

**IFLA AFRICA SECTION MIDTERM MEETING 8<sup>TH</sup> – 9<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2014,  
KUMASI – GHANA (ROYAL BASIN RESORT)**

**ATTENDANCE**

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## 1.0 Opening

### 1.1 Welcome Remarks – Chairperson

The Chair of IFLA Africa Section, Dr. Victoria Okojie welcomed all the Standing Committee (SC) members of the section present and expressed her gratefulness to all the members who were able to take off time from their offices to attend the Mid Term meeting. The Chair went ahead to express her thankfulness of having the Secretary of the section who had just been discharged from hospital. She informed members of the news of a road accident involving Kathy Matsika, SC Member. She informed the meeting that she sustained broken collar bones but was now out of the hospital. The issue of poor communication was raised by Dr. Okojie who called on members to try to react to mails. She emphasized that there was great need for members to provide input on matters relating to the Section in order to facilitate decision making. She added that the SC Members actually put up themselves to be elected and thus needed to find time to do the Section's work. People have to contribute to make the Section's work go the way they would like to see it and equally the way that will make Africa proud. She thanked all those members who do well to support the Section's work.

### 1.2 Introduction and Apologies

All the SC members present including observers introduced themselves. This was followed by apologies from the following members:

- Ibrahim Azubuike
- Agnes Chikonzo
- Kay Raseroka
- Matseliso Moshoeshoe – Chadzingwa
- Paul Diokh

Absent without apology: Dina Youssef, Lemallem El Hassan and Ali Mcharazo

### 1.3 Announcements

Some announcements were made including the physical layout of the venue and some other logistics.

### 1.4 Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was moved for adoption by Kotsokoane Nthabiseng and supported by Rachel More.

### 2.0 Correction and Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of IFLA Africa Section Meeting I and II held in Singapore on 18<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> August 2013 during the IFLA WLIC 2013 was corrected page by page. After these corrections, the minutes were moved for adoption as corrected by Ujala Satgoor and supported by Christian Kofi.

### 3.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes

- With respect to the African Children Book Award that was to take place in Washington DC was mentioned in the minutes, a question was asked to know if anyone had some information with respect to the results. In line with this, no member present had any information.
- Another question was asked in relation to the Library of Alexandria French Centre. Again, no one had any information on this. Notwithstanding, members were requested to google and get information on this Centre.
- On the matter arising with respect to SC, members of the Section who had retired and/or came to the end of their terms. The Chair informed members that the Section will write letters of appreciation to them and their certificates will be collected from the HQ and handed to them. These persons included: Dr. James Daniel, Margaret Tarpley, Ayanda Lebele, Naomi Haasbroek and Dr. Shawky Salem.
- It was noted that most of the matters arising from the minutes were reflected in the agenda of the meeting for discussion.

### 4.0 Reports

#### 4.1 The Chairperson of IFLA Africa Section's Report

The Chairperson began her report with a word of welcome to all Standing Committee (SC) who were present. She thanked all the SC members for their continued support and active participation in matters of the Section. She particularly thanked the corresponding members who have continued to work towards the development of the Section by giving useful advice and participating actively. She asked the SC members to join her in saying a big "thank you" to Dr. Kay Raseroka, Jacinta Were, Dr. Helena Assamoah- Hassan and Dr. Buhle Mbambo-Thata. She equally extended special thanks to the Regional Office Manager, Lindi Nhlapo for her support for the Section. After these words of appreciation, the Chair went ahead to present the activities of the IFLA Africa Section since the last IFLA World Library Congress in Singapore in August 2013 as follows:

#### 1. IFLA Africa Section Standing Committee Meeting, Singapore, August 2013:

The Section's Standing Committee meeting was held in Singapore in August 2013. Over 120 delegates, including Africa Section members attended the two meetings. Members were given updates by IFLA HQ and Division V. The new Chair of Division V is Dan Dorner while the Chair of Africa Section, Dr. Victoria Okojie is the new Secretary of Division V. Other reports given are contained in the minutes of the meeting.

#### 2. IFLA Standards Committee

IFLA Professional Committee (PC) has appointed a member of the Africa Section, Mr. Abraham Azubuike as a member of the Standards Committee of IFLA. Mr. Azubuike was recommended by the Section, being the only person who indicated interest in the Committee from the Section.

### **3. African Library and Information Associations and Institutions (AfLIA), African Public Libraries Network (APLN) and Conference of African National Libraries (CANL)**

Progress reports from all the “babies” of the Section have been positive. AfLIA has started requesting members to pay their annual membership dues; I strongly appeal to all members to make payments as soon as possible. Detailed report will be given by the AfLIA President during this meeting.

### **4. Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Global Libraries Africa Advisory Committee**

The Advisory Group held two meetings in Namibia in June, 2013 and in Uganda in October 2013. The draft “African Engagement Plan” has been completed and the Chair of the Africa Section has been invited to a meeting with key stakeholder organizations to Seattle, USA to finalize the document. Hopefully, the action plan will be rolled out before the end of 2014.

### **5. IFLA WLIC, Lyon, France, 2014**

Plans are being made to have a good outing in Lyon. The Africa Section is collaborating with the CHILD Section to organize an Open Forum with the theme “Libraries in Africa Meeting the Needs of Children and Young Adults”. The proposed theme of the Section’s Poster is “Libraries as Confluence of Knowledge for Emerging African Societies”. 35 Abstracts were received and 8 will be selected during this Mid Term meeting for possible presentation at the Open Session.

