

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

The President of international federation of social workers Madam Silvana Martinez, the Secretary General Dr Rorry Truell, the regional presidents for Asia Pacific, Africa, Latin America, Europe, United States and Canada and the distinguished delegates attending the 2022 General Meeting, receive greetings and very best wishes as you attend this important biennial 2022 General Meeting.

I share with you my joy and surprise after receiving the news of my nomination for this prestigious Andrew Mouravieff -Apostol Medal. A surprise because I did not expect it and joy because it rekindles my fond memories of Dr Andrew Mouravieff and his dear wife Eileen, both who in many ways were icons and mentors of thousands of social workers across the world.

I feel privileged to join my other colleagues who were recipient before me since this award was established at our 2003 General meeting in Copenhagen, most of who I knew quite closely.

I accept the award with humility on behalf of African region where I served as both vice President and President for 12 years cumulatively.

As I recall those difficult years, I take the opportunity to thank IFSW global, the Friends of Africa Team, the Commonwealth Organization for Social Work, the Danish Association, just to mention a few for the past support they extended to Africa during those difficult years, when Africa was ravaged by HIV/AIDS, faced the Rwanda genocide, the war in Dafur – Dafur and the famine in several parts of Africa, the combined interventions mitigated situations which could have been worse. I humbly received the Medal as a reflection and extension of this global brotherhood.

Finally I recognize the contribution made by member countries namely, Mauritius, Ghana, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Libya, Rwanda, Uganda, Botswana, Nigeria, DRC Congo and my beloved country Kenya which hosted several planning meetings and conferences and which have contributed to the awarding of this medal. To many many others not mentioned, I say Thank you, Gracias, Merci, Danke, Asante Sana.

Charles Mbugua – Kenya

Past Senior Vice President global

and President Africa Region

Nairobi, June 13 2022.