

# DRFAT MINUTES of the GENERAL MEETING, SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA JUNE 2016

International Federation of Social Workers Fédération Internationale des Travailleurs Sociaux  
Federación Internacional de Trabajadores Sociales

## GENERAL MEETING SEOUL

24th June 2016 from 9am to 6pm and 25<sup>th</sup> June 2014 from 9am to 4.30pm

### Translation

Alba Rozalen and René Schegg provided translation to Spanish

### Countries Present

Aoteroa/New Zealand, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Costa Rica (proxy), Denmark, Dominican Rep (proxy), Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Grenada (proxy), Hong Kong, Iceland (proxy), India, Ireland, Japan, Kenya (proxy), Macau, Malaysia, Nicaragua, Norway, Palestine, Peru, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Romania, Russia, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, Thailand, UK, Uruguay, USA, Zimbabwe.

The President of the Korean Association of Social Workers (KASW) Mr Sea-Moon Ryu provided a welcome address to all the delegates, expressing deep appreciation for joining with the Korean social workers.

The Senior Vice President KASW provided an overview of the history of social work in Korea, referring to a booklet “Hands-in-Hands with Social Workers” provided to every delegate.

Ruth Stark pointed out that we had a full discussion on the Global Agenda and its role in creating sustainable communities – she thanked the Korean hosts for their hard work in hosting the World Conference, and appreciated the opportunity to learn and listen from our colleagues here about their problems and share experiences from around the world.

### 1.1. Opening of the General Meeting

IFSW President Ruth Stark opened the General Meeting 2016. She pointed out that English and Spanish interpretation is provided and the President of the Korean Association will provide a welcome from the local social work association.

### 1.2. Roll call of member organizations

Rory Truell, Secretary-General of IFSW welcomed everyone to the meeting since we last met in Melbourne in 2014. He conducted the traditional roll-call with country members and distributed voting cards.

### 1.3. Introductions, including observer organizations

The Secretary-General welcomed delegates and introduced the executive committee.

#### **1.4. Voting rights at the General Meeting**

It was noted that countries present and correctly paid-up should use their voting card, one vote per country. The tradition is to write the name of the country on the back of the card.

#### **1.5. Appointment of Secretary(ies) for the meeting**

Nigel Hall was appointed as Secretary for the meeting.

#### **1.6. Appointment of Parliamentarian**

Morel Caissie was appointed as Parliamentarian (Later David Jones stepped in to the role when the Constitution review was being presented by Morel Cassie).

#### **1.7. Work structure and procedures during the meeting**

This was agreed. Simultaneous translation – English to Spanish

Live streaming occurred for the second time.

A memory stick containing all the papers relevant for the meeting were distributed with one stick for each country present.

#### **1.8. Appointment of teller(s) for the meeting**

The following tellers were appointed: Gabriele Stark (Germany) Noel Muridzo (Zimbabwe) and Karen Healy (Australia) were appointed as tellers.

#### **1.9. Lunch breaks, etc**

This was agreed

#### **1.10. Approval of agenda and timetable**

Agenda and timetable for the meeting were agreed.

#### **2.0. Minutes from the IFSW General Meeting in Melbourne 2014**

These were endorsed as read and agreed by the members. An amendment was Karen Healy's name which had been misspelled.

Motion to approve the minutes

Moved: Australia

Seconded: Germany

The motion carried unanimously.

#### **3.0. New Applications for Membership**

Secretary General, Rory Truell spoke to the three new applications for membership:

*Europe:* Moldova and Poland

*Asia-Pacific:* Lebanon

No representatives from these countries were available .at the meeting, but all candidate countries are endorsed by the Regional President and the Secretary-General. Austria raised a general question on whether we are accepting members who will not be able to pay for succeeding years and asked if there was any strategy to deal with this. The Secretary General

replied that this is not a bar to membership, and that strategies are being in looking into to ensure that all members are secure that their fees can be up to date .

### **(1) Moldova**

Motion to accept Moldova into membership

Moved: Georgia

Seconded: Austria

The motion carried unanimously.

