Dear Colleagues,

I am happy to provide you with an update from the first meeting of the new Professional Council.

The 2021-23 Professional Council held its first meeting, via Zoom from 21:00 – 22:30 CEST, 1 September 2021. IFLA President Barbara Lison provided a welcome and opening remarks, wishing the Council a productive term together.

Alignment of the Professional Structure work to the 2019-24 IFLA Strategy
The Professional Council discussed the IFLA Strategy and the role of the Professional Council in achieving the strategic goals – primarily through the support of the Units in their Division through discussions, coaching, mentoring and other guidance. The goal being for Units to propose activities that are strongly aligned with the Strategy, that are achievable, and are important for moving their sector of the profession forward.

It was noted that the Division Chairs will play a large role in orienting the newer SC members to the importance of the Strategy and their contributions and role in achieving the strategy through their planning and activities. The experience, knowledge and abilities of the Division Chairs will help to guide Officers in this work.

The Action Plan form will be piloted in the next week and links sent out to Units by 16 September. A copy of the printout of the form will be posted to the PC Basecamp.

When reviewing Action Plans, Division Chairs will support their Units in ensuring the activities set forth are SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Timebound).

Alignment of the Professional Council to the new governance structure
Communication at all levels of the organization, with the same clear message will support the achievement of this alignment – from Governing Board to Professional Council and Regional Council, from Councils to Division Committees, from Division Committees to Units.

A slide deck which provides an overview of the Strategy will be provided to the Division Chairs to share with their Division Committees at their first meeting.

Role, Priorities and goals of the 2021-23 Professional Council
Preliminary discussion of the Council’s priorities and goals was held. Suggested carry-over items and actions from the 2019-21 PC will be discussed in more detail at the October 2021 meeting along with the new goals and items which will be determined by the 2021-23 Professional Council. The Governing Board may also refer strategic items to the Professional Council.

A status overview of the ongoing and completed actions since the August 2021 meeting of the Professional Committee was provided. Action items from the September 2021 Professional Council meeting will be added to the list. The Council noted the action items, which will be discussed in more detail at the October 2021 meeting. Among these are:

- Finalising procedures for co-opting members, determination of mentors, Section and SIG reviews
- Developing information for the Handbook on Working Groups and Networks WLIC Development

Items related to the transition of the Division Committee Chairs were discussed:
- Role of the PDCC, election of the Secretary of the DCC,
- Communications options and best practices,
- Meeting dates.
Division Committee Chairs will hold their first meeting by 1 October 2021, where they will make an announcement for expressions of interest for the Division Committee Secretary role.

To facilitate the process of the Division Committee Secretary, the Professional Support Officer (Megan) will send a nomination link to Division Chairs, which will in turn be shared with the members of the Division Committee. Self-nominations will be made in Alchemer and elections will be held, as needed. This process will take no longer than 2 weeks – Self-nominations received by October 8 and election opening October 11 and closing October 18.

**Looking forward (Next Steps)**

This first meeting had a busy agenda and was full of relevant questions asked on your behalf. It is a privilege to be part of and lead a team that is so dedicated. As mentioned above, the setting of Objectives is a priority that the Professional Council have begun and will seek to agree at the next meeting in October. Proposed measures already for discussion include the Review and update of exiting IFLA Standards, guidelines or Checklists. In addition to assessing how to value add to the outputs that Sections are producing.

On behalf of the Professional Council, I would like also to thank the Vicki McDonald (PC Chair 2019-21) and the Professional Committee (2019-21) for the handover document that was prepared. The suggestions made were appreciated and helped to focus the discussions. The Professional Council are also now working on completing the transition into the new structure of IFLA and will shortly update on:

- Formation of SIGs; appointment of Convenor
- Formation of Review Groups, appointment of Chair

Once the future PC meeting dates have been decided these will be shared with you by your Division Chairs. On a final note, I would like to wish you each the very best for the current term. If you have questions, comments or input please do speak with your Chairs and use Basecamp.

Kind Regards,
Adjoa
Chair, IFLA Professional Council