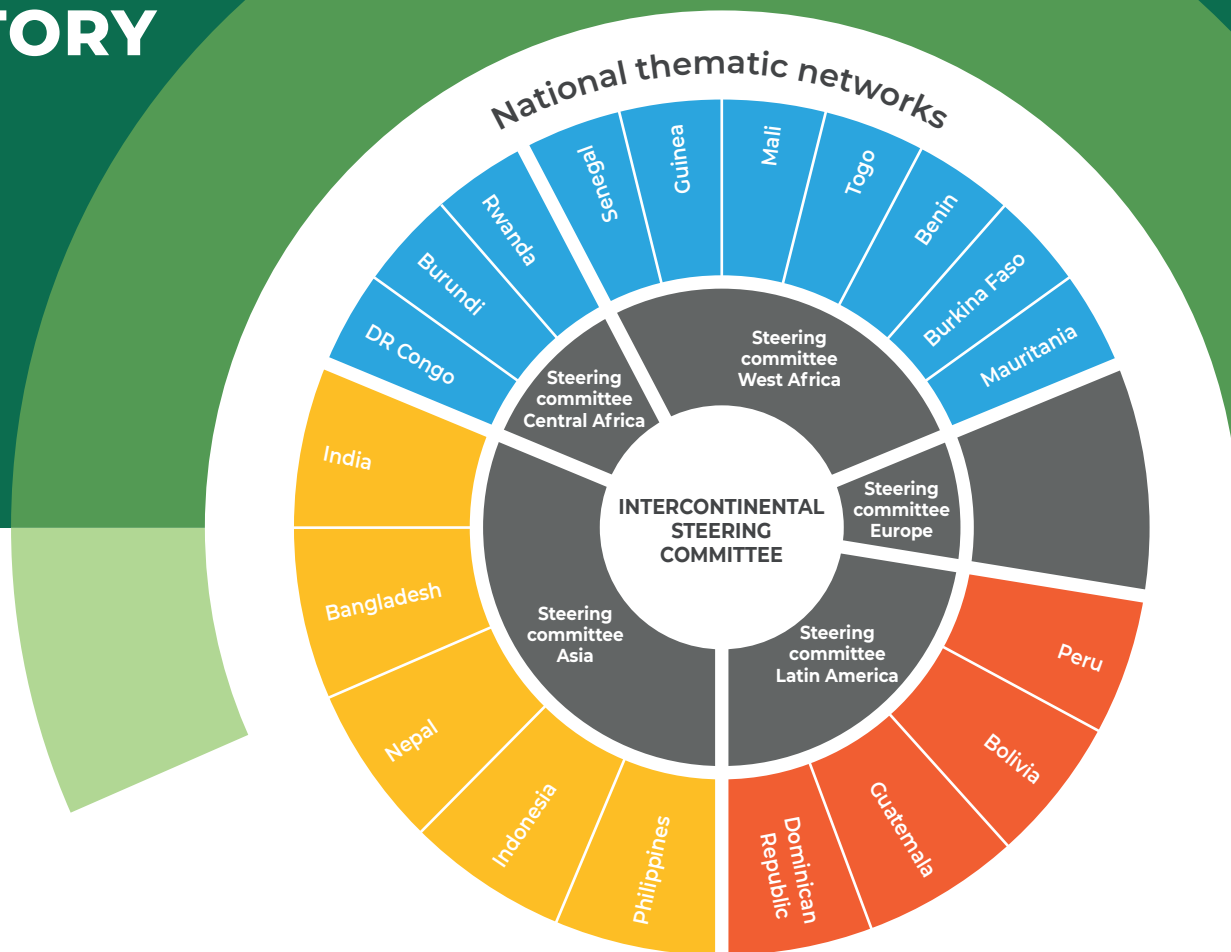
Values

The INSP!R steering committee at intercontinental level is designed as a place where the network can exchange and decide on the actions it wishes to undertake together at the international level. Based on the **principle of subsidiarity**, actions taken at the international level should be motivated and aimed at strengthening the actions of the respective networks at national and continental level.

