



World Library and Information Congress: 81st

IFLA General Conference and Assembly

Minutes of the General Assembly held on Wednesday, 19 & Thursday, 20 August 2015, in Exhibition Hall 2 of the Cape Town Convention Centre, Cape Town, South Africa



1. Opening by the President, Sinikka Sipilä

President Sinikka Sipilä opened the meeting at 16:15 on Wednesday, 19 August and welcomed the members and delegates and thanked them for their attendance at the Congress. She introduced those on stage: Secretary General Jennefer Nicholson and Martyn Wade, Parliamentarian.

Apologies were received from Ross Shimmon, Marta Terry and Russell Bowden.

2. Appointment of Tellers

Members agreed that Barbara Schleihagen be appointed Head Teller and that Marian Koren, Victoria Okojie, Eve Woodberry, Mijin Kim, Kerry Smith and Johanna Lahikainen serve as Tellers.

3. Establishment of a Quorum

A quorum of 62 National and International Association Members was required. A Quorum was not established and it was noted that business may be transacted subject to gaining a two-thirds majority of those present (11.2.1)" and," Such business shall be implemented only if subsequently endorsed by a meeting of the Governing Board, provided that meeting has a quorum (11.2.2)".

The meeting proceeded but a two-thirds majority vote of those present, including proxies, was required for business items.

4. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted.

5. Minutes of the General Assembly held in Lyon, 20 and 21 August, 2014

The minutes were adopted.

6. In memoriam of those members who have died during the past year

The President invited members to stand in silence to remember Peter von Bagh, Linden Fairbairn, Marta Dosa, Ruth C. Carter, Pedro Padilla-Rosa, Allene Hayes, Vesna Injac, Alexe Rau, Joseph Boye, G.K. Adu Dasebere, Ekaterina Genieva, Erik Spicer, Suzanne Morin and other colleagues who have died during the past year.

7. Presentation of the report of the President, Sinikka Sipilä

The President outlined what has been a busy year for IFLA in international representation in all continents by herself and other IFLA representatives, collaboration with other partners,

and work on our Key Initiatives and policy and advocacy. The support for the Lyon Declaration had contributed to IFLA's success at the UN in our advocacy concerning the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The Trend Report continued to engender discussion in many regions including Turkey which hosted the 2nd President's meeting in Istanbul in 2015. She thanked all Members for their support, the Governing Board, members of the professional units and staff for their contribution towards all that had been achieved. The full text of the President's report is on the IFLA website www.ifla.org/files/assets/hq/general-assembly/presidents-report-2015.pdf

8. Presentation of the report of the Secretary General

Jennefer Nicholson, Secretary General reported on the development of the 2016-2021 IFLA Strategic Plan and achievements through the Trend Report, the Lyon Declaration and other Key Initiatives for 2015-2016. She commended members on their commitment despite the continuing economic constraints for the library sector and noted many achievements in areas such as cultural heritage, the digital environment and in building strong library associations. A strong IFLA was a strong voice for libraries leading to a strong society. There were many in our sector working to better lives so all citizens could participate fully in society. This report was presented as her final report as IFLA Secretary General.

The full text of the Secretary General's report is on the IFLA website www.ifla.org/files/assets/hq/general-assembly/sg-report-2015.pdf

9. Presentation of the annual accounts by the Treasurer

Treasurer Frédéric Blin presented the 2014 annual report as accepted by the Governing Board in its April 2015 meeting for presentation to Members.

The year 2014 shows a positive net result amounting to €225,335. This positive result has to be compared to the consolidated net result for the years 2013, which was a deficit of €70,320, and 2012, which was a profit of €183,385. The positive result lies in reduced expenditures on the one hand, on strong income on the other.

The surplus was placed under our reserves, bringing our general reserves to €941,737, which is around 50% more than what is required under our general reserves policy. These reserves are an important asset for IFLA to be able to implement its ambitious strategic plan in the years to come.

The meeting adopted the 2014 Annual Accounts.

