

Draft minutes of the General Assembly held on Thursday 5 November 2020, in the Koninklijke Bibliotheek, The Hague, Netherlands.

1. Opening by the Chair, President-elect, Barbara Lison

President-elect Barbara Lison opened the meeting at 13:00 and welcomed the members who were attending and those viewing the livestream. She introduced the Secretary General Gerald Leitner, the Treasurer Antonia Arahova and IFLA Parliamentarian, Martyn Wade.

There were no apologies.

2. Appointment of Tellers

Given the unusual situation, no tellers were appointed. Helen Mandl, Deputy Secretary General counted the votes of members and proxy holders.

3. Establishment of a Quorum

At the beginning of the meeting there were 136 national and international association Members who have paid their fees for 2020 and were not in arrears. With 85 members represented, a quorum was established.

4. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted.

5. Minutes of the General Assembly held in Athens, Greece, 28 and 29 August 2019

The minutes of the previous meeting had been distributed to members. There were no corrections and the minutes were adopted.

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

The President invited members to remember 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 the major project undertaken this year was the IFLA Governance Review. The aim was to develop a new structure for a more inclusive, transparent and effective organisation. In 2019 and while travel was still possible, the President attended a number of meetings focussed on the United Nations 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. She was able to work with the International Council of Archives and the United Cities and Local Government organisation. Documentary heritage in the Arab world was the focus of a UNESCO conference at which she gave the keynote address.

Christine Mackenzie stated that her representation on behalf of IFLA had not slowed due to the rapid uptake of new technologies to meet virtually. She has participated in global, regional and local conferences, workshops, summits and forums. Common themes were emerging: libraries' ability to work together and share knowledge; the changing role of libraries; being seen as partners in delivery of services and important community resources; and future funding.

She thanked the Governing Board for their work in difficult situations and those in the Professional Units for their continuing efforts on behalf of the profession.

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

<https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/hq/general-assembly/presidents-report-2020.pdf>

8. Presentation of the report of the Secretary General

The Secretary General noted that this meeting was unusual and that the past 14 months since last meeting had been very tough. He sent his condolences to those who have faced loss and upheaval.

2019 was a fantastic year for IFLA and many of the characteristics have carried into 2020: the resilience of our profession, the focus on our communities and our commitment to building a stronger and united library field.

There was excellent work across the Federation. A key milestone was the shift from vision to strategy and the launch of the IFLA Strategy 2019 – 2024. The organisation now has a roadmap and a framework for the work of each part from the Professional Units to Members who wish to align themselves with the Strategy.

He acknowledged the outgoing Governing Board of 2017-2019 and the outgoing President Glòria Pérez-Salmerón who had such a positive impact on IFLA.

The Secretary General thanked the current Governing Board for their involvement and contributions to the Governance Review and particularly President Christine Mackenzie for influencing and building collaboration and cooperation across the profession.

IFLA's 2019 Annual Report is on the IFLA website:

https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/hq/general-assembly/annual-report-2019_v1.pdf

9. Presentation of the annual accounts by the Treasurer

Treasurer Antonia Arahova presented the 2019 annual report as accepted by the Governing Board in its September 2020 meeting for presentation to Members.

2019 was a strong year for IFLA. The financial result of the year 2019 shows a surplus of €27,041, compared to a budgeted surplus of €267. The surplus of 2019 brings our general reserves to €1,551,643, and earmarked reserves to €56,940. This level of reserves is close to the level of reserves required under our Reserves Policy. These reserves are an important asset for IFLA to secure our work and sustainability into the future.

The total expenditure for the year 2019 was €1,654,982 compared to € 1,892,860 in 2018. The total income for the year 2019 was €1,682,023 compared to €2,183,797 in 2018.

Important items to note were the increase in membership income of €26,249 in 2019 and funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation which provided spending of €463,573 on key initiatives involving the International Advocacy programme. On the other hand the World Library and Information Congress 2019

in Athens, Greece showed a deficit of €46,152. IFLA will continue to explore additional funding opportunities in the coming years to ensure our ongoing viability. IFLA is very grateful to its member organisations and individuals who support us through donations and hosting activities, and to the organisations that support our initiatives and projects through grant funding.

The meeting adopted the 2019 Annual Accounts.

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

https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/hq/general-assembly/treasurers-statement-2019_v1.pdf

10. Presentation of IFLA Honours and Awards

The Secretary General and President presented the following awards.

IFLA Scroll of Appreciation

The following recipients were awarded the IFLA Scroll of Appreciation:

- Genevieve Clavel-Merrin for her distinguished contribution to IFLA and the promotion of national libraries, particularly in support of the role of libraries in the information society.
- Victoria Owen for her distinguished contribution to IFLA, as a committed advocate for improved copyright provisions for libraries and for her role in the implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty and increasing access to information for people with a print disability around the world.
- Winston Roberts for his extensive contribution to IFLA and in fostering international cooperation among libraries, particularly in the Asia-Oceania region and on issues of internet governance and digital policy.
- Mirna Willer for her distinguished and extensive contribution to IFLA and global cataloguing standards, in particular for her work on the modernization of UNIMARC and innovation in technical standards.
- Evelyn (Eve) Woodberry for her distinguished contribution to IFLA and as an advocate for the rights of libraries and their users in the areas of copyright, intellectual property and e-lending.

