

## **Draft minutes of the General Assembly held on Wednesday, 25 August 2021, in The Hague, Netherlands.**

### **1. Opening by the President, Barbara Lison**

President-elect Barbara Lison opened the meeting at 13:30 on Wednesday, 25 August and welcomed the few members who were in the room and following virtually on Zoom or YouTube. Due to continuing COVID restrictions, IFLA wished to avoid risk and asked Members not to come to the Hague. She noted the same restrictions prohibited the attendance of IFLA President, Christine Mackenzie. She introduced those supporting her: Secretary General Gerald Leitner and Parliamentarian Martyn Wade (virtual connection).

### **2. Appointment of Tellers**

Two tellers – Helen Mandl and Lidia Putziger – from the IFLA HQ were appointed as tellers to count the votes of members present and the votes of the proxy holders.

### **3. Establishment of a Quorum**

At the beginning of the meeting there were 137 national and international association members who have paid their fees for 2021 and were not in arrears. With 75 members present, a quorum was established.

### **4. Adoption of the Agenda**

The agenda was adopted.

### **5. Minutes of the Extraordinary General Assembly held in Melbourne, Australia on 12 February 2021**

The minutes of this meeting were adopted.

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

The President invited members to remember in silence Willis Bernard ‘Bill’ Lukenbill, Francis ‘Frank’ Kirkwood, Shane Godbolt, Marcelle Beaudiquez, Snejana Ianeva, Don Roskilly, William “Bill” Garrison, Nancy D. Anderson, Elizabeth R. Peralejo and other colleagues who have died during the past year.

### **7. Presentation of the report of the President, Christine Mackenzie**

The President noted that this had been an exceptional year and noted how the library field had responded to challenges and opportunities in the global environment. One of the pleasures of the increase in online connections has been the ability to engage with so many colleagues virtually across many countries, particularly in Asia and Oceania. She has continued to highlight the theme of her presidency – “Let’s work together” - in her presentations and particularly how engagement with the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals can help towards improving the many inequalities we see in our communities.

A huge achievement for the federation in the past year has been the finalization and delivery of the Governance Review and the new Statutes and Rules of Procedure. The first online World Library and Information Congress was a fabulous success with enthusiastic participants from across the globe. The

President thanked the Governing Board, Secretary General and IFLA Headquarters for their support and for maintaining the activities of the federation.

## **8. Presentation of the report of the Secretary General**

The Secretary General noted that 2020 would be remembered as one of the most demanding years but one of great success. The bulk of the work regarding the governance review took place amidst the worldwide challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic.

IFLA ensured it was providing the best possible support through new types of support. IFLA's units have worked on action plans and the IFLA vision of a strong and united library field became a reality building on the recent launch of the IFLA Strategy.

It was also a year of hard decisions such as the cancellation of the conference. However IFLA is stronger and was able to adapt and show great resilience. The busy programme of physical events was replaced by virtual events and allowed members to cross borders and meet colleagues. IFLA has become a platform for information sharing on how to work in the COVID-19 environment, on new services and possibilities for clients. Key has been IFLA's investment in virtual tools, and there has been a significant rise in use across the professional committees. IFLA's staff have been able to continue their work from home with little disruption.

The energy and engagement across the field and within IFLA on the governance review has been outstanding. It was therefore possible to take new Statutes and Rules for endorsement to an extraordinary General Assembly at the beginning of 2021.

Our efforts during 2020 have shown that the library field and IFLA are creative, resilient, innovative and committed to the future. IFLA also moved to its first electronic elections and launched its new website. Our first virtual World Library and Information Congress took place in 2021 with 3000 delegates, three time zones, a substantial programme and was the most inclusive ever.

The Secretary General acknowledged the enormous contribution of members, volunteers, and IFLA staff and thanked in particular, the Governing Board and IFLA President Christine Mackenzie for their outstanding efforts.

