



World Library and Information Congress: 79th IFLA General Conference and Assembly

Draft minutes of the IFLA General Assembly held on Wednesday 21 & Thursday 22 August 2013, in Exhibition Hall 404-405 of the Suntec Singapore International Convention & Exhibition Centre, 1 Raffles Boulevard, Suntec City, Singapore.

1. Opening by the President, Ingrid Parent

The meeting opened at 16.15 on Wednesday 21 August. The President welcomed the members and delegates and thanked them for their attendance at the Congress. She introduced those on stage: Treasurer Donna Scheeder, Secretary General Jennefer Nicholson and Wilma Mossink, Parliamentarian.

Apologies were received from Russell Bowden, Marta Terry and Marianne Scott.

2. Appointment of Tellers

At the request of the President the Secretary General proposed the following persons to serve as tellers for the General Assembly meeting:

Victoria Okojie (Nigeria)

Mijin Kim (Canada)

Kerry Smith (Australia)

Marian Koren (Netherlands)

Loriene Roy (United States of America)

Barbara Schleihagen (Germany)

with Kerry Smith being designated as head teller.

The meeting approved the appointment of the tellers.

3. Establishment of a Quorum

At the time of the meeting a quorum of 63 national and international association members who have paid their fees for 2013 and are not in arrears was required. This represents 50% plus one of national and international association members. 61 members were present.

In accordance with IFLA Statutes clause 11.2.1 business items may be transacted subject to gaining a two-thirds majority of voting members present or represented by proxy at the General Assembly and may be implemented if subsequently endorsed by a meeting of the Governing Board. The meeting proceeded.

4. Adoption of the Agenda

The Secretary General advised that the agenda for the General Assembly meeting was sent to all members in good standing in June, as required by the Statutes.

The agenda was adopted by the meeting.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting, held in Helsinki, Finland, 15 and 16 August 2012

The minutes of the General Assembly meeting held in Helsinki on 15 and 16 August 2012 were adopted.

6. In memoriam of those members who have died during the past year

The Assembly rose for a moment of silence to commemorate those colleagues who passed away since the Congress held in Helsinki and of whose death IFLA had been informed:

Maha Alwan, Lebanon
Keith Cuninghame, United Kingdom
Eric Azgaldov, Russian Federation
Niels Ole Pors, Denmark
Hiroyuki Taya, Japan
Hans Joachim Kuhlmann, Germany

and also other colleagues who have died during the past year.

7. Presentation of the Report of the President

In presenting her report the President Ingrid Parent reflected on the rewarding experience of leading IFLA during the last two years. Her theme throughout her presidency was Libraries – A Force for Change. It is a message she promoted in all her various meetings with library associations and librarians around the world; and to decision makers and officials in various countries; and her message was well received.

A tremendous amount of work had been accomplished throughout the year, and some of the Highlights are:

- developing strong partnerships to ensure that we leverage opportunities and speak with a united voice across our professional communities;
- increasing the multilingual presence of IFLA's seven official languages;
- the development and launch at this WLIC of the IFLA Trend Report, a resource and document which are now available to all IFLA members and are the culmination of a year of planning, meeting, discussing and reflecting on what the information environment holds in store for libraries;
- the second President's meeting on the topic of "Our Digital Futures" at UNAM Mexico City with over 200 participants;
- the signing of an agreement with the Arab Federation of Libraries and Information which will increase our cooperation with the Arabic speaking regions, including translation opportunities, Building Strong Library Associations programme activities and support for copyright advocacy;
- a new funding grant partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (Global Libraries) to support an expanded and regionally focused Building Strong Library Associations programme for three years to August 2016;

The President acknowledged the generous support of the Bibliothèque nationale de France in hosting the Preservation and Conservation International Centre for over 20 years. The PAC core activity will move to IFLA Headquarters as of 1 January 2014. IFLA is very grateful to the BnF for its support of the Centre and for its support for IFLA activities in general.

