



IACD Policy Committee Roles and Responsibilities

Goals:

A part of our work we seek to influence international, regional and national public policy agendas. The IACD Policy Committee is charged with coordinating policy-related efforts. The Committee will be responsible for:

1. Overseeing the development of position statements. These statements are drafted on select issues of direct relevance to the community development field, or issues where thoughtful community development input is important to informed debate and decision making. In addition to articulating our perspective on the issue being addressed, the statement includes background on and an analysis of the issue, the rationale for the IACD position, and, an implementation plan with suggestions for action. All policy statements go through a period of internal consultation with IACD members prior to being finalized and released.
2. Advising the IACD Board of Directors. This dialogue involves policy issues relevant to future IACD goals and objectives.
3. Developing and sponsoring technical sessions, symposia and other events relating to public policy development and outreach at annual meetings and other related meetings.
4. Expanding the participation of IACD's members in public policy communications.
5. Exploring the opportunities for expanding international activities by collaborating and cooperating with IACD's supporters and other professionals in the field of community development.

Background:

Over the past decade IACD has published Declarations emerging from its major international conferences in Budapest, Yaoundé, Hong Kong and Brisbane. These Declarations have sought to gather together an agreed policy position around a wide range of issues from attending participants, and have been endorsed by the IACD Board of Directors.

In 2015 the IACD Board set up a Policy Committee to give enhanced focus to this work and to help translate declarations into policy influence by utilising IACD's consultative status at the UN and bodies like UNESCO, ILO and WHO. We also recognise that amongst our members we have people and organisations with policy advocacy expertise and those working within inter-governmental bodies.

Over the coming years our main focus will be on three priority areas. The first is to enhance the voice and expertise of grassroots communities and community development agencies in delivering the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. Secondly we want to enhance the quality of training and continuing professional development support for community development workers at fieldwork and management

levels. The association has been greatly concerned since the global financial crisis of 2008 of the fallout of cutbacks by national governments and others, such as non-governmental organisations receiving government funding, in investment in support for community development work. So the third of our priorities is to seek to convince governments, inter-governmental bodies and non-governmental funders, of the multiplier value of the investment in community development programmes and in the networking of practitioners, in terms of realising more active, empowered and skilled local communities.

Work to progress these three policy priorities will build upon our existing policy declarations. IACD may periodically issue further policy statements on other issues as they emerge from our membership and from the external global environment as this impacts upon local communities.