

IFLA AFRICA SECTION
MINUTES OF THE SC MID-TERM MEETING HELD at the UNIVERSITY OF BOTSWANA, GABORONE,
BOTSWANA.
Thursday 11th -12th February 2016

1) Preamble

The IFLA Africa Section Mid-Term meeting was held from the 11th -12th February, 2016 at the University of Botswana Library, Gaborone, Botswana. The Section was honored by the presence at the meeting of Ms Jennefer Nicholson, IFLA Secretary General.

2) Opening Ceremony: Mid-Term Meeting: Day 1

The meeting was officially opened by the Deputy Vice Chancellor of the University of Botswana. He emphasized the strategic importance of libraries in the knowledge society and the need to strengthen libraries in Africa. He acknowledged the work of IFLA and the phenomenal changes taking place in the profession. He challenged Librarians on the Continent to champion UN Development Agenda. He also urged African Library Associations to support the next bid by Botswana Library Association to host the IFLA Annual Conference and WLIC Congress .

3) Welcome Remarks by Chair

After the Opening Ceremony, Dr. Rosemary Shafack, the Chair of IFLA Africa Section, called the meeting to order and opened the meeting with a word of welcome to everyone present, members and observers , with a special welcome to Ms Jennefer Nicholson, IFLA Secretary General.

4) Introduction and Apologies

All members present introduced themselves.

Members Present

S/N	Name (Surname first)	Job Title	Institute /Country	Email
1.	Shafack Rosemary	University Librarian	University of Beua, Cameroon	roshafack@gmail.com
2.	Matsika Kathy	University Librarian	National University of Science and Technology, Zimbabwe	katherine.matsika@nust.ac.zw kathymatsika@gmail.com
3.	Kotsokoane Nthabiseng	Chief Librarian	Monash University, South Africa Campus	nthabiseng.kotsokoane@monash.edu
4.	Magocha Bongiwe	Head, Library Services	Botswana Accountancy College	bongiwe@bac.ac.bw

5.	Nhlapo Lindy	IFLA Regional Office Manager	University of South Africa , Library. South Africa	lnhlapo@unisa.ac.za iflaafrica@unisa.ac.za
6.	More Rachel	Lecturer	University of South Africa, South Africa	morere@unisa.ac.za
7.	Gozo A Joyce	Director, Client Services	University of South Africa Library Services, South Africa	gozoaj@unisa.ac.zw
8.	Raseroka Kay (Corresponding Member)	Consultant	Botswana	hk.raseroka@gmail.com
9.	Kaddu Sarah	Lecturer	University of Makerere Uganda	sarkaddu@yahoo.com
10.	Lebele A Ayanda	Library Director	Botho University Botswana	Ayanda.lebele@bothouniversity.ac.bw
11.	Chibanda Nyarai P			chibandap@msu.ac.zw
12.	Satgoor Ujala	University Librarian	Rhodes University South Africa	u.satgoor@ru.ac.za
13.	Onyancha Irene	Librarian	UNECA	ionyancha@uneca.org
14.	Kauaria Veno	Librarian	Ministry of Education Namibia	NLAS@moe.gov.na
15.	Mulindwa, Gertrude Kayaga	Librarian	National Library of Uganda Uganda	gkmulindwa@nlu.go.ug
16.	Nicholson Jennefer	IFLA Secretary General	IFLA HQ	

Observers

1.	Tsebe John	AfLIA President	South Africa	tsebejohn@gmail.com
2.	Toto Tiny	Librarian	Botswana Defence Force/Staff College, Botswana	tinyktus@gmail.com
3.	Jibril Lynn L	Botswana Library Association	Botswana Ministry of Education	

Absent with Apology

1.	Mbambo-Thata Buhle	Executive Director	University of South Africa Libraries, South Africa	mbambtb@unisa.ac.za
2.	Bannerman Valentina	Librarian	Ghana	Valnin@yahoo.com
3.	Atuti Richard	National Librarian	Kenya National Library. Kenya	richard.atuti@knls.ac.ke
4.	Coulibaly Cecile	Library Director	Cote D'Ivoire	quattr.cecile1@gmail.com
5.	Okoye Rose Bin	Librarian	Nigeria	rosebinokoye@gmail.com
6.	Dadzie Perpetua	Librarian	University of Ghana	psdadzie@ug.edu.gh
7.	Reda Nabil	IT Librarian	Library Alexandria, Egypt	nabil.reda@bibalex.org
8.	Azubuike Abraham	Corresponding member	Nigeria/ USA	aazubuike@yahoo.com
9.	Djalo Iogubi	Librarian	Guinea Bissau	idyalo@gmail.com

5) Announcements

5.1 The Chair explained why she had not been available to Chair the first part of the Meeting (09.00am). She had gone for a special meeting at the Ministry of Culture, as arranged by Local Organizing Committee and the Library Association.

