

1947

Draft Constitution of the
International Conferences
of Social
1st Paris 1928
2nd Frankfurt 1932
3rd London 1936

4th Brussels 1940 - abandoned

This document follows Special
Conference 1946 in Brussels.

THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF SOCIAL WORK.A Brief Outline of its work and Plans.

The I.C.S.W. was established in 1928 on the initiative of Dr René Sand, with the support of leaders in social work from many parts of the world. It was inspired by the work of the National Conference of Social Work in North America, and received the financial support of a number of American Foundations and the League of Red Cross Societies.

The First Conference was held in Paris in 1928 and succeeding Conferences were held in Frankfurt in 1932 and London in 1936. The Fourth Conference planned for Brussels in 1940 was abandoned on account of the war. These Conferences, which were attended by leaders in social work from many countries, were a remarkable testimony to the world wide interest which the International Conference had aroused, and to the need for the friendly exchange of information and views on social problems which the Conference provided.

The preparatory work of the Conference was carried out by an Executive Board in conjunction with National Committees, which represented the organisations and workers in the cooperating countries. The programmes of each of the Conferences were the subject of careful study and preparation by these National Committees, which provided both organisations and individual social workers in their respective countries with the opportunity of contributing to the forum of discussion at the Quadrennial Meetings.

The activities of the I.C.S.W. were of necessity suspended during the second world war, but at the end of hostilities contacts were re-established by leaders in various countries, and a Special Conference was held in Brussels in August 1946 under the Presidency of its Founder, Dr René Sand. This meeting was attended by 300 people from 15 different countries and unanimously decided that the I.C. should continue as an instrument for international collaboration in the field of social work.

DRAFT OUTLINE CONSTITUTION OF THE I.C.S.W.PURPOSES :

- a/ To promote the exchange of information among social workers and agencies throughout the world.
- b/ To facilitate personal contacts between social workers of different countries and to provide a means of study and discussion of important social questions.
- c/ To promote international cooperation in the field of social work and, where possible, to provide a means of consultation for this purpose.
- d/ To facilitate and promote cooperation between the voluntary and official agencies and, in particular, between the voluntary organisations on the one hand, and the U.N. and its various specialised agencies on the other.

Membership.

- a/ Constituent Members : Consisting of representatives of the various National Committees.
- b/ Provisional Members (representatives of countries where National Committees are not yet established but which wish to cooperate with the Conference pending the establishment of a proper National Body).
- c/ Associate Members, International Voluntary Agencies engaged in social work and which wish to be associated with the Conference.
- d/ Observer Members, Representatives of U.N. Committees or Agencies or inter-governmental bodies which desire a liaison with the Conference.
- e/ Honorary Life Members / Consisting of individuals who have performed outstanding service for the Conference.

Management.

of the Conference shall be in the hands of a Council and of an Executive Board to be elected by the Council.

Council shall consist of :

- a/ A representative of each National Committee.
- b/ A representative appointed by each Associate Member.
- c/ The Officers of the Conference as follows :

President
Vice- President
Treasurer-General
Secretary -General
Assistant Secretaries.

The council will normally meet once a year and will be responsible for the formulation and execution of policy, the election of Officers, and for finance.

Executive Board : The council shall appoint annually an Executive Board to which it will delegate the detailed management of the affairs of the Conference.

The Executive Board shall consist of not more than twelve persons. In addition, the Officers of the Conference shall be members of the Board.

NATIONAL COMMITTEES.

The Conference shall leave to each cooperating country the freedom to determine the precise constitution of the National Committee, save for the general requirements that each National Committee shall, as far as possible, be widely representative of social work in its country.

Each National Co-operating Committee will be responsible for the finance of its own activities and will be required to make a financial contribution / as determined each year by the Council / to the work of the I.C. as a whole. Each National Committee will endeavour to keep the I.C. informed of the major developments in social work in its country and to provide for effective representation at meetings of the Conference.

April, 1947.