



DRAFT MINUTES

General Meeting — Nairobi, Kenya — 23-24 June 2026

Version: 20 August 2026

1. WELCOME

1.1 Welcome from the Kenya Association of Social Workers

On behalf of the Kenya Association of Social Workers, Bernard Mayaka (IFSW Global Secretariat) welcomed all delegates to Nairobi ("Karibu Kenya") and noted the Association's role in organising the conference.

1.2 Welcome from the President

The IFSW Global President, Joachim Mumba, opened the meeting, thanked all participants who could travel to Nairobi, and welcomed those online. He noted that IFSW is a global community united by a shared commitment to global social justice, and thanked the Kenyan hosts for their hospitality, the IFSW team working behind the scenes, and the Executive and Steering Group. He recalled the proverb "if you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together," and emphasised the Federation's common purpose of respect for all, valuing diversity, and shaping the future together.

1.3 Roll Call

The Interim Secretary-General, Pascal Rudin, conducted the roll call. 81 member organisations were registered for the General Meeting. At the time of the roll call, 54 countries were present, in-person and/or online.

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Aoterea New Zealand | 42. Kazakhstan |
| 2. Argentina | 43. Kenya |
| 3. Armenia | 44. Lithuania |
| 4. Australia | 45. Malaysia |
| 5. Austria | 46. Malawi |
| 6. Barbados | 47. Malta |
| 7. Botswana | 48. México |
| 8. Brazil | 49. Mozambique |
| 9. Bulgaria | 50. Nepal |
| 10. Burundi | 51. Nigeria |
| 11. Cambodia | 52. Norway |
| 12. Canada | 53. Palestine |
| 13. Chile | 54. Panama |
| 14. Colombia | 55. Paraguay |
| 15. Costa Rica | 56. Peru |
| 16. Croatia | 57. Philippines |
| 17. Cuba | 58. Puerto Rico |
| 18. Czech Republic | 59. Rep Moldova |
| 19. Denmark | 60. Rep South Korea |



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- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 20. Dominican Republic | 61. Romania |
| 21. Democratic Republic of Congo | 62. Rwanda |
| 22. El Salvador | 63. Senegal |
| 23. Finland | 64. Sierra Leone |
| 24. France | 65. Singapore |
| 25. Germany | 66. Spain |
| 26. Ghana | 67. Sri Lanka |
| 27. Greece | 68. Sweden |
| 28. Greece | 69. Switzerland |
| 29. Grenada | 70. Taiwan |
| 30. Guinea-Bissau | 71. Tanzania |
| 31. Haiti | 72. Thailand |
| 32. Hong Kong | 73. The Gambia |
| 33. Hungary | 74. The Netherlands |
| 34. Iceland | 75. Togo |
| 35. India | 76. Turkey |
| 36. Indonesia | 77. United Kingdom |
| 37. Iran | 78. United States of America |
| 38. Ireland | 79. Yemen |
| 39. Israel | 80. Zambia |
| 40. Italy | 81. Zimbabwe |
| 41. Japan | |

The meeting was declared able to proceed.

1.4 Report of the Elections Officer

The Elections Officer, David Jones, reported that late nominations had closed one week before the meeting and that no further late nominations could be accepted. All candidates already on the list from member organisations in good standing would proceed to the ballot.

2. OVERVIEW OF THE GENERAL MEETING

2.1 Housekeeping, Parliamentary, minute takers and screen notes, hybrid moderation, voting tellers

The General Meeting AGREED that:

- Nicolai Paulsen continues as Parliamentary.
- David Jones acts as Elections Officer.
- Priska Fleischlin (Switzerland) and Barb Whitenect (Canada) are the Minute Takers.
- David Jones and Hilary Weaver are responsible for screen notes.
- Lola Casal-Sanchez and Bernard Mayaka (IFSW Global Secretariat) are responsible for administration and online support.

2.2 Confirmation of agenda and organization of meeting

The IFSW Global President presented the agenda.



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- Motion proposed by: Philippines
- Motion seconded by: Canada

AGREED unanimously

3. MINUTES FROM THE HYBRID 2024 IFSW GENERAL MEETING

The minutes of the 2024 General Meeting (Panama) had been published online in advance. It was noted that Iceland had attended the 2024 meeting online, but this was not reflected in the recorded minutes.

