

Vision Statement for Janestic M. Twikirize

I have a strong belief in international and regional collaboration, networking, and collective efforts to promote excellence in social work education and the social work as a respected profession and academic discipline. Therefore, my vision for the International Association of Schools of Social Work is of a collaborative organisation, with a strong and active membership base that cuts across different regions of the world, where institutions work together to promote excellence in social work education everywhere.

The IASSW has made tremendous progress in the last decade to strengthen membership, intensify capacity building programmes, especially through the establishment of regional resource centres to augment the capacity building events during board meetings, provide access to international partnership projects, and to network with other global organisations including the UN. However, the level of international collaborations, networks and mutual support amongst member institutions needs further strengthening.

I envision an association where members reach out to others and mutually support each other through academic partnerships, co-production of knowledge, innovation in social work pedagogy, and joint advocacy at the regional and international levels. It is also essential that the historically underrepresented regions are actively drawn into the association to have an authentically global association for our profession. To achieve this requires not just the effort of the board members but the active involvement of the association's membership. Therefore, it is critical that the IASSW, working with and through the regional associations, intensifies activities and programmes that bring members together for mutual support and mentorship. We also need to increase the visibility of our organisation and its influence at the global level as one way of strengthening social work advocacy and its influence in different regions.