

Good day Colleagues,

This is my first opportunity to connect with you, and therefore I want to let you know that I am honoured to have been elected by you to serve as the President of IASSW for the next four years.

Firstly, I would like to express my gratitude to Annamaria Campanini for her dedicated work in serving two terms as President of IASSW. Under her leadership, IASSW has achieved many milestones. Annamaria, you have firmly handed me the baton to continue the work of IASSW, and I look forward to our continued collaboration.

As I begin my term as President, I humbly acknowledge the significant responsibility that comes with this role. However, I am reassured by the commitment and efforts of colleagues across the globe who are dedicated to developing IASSW together.

I am of the view that IASSW derives its strength from the active participation and engagement of its members and partners at global, regional and local levels to ensure that social work is globally recognised as a frontline role player in co-building inclusive social transformation.

IASSW addresses global issues that are relevant across different regions and countries. While schools of social work join and develop regional associations for social work education, it is equally important for these associations to support and develop social work on an international level.

This requires an intentional commitment from all of us to collectively develop relevant social work education programmes, research, and scholarship to efficiently prepare social workers to respond to global injustices and violations of human rights through policy and advocacy.

As we approach the centenary celebration of IASSW in 2028, let us re-visit the meaning of international social work and our role in responding to a world in crisis, while considering its implications for social work research, education, practice and policy. A strengthened partnership between IASSW, IFSW and ICSW can elevate

social work's visibility as a global actor in building an inclusive, just, peaceful, and sustainable world.

I am looking forward to working with you to continue building on the dynamic work of IASSW and further shaping its agenda and actions over the next four years.

Greetings, until we meet again.

Antoinette Lombard
IASSW President
4 July 2024