For the sake of good governance, it is important that the steering committee and the coordinating organisation respect a set of common core values, which underpin the action of the network as a whole, such as: **effective participation and joint decision-making, inclusiveness and equity, autonomy and democratic ownership, as well as transparency and accountability.**



HISTORY



1974 Creation of the NGO Wereldsolidariteit-Solidarité Mondiale to oversee the development cooperation activities of the Belgian Christian Workers' Movement in order to promote **decent work and social protection** to fight against poverty and social exclusion.

2007 The NGO's strategic framework for the period 2008-2013 reorients action on direct cooperation with partners in Africa, Latin America and Asia, and includes a continental approach, where **networking and synergies** between partner organisations are considered as essential components.

2008 The NGO's 2008-2010 three-year program explicitly provides for activities focused on synergy between organisations at the **national level**, particularly in Benin, Burkina Faso, DR Congo, Guinea, Guatemala, India and Nepal.

2011 **Synergy and networking activities** are planned in all the countries of the 2011-2013 program of the NGO.

2013 The strategic framework for the period 2014-2019 provides for strengthening the positioning of organisations in political and thematic networks on the right to social protection at **Belgian, European and international level**.

2014 The new three-year program organises national networks into **continental networks** in order to strengthen thematic monitoring, synergies and exchanges, via a continental steering committee self-managed by partner organisations on the continent. These networks develop communication on the right to social protection from the point of view of partner organisations through **blogs and newsletters**, which are widely disseminated and followed.

2017 Given the global scope of the challenges that arise – in particular as regards the sustainable development goals, the ILO resolutions or the UN initiatives in favour of universal social protection – the national and continental networks in Africa, Latin America and Asia decide to develop the **intercontinental dimension** of their network, by creating a steering committee to coordinate actions at the global level.

2019 The INSPiR network comes to life in its **international dimension**: first consultation in Geneva to set its objectives and operating mode, drafting of a visual identity and creation of the first working tools.

ACTIVITY REPORT 2020

Despite a year 2020 marked by physical distancing and the ban on travel, the INSP!R network in its inter-continental dimension has achieved rather exciting results.



on 4 continents, were invited to meet and reflect on a common approach. By way of introduction, they participated in the “**Global Social Protection Week**”, organised from 25 to 28 November 2019 by the ILO. The following two days were devoted to building the international network.

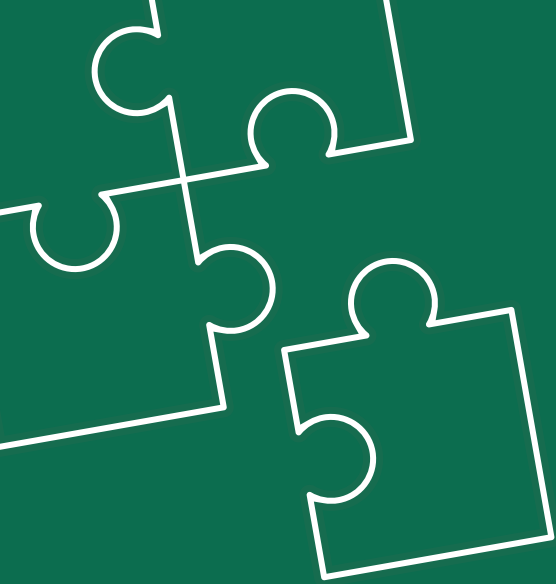
First, the participants agreed together on **the objectives** of this global network. Then **a shared vision and a common strategy** on the right to social protection were defined. Finally, in order to extend the activities of the INSP!R network to the international level, a **steering committee**, representative of the hundred or so organisations that are part of the network, has been set up.