5.2 Meeting at the Botswana Ministry of Culture

The IFLA Secretary General and the Chair of IFLA Africa Section, led a high powered delegation to a meeting with Ministry Officials at the Ministry of Culture, under whose portfolio Libraries fall.

5.3 Workshop for School Librarians

On Wednesday 10th February 2016, the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) and the Botswana Library Association (BLA) organized a one day Workshop for Botswana School Librarians under the theme 'Advocating for School Libraries'. The IFLA Africa Regional Office, based in Pretoria, South Africa, assisted by identifying the Facilitator from Zimbabwe, Mr Jerry Mathema, Director International Association of School Libraries, Region 1- Africa Sub-Saharan. .

5.4 Acknowledgements

The Africa Section acknowledged support from Emerald and great planning by the Local Organizing Committee and the Botswana Library Association.

6) Confirmation and Adoption of Agenda

- 3 Items were added to the Agenda were: Country Reports and a session to agree on how to select papers from the 74 Abstracts received.
- 1 Item was removed from the Agenda –Item 13.1(LIS Education in Developing Countries.)

Following this additions and subtractions, the Agenda was moved for adoption by Joyce Gozo and seconded.

7) CORRECTION AND ADOPTION of the Minutes of the IFLA Africa Section Meetings I and II held in Cape Town, South Africa 16th and 18th August 2015.

The Minutes were appraised with corrections made as members went through. After the corrections, the motion for adoption of the Minutes was moved by Nthabiseng Kotsokoane and seconded by Veno Kauaria.

8) Matters arising from the Minutes

On matters arising, the following issues were discussed

- Africa Section was urged to recommend to AfLIA –the creation of a database of Parliamentary bills/legislations pertaining to libraries, archives and related fields from all African Countries. This could be useful to other Library Associations on the continent as they try to work on new Bills/Laws or carry out similar investigations and proposals.
- The Section recommended that the procedure of nominating for IFLA Honors and Awards be done in a more professional manner, it could be more confidential, especially to the person being nominated. In future, nominations were to be done at ‘face to face’ meetings by anyone who has worked or known the person to be nominated, their contributions and legacy.
- Members proposed a ‘capacity building session’ for new members of the Section so that they get the correct orientation right from the start. Members were referred to the IFLA Website- **Officers Corner for Procedures.**
- The Information Coordinator was asked to link up with the SPARC Coordinator for information to put in the Newsletter as well as share with Africa Section members and AfLIA.

9) IFLA Secretary General

Ms Jennefer Nicholson addressed the meeting and emphasized the following:

1. Sections were to put a lot of work on the key initiatives in the IFLA Strategic Plan.
2. IFLA Trend Report would continue being updated. What is in the IFLA Trend Report is here now and will continue, such as the Marrakesh Treaty, Open Access which seems to be shifting, so Library professionals need to continue redefining the Open Access Agenda.
3. Reading and Literacy- IFLA was working with other organizations such as UNESCO where IFLA needed to work with member states to identify and accept national needs.
4. Cultural Heritage: In countries where there is need to collect and maintain cultural languages, libraries needed to participate actively in capturing of local content.
5. Preservation: UNESCO project preparing Guidelines in Digital Content
6. Digital Content: Open debates on digital content preservation were necessary. Digital Content would provide easy access to history of the Continent and individual countries.

