



Regional Commissioner Role Description

IFSW United Nations Commission

1. Role Overview

In each region (Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, North America, Latin America) there is a United Nations Headquarters (New York) regional offices (Geneva, Nairobi and Vienna) and Economic Commission Centres (Santiago and Bangkok). IFSW global aims to be represented in each of them by a main Regional Commissioner and a support team of up to five people. All must be nominated by national associations that are members of IFSW in good standing.

This role is an opportunity to strengthen social work's visibility and influence within the United Nations.

The IFSW Europe Regional Commissioner (main representative) to the United Nations is responsible for:

- Advancing the agreed strategies within the regional UN location/office and across Europe.
- Developing and fostering partnerships with UN agencies
- Promoting and developing actions and statements on relevant social work contributions.
- Working with the IFSW global UN Commissioner and IFSW Regional President to create and advance a visible social work presence in the United Nations.
- Manage, in consultation with the UN global Commissioner, the process of recruitment and accreditation for support team members.
- Supporting and enabling the UN support team/s in the region

2. Key Responsibilities

- Contribute towards implementing the Commission's Vision towards 2028 (see separate document on IFSW website).
- Facilitate and coordinate IFSW's work across the UN sites.
- Represent the IFSW UN Commission in other IFSW regional activities
- Collaborate with diverse policymakers, social work associations and other institutions in Europe.
- Establish partnerships with UN Agencies so that IFSW members work jointly with UN agencies locally, nationally, regionally and globally, bridging engagement between communities' aspirations, the SDGs and other UN agendas.



- Take initiative to prepare statements on UN issues and related matters in conjunction with the representative support team
- Support policy and programme development in the UN aligned with IFSW standards and priorities.
- Build awareness within the UN agencies that enables them to utilize a social work perspective in their development agendas.
- Escalate key issues and concerns to the global commissioner
- Promote capacity-building, development, and knowledge exchange.
- Cooperate with the Regional IFSW Europe President and other IFSW representatives for the purpose of information exchange and collaboration.
- Attend annual regional activities such as the annual Delegates' Meetings, quarterly representatives' meetings and biannual regional IFSW conferences, when possible.
- Communicate with the IFSW UN Commissioner, the IFSW regional president and other committee members on a regular basis.
- In accordance with the IFSW Constitution prepare annual and other reports on team activities as required, in conjunction with the representative support team
- Advocate for and promote social work at the UN and cooperate with other organizations.
- Build awareness within the UN agencies that enables them to utilize a social work perspective in the development agendas.

3. Appointment and Term:

The Regional Commissioner –

- Must be a member of an IFSW member organisation in good standing.
- Should have relevant work experience in social work and leadership.
- Will be appointed for four years, renewable annually upon performance review.
- Will be selected by the Global Commissioner, Regional President and IFSW Secretary General.
- Understands that this role is not remunerated (paid). The Representative will be able to claim reasonable expenses.

4. Accountability and Commitment

The Regional Commissioner –

- Reports to the Global Commissioner and contributes to biennial work plans.
- Attends at least three virtual meetings per year with the Global Commissioner.
- Must uphold IFSW's ethical principles, social justice, and commitment to excellence.

Requirements



The IFSW Regional Commissioner (main representative) to the United Nations must be a member of an IFSW member organization in good standing. It is recommended that candidates for Main

Representative have had senior level experience within their member organizations or in their employment positions/universities. An education background in Social Work is required.

The IFSW Europe Region Main Representative to the UN Commission should have the time, flexibility and the background/abilities required to carry out the duties and responsibilities of this position.

It is essential that the IFSW Europe Region Main Representative uses the definition of social work, the IFSW policy paper and other key IFSW resources as a leading orientation for their leadership role.