### **(2) Lebanon**

Motion to accept Lebanon into membership

Moved: Norway

Seconded: Austria

The motion carried unanimously.

### **(3) Poland**

Motion to accept Poland into membership

Moved: Portugal

Seconded: Switzerland

The motion carried unanimously.

It was noted that there are three other applications in process to be voted on by postal ballot after being advised further on constitutional and other issues.

## **4.0. President's Report**

President Ruth Stark delivered her report to the General Meeting, noting that IFSWs network is growing with demonstrated increased activity at global and regional levels.

She expressed appreciation for the voluntary activities at global and regional levels leading to the Second Global Agenda report. She thanked our Treasurer, Eva Ponce de Leon and Alba Rozalen who, supported by BASW, helps her with her administration and translation, Pascal Rudin our administrator and she thanked Dr Rory Truell for his competent and efficient leadership, noting that he has earned the accolade of Professorship at Durham University in recognition of his achievements.

There were no questions to the report.

## **5.0. Secretary-General's Report**

Dr Rory Truell delivered his report to the meeting, pointing out that IFSW acts as if it were itself a social worker, and it is this expressed action of solidarity that is steering us successfully forward. In particular Rory noted that IFSW is attracting more country-level members, and many more individual members in the Friends programme, achieving enormous global expressions of unity and actions on World Social Work Day and in response to key political crises. He noted that IFSW creates a professional confidence that defines our roles as social workers and makes explicate the profession's significant and unique contributions to the whole of society. Since the meeting in Melbourne 11 new country members will have been admitted, and 8 associations entering

into coordinating agreements to meet IFSW requirements.  
Rory thanked a variety of members that make the Federation work.

## **6.0. Regional reports**

These reports were available with conference papers provided on the memory stick and were taken as read in advance of the meeting. The floor was opened to ask any questions, but with none forthcoming were accepted without further question of comment.

Motion to accept these reports

Moved: Zimbabwe

Seconded: Iceland

The motion carried unanimously.

## **7.0 Finance 2014 & 2015 Report**

Rory Truell presented the financial report, which was also on the memory stick. Rory informed the meeting that we made a surplus in 2015-16 as we had good reserves and this is even better now, with 80,000 Swiss francs surplus in 2014 and 20,000 Swiss francs in 2015. Friends subscriptions led to a 12,000 Swiss franc increase in 2014. Rory noted that extending this programme could be a very good way to increase resources given that globally there are 3 million social workers.

We are improving ways of collecting fees, such as policing voting at General and Regional meetings, linked to payment. We are also incurring less expenditure, for example a reduction in secretariat expenses and developing a more automated process with regard to membership and reminders of payment of fees due. He has recommended to The executive to invest more money into regional development.

We spent 20,000 Swiss francs on two symposia this year – one on social work responses to austerity (costing 5000 Swiss francs), and the other on the political crisis forcing people into refugee and displacement status (costing 3000 Swiss francs), hosted by our Austrian colleagues in Vienna. These demonstrated the relevance of basic social work assessment in dealing with crises. We will invest another 20,000 Swiss francs each year in any region to support similar initiatives.

Rory concluded that signed audited statements are provided and thanked everyone for their contributions, particularly Eva Ponce de Leon, our recent Treasurer, and Fiona Robertson Treasurer who had been Treasurer for the previous 12 years.

### *Questions and comments from the floor*

Sweden noted that they were happy to see this improvement but concerned that Eva has not been able to exercise her position as described and this is a concern for the new Treasurer. They are pleased with new Symposia and hope other regions will be able to have their own symposia. Rory replied that Eva had been provided with all the relevant documents in a timely fashion and

invited to meet with the accountant and review the accounts in 2015 and that she came to Switzerland in 2016 to review all the material which she found to be in full order. Unfortunately she was not here to answer directly today because of the ill health of her husband but had sent a message to be conveyed to the General Meeting that she was satisfied with the financial arrangements of the Federation.