7. International Leadership Program to begin in 2016 with fewer candidates. (12 in the last group). She noted that the Leadership Program was a personalized program, very involving but an enriching experience. The program was meant to create a much bigger pool for leadership for IFLA. Demand for the Program is overwhelming and the suggestion was for Regions to see ways to take initiatives to prepare future leaders and for succession planning.
8. The International Advocacy Program (IAP) was focused on Public Access to information, increasing access through Public Libraries, and increasing Public Libraries participation in communities. Initial IAP Document was produced at the Windhoek Meeting in 2015. The Advisory Group met in Pretoria for planning prior to the Mid Term Meeting, in February 2016. IAP identified four areas of focus that include promoting public access, emerging technologies and creating local content.

10) REPORTS

1. Chair , IFLA Section

- The Chair welcomed all colleagues who had made it to the 2016 Mid Term Meeting. She heartily welcomed the Secretary General, Jennefer Nicholson, who had accepted to be part of the Section’s mid -term meeting. She said the Section would continue to count on her mentorship during and after the meeting and looked forward to her contributions.
- She thanked the Regional Office through, Dr Buhle Mbambo – Thata and Lindi Nhlapo, the Regional Office Manager for the all their support.
- She also thanked the hosts and colleagues for all their hard effort to ensure the success of the meeting.

An overview of the activities of the IFLA Africa Section -2015 season.

a) 2015 SC Meetings

IFLA Africa Section held two Standing Committee meetings during the Cape Town IFLA World Congress in 2015 and both had an impressive attendance. Members were informed that the new Chair of Division V was Dr Victoria Okojie, the immediate past Chair of IFLA Africa Section

b) Africa Section Satellite Meeting 2015

The Section successfully organized a satellite conference on the theme, “Africa and the United Nations Post 2015 Development Agenda” on the UNISA Parow Campus, Cape Town, South Africa.

c) OPEN FORUM 2015

The Section organized a joint Open Forum with the Legal and Parliamentary Sections of IFLA. It was an exciting forum with good papers and thought provoking discussions.

- d) African Library and Information Association and Institutions (AfLIA).
AfLIA held a Board meeting just after the WLIC in Cape Town chaired by its newly elected President John Tsebe. The work done under the coordination of AfLIA Executive Director, Dr Helena Assamoah-Hassan was quite commendable. AfLIA held a successful general conference and third Arica Library Summit in Accra, Ghana in May/June 2015.
- e) Africa Public Library Summit (APLA)
AfLIA and Global Libraries were organizing a Public Library Summit in Swaziland in April 2016. The call for papers had been sent out. More information was available from AfLIA Website.
- f) ICALDA 4
ICADLA 4 was held just before the AfLIA Conference in May 2015, in partnership with the Ghana Library Association.
- g) ALP Programmes
- International Advocacy Programme - was initiated at a high level meeting in 2015 and a follow up meeting held in Pretoria, 8-9 February 2016, finalized the Programme.
 - The BSLA Programme was now being organized at regional levels. One took place in Kumasi, Ghana and another took place in Cameroon, organized for French speaking countries in December 2015 with participants from Cameroon, Cote D'Ivoire, Senegal, Gabon Chad, Benin etc.
 - The International Leadership Programme was launched to select the second batch by end of March 2016.
- h) IFLA/WLIC, Columbus , Ohio 2016
The IFLA Africa Section has a Satellite Conference, 11th 12th August 2016 on the theme “**Building Cross Cultural Capabilities for Universal Access to Information and Knowledge in Africa**”, with six sub themes and will be held at the University of Athens, Ohio Campus.
During the Congress, the Section’s has an Open Forum on the theme “**Creating an Enabling Environment for Africa: Taking the Cape Town Declaration Forward**” with seven sub-themes.
The Section Poster also proposed to present a Poster on the theme. **‘Connecting the Dots: Libraries for Development’**
- i) IFLA Awards

The Call for IFLA Awards was circulated. The Section had asked the Kenya Library Association (KLA) during the Section's 2015 Mid Term Meeting in Nakuru, to nominate Jacinta Were. A reminder had been sent to KLA and Secretariat was assured that was in order with the nomination.

j) IFLA Africa Section Newsletter

Members were reminded that the Section had a Newsletter coordinated by the Section's Information Officer (Coordinator) – Nthabiseng Kosokoane. All were invited to send in contributions.

k) IFLA Webmaster

Nabil Ezzeldin Reda was the Section's new Webmaster. He was selected after a call and he was the only one who responded.