The 2015 IFLA WLIC, as we all know, will take place in Cape Town in August, 2015. On behalf of the Africa Section, Chair called on all librarians in Africa to support LIASA in hosting this conference. She believed the LIASA President would give a detailed report later and inform the meeting as to how we can assist in making the conference the pride of Africa.

### **6. LIS Education in Developing Countries SIG**

A Committee headed by Dr. Kay Raseroka was set up at IFLA WLIC in Singapore, 2013 to look into the issue of moving the SIG away from the Africa Section. The Chair was expecting a report at this meeting. However, Filiberto Felipe Martinez Arellano had since been made the new Chair of the SIG.

### **7. Namibia Library Symposium**

A full report would be given by the GB Members, Ellen Namhila. Suffice to say that the Chair was able to attend the symposium and was very impressed with the outcome. The main focus was on building “Strong libraries, Strong societies” which is the current President’s theme. The event also attracted 3 IFLA Presidents: the current President Sinikka Sipilä who stayed throughout the event as well as the former IFLA Presidents, Dr. Kay Raseroka and Ms. Ellen Tise. The Chair congratulated all our colleagues in Namibia for an excellent outing that made Africa proud.

### **8. IFLA Awards**

The Chair thanked members for the support in suggesting Jacinta Were for the IFLA Award. The Chair of the Kenya Library Association was requested to submit the application as required and would give us a report on how far they had gone.

### **9. IFLA Africa Section Newsletter**

The December, 2013 Newsletter has been produced and uploaded on the Section’s webpage (hard copies are available for members). The production of the Section’s Newsletter is the responsibility of the Information Coordinator (IC). However, this edition was produced by the Chair because the Section has not elected an IC. This would be done before the end of the meeting.

## **10. Beyond Access and ICTD Conferences**

The Chair, IFLA Africa Section attended the Beyond Access and ICTD Africa Conferences from 4-8 December, 2013 in Cape Town, South Africa. IREX, an international NGO based in the USA was one of the organizers and is keen to continue working in Africa. Discussions on how they will intervene in Africa are on.

## **11. IFLA ALP**

IFLA ALP is supporting the International Leaders Programme and the Building Strong Library Association programme. The activities or BSLA in Africa and details of the other IFLA ALP programmes are included in the agenda of this meeting and will be discussed later.

## **12. Africa Section Finances**

The total money that was given to the Section by IFLA HQ in 2013 was €4300. €4000 PC fund was awarded to support AFLIA members to attend the Africa Library Summit which took place in July, 2013 in Muckleneuk, Pretoria, South Africa. The €300 annual administrative fund was used to make up for part of the deficit in organizing the APLS. The detailed breakdown of the beneficiaries and what the money was spent on is available with the Regional Office Manager for Africa (the statement of account from our bank account in Johannesburg) and from the Chair of Africa Section.

In concluding her report, Dr. Okojie encouraged all members of the Africa Section to participate more in the activities of the Section, especially the Standing Committee meetings. She went on to observe that many members have not attended any of the Section's meetings since their election. She appealed to members of the Section who know that they cannot find the resources or time to attend meetings not to contest for electrons into the Standing Committee, thereby denying others the opportunity of service. She concluded her report by wishing everyone a wonderful stay in Ghana and a fulfilled 2014.

## **4.2 Regional Office Manager's Report**

The Regional Manager for Africa in the person of Ms. Lindi Nhlapo started her report by informing the meeting that her office now has an administrative assistant appointed. She added that this new post would help in the deliberations and these included picking up on the association's databases in Africa. She informed the members that in partnership with the University of South Africa (UNISA) Library, the Regional Office hosted Christine Law from Alberta, Canada. The Regional Office Manager requested that a certificate of appreciation be issued to Joyce Myeza, the Section's webmaster. She equally requested that the Chair of the Africa Section sends an official letter to Joyce Myeza requesting her to continue to be the webmaster for the section. Members were informed that the Regional Office will host the Annual Public Lecture on "African Librarianship in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" on 22 May 2014 in Pretoria and Prof Peter Lor, past General Secretary of IFLA HQ will be the guest speaker. The meeting was informed that The Regional Office will have an exhibition stand at SCECSAL in Malawi that will take place by the end of July 2014. In relation to this, the Regional Office envisages to host the Building Strong Library Programme (BSLA) in Malawi as a pre-conference of SCECSAL. It was equally reported by the Manager that ICADLA-4 will be held in Ghana in 2015. The Manager went on to report that there were funds available for threatened heritage materials for funding purposes from the Prince clause Fund.

Reacting to the Regional Manager's report, Ujala Satgoor took the floor and raised the issue of risk and disaster management, but emphasized on risk management brought about by activities such as unrest for example. She said the focus is towards disaster management but there is need to have an organized way of taking precautions towards risks. We should not wait until disasters happen before we manage but rather, library associations should reflect on this and see how to prepare to prevent disasters before they occur. This can be done through capacity building programmes she added.

