



Meeting Minutes

Law Libraries Section: Standing Committee (Second Session)

84th IFLA World Library and Information Congress, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Monday, 27 August 2018, 16:15-18:45, Meeting Room 301

Chair: Sonia Poulin

Present S.C. Members:

Edita Bačić, Anne Burnett (Secretary), Heather Casey, Marisol Floren, Carole Hinchcliff, Yolanda Jones, Sonia Poulin (Chair)

Absent S.C. members:

Hélène Besnier, Jeong-Kwon Cho, Michel Fraysse, Sally Holterhoff, Margo Jeske, Teresa Miguel-Stearns, Robert R. Newlen, Rodrigo Obrador, Lagdhir Rabari, Leslie Street, Amal Tarhini.

Observers:

Katharina Beberweil, Marie Sophie Dibounje Madiba, Mark Engsborg, Dennis Khong, Dr. Raj Kumar Bhardwaj, Simon Jules, Joan Liu, Rene Manlangit, Ratnawati Sari Mohamad Amin, George Prager, Pushyamitra Veeramachaneni, Dr Khasiah Zakaria

1. Call to order and welcome (Sonia Poulin)

Sonia welcomed all participants to the Second Standing Committee (SC) meeting.

2. Report on IFLA Statement on Government Provision of Public Legal Information in the Digital Age (Anne Burnett on behalf of Sally Holterhoff)

[Note: this item deferred from first business meeting] Anne distributed the following as prepared by SC member Sally Holterhoff regarding the progress in promoting the principals of the statement:

Effective promotion of the statement, particularly with governments, is necessary if it is to have its desired impact. Some progress has been made but there is much more to do. Suggestions and offers to help are welcome!

- Text is now available in Spanish (statement only), French (statement only), and German (statement plus annexes)

- Has been brought to attention of IFLA Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments in an article in the [Feb. 2018 issue of their newsletter](#), pp. 6-7.
- One venue in which IFLA has already used the statement is in its discussions with UNESCO regarding the Sustainable Development Goals. Governments have a responsibility to provide access to public legal information in order to support transparency and accountability, civil engagement and a just society, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 16.10.
- IFLA has asked the ARTICLE 19 organization to post the statement as a resource on their website (www.article19.org). This NGO takes its name from Article 19 of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which sets out the freedom to seek and receive information. This is particularly essential in the case of public legal information.
- The statement has also been brought to the attention of the Open Government Partnership (www.opengovernmentpartnership.org), in hopes that it will be a useful resource for this organization of 70 member countries that are in agreement on the importance of citizen understanding and participation in government, as signatories of the Open Government Declaration.
- Text of statement is included in a May 2018 IFLA brief on [Libraries and Good Governance](#), which was written by Stephen Wyber (IFLA Manager, Policy and Advocacy) with input contributed by members of several sections including Law Libraries.

3. Recognition of SC members leaving Section (Sonia Poulin)

The SC recognized the service of Robert Newlen, who is leaving the committee.

4. Review and Approve Programs for Athens, Greece 2019 (Sonia Poulin)

- a. Carole provided an abstract of a proposal regarding legal heritage, digitization and preservation. Mark will serve as program chair, with Carole and Yolanda as panelists, along with others who have specialized rare book experience. Could include using special collections to teach current legal research. MOVED, SECONDED and voted approved.
- b. Marisol reported that she, Yolanda, Joan Liu and Anne met to discuss the program proposed by Sally Holterhoff and Leslie Street on providing Access to the Law of the Countries of the World. Determined that it would be useful to connect the UN 2030 Sustainable Goals to the IFLA Statement as part of the program.
- c. Sonia and Heather reported on the proposal about women and the law. They have subsequently determined that there is a Women's SIG that held a satellite meeting on the topic. Support expressed for combining proposals b) and c) into one program focusing on access to the law by vulnerable communities (e.g., women, LGBTQ, refugees). MOVED, SECONDED and approved. Sonia will ask Leslie Street to chair this program.