1 / At organisational level

To strengthen the INSP!R network in its global dimension, a first **international “founding” meeting** was organised in Geneva: 40 people, all from WSM partner organisations, from 16 different countries

Operating rules of the steering committee:

- **Bottom-up and democratic** decision-making process: the role of the steering committee members is to liaise with their continental networks and steering committees to prepare, report and act on the decisions taken at the intercontinental meetings.
- **Composition:** two representatives of each continental network steering committee, one person for Central Africa and one for the Belgian/European level; one person for WSM, as coordinating organisation (preparation and facilitation of intercontinental steering committee meetings and follow-up between meetings).
- **Key tasks:** on the one hand, to develop and implement international advocacy and strategies for learning, mutual capacity building and capitalisation at the international level; on the other hand, to oversee and ensure coherence in the work done in the field of communication and financing.



In order to guarantee a transparent structure as close as possible to the action, it was agreed from the outset to apply the **principle of subsidiarity** between the different levels of the network (national, continental and international): actions taken at the international level should aim to reinforce the actions of existing networks at continental and national levels. In other words, the steering committee is “at the service” of the continental and national levels, not the other way around. In addition, WSM has been appointed as the **coordinating organisation** of the international network: it prepares and facilitates the meetings of the intercontinental steering committee, follows up the action plans and contributes its experience as a knowledge centre.

Communication, an essential tool for the network

A **visual identity** and a corresponding graphic charter have been developed for the network, which now has a single logo, with specific variations for the continental and national networks, to be used according to precise rules.

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for Social Protection Rights

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INSP!R

América Latina

INSP!R

Afrique

INSP!R

Asia

2 / At operational level

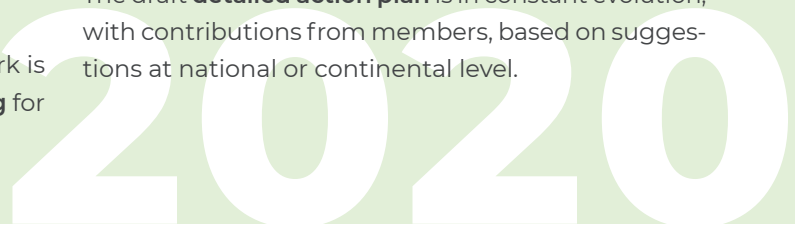
In concrete terms, the INSP!R network decided in Geneva to take action in four areas:

- as a forum for the exchange of experience and expertise, it provides a solid basis for **learning, capacity building and capitalising**.
- It is on this basis that strong **advocacy work** can be developed at the international level.
- Eventually, work in these areas will strengthen **communication**, raising the profile of the INSP!R network and what it stands for.
- In addition, the existence of the INSP!R network is an essential instrument for **mobilising funding** for social protection.

At the founding meeting of the network in Geneva, the participants started with a stakeholder analysis, a mapping of the powers involved (power mapping) and a contextual analysis of the different continents in order to set a number of **priority actions** in each of the 4 areas. On this basis, the first **operational planning** of the INSP!R network was drawn up (see next page).

In 2020 and early 2021, regular (virtual) meetings of the INSP!R intercontinental steering committee have been held to refine and concretise this planning.

The draft **detailed action plan** is in constant evolution, with contributions from members, based on suggestions at national or continental level.



OPERATIONAL PLANNING AND PROSPECTS

LOBBYING

To achieve systemic change, INSP!R aims to strengthen networking with **other civil society organisations and networks**, consolidate cooperation with **EU bodies** and intensify work with the **ILO**, as a reference point for standardisation in the field of social protection. In addition, WSM is a member of **USP2030**, the Global Partnership for Universal Social Protection, initiated by the United Nations. This privileged position should help the INSP!R network to **make the voice of civil**

USP2030
UNIVERSAL SOCIAL PROTECTION

society and unions heard in favour of social protection for all in the world. Finally, the **COVID-19 pandemic** has wreaked havoc on the world. But by turning the spotlight on inequality, this deadly crisis also offers the opportunity to refocus the debates on what can really make change happen: **solid social protection for all**.

INSP!R network in response to the COVID-19 crisis

As the International Network for Social Protection Rights, it is essential for INSP!R to position itself in relation to the pandemic and its impact on all populations around the world:

- Inequalities in **health care**: access to protective equipment, reliable testing and safe vaccination
- Transparency and ethics issues related to **vaccines** (production, distribution, cost, etc.) – particularly in relation to the **No Profit on Pandemic** campaign supported by our partners in Europe
- The availability of **clear and reliable information** on protective measures, tests, vaccines, etc.

