



Endorsed Minutes of the seventy-ninth meeting of the Governing Board held on Monday 23 August 2021 from 07.00 – 09.00 CEST by teleconference call via Zoom.

Present:

Members: Christine Mackenzie (President, Chair); Barbara Lison (President-elect); Antonia Arahova (Treasurer); Adjoa Boateng; Huanwen Cheng; Michael Dowling; Marwa El Sahn; Jonathan Hernández Pérez; Halo Locher; Catherina Isberg; Sanjay Kumar Bihani; Vicki McDonald; Jan Richards; Knud Schultz; Sueli Mara Soares Pinto Ferreira; Helen Vincent; Minna von Zansen.

Observer: Martyn Wade

Staff: Gerald Leitner, IFLA Secretary General (Secretary, non-member); Helen Mandl, Deputy Secretary General & Director Member Services; Stephen Wyber, Manager Policy & Advocacy; Esther Doria, Project Coordination Assistant (minutes).

Welcome and apologies

The President opened the meeting and welcomed all. She thanked everyone for their work in the past two years and for their participation in the Governing Board meetings, noting that there had been sixteen GB meetings since the Board first met in Athens. The President conveyed the best wishes to all from Sonia Poulin, who had been invited to this final Governing Board meeting but was unable to join.

An apology was received from Ai Cheng Tay.

Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Statement of interests

There were no statements of interests.

1. Approval of minutes of previous meeting

1.1 Draft minutes including closed sessions of the Governing Board meeting on 21 June 2021

Resolution: The Governing Board accepted the minutes as a true and accurate record of the seventy-eighth meeting of the Governing Board including closed sessions held on 21 June 2021 from 07.00 – 09.00 CEST by teleconference.

1.2 Draft minutes of the Governing Board meeting on 21 June 2021

Resolution: The Governing Board accepted the minutes as a true and accurate record of the seventy-eighth meeting of the Governing Board held on 21 June 2021 from 07.00 – 09.00 CEST by teleconference.

1.3 Matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda

1.3.1 From the minutes of 21 June 2021

There were no matters.

2. Resolutions agreed since last meeting, to be read into the Minutes

The following resolutions were agreed since the last meeting and are recorded in the minutes of this meeting:

Appointments to the Advisory Committee on Freedom of Information and Freedom of Expression (FAIFE)

With one of the appointed members of the Advisory Committee on Freedom of Access to information and Freedom of Expression (FAIFE) also appointed as Chair of the Advisory Committee on Standards, it was necessary to find a replacement. The current chair of FAIFE therefore proposed Jing Zhang (China) as a new member.

Resolution: the Governing Board approved the appointment of Jing Zhang as a member of FAIFE 2021-23 on 27 July 2021.

Appointments to the Advisory Committee on Standards (CoS)

With the outgoing chair of the Advisory Committee on Standards only nominating six people to be appointed as members, it was necessary to appoint a further four. The Governing Board indicated their preferences among the six available candidates through an electronic vote.

Resolution: the Governing Board appointed Fatemeh Pazooki, Ana Stevanovic, Peng Xiao and Sharon Dyas-Correia as members of the Advisory Committee on Standards 2021-23 on 27 July 2021.

Signing on to the #Ebooksos Campaign

The COVID-19 pandemic has underlined the challenges facing libraries in acquiring and giving access to digital content. High prices, restrictive terms, and simple refusals to sell have limited the ability of libraries to provide content to users. Without the possibility to visit physical collections, this creates serious problems for libraries in achieving their missions.

In response to this, the #ebooksos campaign in the United Kingdom is calling for an investigation by the competition authorities into the eBook market. The Advisory Committee on Copyright and other Legal matters recommended that IFLA support this work, given both the international relevance of the UK publishing market, and the similarity with challenges faced elsewhere.

Resolution: the Secretary-General, on behalf of IFLA, signed the #ebooksos petition on 5 August 2021.

3. Professional programme report

The Professional Committee held their final meeting on 20 August 2021.

The Committee addressed a full agenda of items aligned to the Professional Programme Development Plan.

