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

All formal reports and videos can be found through this [link](https://www.ifsw.org/general-meeting-2022/) 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](https://www.ifsw.org/general-meeting-2022/)) is approved,

That the 2020 General Meeting minutes are approved as presented ([link](https://www.ifsw.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Minutes-of-GM-July-2020.pdf)).

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 wererepresented 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 professionelle 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 Worikers |
| 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 Assistantes Sociales 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](https://www.ifsw.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Minutes-of-GM-July-2020.pdf)) 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 IFSWs 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 (Pueto 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.