MINUTES OF THE IFLA AFRICA SECTION MID-TERM MEETING HELD AT THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, (NUST), BULAWAYO ZIMBABWE, 6TH FEBRUARY, 2012 STANDING COMMITTEE (SC) MEETING

11 ATTENDANCE

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The meeting commenced at 10.30 a.m. The meeting was hosted by the National University of Science and Technology (NUST), Bulawayo.

**Welcome address and reception by Vice Chancellor, NUST**

Professor Lindela R. Ndlovu, Vice Chancellor, National University of Science and technology (NUST), Bulawayo, gave a warm welcome address. He said that access to information is one of the key elements for the successful attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Libraries and other information services providers are crucial to democratic information society development where access to information is critical for decision making.

He referred to IFLA’s core values that give strong emphasis to the principles of freedom of information. NUST and universities in Zimbabwe have great respect for these values, he said. Currently, progress has been made towards making research output accessible through the establishment of Institutional Repositories whose content will be freely available on the web. Academic institutions in Zimbabwe would like to contribute tremendously to the body of knowledge and therefore IFLA’s affirmation that ‘Comprehensive open access to scholarly literature and research documentation is vital to the understanding of our world and to the identification of solutions to global challenges and particularly the reduction of information inequality’ is equally shared within our institutions.

He stated that NUST supports the role that the IFLA Africa Section is playing in Africa. He further noted with interest the August 2012 the IFLA Africa section Open Forum at the WLIC whose theme is ‘Africa Libraries now on Open Access Agenda’. He said that SC a member of the research community, a lot of academics are keen to understand whether Open Access has really made a difference to the author, the researcher, to the publisher and the end users who are our clients in Libraries? He wished SC all the best in the various deliberations aimed at enhancing access to information for the development of Africa.

**Remarks by Dr. Buhle-Mbambo Thata, Representative, IFLA Governing Board**

Dr. Buhle appreciated the Vice Chancellor, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and senior NUST officials for the hosting of SC mid-term meeting. She also recognized the SC members present and the role of SC in building the capacities and promoting the development of libraries and information services in Africa. She reiterated the vision and global role of IFLA in transforming libraries and societies through information. IFLA is the trusted voice to be the trusted voice by the global Library community. It has 150 member institutions who seek to build each other and keep the trust of the member communities to ensure that highest standards for libraries are met. Refereeing to the Vice Chancellor’s speech, Dr. Buhle indicated that one of the core values of IFLA is access to information. Hence, IFLA has engaged with WIPO on access to information to ensure that libraries
deliver information to the less privileged populations. Dr. Buhle thanked the Vice Chancellor for his contribution to the furtherance of the values of IFLA through NUST. She recognized Ms. Kathy Matsika, University Librarian, NUST UL who has been actively involved in IFLA activities through the support of NUST. Talking about the importance of partnership, Dr. Buhle stated that SC has partnered with Bill & Melinda Gates on a project on public libraries, and was seeking for more partners to facilitate the various activities of the SC. Talking of the importance of partnership, she said;

*If you want to walk fast, go alone, if you want to go further, walk with others*

Lastly, Dr. Buhle said that she was looking forward to the meeting with SCLI students. She wished the Chairperson, SC and the SC well in the various deliberations of the mid-term meeting and other Section activities.

**Vote of thanks by Victoria Okojie Chair, SC**

The Chair, SC appreciated the support given by the Vice Chancellor and members of NUST for their great hospitality and the hosting of the mid-term meeting. She noted that the Vice Chancellor had demonstrated in practical terms through his support for the SC mid-term meeting that he was a true friend of the library. The Chair said that SC aims to discuss and promote development of African libraries; encouraging partnerships, capacity building, bridging digital divide. Membership of SC is drawn from the various library and information institutions and Associations in Africa. She acknowledged and appreciated the role played by Ms. Kathy Matsika in assisting in the organization of the midterm meeting. She further commended Dr. Buhle Mbambo – Thata SC an illustrious role model.

The Chair thanked the Vice Chancellor for the provision of the venue, catering and the evening reception. She also thanked members of SC for making effort to attend the meeting.

**IFLA, WLIC, HELSINKI, AUGUST 2012**

**8.1 Update**

The Chair informed the members that the registration for the WLIC is open. She encouraged the SC to register and attend the activities SC scheduled.