To approve the minutes, with the amendment to record Iceland's online attendance:

- Motion proposed by: Norway
- Motion seconded by: Romania

CARRIED, with one amendment.

4. IFSW EXECUTIVE REPORTS

4.1 IFSW Africa Region Report

Oluwatoni Adeleke, Africa Regional President, reported significant growth over the past two years, with increased membership and more countries participating, including those from Francophone Africa. The first regional conference held in a French-speaking country took place in Senegal. She reported capacity-building work with associations, a webinar with COSW and UNICEF, three additional countries at various stages on the waiting list to join, continued focus on the professionalisation of social work practice, and plans to launch a platform for female and young social workers.

4.2 IFSW Asia-Pacific Region Report

Machiko Ohara, Asia-Pacific Regional President, reflected on the considerable size and diversity of the Asia-Pacific Region, noting the wide range of social, cultural and professional contexts represented across its member organisations. She highlighted the successful Regional Conference held in Sri Lanka in 2025, as well as a regional webinar focusing on intergenerational relationships and their relevance to social work practice. Looking ahead, she identified education, environmental issues and digital development as key areas of focus for the Region.

4.3 IFSW Europe Region Report

Ruth Allen, Europe Regional President, reported that Europe is the largest region, with 50 countries and 32 members in good standing, supported by a regional infrastructure fee in addition to the global fee. She noted growing challenges for social work across parts of Europe due to a rightward political shift, war, and natural disasters, and reported on a regional conference held in Norway with 600 participants. She referred to ongoing regional projects, including an EU-funded eco-social project, a responsive social services project, and a new project for new and young social workers led by Omar Mohammed, as well as to continued work to strengthen social work across the region and the global organisation.

4.4 IFSW Latin America & Caribbean Region Report



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Kenia Batista, Latin America & Caribbean Regional President, presented the report, noting significant challenges across the region, with 17 associations and continuing coordination difficulties. A regional conference was held in Paraguay. Concern was raised about the rise of extreme-right governments in some countries in the region, which had questioned the role of social work and attacked human rights. It was noted that the ILO now recognises social work and the risks faced by social workers at a global level. The region reaffirmed its commitment to human rights.

4.5 IFSW North America Region Report

Barb Whitenect presented the report on behalf of the region, noting that Yvonne Chase, North America Regional President, was unable to attend following a recent bereavement. She reported strengthened relationships across North America, an online conference on migration and refugees that included service users, a visit to the UN in Geneva, strengthened participation in global Commissions, and work with regulatory bodies, educators and associations to present a more unified voice for the profession.

Motion to adopt the five regional reports:

- Motion proposed by: Romania
- Motion seconded by: Malaysia

ADOPTED unanimously, with no objections.

4.6 President's and Secretary-General's Report

Interim Secretary-General's Report (Pascal Rudin)

The Interim Secretary-General welcomed delegates to Nairobi and described a period of significant transition for the Federation. He recalled that, in Panama in 2024, members had identified needs that led to the Good Governance Review and noted that continuity of operations had been maintained despite changes in leadership. He observed that strong organisations depend on more than individuals alone, and that member organisations continue to advance human rights, often in difficult circumstances, with examples of solidarity among organisations. He referred to the Second World Summit for Social Development in Doha as a demonstration of the importance of social work, and to continued engagement with organisations such as the UN. He noted that "Harambee" reflects how many people had come together to contribute time and energy over the past two years, and thanked members, the Secretariat, and the hosts and conference staff in Nairobi for their work through a demanding period.

President's Report (Joachim Mumba)

The IFSW Global President presented his final report as he came to the end of his term, expressing gratitude, humility and optimism and emphasising that the achievements of his presidency had been the result of collective effort. Reflecting on growing global divisions since 2024, he noted that these had informed the "Harambee" theme adopted to emphasise unity across the Federation.

He highlighted key developments during his term, including the decision to suspend face-to-face Executive meetings and redirect savings to the regions. He reported that IFSW membership stood at 155 member organisations, while recommending that the incoming Executive review the number of active members. He also noted significant progress with the Good Governance Review, including the development of financial policies and procedures.