IFLA's 2020 Annual Report is on the IFLA website:  
<https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/hq/annual-reports/2020.pdf>

## **9. Presentation of the annual accounts by the Treasurer**

Treasurer Antonia Arahova presented the 2020 annual report as accepted by the Governing Board in its April 2021 meeting for presentation to Members.

The year 2020 shows a surplus of €293,495. This compares to a surplus of €27,041 for 2019. The overall result of a surplus is a positive sign of a strong and well-managed budget. This surplus means that our general reserves now stand at

€1,831,861, and earmarked reserves at €70,217. These reserves are an important asset for IFLA to be able to secure our work and sustainability in the years to come.

The cancellation of IFLA's World Library and Information Congress in Dublin led to a loss of approximately €160,000 due to costs charged by external parties for work performed for the conference. IFLA was not able to charge the yearly management fees of €212,000 to the conference to cover IFLA staff performing work for the conference. There was a loss of income due to the cancellation. There is an opportunity to gain Dutch government financial aid however this is yet to be settled.

A decrease in membership income was a result of members all over the world experiencing a very difficult year.

The meeting adopted the 2020 Annual Accounts.

The full text of the Treasurer's report is on the IFLA website:  
<https://cdn.ifla.org/wp-content/uploads/treasurers-statement-2020.pdf>

## **10. Formal announcement of the Results of the Election of President-elect, Treasurer and for places on the Governing Board**

The results of the election for President-elect 2021-2023 are:

1. Antonia Arahova (Greece): 916  
Loida Garcia-Febo (United States of America): 581  
Vicki McDonald (Australia): 472

The results of the election for Treasurer 2021-2023 are:

1. Perry Moree (Netherlands): 1041  
Randa Al Chidiac (Lebanon): 925

The results of the election for the Governing Board Members at Large 2021-2023 are:

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|---|------|
| 1. Kirsten Boelt (Denmark) 1st term                       | 1185 |
| 2. Jonathan Hernández Pérez (Mexico) 2 <sup>nd</sup> term | 900  |
| 3. Mandla Ntombela (South Africa) 1 <sup>st</sup> term    | 831  |
| 4. Ayub Khan (United Kingdom) 1 <sup>st</sup> term        | 743  |
| 5. Yasuyo Inoue (Japan) 1 <sup>st</sup> term              | 643  |
| James Neal (United States of America)                     | 541  |
| Tony Zanders (United States of America)                   | 492  |
| Basheerhamad Shadrach (India)                             | 371  |
| Zhigeng Wang (China)                                      | 359  |

The results of the election for Chair of the Regional Council 2021-2023 are:

1. Nthabiseng Kotsokoane (South Africa): 1324  
Sanjay Kumar Bihani (India): 667  
Najeeb Al-Shorbaja (Jordan): 203

The results of the election for Chair of the Professional Council 2021-2023 are:

1. Adjoa Boateng (United Kingdom): 39  
Catharina Isberg (Sweden): 35

Chair Management of Library Associations Section: Halo Locher, Switzerland

## 11. Motions and Resolutions

### 11.1 Motion to approve the holding of the next General Assembly in July 2022

In accordance with Dutch legal requirements the Members resolved in the affirmative

*Resolution: The General Assembly resolved to authorize the Governing Board to convene the General Assembly to coincide with the next IFLA World Library and Information Congress which shall take place in July 2022. In the case of an unavoidable delay the General Assembly may be convened at a later date, but no later than 31 October 2022.*

## 12. Honours and Awards

### IFLA Honors and Awards

The Secretary General presented the following awards.