The President also acknowledged how much more proactive cooperation on shared objectives and programmes is now with CDNL, the Conference of Directors of National Libraries. She thanked the Chair of CDNL, Mr John Tsebe, the Director of the National Library of South Africa, who has worked very hard to further the collaboration between CDNL and IFLA. The President wished him well for his forthcoming retirement.

The President announced that the Governing Board has approved the extension of the contract of Secretary General, Jennefer Nicholson, until the end of May 2016, and commended her on her leadership and management capabilities.

The President thanked the Governing Board for their support, and the commitment of Headquarters staff to sound administration and undertaking creative initiatives with demonstrated actions and results. The President also thanked the WLIC National Committee as our hosts for a stimulating and enjoyable Congress and experience in Singapore.

The full report of the President is available on the IFLA website.

8. Presentation of the Report of the Secretary General

The Secretary General outlined the ambitious programme being undertaken by IFLA through its core activities and Key Initiatives. This included advocacy for access to digital content for libraries and library users through a number of forums such as WIPO, WSIS and the IGF, open access resources, text and data mining, and e-lending issues; capacity building for international library sector leaders development and building strong library associations; the launch of the IFLA Trend Report resource and *Insights* document at the WLIC 2013; the launch of the IFLA Library [repository]; and launch of the French and Spanish websites; the commencement of our project on developing a risk register for certain documentary heritage collections together with the move of the PAC core activity office to IFLA Headquarters. Overall the financial position has so far been managed to minimise the impact of the recessions in the United States and Europe where around 60% of IFLA's members are based.

The Secretary General thanked the outgoing Board for the exemplary way they had worked collaboratively as an international board to achieve the best outcomes for the organisation.

The Secretary General also thanked Christiane Baryla who will be retiring as IFLA PAC director at the end of 2013, and Marietou Diongue Diop who recently retired as manager of the IFLA French Language Centre for Africa for their longstanding commitment to IFLA.

The Secretary General's report was accepted by the General Assembly as presented. There were no questions of the Secretary General regarding her report. The full report of the Secretary General is available on the IFLA website.

9. Presentation of the Annual Accounts by the Treasurer

The Treasurer reported a consolidated surplus for 2012 of EUR183,385, allocated as EUR177,043 for IFLA Headquarters and EUR6,342 for the core activities.

The Treasurer noted that with the new conference company structure IFLA's shareholding is included in the balance sheet, and annual congress result is included in the accounts. The positive result for 2012 has contributed to the surplus in the annual accounts.

The Treasurer spoke about the Board's approach to continuous review and improvement of programmes and activities including in financial management and risk mitigation. This has assisted IFLA in being better able to adapt to external economic impacts and to adjust to changes in income streams associated with this.

The Treasurer thanked IFLA Headquarters staff for their ongoing application to improving income and vigilance over expenditure. She also thanked the Finance Committee for its sound advice.

The Treasurer's report was accepted by the General Assembly as presented. There were no questions of the Treasurer regarding her report. The full report of the Treasurer is available on the IFLA website.

10. Formal announcement of the Results of the Postal Ballot for the Election of President-elect and for places on the Governing Board by the Secretary General

The results of the election for President-elect 2013 – 2015 are:

Donna Scheeder	955
Buhle Mbambo-Thata	721

Donna Scheeder was declared elected.

The results of the general election for 10 members of the Governing Board 2013- 2015 are:

1. Kent Skov Andreasen (Denmark) 2nd term	999
2. Inga Lundén (Sweden) 2nd term	996
3. Barbara Lison (Germany) 2nd term	995
4. Gloria Pérez-Salmerón (Spain)	875
5. Ingrid Bon (Netherlands) 2nd term	851
6. Ellen Ndeshi Namhila (Namibia)	825
7. Loida Garcia-Febo (United States of America)	819
8. Frédéric Blin (France) 2nd term	803
9. Genevieve Clavel-Merrin (Switzerland) 2nd term	780
10. Ngian Lek Choh (Singapore)	769

These ten candidates received the highest number of votes and were declared elected.