The IFLA Governing Board Member, Ellen Namhila supported Ujala Satgoor's views by stating that members of association should request [Prince Clause] for programmes in readiness for disasters, especially because the people who come to restore disasters sometimes instead collect the documents, take them away to other areas of their interest. This means that some disaster managers come with vested interests or covered interests. The members were informed that the National Library of South Africa has a unit for training people for disaster management. Following the above discussions, the following resolutions were taken:

- That the Chair of IFLA Africa Section should write and request for training by the National Library of South Africa and equally appreciate this body for what they are already doing.
- That a strategy document be developed that can be used to request for the above mentioned training.
- Rachael More was designated as Chair of the committee to come up with a strategy document and to work with Kotsokoane Nthabiseng

#### **4.3 Library and Information Services (LIS) Education in Developing Countries – SIG Report**

The members of the IFLA Africa Section SC meeting were informed that Philippe Martinez was the new Chair of LIS Education in Developing countries but that this was under the Education and training section of IFLA. The Chair, Dr. Okojie observed that it was very difficult to get information from African LIS. The President of the Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA), Ujala Satgoor opted to facilitate the task by creating an online form on the LIASA website on LIS Education in Africa that people could easily fill providing information on the above subject in their various countries. Members were reminded that they had been requested several times to provide information on this from their various countries. They were called upon to capture this information on their websites and a call was made to library associations to put information on LIS Education on their websites. The National Library of South Africa informed that they had 55 contact details of National Libraries on the African continent. Constantine Nyamboga took upon himself to provide information on LIS Education for East Africa. All SC members including observers were called upon to do all to provide information on LIS Education by May 15, 2014.

#### **4.4 ATINA SIG Report**

The SC meeting members were informed that ATINA SIG is still under the IFLA Africa Section and chaired by Abraham Azubuike. Members were made to know that Abraham Azubuike was setting up an ATINA SIG programme to take place during the IFLA WLIC 2014 billed for Lyon- France. The programme has a theme, "Effective Access to Information as Key to Sustainable Poverty Reduction and Thriving in Africa".

#### **4.5 Other Reports (Country Reports)**

##### **a) Kenya Library Association (KLA): Report by Prof. Constantine Nyamboga**

The SC Members of Africa Section were presented the following report on the KLA

**Partnership:** The KLA has been re-engineered and given a new face. This has been thanks to the partnership of Swedish-Kenya Library Association. Following this partnership, the Association has established seven (7) active regional branches. The motto the KLA has now is "Stronger Together".

##### **Annual Elections**

The KLA conducted new elections on 31<sup>st</sup> November 2013 in the presence of all its partners and Dr. Tanui Arap Tirong was elected President with Secretary, Ms. Purity Karuri. Prof. Constantine Nyamboga became a member of a new board as an ex-officio member.

##### **Library 'Gala'**

The KLA will organize a ‘Gala’ in mid-March 2014. During this event, awards of excellence will be conferred and the incoming officials will be introduced to professionals and partners.

It is important to state that librarians are now taking senior official positions in Kenya. Prof. Joseph Kiplagat, the former Librarian of the Eastern University Librarian School of Information in the Moi University and Director of the Moi University, Nairobi Campus is currently the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Kabiaga University, Kericho, Kenya.

Prof. Constantine Nyamboga, formerly of Egerton University Library School, is now the Principal of Mount Kenya University, KIS II Campus, Kenya to name just a few.

In June 2014, KLA will host the regional conference involving; Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya. Three of KLA’s members, will be attending this year’s, 2014 Swedish Library Association Annual Conference in Umea, North of Stockholm.

**b) The Namibia Workers Library and Information Association: Report by Ellen Namhila**

Ellen Namhila gave the following report on the Namibia Workers Library and Information Association:

Information on the Namibia Library Symposium that took place in October 2013 was given. The focus of the symposium was on building “*strong libraries, strong societies*” which is the current IFLA President’s theme. The symposium attracted three IFLA Presidents; the current President, Sinikka Sipilä, Presidents Dr. Kay Raseroka and Ellen Tise. It was reported that the association in question is now strong after some period of weakness. The association is positioning libraries as part of the Namibian National Development Policy. Ellen Namhila is the current Chair of the Namibia Library and Information National Council which now provides scholarships for two (2) librarians to study overseas on a regular basis. This council is working on skills development for the profession.

**c) The Library and Information Association of South Africa (LIASA) Report by Ujala Satgoor**

**Highlights** of the report relating to LIASA

South Africa celebrates “20 years of its democracy”. Following this celebration, LIASA has embraced the theme of this celebration as its theme for the year and which is, “*20 years of Democracy*”. LIASA will be celebrating its library week and this will be celebrated in all branches of LIASA with the same theme. This celebration will continue in Johannesburg when the current term for the LIASA executive ends and elections conducted. LIASA had just come out of skilling and staff development for all its branches. This is done so that policies are clear and all the branches well managed. The registration of LIASA as a professional body with the South Africa Authority is on course. When completed, LIASA will present all the LIS sections and sub sectors. All documentation to meet up with the registration process have been put together and submitted to the government authority in charge. When once LIASA is registered, only professionals with the required qualification will be allowed to work in the library sector. There is a grant that is used to support interested persons to study and get the requisite qualification. An amount of \$1.5million grant was received from the Carnegie Corporation. 66 students had already benefited from this grant. As a result of emphasis on qualification, the curriculum on LIS education has been revised. The Directors forum has been launched aimed at defining a strategic plan for libraries across the country. LIASA got an award for the Gate Foundation worth \$ 3.2 million. This award involves 27 public libraries in a pilot project. This award will be announced during the National Foundation Library week. The sum of \$ 1 million in grant has been received from the American Embassy in South Africa to acidify the documents of Nelson Mandela. The South Africa government on its part has provided 1.7 billion Rands for the development of libraries across the country. The most important desire is to ensure that all these funds are used properly. Following all these successes, when South Africa sends out a call to work with colleagues out of their country, it is a genuine call because the funds for infrastructure and

staff are available. Following this report, LIASA was congratulated for pulling together all the money and developing the library sector including the infrastructure on the continent.

