

My name is Ibrahim A Khalafalla from Egypt. I am a dedicated hard worker who is voluntarily devoted many efforts in improving social work profession and education not only in Egypt but also in Africa, Arab countries in North Africa and Middle East over the last decades.

I am willing to consolidate my experiences and bridging the knowledge of social work challenges in Egypt, Arab world and Africa to benefit all African.

Africa is an ancient continent that entail many ethnicities, cultures, spoken languages and diversities. Therefore, there are many challenges for the social work practice in Africa. There are huge differences in language and culture for the north of Africa and western, central, eastern and south parts of Africa.

The challenges are recognized by poor income, lack of facilities and office accommodation per capita, poor infrastructure and lack of modern communications and difficulty of transport especially in remote areas. Furthermore, the prevalence of some communicable diseases in certain African countries such as HIV has imperative social aspects. In this context the social work atmosphere is extremely difficult for social educators and workers and hence affecting the social service provided to many Africans.

Despite of these challenges, many NNGOs with limited resources are trying to help to fill the gap and provide social support in sometimes absence of the role of government. For example, the difficult work atmosphere in sub-Saharan Africa and other remote areas.

I hope to work with and through IFSW to ensure the goals of IFSW are implemented in our precious continent Africa.

Although the social work practice has no political agenda and offers equality and improvement of social aspects to everyone, unfortunately, it can be affected in Africa by different governmental policies and political agenda especially lack of transparency, corruption and inequality.

I have here to emphasize that the success of social work profession in Africa depend on sincerity of our genuinely Nobel message to provide and support best possible social service to all nations and inhabitants of Africa ensuring social justice no matter of color, religion, race, gender, age, or ethnicity of people.

It is of paramount importance to recognize the social worker and social work educator role in Africa in order to provide successful service.

The socioeconomic situation and complex social problems in Africa presents a major challenge for the social work organizations and at the same time for social work education and practice. Therefore, it is worthwhile to establish a network for support of social work profession and sustainable development in Africa in particular in affiliation with IFSW.

I have the acumen through my extensive national and international work experience to employ best evidence-based academic experience of social work practice and social work education as well as sustainable development in Africa.

Finally, I am committed and strong advocate for the IFSW goals:

- To encourage co-operation between social workers of all countries;
- To provide means for discussion and the exchange of ideas and experience; through meetings, study visits, research projects, exchanges, publications and other methods of communication;
- To establish and maintain relationships with, and presents and promotes the views of social work organizations and their members to international bodies relevant to social development and welfare;
- To recognize that social work's common goals transcend borders and that a global voice benefits the profession, and most important, the people it serves;
- To organize and facilitate conferences; international symposia and biennial;
- To develop and publishes policy statements to guide social work practice worldwide;
- To advocate for the protection of human rights of practicing social workers;
- To provide consultation to the United Nations on issues of human development and human rights.

Ibrahim Ahmed Ezz El-Din Abdalla Khalafalla

Professor and Head of Department of

Community Development and Organization

High Institute of Social Work, 6 October University, Giza, Egypt

-Vice President of General Syndicate of Social Professions in Egypt.

- General Secretary Arab League of Social Workers, Cairo, Egypt.