

Minutes of IFLA General Assembly Meeting, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 2018

Minutes of the General Assembly held on Wednesday, 28 & Thursday, 29 August 2018, in the Plenary Hall of the Kuala Lumpur Conference Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

1. Opening by the President, Glòria Pérez-Salmerón

President Glòria Pérez-Salmerón opened the meeting at 16.15 on Wednesday, 28 August and welcomed the members and delegates thanking them for their attendance at the Congress. She introduced those on stage: Secretary General Gerald Leitner and Martyn Wade, Parliamentarian.

Apologies were received from Viviana Quiñones and Raissa Teodori.

2. Appointment of Tellers

Members agreed that Genevieve Clavel-Merrin be appointed Head Teller and that Michael Dowling, Patrice Landry, Eve Woodberry, and Kerry Smith serve as Tellers.

3. Establishment of a Quorum

At the beginning of the meeting there were 156 national and international association members who have paid their fees for 2018 and were not in arrears. With 79 members present, a quorum was established.

4. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted.

5. Minutes of the General Assembly held in Wrocław, Poland, 23 and 24 August 2017

The minutes were adopted.

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

The President invited members to stand in silence to remember Dr. Woody Horton, John Byrum, Christine Frodl, Stella Maris Fernández, James Henri, Dr. Henri Sene, Marta Terry González, Martha Fernández de López and other colleagues who have died during the past year.

7. Presentation of the report of the President, Glòria Pérez-Salmerón

The President noted that her agenda had focused on two major areas: advocacy and collaboration. A major focus has been talking with external stakeholders, decision makers and influencers as well as ensuring IFLA's own work reflects the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These are key to the recognition of libraries as partners for development. The President was present at over 100 different public activities, lectures, visits, seminars, workshops, conference openings and provided recorded greetings in addition to an active presence on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram.

She was able to help drive engagement with the Global Vision process, launching the second phase in her hometown of Barcelona and attending five of the six regional workshops from April to July 2018 in Santiago, Ottawa, Paris, Hanoi and Durban. The Global Vision is a genuinely unique opportunity for IFLA to engage libraries and library associations and we should have confidence in the power of our organisation. In visits to countries including the USA, Mexico, Russia, Italy, Japan, Spain, China, Brazil and Jamaica, the President sought increased collaboration among libraries and strengthened involvement in IFLA's professional units. A key message to stakeholders was for libraries to be seen as assets and investments, not as costs. The President noted the support she had received from her employer, the Diputacio de Barcelona.

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

<https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/hq/general-assembly/presidents-report-2018.pdf>

8. Presentation of the report of the Secretary General

Gerald Leitner, Secretary General noted that IFLA had turned 90 in 2017, providing an incredible legacy of excellence in the field. IFLA's aim was to intensify the engagement and work with its members, developing a more inclusive way of working that reaches all regions and sectors. Membership was growing and he reported on donations of funds to support member fees and conference grants.

Fake news became a major concern for many and IFLA was able to focus on the need to develop literacy and information literacy as essential skills for all. Infographics and other communications emphasised the need to empower individuals to take critical perspectives themselves. Building on the impetus of the Marrakesh Treaty ratifications, IFLA continued to work on legal changes that bring access to information closer. This depends on reforms at the global, regional and national levels. In response to continuing efforts to restrict access to online information, IFLA published statements on Internet shutdowns and the misuse of digital rights management. In the face of many natural disasters, IFLA has set out clear positions on the safeguarding of documentary cultural heritage. It has also begun to address advocacy needs across the world through engagement with the Sustainable Development Goals.

With additional funding from the Global Libraries Legacy Partner grant, IFLA is in a position to make a qualitative change in what IFLA is able to deliver, over and above the work set out in our current strategy. The Library Map of the World has seen over 100 countries share data about their libraries, giving IFLA a better insight into the world of libraries. IFLA will also be capturing stories showing how libraries support the SDGs. With over 1300 responses to its first ever Member Viewpoints Survey, the organisation was able to hear members' expectations and understand what people value in their engagement with IFLA.