**d) Cameroon Association of Librarians, Archivist, Documentalist and Museographers (ABADCAM) Report presented by Alim Garga.**

The following points were gathered from the report on ABADCAM:

After the Building Strong Library Association programmes that took place from 2010 – 2011, a new team was put in place. ABADCAM has succeeded in advocating the government of Cameroon which is now involved in most of its activities that relate to the LIS sector. The Ministry of Culture has involved ABADCAM in the following activities:

- ABADCAM was invited to constitute part of the organizing team of the first Book fair. ABADCAM equally mounted a stand during this event.
- ABADCAM was requested to identify professionals to produce the first national bibliography with the Ministry of Culture.

This association has programmed a conference for 2014 with the theme “Access to Electronic Resources”, in partnership with the Goethe Institute in Yaoundé. There are now training workshops programmed for all the ABADCAM focal points across the country.

**e) The Ghana Library Association (GLA) Report**

The GLA report was presented by Valentina Bannerman in her capacity as the GLA Council member as follows:

**Library and Information Week**

The GLA celebrated the Library and Information Week from 7 – 11 October, 2013 under the theme “*Information Literacy and Public Libraries*”. This was the first time such a celebration had taken place.

The purpose of the celebration was to raise the profile of libraries and information service professionals. The focus was on public libraries and they exhibited their resources and services to the communities where they were located. A three day reading clinic was also organized during the period to help children to read.

Prior to the celebration, the Association had organized a one day trainer of trainer workshop for 2 librarians in each region of the country on how to organize effective reading clinics. The librarians in the 10 regions were presented with assorted reading materials donated by publishers for distribution in their respective regions during the celebration. The celebration started with a national launch in the capital Accra. Regional launches were done simultaneously with a common message read by President of the Ghana Library Association, Dr. Perpetua Dadzie and Association’s Regional Representatives.

The celebration attracted a lot of dignitaries, including the wife of the Vice President of Ghana, politicians, traditional rulers, civil and public servants, librarians, teachers, school children, parents, and the general public. There were television and radio talk shows across the regions by selected members of the association. The Library and Information Week will be celebrated every year.

**Meeting to Ratify Marrakesh**

Teresa Hackett, a member of CLM alerted the Chair and facilitated my attendance at the meeting to ratify the Marrakesh Treaty which was organized by the Ghana Blind Union in collaboration with the Copyright Office. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss early ratification by Ghana of the Marrakesh Treaty for persons with print disabilities.

At the end of the meeting, it was decided that there would be a national workshop where the treaty would be taken apart paragraph by paragraph and examined in all its dimensions, including provision for an authorized entity to do the conversion. WIPO was to provide resource persons for the workshop. All stakeholders would be assembled for broad consultation. A number of stakeholders, such as members of parliament, authors, librarians, Ghana Federation of Disabled and the press attended.

Initially, only one librarian was invited from the public library sector. The Chair made them aware of the Ghana Library Association that presents all libraries and librarians in Ghana as well as the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Ghana which the Chair represented on that day.

### **Workshop**

A workshop on librarianship and the demands for new leadership skill is being organized by the Balme Library, University of Ghana; the Nigeria Library Association Information Technology Section/ Ifegrace Ventures Ltd and Ghana Library Association from 13 – 17 April 2014. The fee is \$100. A call for papers has been issued.

#### **f) The Nigerian Library Association (NLA): Report Presented by Victoria Okojie**

The following report was presented:

Librarians in Nigeria are moving out into political positions. A Librarian has been appointed an ambassador to Poland and Estonia. She has facilitated a working relation between the Nigerian Library Association and the Polish Library Association through a memorandum of agreement, which permits a young librarian to go to Poland for professional exposure every year. The Nigerian Petroleum Commission is now headed by a Librarian. A new organizational structure is being proposed that will enable Librarians in Nigeria to become directors in the Civil Service. From the 26 – 30 June, NLA will have its conference for the 52<sup>nd</sup> year. From 18 – 23 May, there will be the first conference of certified Librarians and Standing Committee members of the African Section will be consulted for ideas.

Following this report, a member mentioned that a group in Ghana was negotiating with the Nigerian Library Association Technology Section on training. This was frowned upon because it was said that this arrangement was not formal. SC members were called up to watch out and sensitize their members not to engage on informal activities that will run down the image of the associations.

#### **g) Library Association of Botswana**

The Botswana Library Association in 2013 organized an annual conference with the theme, “Library and Information Management for Development and Social Inclusion”. It organized workshops on project management and leadership skills for registered members. The association organized a fund raising that yielded the profit of P14,000 (fourteen thousand Pula). A stakeholders breakfast meeting was organized that pulled a good number of persons together.