l) Section Members were called upon to follow discussion trends around the various development agendas especially what IFLA stands for and supports in the 2020 Plan, the AU 2063 Plan in its 17 aspirations, the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

11) Regional Office Report

1. Since Cape Town IFLA Congress, the Regional Manager visited IFLA HQ.
2. The Regional Office organized and coordinated the IAP meeting held in Pretoria on February 8th -9th 2016.
3. IAP had planned a parallel session at the forthcoming SCECSAL Meeting in Swaziland
4. The Regional Office would be organizing the Annual Public Lecture and dates were to be confirmed in due course.
5. BSLA Report: Zambia Programme had ended.
Swaziland and Botswana were still on the programme.
6. The Regional Manager briefed members on the unfortunate incident in Malawi where the Library at Mzuzu was destroyed by fire. A Fund had been created to assist rebuild the library.
7. IFLA Regional Office gave a farewell present to the outgoing Secretary General whose term of office was ending.
8. In response to queries about the Section Funds- she informed Members that all SC members funded themselves to meetings and that meals were funded for Mid Term Meetings. She added that the Section did not pay for the Manager to attend meetings.

12) Information Coordinator's Report

The Information Coordinator gave a brief report. She emphasized the need to constantly keep members up to date with what was going on and hence the need for items to put in the Newsletter. She urged SC members to check the Officers Corner on the IFLA Website for procedures.

13) ATINA SIG Report

ATINA Report was received later with apologies from the ATINA Chair during the two day meeting. It was noted but not discussed.

14) SCANUL and SCECSAL Reports ; Public Library Summit (Swaziland)

- Both the Standing Committee of African National and University Librarians (SCANUL) and the Standing Conference of Eastern, Central and Southern African Librarians (SCECSAL) were regional organizations. SCECSAL had been in existence since the 1970s. SCANUL was an offshoot of SCECSAL since 1990s.
- Members recommended that Swaziland could be an ideal place to start the conversations on redefining the roles and relationships of the two with AfLIA. They were urged to find ways to build synergies.
- SCANUL was holding a Conference as a pre-conference event :22-23 April, 2016
- SCECSAL Conference: 25 – 30 April, 2016 in Maseru, Swaziland.
- Public Library Summit : 30 April – 1 May 2016 organized by AfLIA and Global Libraries

15) AfLIA Update

1. At the 2015 AfLIA Conference in Accra, Interest Groups had been created and leaders elected and Face Book pages created.
2. AfLIA Treasurer informed the Section that AfLIA had a Strategic Plan in place and that AfLIA was a beneficiary of the Global Libraries Three Year Grant.
3. It was noted that AfLIA was a 'baby' of Africa Section and as such the Section expected updates at its meetings.
4. The Section noted that no report had been received for the Mid Term Meeting.
5. Mr John Tsebe attended Day 2 of the Mid Term Meeting and he addressed the SC Meeting as follows:

- As President of AfLIA, he had briefed Arab Library Association.
- Next briefing would be at SCECSAL in Swaziland in April 2016.
- He will find ways of briefing Central Africa which includes Cameroon, Guinea, Congo etc. These countries are neither in SCECSAL or its West African equivalent.
- AfLIA would work with Library Associations and their Governments, to contribute to National Development Goals to achieve AU 2023 and UN 2030.
- AfLIA to link up with regional bodies such as SADC, ECOWAZ as well as African Union and UNECA.
- He assured the Section that AfLIA would in future present reports regularly and should remain on the Agenda of SC Meeting.
- AfLIA President informed the meeting that he was an ex-Officio member at IFLA Governing Board as a Strategic Partner.

16) **IFLA WLIC 2016, OHIO, USA**

1. **SATELLITE CONFERENCE**

SC organized a Satellite Conference, to be held 11 -12 August 2016 at the University of Athens, Ohio Campus, USA. The Theme of the conference –‘**Building Cross Cultural Capabilities for Universal Access to Information and Knowledge in Africa**’

- SC agreed that a Registration Website was necessary to assist in planning.
- The Section discussed possible Keynote speakers and suggested names given included Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka at the United Nations and others from the Black Forum and the African Studies Association in the US and from the Continent.
- USD50.00 Registration Fees was suggested as fees to be paid by all including SC Members
- The Secretariat had distributed Abstracts in advance to SC members with a template that gave guidance on how to score the papers.
- 43 Abstracts were received and 12 were selected.
- SC Members who had submitted Abstracts were excluded from the Selection Panel.

