Update of the Report of the Committee on Disaster Interventions, Climate Change and Sustainability

The Committee on Disaster Interventions, Climate Change and Sustainability has had limited activity since the last update. The UNFCCC meets once a year, and only asks for contributions when it is asking for applications for side events or exhibitions. This was done for the UNFCCC meeting in the United Arab Emirates in 2023. No one from the Committee had the time or the resources to attend such an expensive event in person. However, I was given permission to attend some of the sessions online, and I was able to ask policy questions about reaching 'net zero' and how this fit into the IPCC warning about 2030 being the cut off point for sticking to less than 1.5C from pre-industrial levels. This target has not been met, nor is it likely to be at current rates of (non)progress. IASSW also organised an exhibition of work social work academics and practitioners which was allowed to be transmitted online for a couple of days.

The COP29 is going to be held in Azerbaijan, another expensive oil producing country and carbon emitting country, and it is an area of concern as to how to respond to this decision. The UNFCCC has not yet asked for suggestions about what can be contributed – this usually happens in June/July. However, I have already asked colleagues in the last report to provide materials which can be used to respond to the UNFCCC requests. So far, I have not received any materials, so reiterate that request. It is an opportunity to showcase our work, and it is very competitive, so we should do as much as we can collectively to have social work's voice heard.

Respectfully submitted Lena Dominelli, Chair