The Strategic Plan of the Association was reviewed and an action plan for 2014 was produced. It is worth noting that Botswana was one of the two countries that sent in a bid for the hosting of the 2015 IFLA Conference. We are quite excited that our bid was considered even if we did not retain.

### **5.0. Update from AfLIA, APN and CANL**

The Chair of AfLIA presented a report which highlighted the following points:

AfLIA membership has grown. An account has been opened. A website has been created and will be hosted by the University of South Africa (UNISA). SC members were called upon to sensitize their LIS communities about AfLIA. The Chair of AfLIA said she was very happy that many associations

and institutions were responding positively to calls for membership. AFLIA will organize its first conference next year 2015 in Accra Ghana. Members were informed that AfLIA is co-hosting the BSLA regional meeting with 45 participants and this is already recognition of this body by IFLA. People were requested to indicate if their associations were not yet registered so that they could be given the necessary information.

### **5.1. African Public Library Network (APLN)**

It was reported that Gertrude Mulindwa who is the coordinator of APLN, has sent out information about the network. SC Members were informed that APLN was very active and working hard to recruit members. The Africa Section Secretary was requested to send out Gertrude Mulindwa's E-mail address to SC Members. It was proposed that APLN should have a link to the AfLIA website in order to facilitate access to information on the network and this will also help to cut cost. The interest on public libraries around the world was highlighted and SC Members were reminded of the need to build public libraries in their individual countries. There was a proposal to create a network of academic libraries on the continent that will share information on research trends, consortia and other activities. A second proposal was to widen the scope to include all types of libraries not just academic libraries. It was concluded following these proposals that, these would help AfLIA to reflect on its working groups and sections. Thus rather than have more library networks. It would be important for AfLIA to develop its sections that will cover all types of libraries.

### **5.2. Conference of African National Libraries (CANL)**

SC members were informed that CANL had been created alongside APLN and launched alongside AfLIA and APLN during the Second African Library Summit in Pretoria, South Africa. John Tsebe is the current Chair of CANL and a database of 55 African National Libraries on Africa is covered in the database.

After 5.0 of the agenda, it was agreed that points 6.0 and 7.0 would be discussed on the second day of the Mid Term Meeting. At this junction the meeting proceeded with discussions on point 8.0. A Committee of three was put in place to work on point 7.0 in order to facilitate the task of selecting the abstracts the next day.

## **8.0. IFLA WLIC, LYON – FRANCE, 2014**

### **8.1. Update**

SC members were reminded of the early bird registration dead line for the IFLA World Library Congress (WLIC) in May 2014. Members can register and pay on arrival. The procedure on how to go about the Section on mode of payment when filling the on-line registration form was explained. Members were advised that when they fill the form up to this section, then they can send a mail to the IFLA Head Quarters to say that you will pay on site.

### **8.2. Poster Session.**

SC members were informed that a proposal was sent in for a poster session. The theme of the poster is, "Libraries as Confluence of Knowledge for Emerging African Societies". At this point, Members raise the problem of VISAS. It was made clear that getting a VISA was an individual's responsibility.

### **8.3. Open Forum**

It was reported that there will be a joint open forum. The IFLA African Section is doing a joint open forum with the IFLA Section on Children and Young Adults, and the Child. Members already had the Abstracts received to be studied the following day for selection.

### **8.4 Africa Caucus**

SC Members inquired to know if there was an African Caucus. The answer was no and members were informed that for now, Africa functions under Division V Caucus. The feeling has always been to have an African caucus to discuss matters affecting Africa particularly, such issues of participating in IFLA work, membership strategies to enlighten members, so that they do not bring disrepute to the continent, to name just these. It was clear that it has been quite difficult to set up an African caucus. The suggestion was that an AfLIA Caucus be created not African Caucus. It was agreed that a request for this be sent in for next year, that this year there should be possibility of meeting even offsite.

## **9.0. IFLA WLIC, Cape Town South Africa, August 2015**

The opening remarks highlighted the good attendance when Africa hosted the IFLA WLIC in 2007 in Durban, SA. There was a need to make the 2015 congress an African success again. The LIASA President then came in to provide an update with respect to the preparations towards 2015. She began by indicating that IFLA 2015 is an exciting expectation. A national committee is in place to plan and prepare for IFLA WLIC 2015, made up of the different stakeholders. There is a need to include the IFLA Africa Section. The various members of the committee have been making very good contributions. There was a site visits from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2014. Venues and events are being finalized with host areas being identified. The congress will last from 15 – 21 August, 2015. Logo elements include, the Cape Town Table maintain, green emblem, book as an endangered species, a cursor representing technology. There is need to list venues that can host up to 300 delegates during the opening ceremony and cultural evening. A call for venues has been sent out and when any is identified, the name of the contact person should be sent. A list of libraries to be considered for visits is being compiled throughout the country and the neighbouring countries. The South African Department of Arts and Culture has given 3.5 million Rands to pay for the Convention Centre in Cape Town, provided grants to 100 South African librarians to attend the conference and paid for the cultural evening. There are 300 volunteers needed. These colleagues will be accommodated by the LIASA Office if possible. All Directors of libraries have been called upon to start budgeting including convening attendees to the conference. A grant for 100 delegates may be around the continent just to cover registration for the conference only and this will be managed by LIASA. There is need to showcase best practices that exist over the continent. The library boulevard space has already been demarcated. There is need to consider a preconference on African Development Goals. There is a need for AfLIA to be present at the boulevard. Grants are being solicited. IFLA Africa Section had planned for a workshop and preconference in Cape Town. Namibia Development Council proposed a venue but there is need to get the details and the contact person. Namibia wished to provide volunteers as ushers. Information given is that volunteers need 3 days training before the congress. Registration for all volunteers will be waved. There is need to submit names of plenary speakers. A South African will give the key note and besides this, there will be two other speakers and one of them can be from the African continent. It is envisaged to have at least 3500 delegates. There was an indication made known that Africa will have to bid to host in 2022 again. There is therefore a need to start reflecting on this while fine-tuning qualities that will permit several bids for 2022.

