



Draft Minutes of IFSW General Meeting – 14-16 May 2022

All formal reports and videos can be found through this [link](#) to the IFSW General Meeting site.

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PRE-GENERAL MEETING VOTING

Prior to the General Meeting, five motions were voted upon to ensure that the procedures for the 2022 online General Meeting were correct and in-line with the constitution and by-laws and determine whether the late nominations were accepted or not by the General Meeting.

The voting period for the pre-general meeting motions took place from 5 May at 07h00 UTC until 12 May, 12h00 UTC. All the pre-general meeting motions were proposed by Romania and seconded by Zambia.



These motions were submitted as electronic votes to all IFSW members with voting rights (in good standing).

To hold the IFSW 2022 General Meeting online (14th, 15th and 16th May), allowing for the constitutional procedures to be carried out electronically

This motion allows to hold the IFSW 2022 General Meeting online (14th, 15th and 16th May), and for the constitutional procedures to be carried out electronically. Including:

That the current Parliamentarian, Nicolai Paulsen, acts during the meeting as the Main Parliamentarian and delegates his authority to session parliamentarians,

That the meeting agenda ([link](#)) is approved,

That the 2020 General Meeting minutes are approved as presented ([link](#)).

That no late nominations for elected positions be accepted after the 5th of May 2022 to allow the Nominations Committee to process the documentation.

Note from the Parliamentarian, Nicolai Paulsen on this motion: "For this motion to pass, at least 1/3 of IFSW members in good standing must participate in the vote and the majority of votes must affirm (vote 'yes') to the motion." (Referring to the Constitution of IFSW, Art. 11 d) about the legitimacy of the General Meeting, defining a Quorum being one-third of the Members with voting rights and in good standing)

Yes: **51** No: **1** Abstain: **0**

This motion was carried by electronic recording of votes

To accept the late submission of the proposed policy "The Role of Social Workers in Advancing a New Eco-Social World"

Yes: **50** No: **1** Abstain: **1**

This motion was carried by electronic recording of votes

To accept the late nomination for Hassan Mousavi Chelak for the executive position of Asia-Pacific Regional President

Yes: **45** No: **1** Abstain: **6**

This motion was carried by electronic recording of votes

To accept the late nomination for Machiko Ohara for the executive position of Asia-Pacific Regional President

Yes: **47** No: **0** Abstain: **5**

This motion was carried by electronic recording of votes

To accept the late nomination for Charles Draecabo for the executive position of Africa Regional Vice President

Yes: **46** No: **1** Abstain: **5**

This motion was carried by electronic recording of votes



The process for the General Meeting was then confirmed to run in three blocks of time over the above days. These blocks were called 'sessions.'

- Session 1: Discussion. May 14th (07h00 UTC) – May 15th (05h00 UTC)
- Session 2: First Round of Voting. May 15th (13h00 UTC) – May 16th (01h00 UTC)
- Session 3: Second Round of Voting – May 16th (08h00 UTC) – (18h00 UTC)
- Conclusions and Results – May 16th 19h00 UTC

The timing of the sessions was organised to maximise convenience for all time zones. The timing was listed with the agenda items at UTC time (Universal Coordinated Time).

IFSW President, Silvana Martinez presided as the Chairperson for all sessions. She delegated her authority to people that the executive endorsed to support her role. Nicolai Paulsen (confirmed by the General Meeting) acted as Parliamentarian in all sessions. He delegated his authority to people that the executive endorsed to support his role.

ATTENDANCE

Each IFSW member organisation was entitled to appoint one Main Representative who cast their votes, two Delegates and three Observers who also participated in the General Meeting. During session 1 (discussion), the Main Representatives and Delegates of each member organisation had the opportunity to discuss, make comments, raise questions and motions, while Observers were entitled to follow discussions, but not to make comments. It was expected that the Representatives, Delegates and Observers worked together as a team. With regards to coordinating bodies, the number of delegates was able to be extended by written request to the President and Secretary-General, but only one person in a coordinating body casted the votes on behalf of the body.

In total, 75 member organisations participated in the General Meeting, of which 70 were in good standing. These members were represented by a total of 305 individuals (70 Main Representatives, 136 Delegates and 99 Observers).