Listening was a major part of the first phase of the Global Vision project and the Global Vision Summary report is the result of contributions from colleagues in 190 countries and all seven continents. Regardless of region, library type or experience, we share a deep commitment to the enduring value and role of libraries. The report is the manifestation of a new idea of IFLA and of the power and potential of a united library field. To capture the potential, IFLA is creating an ideas store for actions to make the Global Vision a reality. It won't be up to IFLA but to the library field as a whole.

The Secretary General noted that IFLA was using these many inputs to develop a new strategy that brings existing core activities together with new initiatives such as IAP and Library Map of the

World. 2017 was a year of continued successes in existing areas of strength and also of exciting new advances. He expressed his pride in working with the library field, staff and the Governing Board to create the future for IFLA.

The full text of the Secretary General's report is on the IFLA website

<https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/hq/annual-reports/2017.pdf>

9. Presentation of the annual accounts by the Treasurer

Treasurer Barbara Lison presented the 2017 annual report as accepted by the Governing Board in its April 2018 meeting for presentation to Members.

The year 2017 shows a surplus of €32,660 euro. This compares to a surplus of €86,678 euro for 2016. The overall result of a surplus is a positive sign of a strong and well-managed budget. This surplus means that our general reserves now stand at €1,248,230 euro, and earmarked reserves at €42,375 euro. These reserves are an important asset for IFLA to be able to secure our work and sustainability in the years to come.

It is important that the general accounts meet the needs of IFLA's core business. IFLA has also benefited from outside support such as grants from Global Libraries which have allowed IFLA to develop and implement new programmes around the world.

The meeting adopted the 2017 Annual Accounts.

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

<https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/hq/general-assembly/annual-accounts-2018.pdf>

Acknowledgement of IFLA's Donors and Supporters

The Secretary General acknowledged the valuable contribution of institutions and organisations that have enabled the continuation of strategic and regional activities and development projects in 2017.

- Koninklijke Bibliotheek, The Netherlands – host of IFLA HQ
- Biblioteca Nacional Portugal – host of UNIMARC
- National Library Board, Singapore – host of IFLA Asia and Oceania Regional Office
- University of South Africa, Pretoria – host of IFLA Africa Regional Office
- Biblioteca del Congreso de la Nación, Argentina – host of IFLA Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office
- Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Egypt – host of IFLA Language Centre for Arabic
- National Library of China – host of IFLA Language Centre for Chinese
- Cheikh Anta Diop University, Senegal – host of IFLA Language Centre for French in Africa
- Russian State Library – host of IFLA Language Centre for Russian
- Deutsche Nationalbibliothek, and the library associations of Germany, Austria and Switzerland for translations to German

Donors include:

- The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

- National Diet Library, Japan
- National Library of Australia
- The British Library
- Library and Archives Canada
- National Library Service of Barbados
- National Library of Finland
- Kungliga Biblioteket, Sweden
- Stockholm University Library, Sweden
- Bibliothèque Nationale Suisse
- Bibliothèque National du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg

IFLA's corporate supporters and major conference donors were also acknowledged.

10. Motions and Resolutions

10.1 Approve the holding of the next General Assembly

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 2019. In the case of an unavoidable delay the General Assembly may be convened at a later date, but no later than 30 November 2019.

10.2 Motion for a reduction in fees for IFLA Affiliate (individual) members

The Secretary General introduced the motion noting that the Governing Board has discussed the current cost of being an Affiliate (individual) member of IFLA and proposed a lower level of fees. The aim was to encourage individuals to join IFLA as part of a contribution and commitment to libraries at the international level. The current fee for Personal Affiliates was higher than the fee for a School library, One-Person Library Centre or Institutional Subunit member. The lower fees proposed would cover internal costs and act as an incentive for individuals to become involved, attend WLIC and continue membership in future years. It was particularly important to give individuals living in countries with no library association or a weaker library association, an opportunity to be part of a bigger network.

The motion generated many comments and discussion. Some were concerned that this would take members away from national associations. The Secretary General responded that IFLA believed that all librarians should be members of their national association first. National associations were more able to provide individualised services such as training, certification and local networks to support local issues. The motion only mentioned the fees and no changes to the rights of affiliates were involved.