**8.2 Poster Session**

The Secretary submitted to IFLA the proposal for the poster session to IFLA. The theme of the poster is *Ideas, Innovations, Anticipating The New..*

SC to send information and ideas for the poster session. Ideas to include photos.

The SC was informed that any member can part produce the poster. Deadline to send information to Secretary, 9th March, 2012.

**8.3 Open Forum: Review of Abstracts received by January 14th, 2012**

The Chair reported that a total of 20 abstracts were received. The Secretary circulated the abstracts to SC members for review. No feedback was received. SC a result, Chair proposed that members go through the abstracts and review them for relevancy in relation to the various sub-themes. Only four papers would be approved for the Open Forum. A template that the Secretary had prepared with summaries of the abstracts was used.

Theme: "Africa libraries now on open access agenda"

Sub-Themes:

- Open Access for all in Africa libraries
• Social networking in Africa libraries
• Information literacy in Africa libraries on open access agenda
• Indigenous knowledge for all in Africa libraries
• Policy issues in open access agenda
• Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for Africa libraries open access agenda
• Integration of open access agenda and libraries in Africa: the role of librarians

After careful deliberations guided by the above criteria, the following abstracts were approved for presentation at the Open Forum in Helsinki 2012:

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<tr>
<th>Paper Title</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Blazing new paths in open access for African librarianship: the contribution of Stellenbosch University</td>
<td>Dr. Reggie Raju &amp; Ian Smith South Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Libraries for development: Partnerships, ICT and making public/community libraries relevant to communities in Tanzania and Namibia</td>
<td>Dr. Alli Mcharazo, Ms. Veno Kauaria &amp; Ms. Marjatta Lahti Tanzania</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. The tale of two &quot;Policies&quot; and their enforcement&quot;</td>
<td>Aston Mushowani Zimbabwe</td>
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It was noted that the title of the abstract by Nafissatou Bakhoum did not quite reflect the content expressed in the abstract. To be advised to change the title of her paper and articulate the content in her abstract.

It was further agreed that the paper by Kenneth Rotich, Kenya be considered a backup in case one of the above accepted paper presenters are unable to present their paper. Secretary to write to the approved paper presenters and give them author guidelines.

8.4 Satellite meeting
The Chair reported that Africa Section will host the satellite meeting on 9th – 10th August, 2012, just before IFLA WLIC.
Theme: Libraries: the amazing gateway to knowledge and power. A call for papers to be sent by Secretary. SC members were urged to circulate the information to their regions once the call is made. The Chair said that SC does not have funding for the meeting. There was need to look for the speakers. A registration fee would be considered to cater for the lunches and teas.

It was proposed that the Section can use some of the abstracts from the Open Forum. A call for papers will be issued. Proposed speakers to include Buhle, Ellen Namhila, and Prof. Constantine Nyamboga.
9.1 IFLA HQ Update
The update was given by Dr. Buhle, representative, IFLA GB. Dr. Buhle informed the SC about the IFLA Library Treaty. IFLA was preparing for a meeting in July. More information would be communicated to the SC. Both IFLA and WIPO Japan will be sponsoring a conference on intellectual property rights in Johannesburg. IFLA would be writing a letter to WIPO to register her dissatisfaction. She said that Stewart had sent mail to Chair on this subject.

Dr. Buhle Mbambo – Thata further reported progress on the five key IFLA priority areas that include policy and advocacy. UNESCO is supporting the Digital Library component.

On Leadership, IFLA will launch a leadership programme that will focus on IFLA key deliverables e.g. building peoples capacity on fundraising. The members were asked to look out for more information online from IFLA/ALP

Speaking on the issue of cultural heritage, Dr. Buhle informed the SC that IFLA has continued with ensuring preservation of the cultural heritage and disaster management. IFLA has produced document responding to national disasters IFLA membership. Many Library Associations have not renewed their membership due to financial constraints. A new proposal is being considered for new Associations and institutions to be given a grace period of three years.

WLIC, Helsinki 2012. Registration for Helsinki is open online. 2013 IFLA 2013 will take place in Singapore.

9.1 Discussions
After the update on IFLA HQ, the SC deliberated on the issue of cutting down fees for speakers and presenters. SC has 3500 Euros for the 4 speakers. This amount is inadequate to meet their costs. Dr. Buhle informed the SC that IFLA GB is looking into the matter. In the meantime, SC to look for presenters who can sponsor themselves. The announcement for the travel grants for speakers can be checked on IFLA website.