List of member organisations that participated in the General Meeting:

Nr	Country	Organisation
1	Aotearoa New Zealand	Coordinating Body
2	Argentina	Federacion Argentina de Asociaciones de Profesionales de Servicio Social
3	Armenia	Armenian Association of social workers
4	Austria	Coordinating Body
5	Azerbaijan	Azerbaijan Social Work Public Union
6	Barbados	Barbados Association of Social Workers
7	Belarus	Belarussian Association of Social Workers
8	Belgium	Union professionnelle Francophone des Assistants Sociaux
9	Brazil	Conselho Federal de Serviço Social
10	Bulgaria	Bulgarian Association of Social Workers
11	Burundi	National Social Worker's Association in Burundi
12	Canada	Canadian Association of Social Workers
13	Chile	Colegio de Trabajadoras y Trabajadores Sociales de Chile
14	China	China Association of Social Workers



15	Colombia	Federación Colombiana de Trabajadores Sociales
16	Congo, Democratic Republic of	Coordinating Body
17	Costa Rica	Colegio de Trabajadores Sociales de Costa Rica
18	Croatia	Croatian Association Of Social Workers
19	Denmark	Dansk Socialrådgiverforening
20	Dominican Republic	Dominican Association of Work Professionals
21	El Salvador	Asociación de Trabajadores y Trabajadoras Sociales de El Salvador
22	Finland	Sosiaalialan korkeakoulutettujen ammattijärjestö Talentia ry
23	Gambia, The	The Association of Social Workers in The Gambia
24	Georgia	Georgian Association of Social Workers
25	Germany	Deutscher Berufsverband für Soziale Arbeit e.V.
26	Ghana	Ghana Association of Social Workers
27	Grenada	Grenada Association of Professional Social Workers
28	Guinea	Association Guinéenne des Travailleurs Sociaux
29	Haiti	Association Haitienne des Travailleurs Sociaux
30	Hong Kong	Hong Kong Social Workers Association
31	Hungary	Hungarian Association of Social Workers
32	Iceland	Icelandic Association of Social Workers
33	India	India Network of Professional Social Workers Associations
34	Indonesia	Ikatan Pekerja Sosial Profesional Indonesia
35	Iran	Iran Association of Social Workers
36	Ireland	Irish Association of Social Workers
37	Israel	Israel Union of Social Workers
38	Italy	Associazione Nazionale Assistenti Sociali
39	Japan	Coordinating Body
40	Kenya	Kenya National Association of Social Workers
41	Korea, Republic of	Korean Association of Social Workers
42	Kosovo	Unioni Punetoreve Social te Kosoves
43	Lithuania	Lietuvos socialiniu darbuotoju asociacija
44	Malaysia	Malaysian Association of Social Workers
45	Malta	Maltese association of social workers
46	Nepal	Social Workers Association Nepal (SWAN)
47	Netherlands, The	Beroepsvereniging van Professionals in Sociaal Werk (BPSW)
48	Nicaragua	Nicaraguan Association of Social Workers
49	Nigeria	Nigeria Association of Social Workers(NoSoW)
50	Norway	The Norwegian Union of Social Educators and Social Workers
51	Panama	Association of Social Workers of Panama
52	Paraguay	Asociación de Profesionales de Servicio Social y Trabajo Social del Paraguay
53	Peru	Colegio de Asistentes Sociales del Perú
54	Philippines	Philippine Association of Social Workers, Inc. (PASWI)
55	Poland	Polska Federacja Związkowa Pracowników Socjalnych i Pomocy Społecznej
56	Portugal	Portuguese Social Workers Association



