

**Draft minutes of the General Assembly held on Thursday, 25 August 2022,
in The Hague, The Netherlands and online**

1. Opening by the Chair

President Barbara Lison opened the meeting at 13:30 on Wednesday, 25 August 2022 and welcomed the members present in the Auditorium of the Koninklijke Bibliotheek and following virtually on the Lumi meeting platform or YouTube. She introduced those supporting her: Deputy Secretary General Helen Mandl, Interim Treasurer Kirsten Boelt, IFLA Notary Martijn van Ansem, and Director Policy and Advocacy Stephen Wyber.

2. Appointment of Tellers

Details of registered voting members, their proxies and their weighted votes were provided to the meeting platform company engaged to assist with the meeting. All voting took place online in a secure and accurate matter with results automatically calculated and provided to the meeting. As there was no manual count, no tellers were required.

3. Establishment of a Quorum

At the beginning of the meeting there were 133 national and international association members who have paid their fees for 2022 and were not in arrears. With 76 members registered, a quorum was established.

4. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted.

5. Minutes of the General Assembly held in The Hague, Netherlands on 25 August 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 Ann Margret Hauknes, Angela Maria Moneiro Bettencourt, Margaret Austrai Kailo (Terry), Rocky Ralebipi-Simela, Paul George Zurkowski, Donna Scheeder, Sabine Weber-Beard, Susan Schaepman and other colleagues who have died during the past year.

The President specially noted the passing of Donna Scheeder, IFLA President 2015-2017 and her positive impact on the library field. She lived her presidential theme – a call to action – and shared this wherever she went, committed to ensuring that libraries and library professionals were recognised and supported in order to fulfil their potential to make a difference.

7. Presentation of the report of the President

Building a sustainable future for our Federation, our field and our communities was a focus for the theme of President Barbara Lison. It was exciting to see the energy and constructive spirit of librarians realising the potential of libraries in a changing world.

Together with her predecessor, Christine Mackenzie, they had, in their role as the external face of the Federation, spoken online at many events for library associations and, towards the end of the year, Barbara Lison had been able to travel to some countries to attend conferences and visit colleagues.

To be effective, libraries need the right legal and policy environment. In turn, this depends on advocacy at all levels, wherever the decisions that matter are being made. Christine Mackenzie was the first IFLA representative to speak at a G20 cultural ministerial webinar. In addition there was work with sister organisations at the global level including museums and publishers

The President noted that cooperations that makes IFLA work, that makes the federation effective, are a continuing process, never an accomplished an end point. This requires constant and serious attention and effort. The President thanked the members, volunteers, Governing Board, and IFLA Headquarters for their support and for maintaining the activities of the Federation.

8. Presentation of IFLA's Annual Report

The Deputy Secretary General began by thanking Christine Mackenzie who led IFLA so effectively through the difficult period of the COVID pandemic.

IFLA's Strategic Directions have guided activities including contributions to the toolkits available for libraries when advocating to decision makers. Key highlights included the 2nd edition of the UNESCO PERSIST Content Selection Guidelines, IFLA's first ever participation in a meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, better known as COP26, and invitations to shape key overview sessions of the World Summit on the Information Society Forum. IFLA is being noticed, invited, and involved.

The IFLA Namespaces project is operational meaning that IFLA's technical standards and vocabularies are more easily accessible and usable by libraries and the greater ICT community. The IFLA repository has improved how reports, papers and articles that IFLA produces are disseminated, enhancing discoverability..

2021 saw the delivery of IFLA's World Library and Information Congress as an online conference with almost 3,000 attending and programming organised around three timezones. The online format was delivered successfully due to the amazing mobilisation and commitment of our volunteers.

As an election year, a new group of volunteers came on board including those on the Regional Council and in the Regional Divisions whose responsibility is to bring the concerns and priorities of members around the world to the heard of IFLA and help extend our outreach.

As IFLA aims for longer-term financial sustainability, we worked with partners to secure a grant from the Arcadia Fund to boost capacity to advocate for a 21st century copyright environment in Europe. IFLA acknowledges the Stichting IFLA

Global Libraries for their continued support and belief in IFLA's work with librarians to build more informed societies.

IFLA's sees its work as oriented to the future with an impact that will translate to new practices, new approaches and new attitudes in our profession.

IFLA's 2021 Annual Report is available on the IFLA website:

<https://repository.ifla.org/handle/123456789/2344>

9. Presentation of the annual accounts by the Treasurer

Kirsten Boelt, who had acted as Interim Treasurer until July 2022, presented the 2021 annual report as accepted by the Governing Board in its April 2022 meeting for presentation to Members.

The year 2021 shows a surplus of of €392,691. This compares to a surplus of € 293,495 for 2020. In the result of 2021 an amount of approx. € 630,000 is included for Dutch Government special COVID-19 related financial aid. For financial year 2020 the financial aid amounted to approx. € 480,000.