5. Review and approve projects for 201-19 (Sonia Poulin)

- **Discussion re workshops:**
 - Senegal Workshop: planning well underway for previously-approved workshop in Senegal (Dec 2018)
 - Georgia Workshop: Georgian-Norwegian Rule of Law Association might sponsor or provide some funding for a workshop for law libraries in Georgia in 2019.
 - Observers from India, the Philippines and Germany commented that there would be significant support for law librarian workshops in their respective countries; Sonia also noted that she has had interest from librarians in Latin America.
 - IFLA has funded past workshops (Croatia in 2014, Uganda in 2016, Ivory Coast in 2017, and Senegal in 2018); however, they would now prefer for us to prepare a packet that will allow participants to plan and carry out workshops on their own. Sonia has conveyed to IFLA leadership the impact that these workshops have had:
 - Ivory Coast participants are exploring a business plan to open 50 legal information centers
 - attendees at the Uganda workshop continue to communicate and to grow the relationships established at that workshop
 - attendees have been able to receive bursaries to attend other meetings, e.g., IALL, furthering their professional development

The group expressed gratitude to Sonia, Heather and Mark Engsborg for funding their own travel to past workshops. We also asked Mark to convey our thanks for the important funding provided by the International Association of Law Libraries.

- Discussed Strategic Planning Meeting before 2019 WLIC
 - The Annual WLIC does not provide sufficient time for face-to-face strategic planning. The SC approved a strategic planning session for 1 day before the Athens WLIC begins. Possible locations outside of Greece include Split, Croatia; Budapest, Hungary because law librarians might be able to provide meeting space in those locations. Attendees noted that a location

other than Greece would add an additional travel day and expenses to the conference trip.

- Discussed Reception in Athens 2019
 - Key to have person on the ground in Athens
 - Carole may have a connection with an academic law librarian in Greece
 - Katharina Beberweil can put us in touch with a Greek banking librarian
 - Carole will take the lead with Heather and Marisol assisting in the planning

6. Strategic plans

- Report on Strategic Plan 2017-18 (Sonia Poulin)
 - promoting the Statement – done; Sally Holterhoff has done significant work to promote the *Statement*; IFLA has now expressed a desire for us to develop a framework for new plans
 - planning for the December workshop in Senegal – well underway
 - plan workshop in Georgia – the Georgian-Norwegian Rule of Law Association asked us to postpone plans for a potential workshop in Georgia to 2019 as more funding might be available then
 - plan programming for Kuala Lumpur – done
 - Heather chaired, and Yolanda and Edita presented, the Monday program on libraries in times of crisis, which also included Law Librarian of Congress Jane Sanchez as a speaker
 - Sonia chaired the Wednesday program legal capability, featuring 1 live speaker and 2 speakers via video
 - plan reception in Kuala Lumpur – many thanks to Carole and her contacts in Malaysia for their efforts to organize the reception; with the host site having to cancel due to conflicts, Carole has arranged instead for a gathering Tuesday evening at a local restaurant
 - collaborate with other groups – done
 - IALL for workshop
 - IFLA Government Libraries Section for program on libraries in times of crisis
 - IFLA Public Libraries Section for program on legal capability

- Strategic Plan 2018-19 (Sonia Poulin)
 - programs for Athens WLIC
 - 1-day strategic planning session before Athens WLIC
 - workshop in Senegal
 - explore possible workshop in Georgia, if funding from Georgian-Norwegian Rule of Law Association is provided
 - explore other possible workshops: India, Philippines, Germany, Latin America promote
 - reception during WLIC in Athens, Greece

7. Welcomed Division I Chair, Vicki McDonald

Vicki McDonald thanked the SC for its work.

- She encourages all SCs to align their action plans with IFLA's strategic plans.
- IFLA leadership will be asking professional units, including our section, to contribute thoughts on IFLA governance in April/May 2019.
- She described the nominating process for returning or new SC members and emphasized the importance of commitment by members to try to attend the WLIC and to contribute to the work of the SC throughout the year.
- She mentioned our demonstrated deliverables from past workshops and indicated that she would be willing to present our funding request for future workshops to the Governing Board.

8. Corresponding Members

IFLA allows five Corresponding Members per section. We currently have one: Claire Germain as the immediate past chair. Ideally, we should have Corresponding Members from different regions.

- Sonia charged the SC members with thinking about possible Corresponding Members from Africa and perhaps Asia. We can discuss via email or possibly have an online SC meeting to discuss and vote.

9. Commitment of SC members (Sonia Poulin)

Vicki McDonald discussed this during her visit. See item 7 above.

10. Recruitment of new members and marketing (Sonia Poulin)

- We do have potential new members expressing interest
- Geographical and linguistic diversity are important

11. Report on IFLA Global Vision Discussion (Anne Burnett)

Anne and Sonia attended the March 2018 Global Vision workshop in Barcelona,

Adjournment(Sonia Poulin)

The SC will reconvene online as needed.

Respectfully submitted by: Anne Burnett, Secretary