Austria suggested there be greater transparency on the relationship between membership fees and our income and are concerned that larger countries pay such a low membership fee. All countries should give correct payment based on their membership. Rory indicated that he maintains a close relationship with regional Presidents over their membership status, but there is due respect paid to sensitivity over publishing all material and we need use our social work principles in being respectful of our members' dignity, and providing some confidentiality. Germany indicated that they would prefer greater transparency with this audience, as this would help them to identify which countries need support within the European region.

A question was asked about Regional Funding for 2017. The meeting was informed that the Executive are developing a new system of supporting the regions and members will be informed as soon as possible about how to apply for the regional funding in 2017

Australia asked three questions about the budget. The first was in relation to the staffing costs which are projected to increase from 160,000 Swiss francs to 225,000 over 5 years. Rory noted that we reduced staffing from 1.8 to 1.4. This is not sufficient for our needs and the executive has agreed an increase in the staffing budget. A plan is being developed.

The second question related to the rental of the office noting that this amount could not rent a shoebox in Australia. Then rental of 7500 dollars – what does that rent? Rory explained that he has managed to rent a cheap 'shoebox' in Basel. Also a small room for where the archives material is kept.

The third question related the increase in the translation costs. Rory explained that the costs are higher in the years when there is a General meeting. As the federation grows there are more demands for communication in other languages as well as the official 3 languages.

Uruguay raised a question about regional funding which is very important for the development of the regions. Due to lack of funding they would not have been able to have a regional meeting last year, but thanks to the Puerto Rico Association were able to, with both Morel and Rory presenting to a conference. They feel that 40,000 francs is not sufficient for these regional projects. The global secretariat however has organized conferences in Europe which can be seen as part of the regional development and regional funding. Uruguay proposed that we have a commission on how to develop the regions further to ensure greater equity between regions. Rory indicated that regional funding is very important and pleased that we have been able to double regional funding. The symposia, which are multi-regional were funded from a different source to regional funding. The proposal for a commission can be considered by the new executive committee.

Azerbaijan wondered which issues were covered in the symposia, and a discussion on the meaning of austerity, working in authoritarian countries and particularly in armed conflict situations followed. It was agreed that there needed to be more support for social workers working in these conditions and Ruth indicated that the next Executive work plan would consider the question of developing a solidarity fund.

Austria pointed out that it is a problem for many countries to pay their fees. Austria indicated their willingness to pay a voluntary amount such as 300 euros to assist associations in difficulty and invited other countries to also do this as well in order to avoid expelling countries who are not able to pay. The USA supported this offer, indicating that those countries who can should pay an additional contribution provided that the helped countries pay a minimal contribution and plan on how to deal with their arrears. Rory indicated that the more that countries can help others the better, and that we must not let the financial capacity be a barrier to joining IFSW. We must be inclusive.

Motion to accept the financial report

Moved: USA

Seconded: UK and Germany

The motion carried unanimously.

### **7.1 Budget**

The budget for 2016 to 2018 was presented. It was noted that the new executive will be meeting after this and would include provision to discuss this budget.

### **7.2 Appointment of Auditor**

BDO Ltd., Kirchbergstrasse 215, 3401 Burgdorff, Switzerland

Motion to approve the auditor: Ghana

Seconded: Switzerland

The motion carried unanimously.

## **8. Constitution Review Report**

In the 2014 General Meeting a resolution was passed stating the need to review our Constitution and By-laws. The constitutional review process which involved two extensive consultation rounds has now been completed and the final draft was presented and voted on at this General Meeting. The constitutional revision had been prepared for this meeting by Morel Caissie who had prepared a PowerPoint outlining the changes, and Daniel Asiedu. Two motions for amendments to the constitution had been received.

Ruth suggested the process for dealing with the constitutional amendments and called for a motion to approve discussion of the changes.

Motion to discuss the changes

Proposed Denmark

Seconded Switzerland

The motion carried unanimously.