NO PROFIT ON

PANDEMIC.EU

A Global Fund for Social Protection



Since the onset of the corona crisis, the international community has increasingly considered social protection as a mechanism to **absorb shocks and provide support to those affected**. As a result, the idea of a Global Fund for Social Protection, which was launched in 2012 by two UN special rapporteurs, is resurfacing and receiving increasing international support.

The INSP!R network unanimously supports this Fund and, based on its expertise, has listed a series of **essential criteria** for it to truly meet its objectives. This position has been submitted to the UN rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, Professor Olivier De Schutter. It is thus part of the requests relayed by the GCSPF (Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors) to the **G20 participants** (ministers and sherpas), with the request to establish without delay this Global Fund to finance social protection.

LEARNING & CAPITALISING

INSP!R will focus more systemically and creatively on inter-continental exchanges: **field visits, seminars, studies** will be organised regularly with the members of the network in the different countries and continents. These are the added value of the INSP!R network and should focus on the needs and priorities of the different continental networks.

FINANCING SOCIAL PROTECTION

The INSP!R network is intended to be an instrument to foster new alliances with other organisations and donors and to develop common proposals for joint actions and for the extension of the network. It thus makes it possible to mobilise different **funding streams** (ILO, UNICEF, EU, etc.) and have a real impact on social protection policies, both at local and global level.

COMMUNICATION

To strengthen its visibility and develop efficient and appropriate communication, the INSP!R network now has a **unique visual identity** that allows it to deploy its communication actions in a coherent manner. In addition, the communication channels will be consolidated and harmonised on a **brand new website** in order to continue to offer relevant and genuine information on the right to social protection in the world and on the contribution of the INSP!R network in favour of universal social protection. Finally, an INSP!R **strategic note** is being published. It describes in detail the vision of the network on the right to social protection.

Composition INSP!R 2020-2021

Steering Committee:

- For the West African INSP!R network **Issa Sissouma** and **Niwa Soulima**, accompanied by **Valère Koffi** as thematic coordinator
- **Gabriela Prudencio** and **Luis Lopez Cortez** for the Latin American INSP!R network, accompanied by **Alexandra Arguedas** as thematic coordinator.
- **Sulistri Afrileston** and **Samy Arokiasamy** for the Asian INSP!R network, accompanied by **Bismo Sanyoto** as thematic coordinator.
- **Dr Ingrid Mulamba** for Central Africa, accompanied by **Dr Anatole Mangala** as continental coordinator.
- **Santiago Fischer** for the Belgian/European INSP!R network.

Contact address:

INSP!R – International Network for Social Protection Rights

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Pictures: Anuj Adhikari, Kristof Vadino and WSM.

Lay-out: www.acg-bxl.be



INSP!R

International Network for Social Protection Rights

71% of the world population has no or inadequate access to social protection. And even more people are left to their own devices when they are ill, unemployed or old. Social protection is not a privilege, but a human right. It is also the best insurance against inequalities, poverty and exclusion.

To guarantee this right to social protection for all, WSM connects close to 100 social movements across 24 countries in Africa, Latin America, Asia and Belgium. These different actors complement each other, and they all share the same vision and goals. These civil society organizations have joined their forces in the global network **INSP!R, the International Network for Social Protection Rights**.

As INSP!R, we promote and defend the universal right to social protection; we claim our role as key actors for change; we inspire widely supported social protection policies, for everyone and throughout one's life. So no one is left behind!

Our network provides a rich source of experiences and expertise, allowing us to **learn** from each other, **strengthen our actions** and develop a common strategy **to enforce our social protection rights** at international, continental and national level. **Protect** people's rights, **prevent** negative impact from the hazards of life, **promote** better living conditions and thus **transform** societies, leaving no one behind: that is what we do on a daily basis.

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