The SC sought to know who is being invited to the IFLA WIPO Japan meeting in November in Johannesburg. The Chair to circulate to the SC the document from Stewart on IFLA/WIPO conference.

Copyright Conference, Nairobi, 3-4 May. The SC was urged to identify politicians in their home countries and lobby them in preparation for the conference.

9.2 International/IFLA-Code of Ethics for Librarians and other Information Workers Draft
The Chair observed that the code of ethics was a broad draft that Library Associations can draw from and localize to their own country situations. It is a critical document that will enhance professional ethics and standards for librarians and other information workers. Secretary to circulate the draft to the SC. The Chair urged the SC to read and submit their comments/input to the Secretary within two weeks after which these comments would be forwarded to IFLA HQ for inclusion in the review.

9.3 Strategic Plan
Lindy Nhlapo gave the following update on the implementation of the Africa Section SP.

**Action 1. Done.**

**Action 2.** Collaborates with diverse women leaders in women section to promote the agenda of SC. - not yet done. Ellen volunteered to link with Section
Chair, Women Section and seek areas of collaboration. SC Chair encouraged the SC to participate in the activities of the Women’s Section.

**Action3.** Done, with great success in Cameroon and Botswana

**Goal 1.** On-going

**Goal 2.** On-going

### Actions

2.1 – 2.3. Not done. It was recommended that the work toward it this year

**Goal 3**

### Actions:

3.1 Done in Cameroon

3.2 not done

3.3 – 3.4. done in most of the section activities. This includes the MDGs workshops. Most of SC workshops are aimed at bridging digital divide. Including internet manifesto

**Goal 4**

### Actions 4.1

This is what LIS in developing countries SIG are addressing. There is a report from Abdulla. Naomi to circulate report. Chair to follow up.

4.2. Directory. SC will get an intern at the regional office to work on it

4.3 The world report - this is an individual contribution. On IFLA website, there is a section on world report. SC was encouraged to go online and see what contributions other countries have made and also make their input.

4.4 BSLA programme. many national Associations have built their Associations satisfactorily. Is an ongoing concern

**Goal 5**

### Action1: Activities are ongoing. These include indigenous knowledge; ICADLA-2. SC to be more involved in ICALDA -3. It was reported that the Chair, Abraham and Lindy Nhlapo are in the ICADLA -3 committee. ICADLA has done a workshop on indigenous knowledge. Naomi to email Secretary the report to circulate to members.

### Action 5.1

Additional action; digital preservation and digital conservation.

UNESCO memory of the World Project. The SC agreed on the need to explore the possibility of participation at the World Conference on Digital library in Vancouver.

**Goal 6: Ampend to read .. IFLA President Ellen Tise**

**Goal 7.** Focuses on ATINA. Have been active. Activities on-going. Francis Kirkwood, Convener of the Access to Information Network-Africa (ATINA) Special Interest Group reported that, together with the Africa Section and the Information Literacy Section of IFLA, ATINA will be holding a pre-conference satellite meeting on the topic: ‘Information for civic literacy’. The pre-conference will be held in Riga, Latvia on 8-10 August, 2012. Funding will be sought from UNESCO and other sources.

**Taking forward the 5 new initiatives of IFLA.**

The information on the five initiatives will be circulated to the SC to see what new goals and activities for the section to consider. The SC deliberated on the issue of translation which is a serious problem at IFLA. This issue was previously discussed in San Juan. The Chair said that she spoke with Mariétou and sought for cooperation and resolving issues at home level. The SC was informed that the
Language centre puts in a bid to IFLA; they are supposed to support the activities of the SC. However, SC has experienced challenges with the centre.

**Agreed:** The Chair to write to IFLA HQ and inform them of the difficulties with the Language centre and ask for review. SC however need to have the evidence/documentation.

The SC proposed that we include SC one of our strategic goals– to promote more effective communication and translation of publications in other languages.

Secretary to send the San Juan minutes to Mariétou for translation.

The SC was requested to give their input to the SP to the Secretary by 29th February, 2012.

**9.4 ALP Projects**

Lindy Nhlapo reported that four proposals were received from Burkina Faso, Tanzania, Madagascar and Cote D’voire. Madagascar proposal was accepted.

The SC was asked to read the BLSA report on the IFLA website.