## **6.0. Africa Section Strategic Plan**

### **6.1. – 6.2. The Mission, Objective and the Strategic Plan Document**

- 6.3.** Actions – Action 2 that has to do with Interest Groups. This Action was reviewed and it was decided that there is need for activities to promote this action. It was then decided that a preconference will be organized by UNISA on women’s issue in South Africa in 2015. The Women Information and Libraries’ SIG has requested if UNISA can host them and it would be encouraging if the IFLA African Section can get involved in this preconference on Women Information and Libraries SIG. The Africa Section will discuss on this and make decisions. It was agreed that despite the

preconference, SC members were urged to carry out activities on special interest groups through their associations implementing the section's strategic plan in their different regions. That this can be done by aligning the section's strategic plan or goals in their association's strategic plan. It is incumbent on SC Members to report the decisions, goals and strategic plans of the Africa Section to their associations so that the associations can as much as possible align their goals and activities to those of the section.

#### 6.4 Goals

The various goals of the Section were reviewed as follows:

**Goal 1:** Promote and support the development of the profession

In line with this goal, it was agreed that there is need to encourage the community of librarians to use the Building Strong Library Associations training materials that are on the IFLA website to enable them to achieve goal one of the Section's Strategic Plan.

**Goal 2:** Promote and Support development programmes for information, reading and literacies in Africa.

It was clear that the execution of this goal was ongoing in different parts of Africa with the following examples:

- Ghana Library Association has worked on its literacy issues.
- The National Library of South Africa is reprinting the classic books and redistributing to libraries after translating them in other languages.  
SC members were encouraged to report on achieved aspects of the section's strategic plan. It was emphasized that the section should be aggressive in communicating with National associations to get involved with the section's activities.
- The Namibian Library Association has a reading programme that targets school children and is an annual activity with people invited to come and talk to the children.  
SC members were requested to capture their activities with pictures and send to the secretariat. This will be helpful in highlighting the section's activities all over the continent. It was agreed that SC members should prepare reports for the committee meeting. Prof. Nyamboga was then requested to prepare a report on the Literacy programme for East Africa.

**Goal 3:** Promote the role of Libraries in the information society,

It was agreed that tasks be given to individual members to coordinate the implementation of this goal and specific goals be reported back on to the Section. Following this resolution, Christian Kofi was requested to come up with a template for presenting reports on goals that will be used for the August Meeting in Lyon-France, 2014. He was given up till mid-March 2014 to come up with a template. Members were given assignments to follow up activities in their various regions in line with the IFLA Africa goals and strategic plan and to report during the standing committee meeting beginning August 2014.

The Coordinations of the various goals were done as follows:

Goals	Coordinator
<b>Goal 1:</b> To promote and support the development of the profession in the region through the strengthening of library associations.	Alim Garga
<b>Goal 2:</b> To promote and support development programmes that focus on improved information use, reading and literature in Africa.	Constantine Nyamboga
<b>Goal 3:</b> To promote the role of libraries in the Information Society.	Buhle Mbambo-Thata

Goal 4: To drive access to content and digital resources of Library users	Magocha Bongiwe
Goal 5: To promote education and continuing professional development for the Library and information profession in Africa.	Ellen Namhila assisted by Constantine Nyamboga
<b>Goal 6:</b> To promote documentation and preservation of indigenous knowledge and to advocate for moral rights, intellectual property and copyright for indigenous knowledge.	Valentina Bannerman
<b>Goal 7:</b> To support the IFLA Presidential Theme.	Joyce Gozo Agnes, Nthabiseng Kotsokoane supported by Satgoor Ujala.
<b>Goal 8:</b> To advocate for improved access to information and knowledge for development in Africa.	Abraham Azubuike

**Goal 4:** In line with goal 4 in 2015, the Ghana Authority Board with South Africa will be implicated in the planning process for ICADLA – 4.

**Goal 5:** A strategic action 5.5 on capacity building was added to Actions under goal 5.

**Goal 6:**

Action 6.1 on capacity building was moved to constitute action 4.5

Action 6.1 became, collaborate with organizations working on Indigenous knowledge and creating a database.

**Goal 7:**

Under goal 7, the following actions were added.