The full text of the Treasurer's report is on the IFLA website www.ifla.org/files/assets/hq/general-assembly/annual-accounts-2015.pdf

10. Formal announcement of the Results of the Postal Ballot for the Election of President-elect and for places on the Governing Board by the Secretary General

The results of the election for President-elect 2015 – 2017 are:

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| Glòria Pérez-Salmerón (Spain) | 1267 |
| Ismail Serageldin (Egypt) | 296 |

The results of the election for the Governing Board 2015-2017 are:

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|---|------|-----------|
| 1. Glòria Pérez-Salmerón (Spain) | 1164 | Withdrawn |
| 2. Loida Garcia-Febo (United States-2 nd Term) | 1133 | |
| 3. Ngian Lek Choh (Singapore-2 nd Term) | 1043 | |
| 4. Victoria Owen (Canada) | 1039 | |
| 5. Kirsten Boelt (Denmark) | 1037 | |
| 6. Maria Carme Torras i Calvo (Norway) | 1026 | Withdrawn |
| 7. Andrew McDonald (United Kingdom-2 nd Term) | 1004 | |
| 8. Ellen Ndeshi Namhila (Namibia-2 nd Term) | 980 | |
| 9. Christine Wellems (Germany) | 889 | |
| 10. Christine Mackenzie (Australia) | 717 | |
| 11. Agnes Hajdu Barat (Hungary) | 664 | |
| 12. Margaret Allen (Australia) | 635 | |

These ten candidates received the highest number of votes and were declared elected.

The following candidates also stood for election and were not elected:

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|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Charles Kamdem Poeghela (Cameroon) | 591 |
| Khaled Mohamed Emam Elhalaby (Egypt) | 270 |

The following Members of the Governing Board were also elected:

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| Chair Professional Committee: | Maria Carme Torras i Calvo (Norway) |
| Chair Division I : | Raissa Teodori (Italy) |
| Chair Division II : | Frederick Zarndt (United States) |
| Chair Division III : | Viviana Quiñones (France) |
| Chair Division IV : | Perry Moree (The Netherlands) |
| Chair Division V: | Victoria Okojie (Nigeria) |
| Chair MLAS | Barbara Schleihagen (Germany) |

11. Motions and Resolutions

In accordance with Dutch legal requirements the Members resolved in the affirmative

Resolution: The General Assembly resolved to authorize the Governing Board to convene the General Assembly to coincide with the next IFLA World Library and Information Congress which shall take place in August 2016. In the case of an unavoidable delay the General Assembly may be convened at a later date, but no later than 30 November 2016.

A Professional Resolution regarding multilingualism had been received from members and in accordance with the Rules was referred to the Professional Committee for consideration. The Secretary General read out the resolution.

12. Motion to adjourn and reconvene at 16:15 on Thursday 20 August 2015

The General Assembly resolved in the affirmative:

Resolution: The General Assembly resolved that this meeting adjourns to meet at 16.15 tomorrow (Thursday 20 August) for the Closing ceremony.

13. Closing Session

Address by the President Sinikka Sipilä

The President noted the transformation of IFLA over the last years into a well known brand and respected leader in the library and information sector. It was pleasing that her theme of *Strong Libraries, Strong Societies* had been taken up with a number of meetings and seminars across a variety of countries focussing on this topic. The President noted that her term had been an honour for her personally but also for her country, Finland and thanked all who had provided support over the past two years.

The full text of the President's address is on the IFLA website:

www.ifla.org/files/assets/hq/general-assembly/address-by-the-president-2015.pdf

Presentation of Awards

Clara Chu, Vice-Chair of the Professional Committee, presented the PC awards for 2015.

IFLA Professional Unit Communication Award 2015

This was awarded to the Public Libraries Section which takes a collaborative, inclusive and international approach, through sharing important information and interesting stories within IFLA and beyond to numbers of libraries and agencies around the world. Chair Marian Morgan-Bindon accepted the award on behalf of the Section.

Best IFLA Poster 2015

The enthusiasm for and growth of the poster program is evident. Over 130 posters were on display. The winners of the Poster of the Year 2015 Award were Brigitte Doellgast and Niall McNulty for *Digital Memory Toolkit – a free resource to assist community projects*.