### 8.1. Second amendment on Aims of the Profession

Motion from the British Association of Social Workers: Change 'partnerships' section (Art 4 of the Constitution) to say: PROACTIVELY Building INTERNAL AND external partnerships with people who use social work services and their wider communities; to ensure that social services recognize people's inherent strengths and build on them to meet INDIVIDUAL, FAMILY AND community aspirations.

Motion to approve the amendment

Moved: UK

Seconded: New Zealand

The motion carried unanimously.

### 8.2 Motion for amendment put by Denmark (amendments in red)

#### Art. 4 AIMS OF THE FEDERATION

"Social workers make a unique, **professional** and critical contribution to society. They facilitate sustainable social outcomes that enable people and their communities to reach their potential for this and future generations.

IFSW supports social workers to achieve this through the following aims:

- **Partnerships** Building external partnerships with people who use social work services and their wider communities; to ensure that social services recognise people's inherent strengths and build on them to meet community aspirations. **Building partnerships to work for global solidarity, also partnerships with other professionals and within IFSW.**
- **Action** Facilitating international and regional cooperation for shared learning and joint action.
- **Policy** Developing ethical statements and policies that enhance best social work practice.

**Advocacy** Advocating at global, regional and national levels for social justice, and individual, group, civic and cultural human rights. **Advocating professional social work values, standards, ethics, human rights, recognition, training and working conditions.**

In further discussion Denmark added that there is need to focus on ourselves as professionals when considering the aims of IFSW – i.e. there is need to bring in a professional perspective of advocating for professional social work values, standards, and ethics.

Motion to add the focus on profession

Moved: Denmark

Seconded: Portugal

The motion carried unanimously.

### 8.3. Motion in favour of the amendment put forward by the UK

Motion proposed: UK

Seconded: Israel

For the motion: 5

Against the motion: 27

Abstentions: 1

The amendment was not carried.

The initial motion that the Treasurer can be nominated by the Executive Committee was still on the table. Austria, Germany, and the general opinion of the meeting supported the idea of the Treasurer being elected by the General Meeting, as the feeling was the Treasurer has the ultimate responsibility and should be directly answerable to the General Meeting.

#### **8.4. Amendments / clarifications to the motion on the floor**

##### **Article 14(f) of the reviewed constitution**

**“The executive committee shall elect one of the representatives of the regions (President or deputy) to serve as Treasurer.**

A discussion followed, led by Sweden and supported by several other countries, that they feel the constitution relating to the election of the Treasurer should stay as it is, and are therefore in favour of keeping the status quo. Denmark felt strongly that there should be an elected person responsible to the General Meeting even though Rory explained that the executive as a whole is responsible, not a single person. Morel pointed out that ultimately there are signing officers and whether or not the Treasurer is elected by the General Meeting or nominated by the Executive Committee they still have the same responsibilities.

**The motion proposed was not to accept this amendment. It was moved by Ghana, Seconded by Uruguay with one abstention and the motion was carried.**

#### **8.4. Motion on duties of a Secretary-General**

Puerto Rico raised this motion noting that they have confidence in the Secretary-General's work. However they felt that Article 12 on the Secretariat should remain in the constitution (see below).

##### *Art. 12 SECRETARIAT*

*a) There shall be a secretariat, consisting of a Secretary General and such other staff as may be needed and approved by the Executive Committee on recommendation of the Secretary General. b) The Secretary General shall be appointed under contract by the Executive Committee.*

*c) The Secretary General shall report to and carry out duties assigned by the General Meeting, the Executive Committee and the President. She or he shall attend each Executive Committee, and General Meeting.*

*d) The Secretary General shall be entitled to attend, as a non-voting participant, all Federation Committees and other bodies established under the terms of these Articles and the Federation's By Laws. She or he shall be entitled to copies of all papers produced for such bodies.*

#### **Rather than the new Article 9**



Art. 9 SECRETARY GENERAL

*a) The Secretary General shall be appointed by the Executive Committee.*

*b) The Secretary General shall report to and carry out duties assigned by the General Meeting, the Executive Committee and the President. She or he shall attend all Executive Committee meetings as well the General Meeting as an ex-officio member of such committees.*

Motion to retain the original Article 12

Motion Proposed: Puerto Rico

Seconded: Portugal

In favour: 16

Against 11

Abstentions 3

The motion did not carry.