57	Puerto Rico	Colegio de Profesionales del Trabajo Social de Puerto Rico
58	Romania	Colegiul National al Asistentilor Sociali din Romania
59	Russian Federation	Coordinating Body
60	Rwanda	Umuryango Nyarwanda w'Abavugururamiberho
61	Senegal	Association Nationale des Assistants Sociaux du Sénégal
62	Sierra Leone	Sierra Leone Association of Social Workers
63	Singapore	Singapore Association of Social Workers
64	Spain	Consejo General de Colegios Oficiales de Diplomados en Trabajo Social y Asistentes Sociales
65	Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka Association of Professional Social Workers
66	Sweden	Akademikerförbundet SSR/Union of professionals SSR
67	Switzerland	AvenirSocial
68	Thailand	Thailand Association of Social Workers
69	Togo	Association of Professionlas of Social Development (PDS-TOGO)
70	Turkey	Turkish Association of Social Workers
71	United Kingdom	British Association of Social Workers
72	United States	National Association of Social Workers
73	Uruguay	Asociación de Asistentes Sociales de Uruguay
74	Yemen	Yemen General Union of Sociologists, Social Workers and Psychologists (YGUSSWP)
75	Zambia	Social Workers' Association of Zambia

Also, members of the Social Work Cape Verde organisation and Kazakhstan Association who were in the membership application process at the time of the General Meeting were invited to attend Session 1 as Observers.

There were also three informal live meetings that took place during the General Meeting on the Zoom platform. These meetings were not part of the Agenda but aimed at facilitating exchange.

- 14th May 2022 at 06h30 UTC: Welcome coffee. Before the General Meeting started, IFSW Executive and IFSW Secretariat engaged in an informal chat and welcomed all delegates who were awake at this time to the online General Meeting.
- 15th May at 13h00 UTC: Farewell of the current IFSW President and outgoing executive members. Silvana Martinez addressed all delegates to say goodbye to the members organisations. IFSW Secretary-General, Rory Truell, joined Silvana Martinez in this live session thanking and acknowledging the outgoing executive members.
- 16th May 2022 at 19h00 UTC: IFSW Secretary-General, Rory Truell, introduced the new IFSW Global President Joachim Mumba and IFSW Executives Oluwatoni Adeleke, Machiko Ohara, and Kenia Batista and presented the outcome of the General Meeting. IFSW Global President Joachim Mumba addressed the audience with a welcome speech.



AGENDA ITEMS

The General Meeting opened at 07h00 UTC on 14 May with a welcome video from the President and Secretary General.

The discussions of all agenda items were open simultaneously and lasted for 22 hours. There was no voting in that session. Voting was only possible in sessions 2 and 3 to ensure all discussions had taken place before votes were cast. Discussion took place on the General Meeting platform of the IFSW Website.

All reports were presented in writing and also by means of a video. During the first session, Representatives and Delegates, IFSW Global Representatives, Regional Commissioners and UN Representatives were adding their comments in writing. Questions and comments were addressed by the relevant representatives of each Agenda item.

Votings took place electronically on Session 1.

Rory Truell, IFSW Secretary-General, acknowledged the group of volunteers who have acted as moderators and parliamentarians over this 22-hour period. He thanked all Moderators and Parliamentarians.

They are (in alphabetical order)

Ana Radulescu, Bernard Mayaka, David Jones, Jane Shears, Joan Davis Whelan, Joachim Mumba, John Brennan, Kathy Wehrmann, Larry Alicea, Lola Casal, Lucia Gandolfi, Machiko Ohara, Mit Joiner, Nicolai Paulsen, Noel Muridzo, Pascal Rudin, Priska Fleischlin, Rose Henderson, Silvana Martinez, Sriganesh MV, Tania Maria Ramos, Vasilios Ioakimidis, Xanthis Suarez.

Rory Truell further thanked all the members that participated in the discussion session and acknowledged the thoughtful and considered debate that resulted in clear motions which were then voted on in the voting sessions.

All agenda items were voted upon in Session 2. The only exception is agenda item 10, which was voted upon in Session 2 and Session 3.

1. WELCOME AND PRESIDENT'S/SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REPORT

1.1 That the President and Secretary-General's Report be accepted. Moved by Norway, seconded by Germany

Yes: **43**

No: **0**

Abstain: **0**

This motion was carried by electronic recording of votes

2. OVERVIEW OF THE GENERAL MEETING

2.1 Nominations Committee Report

The report was received by the General Meeting

3. MINUTES FROM THE ONLINE 2020 IFSW GENERAL MEETING

The 2020 General Meeting minutes ([link](#)) were approved during the Pre-General Meeting Voting.