7.1. Circulate information about the presidential theme; publish the symposium proceedings in form of articles.

7.2. Organize Satellite meetings on Presidential theme.

7.3. Implementing the Trend Report Launched in Singapore in 2013.

**Goal 8:** It was decided that actions 8.2 and 8.3 of goal 8 be deleted.

Action 8.4. became action 2

Action 8.3. was coined as, to support the public library Network and

Action 8.4. to support reading for people with special needs and minority groups

**7.0. Selection of Abstracts**

A total of 39 abstracts were received by the time of the SC Meeting. It was agreed that the format presented by the IFLA Section on Children and Young Adults be respected for the selection of abstracts. Members were informed that the total number of abstracts to be selected was 8. With this said, the committee that had been created the previous day to study the abstracts was given the floor to present its report. The Chair of the Committee, Prof. Constantine Nyamboga took the floor and presented a report. Elements of the report were completed by the other two members in the persons of Christian Kofi and Alim Garga. The SC Members settled down to work on selected 8 abstracts using the proposals of the committee as guidelines. After serious scrutiny, 8 abstracts and two backups making a total of ten abstracts were selected (abstract Nos. 21, 27, 03, 05, 14, 35, 18, 01, and 15 and 9 as backups).

**10.0 IFLA Head Quarters**

**10.1** IFLA Governing Board Update. SC Members were referred to the IFLA website for update.

## 10.2 IFLA journal and key initiatives.

### (a) IFLA Journal

The IFLA Governing Board Member in the person of Ellen Namhila, representing the IFLA President reported on the above item as follows:

It was said that the terms of reference for the IFLA Journal Committee were changed. There has been a call for nomination for new members of the committee and a call for a new Editor will soon come out because the current Editor is retiring. The IFLA journal has been benefiting heavily from conference papers but a decision has now been taken for the journal to benefit from solicited papers. People were thus called to write papers for publication in this journal. The main message therefore is that IFLA is actively seeking timely, relevant content and colleagues with ideas for papers, topics to focus on that would be relevant to library practice are encouraged. People can contact Stephen Parker the current editor. Ellen Namhila's role is liaison between GB/PC which deals with publishing strategy, and the editorial committee which will increasingly focus on commissioned content.

### (b) Key Initiatives.

On IFLA Key Initiatives, Members of the SC were informed that, IFLA on Key Initiative 4 wants to establish a risk register by mid-2015 for heritage in danger. A questionnaire will be sent out soon to collect data on this. It was indicated that UNESCO was partly involved in this project.

IFLA is actively seeking timely relevant topics to focus on what would be relevant to library practice for the journal publication. People can contact Stephen Parker the current editor and Ellen Namhila the liaison between GB/PC which deals with publishing strategy while the editorial committee will increasingly focus on commissioning content.

The IFLA Key Initiative 4 has now entered its second operational year and we have started the testing phase. In year one, extensive surveys were made to see what data other organizations, such as ICOMOS and ICOM, collect for their risk awareness work. These results, combined with the extensive questionnaire created by the Preservation and Conservation Section, the cascading questionnaire was created. The idea of this is to send a top level questionnaire for some countries on trial and the second level questionnaire to identified institutions. Once results from questionnaires have been evaluated later this year, the questionnaire will be adapted. In parallel to this, a nomination form has been drafted and is currently under discussion. The idea for the nomination form is to make this available for download online and for institutions to submit precious, high level collections to the register. This is to ensure a sustainability of the initiative.

We are currently looking at having an operational risk register for documentary heritage in mid-2015. Members were also referred to IFLA website for KIS.

### (c) Presidential Theme

Ellen Namhila representing the IFLA President extended warm greetings and appreciation to the SC Members for taking a keen interest on her theme, "*Strong Libraries Strong Societies*".

Ellen Namhila said the President apologized for not being able to attend in person.

## 10.3 ALP: BLSA Update

- ALP Update

With respect to ALP update the following information was received from Julia Brungs that IFLA is actively involved at the UN on sessions dedicated to the creation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which will follow the conclusion of the Millennium Development

Goals (MDGs) at the end of 2015. The new goals are being discussed by the Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development.

The OWG has been holding a series of sessions focusing on different issues which will need to be represented in the UN's new development framework scheduled to begin in January 2016.

Stuart Hamilton, IFLA Director of Policy and Advocacy, attended the 8<sup>th</sup> session of the OWD between February 3-7 2014. IFLA's statement to the OWG was to discuss the importance of access to information as a fundamental human right and highlighted that in many communities the library is the only place for people to access information. IFLA's other statements related to this topic can also now be found on the UN website – a joint statement on access to information and post-2015 development agenda, *IFLA's Statement on Libraries and Development*.

In connection with the 8<sup>th</sup> session of the OWG, IFLA co-signed a new statement calling for access to information to be central to the post-2015 development agenda. This call was picked up by the Guardian, highlighting the call to include accessing the information in the SDGs.

### **UNDP**

Prior to the 8<sup>th</sup> session of the OWG IFLA Governing Board Member Loida Garcia-Febo attended a meeting organised by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on *Data Accountability for the Post-2015 Development Agenda*. The meeting brought together various initiatives and key stakeholders active in the field to discuss how to facilitate the monitoring of the new development framework, improved data collection and use of data in evidence-based policy making; intermediaries in fostering transparency and participation. Loida Garcia-Febo presented the role of libraries in the data revolution and further promoted the central role libraries play.

