



## **DIVISION V DECLARATION<sup>1</sup>**

We, members of IFLA Division V, including the participants of the IFLA Division V Satellite Meeting, as part of the 2019 IFLA World Library Information Congress, on “Leadership roles in international librarianship: how can information professionals from Africa, Asia & Oceania, Latin America & Caribbean be part of it?”, at the Library of Alexandria, Alexandria, Egypt,

### **Recognize that:**

- IFLA is the global voice of libraries and aims to work closely with all libraries worldwide;
- The Global Vision initiative has emphasised the necessity to build a unified field for all libraries to bridge the gap between developed and developing countries;
- The Library Map of the World shows the large numbers of libraries in developing countries which need to have stronger engagement with IFLA; and
- The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) require that IFLA support libraries in all countries to work with their authorities to achieve the SDGs;

### **Acknowledge that:**

- The Division V of IFLA represents the largest number of countries (specially developing countries), in population, size, and library and information needs;
- Although the regions comprise 3/5 of the total number of libraries worldwide, fewer than 30% of professionals from our regions are engaged in IFLA activities due to financial, language and communication challenges;
- The libraries of our regions need effective infrastructure and communication with IFLA and its Regional Offices;
- It is IFLA’s purpose to develop a unified field of libraries across the globe;
- IFLA is a democratic organization where the views of all members are respected; and
- IFLA has horizontal activities through its Divisions & Sections and vertical activities through geographical regions and its sub-regions;

### **Commit to working with the IFLA Governing Board on the following actions:**

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<sup>1</sup> This Declaration was forwarded by Sueli Mara Soares Pinto Ferreira (Division V Chair 2017-2019) to the IFLA Governing Board (GB) during its sixty-second meeting held on August 23, 2019 in Room MC2 of the Megaron International Convention Center, Athens, Greece. The same day it was emailed to all members of GB 2019-2021 and also to the IFLA-L, IFLA-LAC, AFRICA-L and RSCAO-L mailing lists. On August 24, it was unanimously presented, discussed and accepted at the WLIC 2019 Section 049 Caucus Division V - Africa, Asia & Oceania and Latin America and the Caribbean at 6 pm, Athens, Greece.

- To address the affordability of IFLA membership, by applying the United Nations formula for Developing Countries and/or by establishing new categories of membership fees which work for the least developed countries;
- To provide more resources to the IFLA Regional Offices in order to support more projects and events in their regions. This means:
  - o Agreeing on new hosting conditions,
  - o Recruiting new staff with a clear mandate and appropriate remuneration, and
  - o Requiring the Regional Office Manager to report to the Chair of the Regional Section, as well as to IFLA HQ and to the hosting institution;
- To re-consider the scale of fees for the annual world congress to make them more realistic for all members, especially the developing countries;
- To consider options for partial decentralization of its operations to create regional conferences and meetings related to IFLA, in collaboration with other relevant organizations; and
- To encourage IFLA professional sections to actively seek members from developing countries, including as corresponding members, to increase the professional exchanges among IFLA members.

**And aspire to see real progress in applying this declaration and implementing it by the time of the IFLA Centenary in 2027.**

**This Declaration of Division V will be presented to the IFLA Governing Board for discussion and approval at the 2019 IFLA World Library Congress, and subsequent action.**

**Therefore, we, the three Sections of Division V affirm this Declaration, with one voice, unanimously expressing the views of the participants of the Satellite Meeting of Division V, on 21st of August 2019, in Alexandria, Egypt.**

**Prepared by**

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 Clara M. Chu  
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**Approved by**

*Division V Leaders*

Ana Maria Ibarra Talavera – Latin America and the Caribbean Section Chair  
 Nthabiseng Kotsokoane – Africa Section Secretary  
 Tao/Tina Yang – Asia and Oceania Section Secretary  
 Sueli Mara Soares Pinto Ferreira – Division V Chair