The President reflected on the challenges of responding to global crises, noting that situations in the Global South often receive less international attention. He also referred to the ongoing Secretariat transition and acknowledged Rory Truell's service as outgoing Secretary-General.



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He concluded with five recommendations: diversify income beyond membership dues; continue the Good Governance Review; develop a strategic plan; work with global partners to review IFSW's global statements; and prepare for IFSW's 100th anniversary in 2028.

Charles Mbugua then welcomed participants to Nairobi and Kenya on behalf of the host association and noted that the President of Kenya would attend the conference opening ceremony.

4.7 Good Governance Review Report

An overview of the Good Governance Review was presented, noting that the review had received its mandate in Panama in 2024, that the review team was representative of all five regions, and that priority areas of Human Resources, complaint management and finance had been divided among smaller working groups reporting back to the full team and then to the Executive. Three of the prioritised tasks had been completed; work on Human Resources, a larger area, remained ongoing. Members were invited to consult the full report online.

Motion to adopt the Interim Secretary-General's Report, the President's Report, and the Good Governance Review overview:

- Motion proposed by: Canada
- Motion seconded by: Norway

ADOPTED with no votes against

4.8 Finance Report 2024 & 2025

The IFSW Global Treasurer, Sriganesh M.V., presented the Finance Report and the auditor's statement, both of which had been made available online in advance. The Federation reported positive financial results in both 2024 and 2025, with surpluses of CHF 25,212.16 and CHF 20,205.98, respectively. Membership fees remained the main source of income in both years, exceeding budget, with additional contributions from the Sage Journal Partnership and the IFSW Friends programme. The IFSW Global Treasurer noted that the Good Governance Review had been important for financial stability and that the decision not to hold a physical Executive meeting had instead enabled support for regional activity. Two concerns were flagged for the future: that staffing costs represent a somewhat high proportion of total expenditure, and the need to increase revenue from other sources and review infrastructure costs, given that conference revenue is no longer available.

The IFSW Global Treasurer invited endorsement of the report and opened the floor for comments.

Discussion. Members raised questions and comments on the report, including on the Federation's office arrangements and staffing, the clarity of the financial presentation, the level of unpaid membership fees, options for diversifying income (including online training and university partnerships), support for the participation of low-income member organisations, and the criteria and process for fee waivers. In response, it was clarified that no direct financial support is provided to IASSW or ICSW as separate organisations, other than shared support for the Global Agenda Coordinator post; that discussions on alternative models for running the Secretariat — including the future of a physical office — were already underway; that there was no intention to compromise on staff working conditions; that additional income strategies through publications were being explored; and that Appendices A and B of the Finance Report set out the criteria and policy for fee waivers.

Motion to adopt the Finance Report:

- Motion proposed by: Iran



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- Motion seconded by: The Netherlands

ADOPTED with no votes against

4.9 Motion to appoint the auditor

It was proposed that BDO Ltd be reappointed as the Federation's auditor for a further two-year period, until the next General Meeting.

CARRIED

4.10 Recognition of Rory Truell's Contribution and Service to IFSW

The General Meeting paid tribute to outgoing Secretary-General Rory Truell, marking 15 years of service to the Federation. A table was set up for delegates to sign a card and leave gifts, which would be returned to Switzerland on Rory Truell's behalf.

Tributes were paid to his leadership and vision, his role in bringing together a previously fragmented organisation, his support for including smaller and lower-income member organisations, and his contribution to amplifying the profession's voice internationally. Gifts and messages of appreciation were presented, and delegates were invited to sign cards for him. The meeting expressed thanks in warm applause.

5. MOTIONS TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION

5.1 Motion from Brazil: Portuguese as a Fourth Official Language

Brazil presented a motion to amend Statute 1 of the Constitution to add Portuguese as a fourth official language of IFSW, supported by Portugal, Angola, Guinea-Bissau, and Mozambique.