(Note: Out of possible 37 votes (i.e. those present today), 25 would need to be in favour, as there needs to be a 66% majority vote to amend the constitution. This has not been reached and therefore the vote has not carried).

**8.5. Motion for new Article 19 under Budgeting and Financial Reports:**

*“The Secretary-General shall in conjunction with the Treasurer carry out the following responsibilities”:* (listing of the financial responsibilities as in the revised Constitution)

Moved: Puerto Rico

Seconded: Portugal

In favour: 28

Against 3

Abstentions: 3

The motion carried.

**8.6. Motion: “that the current name of the person currently called the Regional Deputy should be renamed as Regional Vice President”**

This is an amendment to the new Article 14(k) No 5 to change the wording “*appointment of new Regional Deputy duly nominated by the same region*” to “*appointment of new Regional Vice President duly nominated by the same region*”.

Moved: Germany

Seconded: Sweden

The motion carried unanimously.

**8.7. Motion: The Executive Committee shall meet at least once in each calendar year. It shall be convened in any suitable place** (concerning Article 16a – to have a direct face-to-face meeting).

Moved: Sweden

Seconded: Portugal

The motion carried unanimously.

### **8.8. By-Laws**

**Motion: to maintain the three official languages and not to remove these from the by-laws.**

The rationale for the proposed change to the by-laws is to make the option of languages more inclusive. The point for the proposed changes to the by-laws is that it empowers the Executive to be responsive to need depending on where we are working in the world. It was not to stop using the Spanish or French languages but there may be an option to use other languages.

Clarification was sought regarding what does an 'official language' mean and the consequences of not having them. In 1956 IFSW adopted the same official languages as the United Nations, but it may be preferable for IFSW to be able to be more flexible in using other languages. However an official language does carry expectations that translation should be available in that language. The motion is to maintain the three official languages as previously specified in the by-laws.

Moved: Puerto Rico

Seconded: Norway/Romania

In favour: 33

Against: 4

Abstentions: 2

The motion carried.

## **9. Motion to adopt the proposed Constitution**

The constitution was approved unanimously with all the amendments we have accepted.

## **10. Policies**

### **10.1 New policies**

#### **Policy 1**

**IFSW Policy on Social Work assessment and services being conducted in countries other than where the social worker resides and is qualified to practice.**

This paper contains some very clear and important recommendations about social workers working across borders and the development of this policy was assisted by International Social Services (ISS). There are issues about the legal basis on which social workers carry out assessments. Social workers often need to be registered in countries in order to conduct assessments and this can cause problems when moving across borders. This can place the social worker at physical risk, but this may also increase risks to the communities and families they are working with. Important issues are addressed in the paper about the context within which social workers practice and the concept and principles of social work.

Some key issues highlighted from this debate which may need to be considered further in respect of this paper are:

- Should there be reference to ISS in this paper?
- What is the relationship between professional social work and government regulation?
- What is the relationship between social workers employed by NGOs and government regarding social work assessments, particularly concerning child protection, when those social workers operate across borders?
- What happens if social workers from other countries are not accepted to undertake assessments?
- Should there always be joint assessments between local and visiting social workers
- What are the differing legal requirements of countries and how does this affect social work across borders?
- Who is best placed to undertake assessments (i.e. local social workers or external social workers who may have particular skills)
- Should this paper remain as guidelines rather than policy, and if a policy paper should it contain guidelines for social work across borders?

Following extensive discussion, it was agreed that further work be done to the paper and to bring the policy back to the General Meeting in Ireland in 2018.

Moved: Germany

Seconded: USA

The motion carried unanimously.