The following candidates also stood for election and were not elected:

Suzanne Payette (Canada)	736
Wei Dawei (China)	685
Maria Inês Cordeiro (Portugal)	542
Agnes Hajdu Barát (Hungary)	448
Judy Field (United States of America)	442

The following Members of the Governing Board were also elected:

Chair Division I	Andrew McDonald (England)
Chair Division II	Russell Lynch (United States of America)
Chair Division III	Maria-Carme Torras-Calvo (Norway)
Chair Division IV	Clara M. Chu (United States of America)
Chair Division V	Dan Dorner (New Zealand)
Chair MLAS	Gerald Leitner (Austria)
Chair Professional Committee:	Lynne M. Rudasill (United States of America)

11. Motions and Resolutions

11.1 Motion to approve the holding of the next General Assembly in August 2014 (Art 8.2 of the Statutes refers)

The Secretary General advised that the Rules of Procedure relating to motions and resolutions at Assembly meetings are included in the IFLA Monitor, and presented the rationale for the Motion: the legislation of the Netherlands, as stated in the Dutch Civil Code, [Part 2, Sections 48 and 49], requires that the Governing Board must submit an annual report and annual financial statements to the General Assembly within six months of the end of the financial year, unless the General Assembly has extended this period. The period may be extended on account of special circumstances for no more than five months. This is reflected in Article 8.2 of the amended Statutes. IFLA's financial year ends on 31 December, and its General Assembly meets during the Congress, normally in August, more than six months later. The General Assembly must therefore authorize the Governing Board to present the annual report and financial statements at the next Congress. IFLA's lawyers advise that this authorization has to be given every year.

On behalf of the Governing Board, the Secretary General presented the motion:

“That the General Assembly authorizes the Governing Board to convene the General Assembly to coincide with the next IFLA World Library and Information Congress which shall take place in August 2014. In the case of an unavoidable delay the General Assembly may be convened at a later date, but no later than 30 November 2014.”

The motion was resolved unanimously in the affirmative.

11.2 Motion to approve member fees 2014-2016

The Secretary General presented the rationale and motion from the Governing Board for member fees for 2014-2016.

Every three years the General Assembly had been called upon to approve the membership fees. In 2006, [then] Council resolved to give power to the Governing Board to increase the IFLA membership fees in all categories by the percentage of the official retail price inflation, as recorded by the Netherlands government, since the time of the last increase. This came into effect in 2007 for the fees from 1 January 2008. In the same resolution it was also stated that the Council would maintain its right to continue to approve the IFLA membership rates for all categories at intervals of no more than three years.

In 2013 the General Assembly is asked to again approve a motion, for the years 2014, 2015, 2016.

The annual increase percentage for membership fees is calculated on the average consumer price index percentage (retail price inflation) in the Netherlands in the period July – June. The new rates for the following year are then adjusted with this percentage from January to June in the current year and approved by Governing Board at its August or December meeting. In 2010, in recognition of the impact of the World Economic Downturn on the average consumer price index percentage, the General Assembly resolved to build in a minimum level for the increase percentage so as to ensure financial sustainability for IFLA.

The Secretary General advised the meeting that the proposed increase for membership fees for 2014 is 3%. The Secretary General then presented the motion on behalf of the Governing Board regarding annual membership fees and services charges for 2014, 2015 and 2016:

“The Governing Board proposes that the General Assembly empowers the Governing Board to increase the membership fees in all categories by the percentage of the official retail price inflation, as recorded by the Netherlands government, since the time of the last increase.

In a year where the average retail price increase is below 1.0 % the Governing Board may increase the membership fees in all categories up to 2.0 % in order to ensure financial sustainability.