Others supported the motion noting that IFLA needed advocates in all parts of the world and that it allowed individuals to show their support of IFLA's aims and objective.

An amendment was proposed to postpone any decision to 2019. The amendment was voted on and was not carried. The original motion was then put to the General Assembly.

The General Assembly resolved in the affirmative:

Resolution: The General Assembly approves a reduction in the IFLA Fees for 2019 for Affiliate members, including Personal Affiliates, Student Affiliates, New Graduates and Non-salaried. The new fees to be introduced as follows:

Personal Affiliates	EUR 75
Student Affiliates	EUR 50
New Graduates	EUR 50
Non-Salaried	EUR 50

Professional Resolutions

The President informed the General Assembly that one Professional Resolution was received by the deadline of 12.00 midday on Monday 27 August. The Resolution was submitted by the Science and Technology Libraries Section. The Resolution calls on IFLA to make open data the default position, and that data produced by IFLA should be shared with the public and researchers unless issues such as data protection or other ethical issues apply.

In line with the Rules of Procedure R 9.14, this Resolution was referred to the Professional Committee for its consideration and response.

A resolution on accessibility was received at the General Assembly and was passed to the Governing Board.

Ellen Tise, speaking as an institutional member, requested to speak on the issue of open access and its importance for all libraries. Of great concern to many members were the positions taken by publishers and the resulting subscription cancellations by libraries due to prices and access restrictions. She asked that this issue be addressed urgently in IFLA's strategy and be reviewed by the Governing Board as to how IFLA could assist. The President indicated that the issue had been noted.

11. Motion to adjourn and reconvene at 16:15 on Thursday 29 August 2018

The General Assembly resolved in the affirmative:

Resolution: The General Assembly resolved that this meeting adjourns to meet at 16.15 tomorrow (Thursday 29 August) for the Closing Ceremony.

Closing Ceremony

1. Address by President Glòria Pérez-Salmerón

The President acknowledged all those who had put together such a great programme over the last week, particularly the professional units with whom IFLA is building a more inclusive and effective organisation. She noted that in her travels as President she had met so many passionate and committed people. People who do not need to be convinced that libraries are the motors of change. They have been doing it for years and are the future. However, with ministers, officials and diplomats, she has had to argue that libraries need to be at the heart of national development agendas. They need the resources, laws and the stability to fulfil their mission in their communities. Access to information cannot just be about cables or computers, it must be meaningful in the way that improves lives and improves societies. The President envisaged a new wave of library advocates around the world, demanding that libraries be recognized and

supported as drivers of development. She encouraged everyone to be working together, working for our users and working for a better world.

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

<https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/hq/general-assembly/address-by-the-president-2018.pdf>

2. Presentation of Awards

Vicki McDonald, Vice-Chair of the Professional Committee, presented the Professional Committee awards for 2018.

IFLA Dynamic Unit and Impact Award 2018

To recognise the vital contribution and work of the members of the IFLA Professional Units, the Professional Committee established a new award in 2018 – the IFLA Dynamic Unit and Impact Award. Submissions were evaluated against criteria including quality and impact of work, communication strategy, membership and leadership engagement and development.

Two professional units were designated as Runners-up

1. Public Libraries Section – for combining the constant quality of its work with a remarkable and proactive recruitment and engagement strategy for members and leaders in the unit;
2. Environment, Sustainability and Libraries Special Interest Group – for combining a growing number of relevant activities across the work fields of IFLA with a strong effort to disseminate the content of its work and ensure global access to the tools and projects that are put in place.

The winner of the award was the Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning Section for a solid plan of activities and working methods and a collaborative approach within and beyond its Standing Committee. The Unit is making a high-quality impact on its own membership and on a wider audience across all areas of the profession.

The award was accepted by Catherina Isberg, Secretary of the Section.