The new Professional Council will begin their work together at their first meeting on 1 September, 2021, chaired by Adjoa Boateng.

4. Strategic Direction 1 Strengthen the global voice of libraries

4.1 KI 1.1 Show the power of libraries in the SDGs

IFLA continues to maintain and develop the Library Map of the World in order to support understanding and advocacy globally. We continue to work on the Development and Access to

Information report, as well as other articles, publications and beyond that will also help. IFLA's new Regional Division Committees will help identify particular priorities for action, including in the light of COVID-19.

4.2 KI 1.2 Build a strong presence internationally

IFLA continues to work with a range of international organisations across the range of its areas of focus. Progress at WIPO continues to be slow due to COVID-19, but our relationships with UNESCO and the Human Rights Council continue to strengthen, in particular around questions of cultural diversity, as does our work through the Internet Governance Forum and World Summit on the Information Society.

4.3 KI 1.3 Identify key legal challenges and advocate for action

IFLA has continued its work to identify key areas where it can provide support to its Members' advocacy work, with the results of our advocacy priorities survey offering helpful insights into regional needs. We continue to engage in questions around the laws affecting public internet access, literacy, and trafficking of cultural heritage items.

4.4 KI 1.4 Shape public opinion

IFLA's Advisory Committee on Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression is working to prepare papers and resources to support reflection across the field.

5. Strategic Direction 2 Inspire and enhance professional practice -Website

5.1 KI 2.1 Key resources that inspire the profession

IFLA has continued to develop materials highlighting possibilities for Members and Professional Units to engage with the Strategy through a series of stories, celebrating good practice and looking to inspire others. The Library Map of the World continues to expand, and we are moving towards a Development and Access to Information Report 2021.

5.2 KI 2.2. High quality campaigns to engage libraries

IFLA has continued, in parallel, to advance work on the new website, while developing and maximizing the possibilities of the current one, as well as managing successful campaigns around IFLA's extraordinary General Assembly and nominations process.

5.3 KI 2.3 Develop standards to foster best professional practice

Following the Governing Board's approval of the revised Guidelines on Digital Content Selection, produced with the UNESCO PERSIST initiative, with a plan to present this once the ICOM and ICA Boards have agreed, the 3rd or 4th quarter of 2021. Work on adapting preservation standards for libraries at different levels of resourcing and capacity also continues.

5.4 KI 2.4 Provide tools to support the work of libraries

Platforms and other infrastructures such as the IFLA Library show how IFLA tools can support the everyday work of our members. We have also advanced with the reinvigoration of the Risk Register, drawing on the expertise and reach of our Preservation and Conservation Centres.

6. Strategic Direction 3 Connect and empower the field

6.1 KI 3.1 Opportunities for face-to-face networking and learning

IFLA is working to develop effective digital means of bringing the library field together, notably through our virtual WLIC and plans for virtual regional strategy workshops.

6.2 KI 3.2 Support virtual networking and connections

COVID-19 continues to intensify IFLA's work in the virtual space with more Professional Units and other IFLA groups electing to meet more regularly online and offer Virtual Events using Zoom's webinar platform.

6.3 KI 3.3 Empower the field at national and regional levels

Our ongoing work to promote use of the IFLA Strategy, as well as engagement with and through our Regional Offices, are supporting efforts to adapt IFLA's work to regional needs, while also supporting capacity on the ground.

6.4 KI 3.4 Targeted learning and professional development

IFLA has continued to promote SDG storytelling and impact measurement, and has a model virtual workshop for use in supporting more effective storytelling in advocacy. Work also continues on a concept for an IFLA Academy.

7. Strategic Direction 4 Optimise the organisation

7.1 KI 4.1 Foster long-term stability of organisation

IFLA is undertaking discussions with a number of parties who have shown an interest in IFLA's work and that may be in a position to provide funding for future IFLA programmes. Work is advancing on the Handbook.

7.2 KI 4.2 Effectively mobilise human resources

Work with the IFLA Preservation and Conservation centres is being enhanced, and there are welcome signs of intensified activity ahead of renewals later this year. The Governing Board was provided with an overview of IFLA staff.

