



International Federation of  
Library Associations and Institutions

19 June 2015

## **Response to the outcome document of the UN Summit to adopt the Post-2015 Development Agenda**

*The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) welcomes the Zero Draft and the continuing presence of access to information in the draft. IFLA encourages the United Nations to further recognise and emphasise the role of access and skills as an essential pillar in the transformational agenda for sustainable development.*

On 2 June 2015, the [zero draft](#) was released of the outcome document for the UN Summit to adopt the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

The draft outcome document will be the subject of intergovernmental negotiations at the UN from 22-25 June, 20-24 July and 27-31 July.

The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), provided feedback to the Zero Draft, highlighting the core aims of IFLA and its members as well as the aims outlined in the [Lyon Declaration on Access to Information and Development](#).

IFLA and the 550 organisations and institutions that have signed the Lyon Declaration on Access to Information and Development ([www.lyondeclaration.org](http://www.lyondeclaration.org)), welcome and support the zero draft. Sustainable development seeks to ensure the long-term socio-economic prosperity and well-being of people everywhere. The ability of governments, parliamentarians, local authorities, local communities, civil society, the private sector and individuals to make informed decisions is essential to achieving it. In this context, we have focused our feedback on areas of the zero draft where we believe language on access, information and data can be strengthened.

IFLA supports the title of the agenda, *Transforming our world by 2030: A new agenda for global action*, and the aspirations that it represents for a truly global partnership and opportunity for engagement and inclusive development. It is essential that the declaration and outcome document provides a clear commitment to the expectations within the title.

Access to information is a common principle, as well as a cross-cutting means of supporting the agenda's vision. IFLA proposed that language stressing this would be added to several paragraphs of the Zero Draft. Furthermore, IFLA also

suggested language on the importance of safeguarding cultural heritage (IFLA's suggestions to all issues can be found in [**bold and brackets**])

To paragraph 15:

Access to information is a common principle, as well as a cross-cutting means of supporting the agenda's vision. We propose that the following language be added:

**[Increased access to information and knowledge, underpinned by universal literacy, is an essential pillar of sustainable development] [We recognise access to information as a key condition for citizen participation, transparency and accountability]**

To Paragraph 24

We will seek to build strong economic foundations for all our countries. Sustained and inclusive economic growth is essential for prosperity. We will work to build dynamic, sustainable and people-centred economies, promoting youth employment in particular and decent work for all. All countries stand to benefit from having a healthy and well-educated workforce with the [**access to information**], knowledge and skills needed for productive and fulfilling work and full participation in society. We will therefore adopt policies which increase productivity and productive employment, financial inclusion, agricultural and industrial development, sustainable transport systems and modern energy provision.

To Paragraph 29

We recognize the intrinsic value of diversity, culture and sport as enablers of sustainable development. We acknowledge the natural and cultural diversity of the world and recognize that all cultures and civilizations can contribute to sustainable development. We pledge to foster intercultural understanding, tolerance, mutual respect and an ethic of global citizenship and shared responsibility [**as well as safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage to facilitate all goals**].

To Paragraph 33

Improved ICT infrastructure can be used to expand communications, speed up delivery of services & provide access to crucial information particularly in remote communities. Libraries & other information intermediaries use ICTs to bridge the gap between national policy and local implementation to ensure that the benefits of development reach all. This is clearly outlined in the WSIS Action Lines, especially C3, and in the recommendations made by the WSIS+10 Review HLE Outcome Document, 2014.

We propose the following language be added:

... We recognize the power of [**information and**] communications technologies, technical cooperation and capacity-building [**to bridge the gap between national policy and local implementation to support**] sustainable development.

To Paragraph 37

We support the role of civil society and publicly-funded institutions such as libraries in partnering with government to deliver the agenda. Libraries are ready to support development goals across our countries and communities.

To Paragraph 39

Data has enormous potential to help governments plan & to provide better services, support participation, & help hold governments to account. Yet without access to data & capacity building, it won't be possible to achieve a data revolution. Data is used by a relative few but when interpreted & analysed as information it can be used by & reach everyone. Accountable, responsive governments must be supported by literate, engaged people across their country.

We propose the following language be added:

... We also commit to scaling up substantially public-private ..., in supporting and tracking progress. **[We commit to providing access to data to the public, and to the preservation of data and government information for access by future generations.]**

*Follow up and Review (Pages 29-32)*

To Follow up and Review Paragraph 3

Greater availability of quality information and data and the involvement of communities in its creation will provide a fuller, more transparent allocation of resources.

While supporting the need to increase support to national data systems, there is a critical role played by the institutions including national libraries and archives that support access to data, standards and preservation for future generations, increasingly in a digital format.

We propose that the following language be added:

e. They will be rigorous and evidence-based, informed by data which is timely, reliable and disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts. Support for developing countries, particularly LDCs, to strengthen national data systems [and institutions that make available and preserve that data are] critical.

*Food for Thought Paper: Possible Technology Facilitation Mechanism (Annex II, Pages 39-40)*

We welcome the paper on a Possible Technology Facilitation Mechanism. As the global organisation representing the library and information profession (which serves over one billion registered library users worldwide), we recognise the value and potential of a knowledge platform that would underpin and support access to information by Governments and stakeholders to understand their role

in supporting the UN post-2015 development agenda and opportunities to document and measure progress in meeting the goals.

We welcome the opportunity to partner with stakeholders to support the development of the platform. With particular reference to the "online knowledge hub and information-sharing platform" IFLA is ready to share expertise through our members and partners across the sector information sector including advice and standards to advance the development of the platform. We also wish to be included as a key partner in the development of the platform from the outset.

We are ready to support utilization and understanding of the platform by all stakeholders. Libraries and other information intermediaries, as outlined in the [Lyon Declaration on Access to Information and Development](#), provide information on basic rights and entitlements, public services, environment, health, education, work opportunities, and public expenditure that supports local communities and people to guide their own development. The objectives for the platform are directly aligned with the services and information that libraries provide.