Brazil noted that Portuguese is an official language in nine countries and territories across four continents — Angola, Cabo Verde, Guiné-Bissau, Mozambique and São Tomé e Príncipe (Africa), Brazil (South America), Timor-Leste (Asia), and Portugal (Europe), with Macau (China) also recognising Portuguese as a co-official language — with around 300 million native speakers, one of the most widely spoken and expanding languages in the world. Portuguese-speaking countries represent the second-largest group of practising social workers globally, including countries not yet members of IFSW.

- Motion proposed by: Brazil
- Motion seconded by: Panama

Discussion included support for the motion, alongside concerns about its financial and human-resource implications for the Secretariat, and questions about the availability of interpretation and the consistency of criteria for adding an official language.

Note from the Parliamentarian on this motion: “Under the Constitution, the motion required a 75% majority of eligible voting Members to carry”

Voting on this motion took place electronically on the voting platform.

The motion was NOT CARRIED.

Yes 31 No 22 Abstention – 2



6. NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

6.1 Belgium, Benin, Somalia, South Africa

Four membership applications, already reviewed by the Ethics Commission and by the relevant Regional Presidents, were presented to the General Meeting: Belgium (French-speaking part), Benin, Somalia, and South Africa.

Motion to accept the four membership applications:

- Motion proposed by: Canada
- Motion seconded by: Senegal

AGREED — Belgium (French-speaking part), Benin, Somalia, and South Africa were admitted as new IFSW member organisations.

7. UPDATE ON THE CENSURE

The IFSW Global President reported on the process followed since the censure of the Israeli Association was by the Executive Committee in January 2025.. He noted that a three-member team (President, President of Europe, Interim Secretary-General) had met with the Israeli Association on two occasions in October 2025, without reaching agreement on resolving the matter that had led to the censure. He confirmed that the censure remained in place. The floor was then opened for brief comments.

Discussion. Questions were raised about whether the censure had remained unchanged since its imposition in January 2025 and about the steps subsequently taken by the Israeli Association. These included a request to the IFSW Executive to establish a committee to consider the application of the ethical code in contexts of war, as well as a separate review of the censure.

8. ELECTIONS

All elections were conducted electronically via the voting platform.

8.1 Nomination's Committee Report and Supplementary Report

The Elections Officer, David Jones, guided the meeting through the election process, referring to the Nominations Committee's written reports already available to members. David Jones informed the meeting that Germany and Mexico would act as Tellers. Voting was scheduled to open at 14:00 Kenya time, with results to be announced after voting closed. Key points raised in the supplementary report included:

- The Constitution's "first past the post" system can produce a President or officer elected on a small proportion of the total vote where there are more than three candidates; the Executive was invited to consider whether a change (e.g. a run-off round or single transferable vote) should be brought to a future General Meeting.
- The need for clearer criteria to verify that nominees are in good professional standing.
- The requirement that candidates have "at least two years' experience of IFSW" needs clearer definition, to be worked on by the Nominations Committee.



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- Clarification is needed on which signatories (e.g. CEOs and Directors, as well as Chairs) may validly nominate on behalf of a member organisation.
- The Nominations Committee itself requires further induction and development.

Discussion: Questions were raised about whether any candidates had been involved in decisions to approve fee waivers for members, whether coordinating bodies representing more than one member organisation in a country must agree on a single candidate, and the timing of uploading one Presidential nomination. It was clarified that fee-waiver applications are reviewed by the Executive Steering Committee and that this had not affected any leadership candidacy; that a candidate proposed by one member of a coordinating body does not require the agreement of the other member(s), who must abstain if they disagree; and that all Presidential nominations had been uploaded upon receipt and scrutiny within the required time.

Motion to adopt the Nominations Committee Report:

- Motion proposed by: Austria
- Motion seconded by: Romania

CARRIED

8.2 IFSW Global President

Three candidates addressed the General Meeting (five minutes each), with no questions taken from the floor:

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|---------------------|---------------|----|----------------|
| • Eva Ponce de Leon | (Philippines) | 40 | ELECTED |
| • Ana Radulescu | (Romania) | 21 | |
| • Sharyn Roberts | (Aotearoa) | 7 | |