4. IFSW REGIONAL REPORTS

4.1 That the Africa regional report be accepted. Moved by Zambia, seconded by Netherlands

Yes: **39** No: **0** Abstain: **1**
This motion was carried by electronic recording of votes

4.2 That the Asia Pacific regional report be accepted. Moved by Aotearoa New Zealand, seconded by Malaysia

Yes: **40** No: **0** Abstain: **2**
This motion was carried by electronic recording of votes

4.3 That the Europe regional report be accepted. Moved by United Kingdom, seconded by Denmark

Yes: **39** No: **0** Abstain: **1**
This motion was carried by electronic recording of votes

4.4 That the Latin America & Caribbean regional report be accepted. Moved by Canada, seconded by Zambia

Yes: **36** No: **0** Abstain: **2**
This motion was carried by electronic recording of votes

4.5 That the North America regional report be accepted. Moved by United States, seconded by Puerto Rico

Yes: **39** No: **0** Abstain: **1**
This motion was carried by electronic recording of votes

5. IFSW COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

5.1 That the Report from the IFSW Human Rights Commission be accepted. Moved by Aotearoa New Zealand, seconded by Canada

Yes: **42** No: **0** Abstain: **0**
This motion was carried by electronic recording of votes

5.2 That the Report from the IFSW Ethics Commission be accepted. Moved by Malaysia, seconded by Aotearoa New Zealand

Yes: **43** No: **0** Abstain: **0**
This motion was carried by electronic recording of votes



5.3 That the Report from the IFSW UN Commission be accepted. Moved by Denmark, seconded by Netherlands

Yes: **42** No: **0** Abstain: **0**
This motion was carried by electronic recording of votes

5.4 That the Report from the IFSW Education Commission be accepted. Moved by The Netherlands, seconded by Denmark

Yes: **43** No: **0** Abstain: **0**
This motion was carried by electronic recording of votes

5.4 That the Report from the IFSW Indigenous Commission be accepted. Moved by The Aotearoa New Zealand, seconded by Netherlands

Yes: **39** No: **1** Abstain: **1**
This motion was carried by electronic recording of votes

**6. NOMINATIONS FOR THE POSITIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE
Position of IFSW Asia Pacific Regional President**

Machiko Ohara is elected as the IFSW Asia Pacific Regional President

7. NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

There were no new membership applications presented to this General Meeting. Members were informed that currently there are two national associations of social work that are working with the Secretariat and Ethics Commission on developing their documentation and processes to meet the internationally required standards. Their applications for membership are expected in the coming weeks. Members will be informed.

8. EXECUTIVE CENSURE OF THE ISRAELI UNION OF SOCIAL WORKERS

The General Meeting received the report. The executive censure was lifted.



9. FINANCE

9.1 That the Finance Report 2020 and 2021 be accepted. Moved by Denmark, seconded by India

Yes: **39** No: **0** Abstain: **1**
This motion was carried by electronic recording of votes

9.2 That BDO Switzerland be reappointed as IFSW auditor. Moved by Aotearoa New Zealand, seconded by India

Yes: **39** No: **2** Abstain: **0**
This motion was carried by electronic recording of votes

10. MOTIONS TO CHANGE THE CONSTITUTION

The following motion was voted on in Session 2:

10.1 and 10.2 To amend the original motion (proposed by Austria, seconded by Israel to replace the current Constitutional Article 12c and By-Law 9b) as follows:

“Constitutional Article 12c) A Member may act as proxy for (**up to three**)” and

“By-Law 9b) Appointment of Proxy: A Member may act as proxy for (**up to three**)”. Moved by Aotearoa New Zealand, seconded by United Kingdom

Please note: In accordance with the IFSW constitution Art. 21a,

21a) “... A proposal to amend the Articles will be accepted only if supported by 75 % of the voting Members including votes by proxy at the General Meeting.”

Yes: **26** No: **9** Abstain: **5**
This motion was lost by electronic recording of votes

The following motion was voted on in Session 3:

10.1 and 10.2 To replace the current article 12 c) with a new 12 c) and related by-law 9b, proposed by Austria, seconded by Israel as follows:

Constitutional Article 12c) A Member may act as proxy for (**no more than one**) and By-Law 9b) Appointment of Proxy: A Member may act as proxy for (**no more than one**)

Please note: In accordance with the IFSW constitution Art. 21a,

21a) “... A proposal to amend the Articles will be accepted only if supported by 75 % of the voting Members including votes by proxy at the General Meeting.”