2. **OPEN FORUM 2016 –Ohio, USA**

The Section had an Open Forum on the theme '**Creating an enabling Information Environment for Africa: Taking the Cape Town Declaration Forward**'.

- Abstracts were circulated to Members in advance with a guide on how to score the papers.
- Selectors were urged to look for clarity, relevance, completed papers and also consider regional representation.
- Four Papers were selected out of 31 Abstracts.
- SC Members who submitted Abstracts were excluded in the Selection Panel.

3. AFRICA SECTION POSTER 2016

- The Section submitted a Proposal for the 2016 Poster Session in Ohio.
- The Theme of the Poster was in line with the IFLA 2016 Congress theme.
- Poster Title '**Connecting the Dots: Libraries for Development**'
- SC Members were expected to contribute information on Projects, submit pictures from their Countries. The idea was to demonstrate how libraries contribute toward development and how they can partner with Governments and development partners in achieving the UN Goals.

17) COUNTRY REPORTS

1. Cameroon

- French speaking Africa held a meeting in Cameroon
- Partnership with National Assembly and Goethe Institute and US Embassy.
- Focus on the Conservation Centre and endorsed by IFLA for French Documents
- Encouraging Cameroon to visit South Africa to see and appreciate what they need to do.
- Cameroon had put up a Library School in an English medium University of Buea.
- The University was happy and was endorsed by Government.
- 25 Students were taken in the 1st Intake.

- Dr Rosemary Shafack, Chair of Africa Section, was appointed Coordinator for the Programme.

2. South Africa

- LIASA- Annual South African week – Libraries for Collaboration with National Library and Culture
- Open Access as a Corporate Project. Call for nominations for Advisory Board. a requirement for Professional Body created. This was attributed to IFLA presence in Africa (Cape Town WLIC).
- South Africa was a 2016 recipient of the Global Libraries Grant.

3. Namibia

- Library Association had been dormant
- In 2014 LA and Archives organized a summit
- LA Membership was still very low
- Membership fees were being kept low to attract new members
- The Association had lobbied for professional status for librarians but the challenge was that there were no professionals available to fill positions.
- School Libraries were recognized as essential and Government accepted that these were to be manned by professional librarians, not Teacher Librarians.
- Advocacy Programmes to High Schools to encourage and give scholarships to study librarianship.
- Reading Programme: Advocated for reading period in schools to improve literacy levels countrywide.

4. Botswana

- BSLA Project-
BLA benefitted from the BSLA Project. It contributed to restructuring and also improved governance; they visited Nigeria and South Africa for bench marking.
- BLA held a successful National conference in 2015 and planned another in July 2016 under the theme: 'From Action to Impact'
- The University of Botswana- Department of Library and Information Science had recognized the

Association by including BLA members in the Advisory Board to help in Curriculum review.

- Dr Kay Raseroka shared her experience as a Trustee in Research Data. She urged professionals to understand what researchers do with their data and the role of data in development.

5. UNECA

- Irene highlighted the changes taking place at UNECA and encouraged the Section to try to link up and try to see if Continent can benefit from UNECA projects. There were possibilities to link with UNECA's drive for change at their Library. The Section could sensitize UNECA on about AS programmes so that they can be discussed at continental level. Present capacity building objectives and outreach plans.
- **Internet Governance Forum-**
Librarians were encouraged to get involved in Internet Governance Forum as the issue of content on the internet impacts directly with development and Librarians must be interested.
- **SAIGF**
It was noted that the Southern African Internet Governance Forum was up and running. The next meeting was to be held in June in Gaborone, Botswana. Sarah and Ayanda were tasked to report on the general state of affairs and capacity building in August 2016.

6. Zimbabwe

- The Zimbabwe Library Association was a recipient of the BSLA Assistance.
- They held a successful 2015 Annual Conference
- Zimbabwe Open University (ZOU) had introduced LIS programmes, becoming the second university to offer LIS degree programmes in the country.

7. Uganda

- There was need to strengthen membership. The Association was encouraging all members to pay their membership fees.