Best IFLA Poster 2018

The quality of posters was high this year with improved designs and layouts that were clear and appealing. Two runners-up were identified by the jury:

1. From Malaysia - *#SmartSelangor Mobile Library: The Trojan horse of books*
2. From Singapore – *Library tour using virtual reality and augmented reality: The National Institute of Education Library experience*

The winner of the Poster of the Year 2018 Award was Lotte Hviid Dyrbye from Denmark for *Creating strong young readers in a digital media landscape*.

IFLA Honors and Awards

The President presented the following awards.

IFLA Scroll of Appreciation

The President presented the IFLA Scroll of Appreciation to Dato' Nafisah Ahmad and Dato' Zaiton Osman, Chair and Co-Chair of the IFLA Malaysian National Committee in grateful recognition to the National Committee of the IFLA World Library and Information Congress, 84th IFLA General Conference and Assembly, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 2018.

The President presented the IFLA Scroll of Appreciation to the following recipients:

- Karin Latimer for her distinguished contribution to IFLA and international librarianship, particularly in the field of library buildings and design, and enhancing the understanding between librarians and architects;
- Marie Sophie Dibounje Madiba for her outstanding contribution to IFLA and librarianship particularly in strengthening of awareness of preservation and conservation matters in French-speaking West Africa;

IFLA Medal

There was two recipients of the IFLA Medal

- Teresa Hackett for her distinguished service to IFLA and the global library field, advancing copyright laws that enable access to information;
- Buhle Mbambo-Thata for her distinguished contribution to IFLA and international librarianship, championing and mobilizing library associations and advancing the library and information sector across Africa.

Honorary Fellow

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

The distinction of IFLA Honorary Fellow was awarded to Sinikka Sipilä in recognition of her distinguished service to IFLA and the developing world over many years and for her leadership of IFLA as President from 2013 – 2015.

IFLA #WLICWOW Award

This award was given to the person who shared the most inspiring social media post on Facebook or Twitter and demonstrated the benefits of attending WLIC to a wider audience. The award for 2018 was presented to Nkem Osuigwe.

IFLA WLIC Passport Award

This award encouraged active engagement with the Exhibition. The awards for 2018 were presented to Akmal Bariah Bt Omar and Leow Seow Lean.

IFLA International Leaders Programme

The Secretary General noted that following two years of hard work, the IFLA International Leaders Programme had come to an end. The participants had presented at international meetings and participated in a range of IFLA programmes. The participants were acknowledged on stage and provided with a certificate:

- Jonathan Hernández Pérez
- Robin Kear
- Mahmoud Khalifa
- Elvira Lapuz
- Mandiaye Ndiaye
- David Ramírez-Ordóñez
- Vesna Vuksan
- Yan Zhao

The mentors for this programme were also acknowledged:

- Helena Asamoah-Hassan
- Claudia Lux
- Jacinta Were
- Nancy Gwinn (facilitator)

3. Announcement of WLIC 2020 location

The Secretary General announced that the location of the World Library and Information Congress in 2020 would be Auckland, New Zealand and invited the National Committee to invite delegates to come to Auckland.

4. Invitation to WLIC 2019 in Athens, Greece

The Secretary General invited Alexandra Papazoglou, President of the Association of Greek Librarians and Information Scientists to address the meeting and invite delegates to meet next year in Athens. Dr Filippos Tsimpoglou, Director General of the National Library of Greece; and Antonia Arahova, Head of Library, President's Private Office Presidency of Hellenic Democracy and IFLA Governing Board Member, were also asked to say a few words.

5. Conference wrap-up by the WLIC 2018 National Committee

Dato' Nafisah Ahmad, Co-Chair of the IFLA WLIC 2018 National Committee presented the wrap-up of the conference recognizing all who had contributed so much in the organisation and presentation of this highly successful Congress. She recognized the National Committee members and enthusiastic volunteers. A brief video provided highlights of the Congress.

The Secretary General noted that over 3,500 delegates from 112 had attended and that livestreamed sessions had reached over 95,000 people in 70 countries.

6. Close of the Assembly

President Pérez-Salmerón invited all delegates to meet again in Athens in August 2019. She thanked all delegates and formally closed the 84th IFLA World Library and Information Congress at 18:00.