## **Policy 2**

### **IFSW Policy on Social Work and International Trade Agreements**

This paper was developed by Salome Namicheishvili and Rose Henderson and highlights human rights and social justice in relation to trade which are important themes which cross all regions. Huge corporations are driving these trade agreements which have implications for the wellbeing of the people we work with. Following general discussion there was the recommendation to do some further work on this to include the situation with BREXIT / Europe and also to take account of Latin America and Caribbean countries regarding labour rights. Additionally, to look at the legal and partnership agreements between the countries and regions. It was noted that decisions and discussions are moving faster than we are and there is some urgency in developing policy in this area. We need to consider what are the actions and the people we need to influence given the fast moving pace of this issue. IFSW has been very active in the Social Platform on this issue.

It was generally felt important to have a policy paper on this issue now, which can be subject to change later if needed.

Motion to support this paper

Moved: Romania

Seconded: New Zealand

Yes: 33

Abstentions: 3

The motion carried.

### **Policy 3**

#### **The Role of Social Work in Social Protection Systems: The Universal Right to Social Protection**

This paper was developed by Klaus and Rory. There was strong support for this policy paper which had developed from a motion made in 2014 at Melbourne. Comments were that it was excellent, precise and short. The only addition suggested by Nigel was bringing in reference to IFSW's own Statement on Human Rights.

Motion to accept this paper

Moved: Austria

Seconded: Germany

The motion carried unanimously.

#### **11. Report on joint work with IASSW on the Statement of Ethical Principles.**

Ruth explained that this item is probably as important as the global Definition of Social Work and the reference point for how we as professionals develop our policy, practice and thinking. The joint statement on ethics has been extremely useful as a reference point guiding us forward in new challenges. It is up for review because when it was written 10 years ago it had a review date for this time. It is a jointly owned and developed with the IASSW and it is being reviewed jointly to ensure teaching and education and practice have the same ethical principles. We have been working on this for 2 years and we had hoped we would have a comprehensive report on the review process. We hope it will be available in next three months. IFSW has the chair of the Ethics Commission and five regional representatives.

Gabriele acts as the Europe regional representative and said she finds the review process confusing – between the IFSW, the regions and the schools of social work – and this needs further elaboration. Silvana congratulated Dr Gonzalez who is responsible for the ethical codes in Latin America. She noted that ethics cannot be understood outside historical and political contexts because we need more than abstract meanings. This is complex and provides a very interesting review of how we understand ethics and we need to continue the discussions and reflect the differences between countries and regions.

Rory noted that the next steps will be a meeting for those involved in the ethics work from IFSW and IASSW. He noted that it is always a challenge to work on these issues across regions and this is made more so when working with another organization. We want to get a framework for what members think and get a consultation process before we get too far into the review. Ruth stressed that one of the most important things the members can do is to give examples of using the statement of ethical principles in your respective countries. She requested that examples from the last 5 years be sent to the Secretariat and these will feed into the working group. She

noted that we are looking for examples of when you have used the current Statement, what you have used it for, how it has been used and how you can help us create that consultation.

## **12. Report on the Global Agenda of Social Work and Social Development**

This was taken as read – no further discussion as this was discussed fully at the Symposium.

## **13. Regional Meetings**

These meetings took place at the end of the first day.

## **14. Regional Groups for Elections**

The meeting broke up into regional groups and David Jones as Elections Officer then met with each group. David noted that it was previously decided that the Treasurer would be elected by the General Meeting and would return to that later. The Ambassador, Sue Dvorak-Peck, accompanied David for probity.

## **15. Election results announced by Elections Officer**

- Noel Muridzo, African Regional President
- Vacancy for the Vice President who will serve for 2 years (this will be done later by postal ballot)
- Ana Lima Fernandez, European Regional President who will serve for 4 years
- Darrell P Wheeler, North American Regional President
- Jan Christianson Woods, North American Vice President
- Larry Alicea Rodriguez, Vice President Latin America & Caribbean
- Rose Henderson, Vice President Asia-Pacific for 4 years

### **15.1 Election of Global Treasurer**

Nomination papers have been sent already for Dunja Gharwal. Dunja was accepted by acclamation and will serve for 4 years.