Alim shared the progress of BLSA in Cameroon. He thanked Africa Section for the support given to Cameroon. The project is ongoing. 2 workshops had taken place. The project ends April. He further said that there will be mini conference in Berlin where progress reports will be presented. Alim reported that with the assistance of Jacinta Were who was their trainer, they had succeeded in putting in place a strategic plan. They are now revising the constitution and will go for elections at end of year. They too have a website and will do a poster session at Helsinki.

It was noted that the Cameroon story is a success story that other countries can replicate. Libraries are now more visible in Cameroon. It was noted that a similar success story was realized in Botswana where the Association had died and is now revived. These and other BSLA success models are on IFLA website. Library Associations can use and apply in their respective regions.

**9.5 ISCL Conference, Zimbabwe 2012**

The ISCL conference coincided with the Africa Section SC meeting in Bulawayo. The Chair Africa Section and Dr. Buhle Mbambo - Thata were invited guests. However, due to the fact that the SC meeting was still going on, Dr. Buhle Mbambo - Thata was left to interact with the participants SC the guest speaker SC the rest of the SC continued with the meeting.

It was noted that this was a historic moment where the international leadership of library Associations visited Zimbabwe. Dr. Buhle interacted with the participants at the conference SC a guest speaker.

**9.6 IFLA/IFFRO/WIPO Conference, Nairobi, 3-4 May, 2012**

The Chair reported the above conference that was scheduled to take place in Nairobi on 3-4th May, 2012. The SC was requested to propose speakers from Africa to suggest speakers from Africa who can talk about impact of copyright and indigenous knowledge. Dr. Buhle stated that the Library treaty recognizes the important role played by libraries and seeks to redress copyright restrictions. There is a need to make copyright more user friendly. Since it is the governments that enact copyright laws, there is need to engage them in view of addressing the issue of exceptions and limitations to give better space for wider access to information for all.

SC to forward names of possible speakers to Secretary to be forwarded to the organizers.
Host for IFLA WLIC 2015

The Chair informed the SC of the proposal that the IFLA WLIC 2015 will be hosted in Africa. Hence the need to agree on one or two countries that can bid to host. Such a bid will enable all other African countries to support the proposal to host.

The criteria for hosting include: need to have the capacity to host; financial ability 650,000 euros; support from the government; suitable venue. It was proposed that SC members start the conversation now and spread the information to Library Associations. A call for hosting IFLA WLIC 2015 will go out before August.

Expressions of interest

Naomi Haasbroek informed the SC that South Africa has already been talking about it and liaising with LISCA. She expressed the interest of South Africa to host. Senegal and Egypt were also proposed. The selection of the host will be done by an independent entity.

Recommended: Regional Office/Chair to communicate this information to national Libraries and national library Associations.

IFLA Awards and Honors

11.1 Honors awards
The Chair observed there have not been any Africa nominees when IFLA makes the call. We have outstanding LIS professionals in Africa we can nominate for the honors and awards. Names proposed by the SC include: Ellen Tise, Helena Asamoah-Hassan; Jacinta Were. The SC proposed that Helena Asamoah-Hassan be nominated for IFLA medal and Jacinta for IFLA Award.

Agreed: Chair to send out a call to Library Associations and National Libraries to nominate LIS professionals with outstanding contribution in the development of libraries and information services in their countries/regions. Other different category of IFLA awards include certificates; life membership; scroll;

11.2 Future of Africa Library Summit
A report on the future of Africa Library Summit to be sent to the SC. The next Summit will take place in 2013.

Next SC meeting
The next SC mid-term meeting will take place in February 2013. The Chair proposed Nigeria, Abuja as venue. The venue was unanimously accepted by the SC. Lindy Nhlapo proposed that in future we make it two and a half days to enable the SC to complete the agenda. The SC discussed and agreed that two days are sufficient. What the SC need to do is to ensure members read all the documents ahead of time. In addition, the SC was asked to familiarize themselves with the IFLA website. This would help in managing the time for the meeting SC members would be more acquainted with the issues under discussion.

A proposal was moved to consider dates for the mid-term meeting to start on Thursday and end on Friday. The proposal would be considered in future meetings.

Closing Remarks- Chairperson
The Chair thanked the SC for availing their time and for the fruitful discussions and proposed actions that will guide the strategic directions of the Section in relation to the overall goals and vision of IFLA. In particular, the Chair gave
14.0  special appreciation to Kathy Matsika for hosting the mid-term meeting and facilitating the various logistics. It was a successful meeting.

**Adjournment**  
There being no other business, the meeting ended at 5.15pm.

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