The welcome received by global institutions and representatives from the private sector, government and civil society confirmed that libraries are increasingly being considered crucial partners in achieving the new sustainable development goals. Participants shared inspiring stories about libraries in their home countries with each other and were keen to discuss the work done by libraries. There were many libraries supporters at the event.

### Further reading

- Access Loida's presentation '*Closing the gap in the post-2015 Framework: Libraries as champions for the data revolution*'. All presentations of the event as well as general information around the event can be found on this title.
  - Read the paper submitted by *IFLA and Beyond Access* in support of the presentation here.
  - Read the IFLA article by Fiona Bradley on '*Information, access and skills will unlock the data revolution*'.

### **BLSA Update**

The IFLA Building Strong Library Associations' programme, has now been reviewed and it is shifting from a country focus to a regional convening. The first if to start in Africa and to be hosted by Ghana form the 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> February 2014. It is hoped it will now have a wider impact. This first regional convening will be managed by IFLA, AFLIA and will draw trainers, participants from different parts of Africa.

## **10.4 IFLA ALP: Engagement with UN Post-2015 Development Agenda.**

See Julia's updates in point 10.3 above.

## **10.5 IFLA ALP International Leadership Programme**

SC Members on IFLA ALP International Leadership Programme were informed that this programme is ongoing. The programme is on its second year and will come to a close in 2014 in Lyon, France during the WLIC, 2014. There are five projects of the programme with people involved in at least two projects each. It is hoped that this project ends successfully. It was worth mentioning especially for the attention of new SC Members that, of the twelve (12) leaders in the programme, there are five (5) Africans taking part.

### **Comments and Discussions Relating to ALP**

Members were informed that the African Heads of States meeting took place in Addis Abba and a document was submitted to include libraries on the development agenda last year, 2013. We should therefore be looking forward for the outcome. It was then proposed that the statement to the AAU, Heads of States on libraries be circulated so that different countries should be informed about such efforts. It was also recommended that Library Associations should be looking at what their governments are doing with respect to the UN Post 2015 development goals in order to focus library projects in line with such activities. A statement should be sent out to Presidents of Library Associations to remind them on the UN review of the MDGS and that they should put libraries on the development agenda. A motion was put for members to review and see what has been done in Africa towards achieving the MDGS. An opinion was expressed that not much has been achieved with respect to MDGS in the domain of libraries on the African continent. That IFLA was focused on information issues not on MDGS specifically. It was indicated that IFLA is now keen on putting libraries on the agenda of development and in line with the post development goals after review by the United Nations (UN). It was reminded that IFLA Africa Section had done quite some work with respect to the MDGS through workshops. Members were called upon to report the work libraries were doing on development in their respective countries. Ujala Satgoor proposed as a way forward that a point be on the Section's Strategic Plan Libraries and MDGs..

## **10.6 IFLA Awards**

Members were called upon to pay attention to the call for nominations for IFLA awards so that Africans who have done good and great work can be nominated. The Section has applied for 2014 and people are encouraged to propose names of worthy persons.

## **11.0 Next IFLA Africa Section Standing Committee Mid-Term Meeting**

**11.1 Venue:** Kenya, Nakuru was the proposed venue and this was accepted. Members were informed that Nakuru, Kenya is 2 hours drive from Nairobi.

**11.2 Date:** Members were reminded that the mid-term meeting usually holds in the first or second weeks of February. Thursday 5 to Saturday 7 February 2015 were proposed.

## **12.0 Any Other Business**

### **12.1 Election of IFLA Africa Section Information Coordinator (IASIC)**

Members were informed that the IASIC was responsible for doing the newsletter, communicating with IFLA HQ and the section's members. Members were informed that Kathy Matsika had volunteered to take up this position. A question was asked on the role of the Regional Office and this was clarified by Jacinta Were. It was equally agreed that the Section should start with one coordinator following a proposal that there should be two.

Members were reminded that everyone is expected to provide information for the newsletter. Joyce Myeza was confirmed as the webmaster and a decision was taken to write an official letter to her.

## **12.2 Standards Committee**

Members were informed that Abraham Azubuike was elected into the Standards Committee of IFLA.

### **Vote of Thanks**

The Section's Chair, Victoria Okojie, expressed sincere gratitude to Helena Assamoah-Hassan, her team and staff for a job well done in hosting the mid-term meeting. SC Members were thanked for taking off time from their busy schedules to attend. The whole Africa appreciates the work the Section does as a Standing Committee. We are thus motivated by this to drive the whole of LIS forward on the continent. There was need to take the decisions made here back home to our national associations for their input so that we can work as a team.

We are so grateful to have committed veterans in the profession such as Helena Assamoah-Hassan, Jacinta Were, Buhle Mbambo – Thata and Kay Raseroka. We express our sincere thanks to them for all the great work they are doing for African Librarianship. For those members leaving tomorrow, we wish them a safe trip back home. Members were informed that Helena Assamoah-Hassan is providing dinner at her home and by 17:30 everyone should be by the bus. Gratitude was expressed to the Secretary of the Section, Rosemary Shafack, for the sacrifice of being there to work just after leaving the hospital a week before. Thanks were expressed to observers and for their input and for attending it was hoped that they will be encouraged to join.

A move to adjourn was made by Ellen Namhila and supported by Buhle Mbambo-Thata.