Yes: **34** No: **15** Abstain: **5**
This motion was lost by electronic recording of votes



11. REPORT ON IFSW GLOBAL STRATEGIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

11.1 That the Global Agenda Report be accepted. Moved by Malaysia, seconded by United States

Yes: **36** No: **1** Abstain: **2**
This motion was carried by electronic recording of votes

11.2 That the report on People’s Global Summit “Co-building a new eco-social world: Leaving no one behind” be accepted. Moved by Malaysia, seconded by Netherlands

Yes: **39** No: **0** Abstain: **1**
This motion was carried by electronic recording of votes

12. NEW POLICIES

12.1 To approve the new policy on The Role of Social Workers in Advancing a New Eco-Social World. Moved by Denmark, seconded by Switzerland

Please note: If the paper is successfully voted in, the executive will review and consider all of the commentary in the discussion session for the implementation plan of this policy.

Yes: **39** No: **0** Abstain: **2**
This motion was carried by electronic recording of votes

13. AWARDS

13.1 Award in Memory of Andrew Mouravieff-Apostol

The International Federation of Social Workers was pleased to have received two nominations for the Award in Memory of Andrew Mouravieff-Apostol, the IFSW's highest level of recognition. The executive has approved the two nominees to receive the award for 2022 and these were:

- Charles Mbugua
- The Council of International Fellowship (CIF)

14. FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

14.1 World Conference 2024

The General Meeting received the report.

14.2 IFSW Africa Regional Conference 2023

The General Meeting was referred to the IFSW Africa Regional Report.

14.3 IFSW Asia and Pacific Regional Conference 2023

The General Meeting was referred to the IFSW Asia and Pacific Regional Report.

14.4 IFSW Europe Regional Conference 2023

The General Meeting was referred to the IFSW Europe Regional Report.



14.5 IFSW Latin America and Caribbean Regional Conference 2023

The General Meeting was referred to the IFSW Latin America and Caribbean Regional Report.

14.6 IFSW North America Regional Conference 2023

The General Meeting was referred to the IFSW North America Regional Report.

15. IFSW ARCHIVES PROJECT

The General Meeting received the report.

16. AMBASSADOR'S REPORT

The General Meeting received the report.

17. ANY FURTHER MOTIONS

No further motions were presented to the General Meeting.

RESULTS AND CONCLUSION

RESULTS OF THE ELECTIONS

Position of Global President: Joachim Mumba (Zambia)

Position of IFSW Asia Pacific Regional President: Machiko Ohara (Japan)

The General Meeting has also confirmed the following people who have been elected unopposed:

- Regional Vice President Africa – Oluwatoni Modupe Adeleke (Nigeria),
- Vice President Europe – John Brennan (Ireland) re-elected for second term,
- Regional President Latin America and Caribbean – Kenia Batista (Panama)
- Regional President North America – Joan Davis-Whelan (Canada)
- Vice President North America – Mildred Joyner (USA)

The IFSW General Meeting welcomed them in a ceremony on Sunday 15th May and thanked the outgoing executive members: Silvana Martinez (Global President), Larry Alicea Rodríguez (Regional President for Latin America and Caribbean Region), Rose Henderson (Global Vice President and Regional President Asia-Pacific).

The executive members that remain in post are Victor Ivan Garcia-Toro (Puerto Rico) Treasurer, Noel Muridzo (Zimbabwe) as African Regional President, Sriganesh M V (India) as Asia-Pacific Regional Vice-President, Ana Radulescu (Romania) as European Regional President and Tania Maria Ramos (Brazil) as Latin America and Caribbean Regional Vice President.



CONCLUSION

Rory Truell highlighted the 2022 General Meeting as a wonderful example of the profession's capacity to work together, across time zones, cultures and Covid conditions and thanked everyone for their participation.

NEXT MEETING

The 2024 IFSW General Meeting will take place in Panama. Date and time to be confirmed and notified to members in due course.

DRAFT MINUTES