IFLA Medal

There were two recipients of the IFLA Medal

- Guy Berthiaume for his distinguished contribution to IFLA and his leadership as Chair of the National Libraries Section. The IFLA Medal particularly recognises his achievements for national libraries and his influence in advocating for partnerships with the broader documentary heritage community.
- Inga Lundén for her distinguished contribution to IFLA, its Governing Board and Professional Units. The IFLA Medal particularly recognises her enthusiastic support for the role of library associations and in challenging libraries and young professionals to think differently about the environments they work within.

11. Address by the President

The President noted that IFLA's development Roadmap over the past years had taken the organisation through the Global Vision process to the launch of the IFLA Strategy 2019-2024 in August 2019. Since then, the Governing Board has worked on reviewing IFLA's governance.

The scope of the review was to cover the structure and operations of the Governing Board, the Professional Committee and Units, and the Strategic Committees. These are the bodies that steer and carry out the work of our Federation. The review asked whether our current structures best enable the organisation to achieve the actions of the strategic plan and if not, what problems need to be addressed.

Members and volunteers were surveyed and requested more transparency, efficiency and collaboration; stronger regional representation; greater financial sustainability, varied opportunities for participation; and better support for volunteers. The President then outlined the proposed new structure which would include: a smaller Governing Board to allow for more participatory debate and effective leadership; travel assistance for members of the Governing Board to ensure that no-one is prevented from serving for financial reasons; the Professional Committee renamed to Professional Council; a new Regional Council including Regional Divisions in each of IFLA's region plus a new region for the Middle East and North Africa; and four Advisory Committees being FAIFE, CLM, Standards and Cultural Heritage.

New Statutes have been devised and the Rules of Procedure will be updated. A Handbook will also be provided to guide IFLA volunteers in understanding and implementing the statutes and rules. The new Statutes aim to guide the work of IFLA, and provide clarity, flexibility and the ability to adapt to whatever circumstances may arise. A General Assembly will be called for February 2021 to approve the new Statutes.

12. Motions and Resolutions

12.1 Motion to approve the holding of the next General Assembly in August 2021

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 August 2021. In the case of an unavoidable delay the General Assembly may be convened at a later date, but no later than 30 November 2021.

12.2 Motion to approve amendments to Articles 12 and 17 of the current Statutes

Following legal advice, this motion was withdrawn.

12.3 Motion to propose to the Governing Board to investigate alternative and sustainable ways to conduct future WLIC and arrange WLIC as a global event only every third year.

The Swedish and Norwegian Library Associations submitted this motion noting the cost of travel and the generation of carbon pollution from long distance flights. Technologies and new methods could be investigated for different models for WLIC.

In response to a question as to whether decisions had already been made, the Secretary General noted that no decision has been made about changing the frequency of IFLA Congresses. IFLA is currently planning for annual conferences for at least the next three years, based on agreements, and where relevant, contracts, with our partners. However, a priority for the coming years, in line with the IFLA Strategy, is to explore changes in our congress model in order to ensure that it responds to the needs of IFLA and its Members, and wider global considerations. As part of this process, the Governing Board would carry out extensive consultations exploring the pros and cons of a change in the frequency of WLICs.

Following a vote, the Members resolved in the affirmative.

Resolution: That the General Assembly propose to the Governing Board to investigate alternative and sustainable ways to conduct future WLICs and arrange WLIC as a global event only every third year.

The Chair noted that the Governing Board will undertake further work and investigations into sustainable ways to hold the WLIC. The Governing Board will carry out extensive consultations exploring the pros and cons of a change in the frequency of WLICs and will keep members informed about the progress.

13. Announcement of future World Library and Information Congresses

The Secretary General noted the many impacts arising from the pandemic and that a return to normal would not happen for some time. Therefore IFLA will hold WLIC 2021 as a virtual event with the support of the Dutch National Committee. The physical conference planned for Rotterdam will move to 2023 and take place in a hybrid in-person and hybrid format. IFLA continues to plan for an in-person conference in Dublin, Ireland in 2022 with a strengthened online component.

14. Close of the Assembly

The Chair thanked Members on behalf of the President and the Governing Board for their understanding of the unusual circumstances. In particular she thanked the National Library of the Netherlands and its Director, Lily Knibbeler for her support with the venue and as an alternate proxy choice. Despite challenging times, the Chair noted that the profession was working creatively and together to overcome problems and continue to meet the needs of our communities.

The General Assembly was formally closed at 14:42