### IFLA Scroll of Appreciation

The IFLA Scroll of Appreciation was awarded to the following recipients:

- Ann Okerson for her distinguished contribution to IFLA's Governing Board and committees and for her commitment to increasing understanding of the global context for library acquisition of electronic resources, the impact of open access, and the developing role of library publishing.
- Massimo Gentili Tedeschi for his distinguished contribution to IFLA, through his extensive work on a wide range of standards related committees, and progressing the development, enhancement and promotion of IFLA's bibliographic standards for the benefit of the global library field.
- Petra Hauke for her distinguished contribution to IFLA, particularly in increasing understanding of the crucial role of the environment and sustainability for libraries. IFLA also recognises her extensive work as a motivator of young professionals to integrate into, and engage with, the international library field.
- Stephane Ipert for his distinguished contribution to IFLA, particularly his leadership and commitment to ensuring the preservation and conservation of the unique cultural heritage of the Middle East and North Africa region.
- Raissa Teodori for her distinguished contribution to IFLA particularly through her key role in engaging partners and supporting the development of parliamentary libraries around the globe. The award recognises her extensive engagement on the Governing Board and Professional Committee, representing the interests of the Professional Units during the Global Vision discussions and formation of the IFLA Strategy.

### Honorary Fellow

Honorary Fellow is IFLA's highest award and may be conferred on a person who has delivered long and distinguished service to IFLA with outstanding achievements that has brought distinction to IFLA in the international arena.

- The distinction of IFLA Honorary Fellow was awarded to Glòria Pérez-Salmerón for her outstanding achievements and service to IFLA, and increasing engagement with the Latin America and the Caribbean region. She oversaw the Global Vision process, and the delivery of the IFLA Strategy 2019-2024 as a catalyst for the combined energy and efforts of a united library field.

### **13. Address by the President Christine Mackenzie**

The President noted the physical and mental impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on colleagues everywhere. The ability to use technology such as Zoom has enabled the field to keep going and to communicate more than ever. We have embraced innovation in many ways in libraries, to make libraries gateways for community needs. Our professional development has been kept fresh through the many online seminars and webinars held by IFLA units. IFLA's governance review has resulted in a new structure that will make IFLA more agile and transparent. The Governing Board has worked tirelessly across their many time zones to achieve so much in difficult circumstances. They have been supported by the volunteers, members and IFLA staff who continue to make IFLA a vibrant federation. The President closed with a quote from Barack Obama: "When we have a bunch of people working together, that's when change happens."

### **14. Outgoing Governing Board 2019 - 2021**

The members of the outgoing Governing Board were thanked for their service: Antonia Arahova, Ai Cheng Tay, Huanwen Cheng, Michael Dowling, Marwa El Sahn, Jonathan Hernández-Pérez, Torbjörn Nilsson, Sueli Mara Soares Pinto Ferreira, Knud Schulz, Minna von Zansen, Sonia Poulin, Jan Richards, Helen Vincent, Adjoa Boateng, Catharina Isberg, Sanjay Kumar Bihani, Halo Locher, Vicki McDonald, Barbara Lison, and Christine Mackenzie.

### **15. Incoming Governing Board 2021 - 2023**

The members of the incoming Governing Board were introduced to the assembly: Antonia Arahova, Adjoa Boateng, Yasuyo Innoue, Kirsten Boelt, Jonathan Hernández Pérez, Mandla Ntombela, Ayub Khan, Halo Locher, Nthabiseng Kotsokoane, Perry Moree, and Barbara Lison.

### **16. Address by the incoming President Barbara Lison**

Despite only being able to speak virtually to attendees, incoming President Barbara Lison stated how excited she was and wished to introduce herself through four dimensions. Who – she is an advocate and fighter for libraries and the cultural environment with a strong social commitment. Why – she worked nationally and regionally in policy and advocacy before coming to the IFLA Governing Board. What – her focus will be the consequences of the pandemic and the development of libraries at the heart of their communities. How – her Presidential theme is "Libraries building a sustainable future". The SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) will provide a concept for the work ahead with a focus on sustainable development. The profession needs to be able to anticipate the changes of the future. She would like IFLA to harvest the fruits of all the past efforts arising from the Global Vision, the Strategy, and the new structure. Barbara thanked the many people supporting her and looked forward to walking the path together.

### **17. Close of the Assembly**

The Secretary General, Gerald Leitner thanked all involved in preparing the General Assembly. President Barbara Lison thanked the National Library of the Netherlands for their support with the meeting and then formally closed the meeting.