### **15.2 Recognition of Executive Members Leaving**

Ruth noted that there were 4 people needing honouring at this stage for their contribution to IFSW. Firstly the outgoing African President Daniel Asiedu who particularly helped in redesigning the constitution; secondly Morel Caissie the previous President of North America and Parliamentarian, who has also helped in re-designing the Constitution; thirdly the outgoing Europe regional President Cristina Martins; and fourthly the outgoing President of Latin America & Caribbean Rodolfo Martinez. Eva Ponce de Leon, our outgoing Treasurer has been unable to be with us due to the ill-health of her husband. We will be writing to her to express our appreciation.

## **16. Report UN representatives and projects**

The two UN representatives present from Vienna and Geneva provided their reports. Ruth indicated that following social work day in the UN in April 2016 we have had some good discussions with the national association in the USA about how we can work with the team who work so hard at the UN. In the last 2 years we have tried to ensure there is more coordination amongst our UN representatives. This has enabled the work on Social Work Day at the UN being

on displaced people and refugees. Klaus Kuhne apologized for the lateness of the report but indicated he was prepared to answer any questions. In the event no questions were asked. The UN teams were give a round of applause.

## **17. Motions for General Meeting**

### **17.1 New Motions**

**(number) Motion on child labour: Moved by Japan**

*“That the General Meeting acknowledges that in all corners of the world, child labour is an unacceptable exploitation of the Rights of Children and that such exploitation seriously and negatively impacts on their long term health and wellbeing. We call upon IFSW to develop a position or policy statement against child labour policies and practices.”*

Mariko explained the background to this motion. The paper has arisen from a pre-conference workshop entitled “*Promoting the Rights of Children: Child Labour and Children on the Move*”, at the Asia Pacific Conference in October 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand. The workshop approved the paper to go forward to this meeting of the IFSW. Speakers from throughout Asia-Pacific spoke to the nature of child labour and its negative impact on the child’s dignity and development. The speakers noted that governments were not adequately responding to the causes and impact of child labour, while many global corporations are benefiting from this which is unacceptable. Areas of child labour include: factory work, construction, domestic services and in the sex industry. This is a major concern. This proposal puts forward that in all areas of the world, the exploitation of the child through child labour is unacceptable and we call upon IFSW to develop a position on this.

Moved: Japan

Seconded: Romania

The motion carried unanimously.

### **(Number) Motion to endorse and approve the draft terms of reference for the Indigenous Social Workers’ Caucus Committee**

Greetings from Aotearoa/New Zealand were made by Miriama Scott who thanked Morel Caissie and Rose Henderson for forwarding the work of the Traditional Social Workers’ Forum and following up on the motion to form the Indigenous Social Workers Caucus Committee which was supported and passed by the IFSW General Assembly in 2014 at Melbourne, Australia. This motion is to enable the establishment of the Indigenous Social Workers’ Caucus Committee and, by presenting it here, to address any unanticipated issues and/or provide further clarification of any processes that may be required. The General Meeting accepted the motion very positively.

Moved: Aotearoa/New Zealand  
Seconded: Ghana  
Seconded Ghana  
The motion carried unanimously.

### **Motion to create an International Trade Agreement Working Group**

This motion recommends the creation of an IFSW International Trade Agreement Working Group. This motion believes that as members of the international social work community it is our obligation to advocate against systems (both locally and internationally) that work against the basic human rights of marginalized populations, who are often our clients, which these substantial free trade agreements are liable to do. This Working Group would draw membership of local Social Work activists from the countries negotiating the TPP and the TTIP. Questions were invited. USA expressed concern that the language be altered to enable the working group to have capacity to be more flexible.

Moved: Aotearoa/New Zealand  
Seconded: Romania  
The motion carried unanimously.