IFLA Scroll of Appreciation

The President presented the IFLA Scroll of Appreciation to Ujala Satgoor and Segametsi Molawa, co-chairs, in grateful recognition to the National Committee of the IFLA World Library and Information Congress, 81st IFLA General Conference and Assembly, Cape Town, August 2015.

The President presented the IFLA Scroll of Appreciation to Susan Schnuer in grateful recognition for her distinguished service to the international library community, especially for inspiring and developing the next generation of library leaders.

Honorary Fellow

Honorary Fellow is IFLA's highest award. Honorary Fellowship may be conferred on a person who has delivered long and distinguished service to IFLA, with outstanding achievements

and that has brought distinction to IFLA in the international arena. The President presented the IFLA Honorary Fellow to Ingrid Parent.

Ingrid's contribution to IFLA included many roles in a variety of sections and committees including the Governing Board, Treasurer, and as President from 2011-2013. The IFLA Trend Report was launched during her term as President and it's impact has encouraged a global conversation about the evolving digital information environment. Ingrid brings to the profession a force for change, innovative ideas and advocacy for the fundamental societal and cultural value of libraries.

Acknowledgement of Retiring Members of the Governing Board

The following Retiring Members of the Governing Board were acknowledged. Frédéric Blin, Ingrid Bon, Genevieve Clavel-Merrin, Clara Chu, Daniel Dorner, Gerald Leitner, Barbara Lison, Inga Lundén, Russell Lynch, Kent Skov Andreasen, Lynne M. Rudasill.

Acknowledgement of the Incoming Members of the Governing Board

The members of the incoming Board to take office following the WLIC were introduced to the Meeting.

Invitation to WLIC 2017 in Wroclaw, Poland

The President announced that in 2017 the World Library and Information Congress will be held in Wroclaw, Poland. She invited Rafał Dutkiewicz, Mayor of Wroclaw to address the meeting and invite delegates to Wroclaw in 2017.

Invitation to WLIC 2016 in Columbus, Ohio, USA

The President invited Patrick Losinski and Carol Diedrichs, Co-Chairs of the National Committee for the 2016 World Library and Information Congress to be held in Columbus, Ohio to address the meeting and invite delegates to meet next year in Columbus.

Vote of thanks by the WLIC 2015 National Committee

The co-chairs of the IFLA WLIC 2015 National Committee, Ujala Satgoor and Segametsi Molawa gave the vote of thanks to all who had contributed so much in the organisation and presentation of this highly successful Congress. Over 3,190 delegates from 112 countries had attended and contributed to the global conversation while allowing South African libraries in particular to showcase their innovation and development. Special mention was given to the tireless volunteers who helped the smooth functioning of the week. Congress delegates had also donated generously to the goodwill projects nominated by the National Committee – 'Gift a Book and Change a Life' and '67 Blankets for Nelson Mandela'.

Farewell and Thank You

Mrs Rejoice Mabudafhasi, Deputy Minister, Arts & Culture of South Africa addressed delegates on behalf of the government and people of South Africa. She thanked IFLA for recognising the African continent and in particular South Africa as a worthy host for this congress. A congress of this stature is an important platform for professional engagement, the exchange and sharing of ideas, learning from others and identifying areas for partnerships and collaborations.

Address by Incoming President

Incoming IFLA President 2015-2017, Donna Scheeder began her address by introducing her presidential theme: 'Libraries: A Call to Action'. Donna noted her own involvement on the IFLA Governing Board over the last eight years and the influential role played by IFLA Secretary General Jennefer Nicholson in developing the organisation. She called on delegates to embrace a change agenda on four levels: personally, our organisations and institutions, nationally and globally. She emphasised that if libraries are to maintain relevance, those involved must act now. Donna looked forward to working together over the next two years to do amazing things.

Her full acceptance speech is available at: www.ifla.org/node/9848

Close of the Assembly

President Scheeder invited all delegates to meet again in Columbus, Ohio in August 2016. She thanked all delegates and formally closed the 81st IFLA World Library and Information Congress at 18:00.