8.3 IFSW Africa Regional Vice President

- | | | | |
|--------------------|------------|----|----------------|
| • Msekiwa Makwanya | (Zimbabwe) | 2 | ELECTED |
| • Abib Ndiaye | (Senegal) | 10 | |
| • Joseph Kalelo | (Malawi) | 2 | |

8.4 IFSW Asia-Pacific Regional President

A late nomination (Puji Pujiono, Indonesia) was put to a vote on whether to place it on the ballot; it did not reach the required 75% threshold. NOT CARRIED

- | | | | |
|-----------------|---------|----------------|-------------|
| • Machiko Ohara | (Japan) | ELECTED | (unopposed) |
|-----------------|---------|----------------|-------------|

8.5 IFSW Europe Regional Vice President

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|----------|----------------|-------------|
| • Andreas Pedersen Kikvik | (Norway) | ELECTED | (unopposed) |
|---------------------------|----------|----------------|-------------|

8.6 IFSW Latin America and Caribbean Regional President

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|----|----------------|
| • Alejandro López Evangelista | (Dominican Republic) | 5 | ELECTED |
| • Jorge Arturo Sáenz Fonseca | (Costa Rica) | 10 | |



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8.7 IFSW North America Regional President

A late nomination (Barb Whitenect, Canada) was presented, reaching the required 75% threshold. CARRIED

- Barb Whitenect (Canada) **ELECTED** (unopposed)

8.8 IFSW North America Regional Vice President

A late nomination (Karen Bullock, USA) was presented, reaching the required 75% threshold. CARRIED

- Karen Bullock (USA) **ELECTED** (unopposed)

The 2026-2028 Executive consists of the following members:

IFSW Global President: Eva Ponce de Leon, Philippines
IFSW Global Treasurer: Sriganesh Maralawady Venkatanarasiah, India
IFSW Africa President: Oluwatoni Adeleke, Nigeria
IFSW Africa Vice President: Abib Ndiaye, Senegal
IFSW Asia-Pacific President: Machiko Ohara, Japan
IFSW Asia-Pacific Vice President: Teoh Ai Hua, Malaysia
IFSW Europe President: Ruth Allen, UK
IFSW Europe Vice President: Andreas Pedersen Kikvik, Norway
IFSW Latin America and Caribbean President: Jorge Arturo Sáenz Fonseca, Costa Rica
IFSW Latin America and Caribbean Vice President: Gabriela Rodríguez Vázquez, Mexico
IFSW North America President: Barb Whitenect, Canada
IFSW North America Vice President: Karen Bullock, USA

9. IFSW COMMISSIONS' REPORTS

9.1 Report from the IFSW Education Commission

The Education Commissioner was not present. The IFSW Global President thanked the Commission and encouraged members to read the written report online.

9.2 Report from the IFSW Ethics Commission

Jane Shears, Ethics Commissioner, reported that the Commission has full membership and referred to a new social workers' group forming in Europe that may extend to other regions. Key areas of activity include reviewing applications for new IFSW membership and the implementation of the Global Statement of Ethical Principles, including guidance for social workers working in conflict settings. The Commission is also developing guidance on AI and rapid digital developments, contributing to continuing professional development, supporting research and development, and working to increase the visibility of its activities.

9.3 Report from the IFSW Indigenous Commission

Hilary Weaver, Global Indigenous Commissioner, reported on the Commission's development since its establishment in 2021, including the recent appointment of a Regional Commissioner for Latin America and the Caribbean. She highlighted statements and advocacy activities, engagement with the UN Indigenous Forum, external partnerships, and participation in conferences in Calgary and Oslo, where important



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relationships with the Sámi community were strengthened. A Commission workshop was also held during the Nairobi conference.

9.4 Report from the IFSW UN Commission

Priska Fleischlin, IFSW UN Commissioner, presented the Commission's report and introduced Hamed (Iran, regional commissioner). She reported that 13 national associations are represented and that the revised Terms of Reference adopted in 2024 are being implemented across several regions. Key activities included an online course, collaboration with the ILO on social workers' labour conditions, participation in international events, and plans for a member survey and expanded teams in Vienna and Nairobi.