### **16.2. Archives report**

Fiona Robertson, IFSW Archivist, presented a PowerPoint report on the work undertaken in the Archives to the General Meeting. She noted how initial funding for this had been provided by the Friends programme and also thanked Nigel Hall for his assistance in developing the Archives. Ana Radulescu thanked Fiona for this and this helped them do their own 50-year Jubilee in Europe. David Jones mentioned the link to the Social Work History Network, which has published material from our Archives. Sue Dvorak Peck noted that this project has been a labour of love and thanked Fiona for preserving our heritage while Ruth also thanked Fiona, noting that our archive is a rich source of information that is not available anywhere else in the world.

### **16.3. Forthcoming Regional Conferences**

- 28-30 May 2017 European Conference Iceland. Marginalization and Social Work in a Changing Society
- 25-29 October 2017 24<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Joint Regional Social Work Conference. Challenges and Responsibilities
- July 2017 Latin America & Caribbean conference – details to be provided on website. Topics will include ethical dilemmas and the Statement of Ethics, and the problem of migrants and refugees in the Latin American continent.
- June 2017 Africa Zambia (Livingstone) theme around Global Agenda.

### 16.5. World Conference 2018

Ireland is the next venue for Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development from 4-7 July 2018. The conference theme will be: *Environmental and Community Sustainability: Human Solutions in Evolving Societies*.

#### **16.6. Call for bids for 2020**

Bids are now open for the 2020 Conference. There will be tripartite meetings over the next few days where possible bids will be discussed.

#### **18.0 Any other business**

The Global Agenda has not been covered in this meeting as discussions occurred at the Symposium - all comments will go the regional observatories.

#### **19.0 Awards**

Two people were honoured with the Andrew Apostol-Mouravieff medal. This award is made to honour distinguished members of our profession.

##### **Malvina Ponce de Leon**

The first award was made to Malvina Ponce de Leon from Chile. She has devoted her life to social work across the world, to children across Latin America, and is an esteemed academic who has contributed to social work thinking over many years. Malvina had to leave Chile under Pinochet and in exile herself helped many Latin American migrants. She is 80 years old and is still teaching. The award was accepted by the President of the Chilean Association on her behalf Chile who noted that this is in recognition of the fight of social workers against aggression, dictatorship and poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean. She noted that many people have been murdered and tortured by Pinochet and still we work without rest.

##### **Sue Dworak-Peck**

The second award was made to Sue Dworak-Peck, previously President of IFSW. Fiona Robertson said it was such a privilege to present this award and she paid tribute to Sue, noting that she has received many honours and awards in the USA for her contribution to social work, had previously set up the IFSW Friends and had provided support and guidance to IFSW leadership over many years as the IFSW Ambassador. Fiona also honoured Sue's late husband John Peck who provided such support to Sue and was a great loss. In reply Sue congratulated her fellow awardee and acknowledged that the previous person who received this award is standing here on stage with her – Fiona Robertson. Sue said that receiving this award in honour of Andy has great meaning for her, personally and professionally. She noted that social work is an integral part of her life and that she is very proud to be a social worker and hoped her contribution has been, and will be, to lead change through our associations. Sue said that she is only one of many social workers who deserves this award today. She acknowledged and thanked President Ruth Stark and Secretary-General Rory Truell for their support to her.

#### **20/ Date and place of the next General Meeting**

July 2018, Dublin, Ireland.



**Closing remarks**

Ruth thanked everyone for coming to this meeting, and contributing to the work of the Federation. She noted that we all need to be able think internationally about our roles, emphasizing that social work is critical to healthy economies and political stability. As we go forward into this third pillar of the Global Agenda, we need to recognize we are in this together and we need to find solutions together. Ruth thanked our interpreters, the Korean Association in helping us to organize the meeting, all those who have contributed and particularly Dr Rory Truell for all his hard work! Fiona Robertson thanks Ruth for all her contributions and the chairing of the General Meeting leading many successful outcomes.

The meeting concluded with Ruth leading a group action song: Auld Lang Syne.

The meeting closed at 16.30.

---