7.3 KI 4.3 Increase, diversify and engage our membership

The holding of the IFLA conference has had a positive effect on new members interested in utilising the WLIC membership discount. Government upheavals, currency devaluations and COVID-19 are affecting payments and transfers from some countries. The Governing Board was provided with a list of new members, and asked to endorse the admission of these 101 new members for the period 15 March to 30 June 2021. .

- Resolution:** 1. The Governing Board noted the report.
2. The Governing Board resolved to admit the new members for the period 15 March to 30 June 2021

7.4 KI 4.4 Increase visibility through communications

Communications are essential to distributing IFLA's information to the world. Through enhanced support of our major initiatives and projects, from both HQ and Professional Units, we help to engage IFLA's work with the global library and information community.

The Secretary General informed the Governing Board that the new IFLA website will be launched on 26 August 2021, the day after the General Assembly.

8. IFLA Elections 2021-2023 update

Following the elections, a number of additional elections were required to formalise the composition of particular committees including the Regional Council, Division Committee Chairs and Advisory Committees. These processes have now been undertaken, and the Governing Board was presented with an overview of the individuals elected to these positions. The President congratulated all that were elected for various positions for 2021-2023.

Resolution: The Governing Board noted the results of the elections for various positions for 2021-2023.

9. Draft Handbook – Timeline and Handbook Sections for approval

Working closely with the Parliamentarian, and drawing on work already carried out around IFLA's elections, work is advancing on the Handbook. At its June meeting, the Governing Board already approved a number of texts to feature in the new Handbook. Governing Board members were provided with an updated timeline of the deadlines for which it is anticipated that these and further sections will be ready, and the Governing Board and Parliamentarian discussed the sections which the Governing Board was invited to approve.

Elements which are not approved at this meeting, or have not already been approved, are left to the incoming Governing Board, which will need to take decisions about how it will advance work in this area. Governing Board members made suggestions about corrections and clarifications to make to these drafts – including to reflect updated processes – which were noted by the Parliamentarian.

Resolution: The Governing Board:

- Noted the timeline for the preparation of sections of the Handbook
- Approved the Sections of the Handbook presented, acknowledging that these will need to be reviewed later in the light of experience

9.1 Request to appoint co-officers

Following the elections for Officers in Professional Standing Committees (Chair, Secretary, Information Officer), a number of Professional Sections have proposed having additional posts including Co-Chairs. IFLA's Parliamentarian and expert on the Statutes Martyn Wade was asked to provide advice on the requests to appoint co-officers.

The Governing Board was advised as follows:

- The Governing Board should not make decisions that conflict with the Rules of Procedure.

- That Standing Committees can create roles in addition to the elected Officers to support the work of the Committee and Section; however these do not have the status or responsibilities of being an Officer.
- That, for clarity, there is a strong argument that posts created by the Standing Committee should not use the titles of the Officers (eg Co-Chair) to avoid suggestions that these posts have the same formal position as Officers.
- That all additional posts should be elected or appointed in a “transparent and fair” manner.
- To consider whether the Rules of Procedure should be changed to allow the election of Co-Officers in future elections.

The Governing Board discussed the advice provided by the IFLA Parliamentarian and approved the following decisions to guide IFLA’s committees over the coming term:

Resolution: The Governing Board:

- agreed that the Statutes and Rules of procedure should be implemented as they have been written.
- That if changes wish to be considered, this should be progressed through the new Professional Council and decided by the new Governing Board.

10. Planning 2021 Dashboard

IFLA has continued to follow the targets set out in the IFLA Planning Document which provides for a set of activities to be carried out by quarter. The Governing Board discussed the report that reviewed progress against these targets, with reporting provided around whether each activity was completed, almost completed, in progress, postponed, or to reconsider.

Resolution: The Governing Board noted the Planning 2021 Dashboard.

11. Report WLIC 2021

WLIC 2021 was held from 17-19 August 2021, over three days and three time zones. The timing of the first day was more suitable for Europe, EMEA and Africa, the second day for North America and Latin America and the Caribbean and the third day for Asia Oceania.