9.5 IFSW Human Rights Commission

The IFSW Global President gave a short update, recalling that the Commission's mandate had been under review since 2023, including its historical focus on the rights of social workers, which had not been universally supported. He confirmed that the future of the Human Rights Commission will be taken forward by the incoming Global Executive.

Motion to adopt the five reports:

- Motion proposed by: The Netherlands
- Motion seconded by: Norway

ADOPTED with no votes against

10. PROPOSED NEW POLICIES

10.1 Social Work Approach to Co-creating Human Rights-Based Care and Support Systems

Priska Fleischlin presented the policy paper on behalf of the UN Commission, explaining its background, the cooperation with OHCHR that led to its development, and the contributions of OHCHR, the ILO, and the IFSW UN Commission. A summary of the paper was presented via slides.

Motion to adopt the policy:

- Motion proposed by: Iran
- Motion seconded by: Malaysia, Austria

CARRIED by a large majority.

11. OTHER REPORTS

11.1 Ambassador's Message

The Ambassador was not present. The IFSW Global President thanked the Ambassador and encouraged members to read the written message online.

11.2 COSW Report



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David Jones reported on the Commonwealth Organisation for Social Work (COSW), the only formally linked partner organisation of IFSW, founded in 1994 at the IFSW Colombo conference. He noted the Commonwealth includes covers 56 countries (including countries which had not been former UK colonies). The COSW role is to raise the voice of social work in the Commonwealth political and social environments as partners with 97 accredited organisations across the Commonwealth representing other professions and groups. He confirmed that COSW is not a federation of associations and recognises IFSW ethical values and policies. The current COSW President is based in India, and that 20 countries currently sit on its Council. COSW thanked IFSW for continued support and constructive partnership working.

The report was RECEIVED.

12. FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

12.1 SWSD Conference 2028 (Paris)

The Interim Secretary-General presented plans for the 2028 World Conference in Paris, to be held 4-8 July 2028, marking the Federation's 100th anniversary, in partnership with the tripartite structure.

12.2 IFSW Africa Regional Conference 2027

To be held in Malawi, 26-30 October 2027, with a focus on advancing social justice.

12.3 IFSW Asia-Pacific Regional Conference 2027

To be held 23-25 November 2027, with APSWE, on the theme of digital transition in social work; the venue is to be confirmed.

12.4 IFSW Europe Regional Conference 2027

To be held in Athens, Greece, 25-27 October 2027, on the theme of co-building inclusive social capital, covering resilience (trust, solidarity, social connection), rights, and shared global realities such as climate change and inequality.

12.5 IFSW Latin America and Caribbean Regional Conference 2027

Arrangements for the regional conference will be negotiated by the incoming Regional President.

12.6 IFSW North America Regional Conference 2027

An online conference is planned for October 2027, alongside an in-person collective leadership group meeting in Canada.

13. OTHER MOTIONS

13.1 Motion from Brazil and Iran: Protection of Social Workers and Humanitarian Service Settings

Grounded in the Global Social Work Statement of Ethical Principles (Dublin, 2018), the motion asked the General Meeting to resolve that IFSW: condemn violence, harassment, criminalisation and judicial persecution of social workers for carrying out their professional functions; call on states to implement



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protection protocols for social workers; commit to publicly supporting any threatened social worker or member association; direct the Ethics Commission to create a global rapid-response mechanism for threatened social workers; condemn military attacks on social work service centres and other humanitarian sites protected under international humanitarian law; and call on parties to conflicts to respect and protect such spaces.

- Motion proposed by: Panama
- Motion seconded by: Malaysia

CARRIED.

13.2 Motion from Brazil in Solidarity with Palestinian Social Workers and the Palestinian People

The motion asked the General Meeting to: formally declare solidarity with Palestinian social workers and the Palestinian people and back their right to sovereignty and self-determination; strengthen IFSW's global position on the protection of social work professionals in war zones and high-conflict environments; and commit to using its platform to denounce human rights violations and advocate for peace, dignity and sovereignty for populations affected by conflict.

Discussion raised concerns about wording that could create a false equivalence between parties, noting the importance of naming the asymmetry of occupation, displacement and state violence, alongside support for the motion as put and a question on how the General Meeting should respond to the situation.

- Motion proposed by: Brazil
- Motion seconded by: Spain

CARRIED.