The surplus means that IFLA's general reserves now stand at € 2,223,394, and earmarked reserves at € 71,375. These reserves are an important asset for IFLA to be able to secure IFLA's work and sustainability in the years to come.

The Treasurer noted the inclusion of the IFLA Holding BV and its subsidiaries (operating the World Library and Information Congress) in the consolidated company results and financial statements of IFLA. In addition funding from SIGL and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation supported activities around the key initiatives. The member organisations and individuals who support IFLA through donations and hosting activities were thanked and acknowledged.

The meeting adopted the 2021 Annual Accounts.

The full text of the Treasurer's report is on the IFLA website:

<https://cdn.ifla.org/wp-content/uploads/Treasurers-Statement-2021.pdf>

10. Formal announcement of the Results of the Ballot for the Extraordinary Election of President-elect and Treasurer

IFLA held extraordinary elections in 2022 for the positions of President-elect and Treasurer who are now serving from 5 July 2022 until the IFLA General Assembly 2023. These extraordinary elections followed the resignations of IFLA's previous President-elect and Treasurer and took place in line with the provisions of IFLA's Statutes.

The result of the election for President-elect was:
Vicki McDonald (Australia)

The result of the election for Treasurer was:
Jaap Naber (Netherlands)

11. Motions and Resolutions

11.1 Motion to approve the holding of the next General Assembly in August 2023

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

To authorise 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 2023. In the case of an unavoidable delay the General Assembly may be convened at a later date, but no later than 31 October 2023.

11.2 Motion to approve Membership fees for 2023-2025

Since 2006 the General Assembly has agreed the annual membership fees of IFLA every three years. In 2022 the General Assembly was asked to again approve a motion, for the years 2023, 2024 and 2025. The Treasurer noted that in setting fees IFLA was very aware of current cost increases and the economic situation across the globe. With the authority of the General Assembly, the Governing Board would act fairly and within the parameters of the motion in setting future fees.

To empower 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.

11.3 Motion on a common basis of values for IFLA

We propose to the Governing Board to strengthen our federation by formulating a common basis of values as transparency, accountability, and integrity including a mechanism for whistle-blowers, adequate communication and how to respond to war and conflict.

The motion above was submitted by the Swedish Library Association, Norwegian Library Association and Danish Library Association. Their statement noted the challenge of war and conflict and IFLA's values, a desire for greater communication to improve transparency, accountability and integrity and to have a mechanism for reporting wrongdoings. During the meeting, the speaker for the motion noted the positive actions of the Governing Board to meet with members during the congress in Dublin. In light of this, the motion was amended.

That the Governing Board before December 2022 presents a timetable for a more communicating and transparent IFLA.

The motion was resolved in the affirmative.

12. Address by the President, Barbara Lison

The President addressed concerns raised by members and volunteers in an open letter to the Governing Board. These concerns related to:

- The circumstances related to decisions around the ending of the Secretary General's contract
- The relationship between IFLA and Stichting IFLA Global Libraries – SIGL
- The working arrangements and culture at IFLA Headquarters
- Financial arrangements and IFLA's financial sustainability

The Governing Board has developed a comprehensive Plan for Securing IFLA's Future by articulating:

- key activities that have been implemented and will be undertaken,
- who will be responsible for ensuring the activities are progressed,
- milestones and timeframes for those activities, and
- the reporting arrangements.

The actions include:

- A comprehensive review of the progress against key initiatives since the launch of the IFLA Strategy in 2019;
- Putting in place interim leadership arrangements for IFLA Headquarters;
- Ensuring a safe and effective working environment for IFLA staff;
- Recruitment of a new Secretary General;
- Continuing the relationship with SIGL and working on project based funding arrangements and implementing a project management framework;
- Finalising the IFLA Handbook ready for implementation in 2023;
- Reviewing the IFLA Code of Ethics for members of the Governing Board;
- A full review of IFLA's finances via the audit and an interim audit;
- An updated risk policy and register
- Options for WLIC in future years
- Additional communication on Governing Board decision making

The plan will be a living document updated regularly and available on the IFLA website. The President encouraged members to stay in touch with the Governing Board and pass on comments and concerns.

Throughout the meeting questions and comments were asked online and responded to. The questions were noted in order to inform GB decisions about the Plan for Securing IFLA's Future going forwards.

13. Close of the Assembly

The President thanked all those who took part in person or watched online in this first, truly hybrid General Assembly. She thanked the Notary, and the Koninklijke Bibliotheek for their support in hosting the meeting and in providing a proxy for members unable to attend. The President acknowledged the IFLA staff who had helped organise the meeting and looked forward to meeting everyone in Rotterdam in August 2023. With that the meeting was closed.