The General Assembly will continue to approve the IFLA membership rates for all categories at intervals of no more than three years.”

The motion was resolved in the affirmative. [166 For; 14 Against; 13 Abstentions]

12. Motion to adjourn and reconvene at 16.15 on Thursday, 22 August 2013

The President advised that the business part of the General Assembly had concluded and put the motion:

“that this meeting adjourns to meet at 16.15 tomorrow (Thursday 22 August) for the Closing ceremony.”

The motion was resolved unanimously in the affirmative.

13. Closing Session, 16.15-17.30, Thursday, 22 August 2013

The meeting was reconvened by the President in the same location at 16.15 on Thursday 22 August 2013.

Address by the President

As this was her closing address in her role as IFLA President, Ingrid Parent shared a few personal thoughts on her time as President. These included the extraordinary opportunities provided to her during her tenure as President, and the respect that is evident for the position of President, and for IFLA, around the world.

The full text of the President’s address is available on the IFLA website.

Winston Tabb, IFLA Honorary Fellow presented a vote of thanks to President Parent. This was followed by a slide show from her presidency.

Presentation of Awards

- PC Awards 2013

IFLA Communicator of the Year 2013 - Silvia Cecilia Anselmi, Secretary / web editor of the Latin America and Caribbean Section.

Best IFLA Poster 2013 - entry #77 from Shiho Suzuki, “The Librarians of Fukushima”.

- IFLA Scroll of Appreciation

The President presented the IFLA Scroll of Appreciation to Elaine Ng, chair of the WLIC 2013 National Committee to acknowledge IFLA's gratitude to the Congress National Committee for hosting such a successful Congress in Singapore.

Thanks to outgoing Governing Board

The Secretary General introduced each member of the outgoing Board and the President presented each with a certificate:

Christine Mackenzie; Filiberto Felipe Martínez-Arellano; Buhle Mbambo-Thata; Tone Eli Moseid; Anna Maria Tamaro; Paul Whitney; Ann Okerson; Ingrid Parent

Introduction of the new Governing Board 2013 - 2015

The Secretary General invited the Governing Board 2013 – 2015 members to the stage to be introduced to the meeting. [see item 10 for the member list]

Announcement of WLIC 2015 location

The President announced Cape Town as the location for the WLIC 2015 and this was followed by an invitation to Cape Town by Ujala Satgoor, LIASA President, and a video presentation promoting Cape Town.

Invitation to WLIC 2014 in Lyon, France

Lyon Deputy Mayor, Georges Képénékian invited delegates to the WLIC 2014 *Libraries, Citizens, Societies: Confluence for Knowledge* in Lyon, France on 16-22 August 2014. He outlined the importance of the theme to Lyon and to hosting the IFLA WLIC in a city that places great value on equitable access to information and freedom of expression. [The video screened on the theme is available on the IFLA conference website].

Vote of thanks WLIC 2013

Elaine Ng, Chair of the WLIC 2013 National Committee gave a vote of thanks to all involved in the organising, presentation and participation. This was followed by a Vimeo *IFLA WLIC 2013 in 4 minutes* [available on the IFLA conference website] which captures memories of the Congress in Singapore.

She then invited the Lyon representatives to join her on stage and receive gifts from the Singapore National Committee and best wishes for a successful WLIC 2014.

President Ingrid Parent then handed over the meeting to incoming President Sinikka Sipilä and she and the Secretary General left the stage.

Address by incoming President Sinikka Sipilä

President Sinikka Sipilä presented her acceptance speech in which she elaborated on her Presidential theme 'Strong Libraries, Strong Societies'. This represents her belief that libraries exert an impact on society and development by fostering equal opportunities and access to lifelong learning and education, research and innovation, culture and recreation for all; in this way, libraries can contribute to building stronger communities and societies. The full text of the speech is available on the IFLA website.

Close of the Assembly

President Sinikka Sipilä closed the General Assembly at 18.00.