- The Association was reaching out to rural areas.
- BSLA enabled the association to come up with a Strategic Plan, review their Constitution and were aiming at hosting international LIS events.
- New LIS Programmes and LIS Curriculum review
- Not all professionals in Uganda were happy with AfLIA
- Leadership training- Public Librarians 1st Cohort to be held in Uganda in July 2016
- Expectations are that in a few years a group will have emerged for African leadership.
- Capacity Building in Uganda: World Bank offering fully sponsored PhD Programmes

18) **Africa Section Strategic Plan**

The IFLA Africa Section Strategic Plan was reviewed with a major focus on the goals, outcomes and actions.

- To note that the Action Plan as submitted to IFLA in October 2015 was refined at the Mid Term Meeting as follows:
 - Objective 1:** Provide Strategic leadership for the LIS profession in Africa
 - Objective 2:** Create Awareness on Global LIS issues and aligning the African LIS to the Development Agenda
 - Objective 3:** Promote and strengthen Library Associations, the profession and Library/Information Services in Africa
 - Objective 4:** Create and maintain links with other Sections of IFLA as well as related bodies/institutions/organizations for the benefit of the profession and services in Africa
- **Action plan 2015 -16 (revised)**
 - 1. Goal 1: To strengthen the BSLA Programme on the Continent**
 - Strategic Direction 4: Capacity Building**
The BSLA Project speaks to this Strategic Direction. Since this was now run from the region, the Section was looking at consolidating the gains in Swaziland, Botswana, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe and in the French speaking countries.

Action: Ujala (South Africa) by August 2016. Tracking the process and assessing progress where BSLA is already being implemented.

2. Goal 2: To promote and support development programmes that focus on improved information use , reading and literacy in Africa

Strategic Direction 2: Information and Knowledge

Design and launch a continental reading campaign aligned to the IAP Programme through libraries

Action: Veno (Namibia) and Gertrude (Uganda) to conduct a survey of reading Programmes and overall on the Continent. Communicate with Library Associations in order to find out what is on the ground by Questionnaire or online survey tool.

3. Goal 3: To promote the role of libraries in the information society

Strategic Direction 1: Libraries and Society

Promote IAP to all associations on the Continent.

Action: Irene (UNECA) and Nthabiseng (South Africa)

Create a calendar of ILS Conferences by August 2016

4. Goal 4: To advocate for improved access to information and knowledge for development in Africa.

Strategic Direction 2: Information and Knowledge

Encourage Library Associations to align their Strategic Plans to Development Agenda

Action: 1. Rosemary (Chair) to organize and coordinate the Satellite conference in the Ohio, USA. August 2016

2. Ujala (SA) and Irene (UNECA) to produce Infographic materials to be used for training and marketing as well as capacity building. Eg. Training on Infographics.

3. Explore collaborative activities

5. Goal 5: To promote education and continuing professional development for the library and information profession in Africa.

Strategic Direction 4: Capacity Building

Compile a Directory of Library and Information Science Schools on the Continent

Action: Sarah (Uganda) and Rachel (South Africa)

The project could be ongoing but is expected to have started by August 2016.

19) Next IFLA Africa Section Mid Term Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in February 2017. The date would be announced at the IFLA WLIC SC meeting in Columbus, Ohio in August 2016.

20) Closing and Adjournment

The Chair thanked Bongiwe , Ayanda and the Botswana Library Association for warm welcome and hospitality and for making it possible for the SC to hold a successful Mid-Term Meeting in Gaborone. She expressed her gratitude to Mr Qobose, the Acting Librarian and to the University of Botswana for availing the beautiful facilities in the University Library. She thanked Gogo Kay and Jennefer Nicholson for their guidance, support and always being there for the Section. Finally, she thanked all SC members for the sacrifices and support to the Section. She wished everyone a safe journey back home and hoped to see all in Columbus, Ohio, USA.

After these closing remarks, the meeting was adjourned at 16.15

Dr. Rosemary Shafack

Chairperson, IFLA Africa Section

Email: roshafack@gmail.com

[Tel:+237 699-698-868](tel:+237699698868)

Ms Kathy Matsika

Secretary, IFLA Africa Section

Email: kathymatsika@gmail.com

[Tel:+263 712 203 435](tel:+263712203435)

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05/06/2016