Over 2,700 delegates registered for the conference. This number could still change as there were many last minute registrations. Data on countries represented would take longer, given that delegates registered by city.

There were some technology problems during the congress with content and the platform. Delegate Connect were notified of these immediately and are working on ensuring that the final product available on the e-library contains the correct versions.

The platform provided by Delegate Connect provided opportunities for delegates to explore a range of content which will now be available for viewing in the e-library over the coming 12 months. A separate ticket providing access to this recorded content only will be on sale from this week for one month.

The live chat function beside each session captured delegate’s thoughts and excitement. Delegates were challenged and inspired by the speakers and the content. The role of the Professional Units in

creating interesting and diverse content was noted, and the importance of the Professional Committee and its Curation Committee in ensuring the high quality of the content.

A post-conference evaluation form has been sent to all delegates and information from that survey will be provided in December. The Secretary General encouraged Governing Board members to provide their ideas and feedback for “lessons learned”, with potential items for discussion including timings, live captioning, and outreach via associations.

Over the coming months, staff will work with Delegate Connect on finalising aspects of the conference including the content and finances.

The President congratulated and thanked all for the success of WLIC 2021. Governing Board Members looked forward to further evaluation of the impact of the new approach to curating content,

Resolution: The Governing Board noted the WLIC 2021 report.

12. Progress report WLIC 2022

The Secretary General reported that IFLA has received an amended version of the contract for WLIC 2022 in Dublin from the Conference Centre Dublin with changed dates.

IFLA will be seeking further discussions on conditions before signing.

No contract has yet been finalised with KIT. Further discussions will take place to prepare for an agreement that contains options for a physical, hybrid or virtual conference and to avoid risk for IFLA.

Resolution: The Governing Board noted the WLIC 2022 report.

13. Financial matters 2021 half year financial report

13.1 Financial matters 2021 half year report

Treasurer Antonia Arahova presented the 2021 half year financial report.

Thanks to IFLA’s Reserves Policy and the financial aid of the Dutch Government, IFLA will be able to stay financially healthy during the year 2021, although it was noted that caution should be exercised around support from the government until IFLA’s accounts for 2021 are audited..

Resolution: The Governing Board accepted the 2021 half year financial report by the Treasurer

14. General Assembly 2021

IFLA is required to hold a General Assembly each year by law and according to the current Statutes. This will be the final General Assembly to be held under the current Statutes.

Social distancing of 1.5 metres due to COVID-19 still remains the norm in the Netherlands. For the Koninklijke Bibliotheek, this means that the main auditorium can sit only 30 instead of 180. Our aim will therefore be to encourage members to vote by proxy and to attend virtually instead of physically.

In discussion with the KB, we have decided to hold the General Assembly in one of the smaller meeting rooms that can take a maximum of 10 people. In this room we will have the main speakers and technical support. Should members decide to attend, they will be able to sit spaced in the main auditorium and watch proceedings on a large screen.

For those who wish to attend virtually, a zoom link will be sent to members and affiliates. The meeting will also be streamed via YouTube.

We have contacted all members regarding their proxy votes with an aim to reaching a quorum. To date no questions have been received requiring a response before the General Assembly. As President Christine Mackenzie will be unable to be physically present, President-elect Barbara Lison will chair the meeting.

IFLA's legal advisers will execute the deed with the new IFLA Statutes, the day after the conclusion of the General Assembly. The new Rules of Procedure shall enter into force immediately subsequent to the entry into force of the new Statutes.

Resolution: The Governing Board noted the General Assembly 2021 report.

15. Governing Board Resolutions

See resolutions under individual items.

Celebration of last Governing Board meeting

The President thanked the Governing Board, Secretary General, Parliamentarian and IFLA staff for all their work in the past two years, and presented them with a video compilation of highlights. The President-elect, Secretary General and Governing Board members thanked the President for her wonderful work and leadership.

The President wished the next Governing Board members much success and closed the meeting.