13.3 Motion from Ireland: Review of Governance Documents Regarding Membership Sanctions

The motion noted that the Constitution and By-Laws are under-defined regarding the duration of and pathway between censure, suspension and expulsion of member organisations, and regarding the conditions for a member to rejoin after suspension or expulsion. It asked the General Meeting to mandate the Executive Committee to establish a working group, within one month of the motion, to review Article 7 of the Constitution and By-Law 4, focusing on clearer criteria for censure, suspension, expulsion and reinstatement, and to bring a formal report with proposed amendments to a future General Meeting requiring the 75% majority needed for constitutional change.

- Motion proposed by: Ireland
- Motion seconded by: Spain, Norway

CARRIED.

13.4 Motion from Ireland: Review of Professional Integrity and Mandatory Military Service

The motion addressed the intersection between national mandatory military service obligations and the profession's commitment to the Global Statement of Ethical Principles, in particular Principle 9.3 (peace and non-violence). It proposed that member associations be expected, where subject to conscription, to formally request that their government exempt social workers from active combat roles, and that failure to



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do so — or to issue a public call for peace — be viewed as a lapse in the profession's independent ethical voice. An additional paragraph, discussed and supported during the session, clarified that in contexts of military dictatorship, authoritarian rule, or severe state repression, IFSW should adopt confidential and context-sensitive processes to support member associations in upholding these principles while protecting their safety, without removing the underlying obligation to maintain an independent professional voice where an association has the capacity to act.

- Motion proposed by: Ireland
- Motion seconded by: Spain

A revised version with amendments was presented.

The amended motion was CARRIED

13.5 Motion from Norway: Review of the Global Social Work Statement of Ethical Principles

Proposed by Norway. The motion proposed that the General Meeting establish an international working group, with broad regional representation, to review the Global Social Work Statement of Ethical Principles and prepare recommendations for the 2028 General Meeting, in order to ensure the principles remain relevant across national contexts, grounded in human rights and international law, and clear enough to support a common understanding among member organisations — noting in particular that section 9.3 of the Global Statement of Ethical Principles (peace and non-violence) has created uncertainty regarding the boundary between individual professional ethics and duties imposed by national law or public authorities in situations such as war, occupation, compulsory military service, or national emergency.

- Motion proposed by: Norway
- Motion seconded by: The Philippines

CARRIED.

13.6 Motion from Hungary: Strengthening Social Work's Contribution to Peacebuilding, Ethical Dialogue, and Practice in Contexts of Armed Conflict and Authoritarian Rule

Proposed by Hungary, referencing the IFSW Special General Assembly of 18 February 2026. The motion proposed that IFSW: (1) invite member organisations in countries affected by armed conflict or territorial disputes to voluntarily share information on the roles and experiences of social workers operating in such contexts, including in military, humanitarian or civilian-protection capacities; (2) establish an international working group, drawing where possible on social workers from affected countries, to explore guidance and competencies for social work practice in conflict and authoritarian settings, consider a specialised practice area on this topic, and report to a future General Meeting; and (3) promote ethical dialogue between member organisations in conflict situations.

- Motion proposed by: Hungary
- Motion seconded by: Iran

CARRIED.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS



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The following motions were considered late motions and were therefore not put to a vote. The Chair referred them to the Executive for consideration.

- Motion from Mexico: Membership Fee Waivers, Governance and Eligibility for Office
- Motion from Mexico: Professional Certification, Specialisations and Continuing Professional Development
- Motion from Spain: All future IFSW elections and voting processes shall be conducted online through the designated platform

FAREWELL TO OUTGOING EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

The General Meeting thanked departing Executive Members for their contribution and commitment.

- Joachim Mumba had served as IFSW Global President.
- Kenia Batista had served as IFSW Global Vice President and Latin America and Caribbean Regional President.
- Yvonne Chase served as IFSW North America Regional President

The General Meeting thanked David Jones for his service as Elections Officer over XX years. David accepted the Executive's invitation to provide support during the transition to a new Elections Officer and to assist with the development and implementation of a new voting system in preparation for the 2028 General Meeting.

The meeting was declared closed.