



IFLA Section Library and Research Services for Parliaments

IFLAPARL Standing Committee, Business Meeting 3 in 2021

Held virtually in two instances:

October 19, 2021 at 12h00 UTC: Josefa Fuentes; Fabiola Rosales Salinas; Julie Anderson; Ellie Valentine; Sonia Bebbington; Chama Mpundy Mfula; Mary Mazanec; Bello Fatimadou; Ida Keleman; Chifuyu Hiyama; Karin Finer; Agustin Lopez; Janice Silveira, Youlim Lee

October 20, 2021 at 13h00 UTC: Josefa Fuentes; Fabiola Rosales Salinas; Julie Anderson; Zhang Shuguang; Ioulani (Lila) Theodosi

Regrets: Jonathan Curtis; Mohammed Nyagsi; Paola Mandillo; Holger Scheerer

Summary

- Action Plan is due November 1st
- Action Plan Volunteers:
 - Sonia: Finalizing the Guidelines (with Ed Wood) and agreed to explore sharing the Guidelines through a wiki
 - Ida: strengthening ties with the ECPRD
 - Karin: strengthening ties with regional groups and offered help with the Directory
- Regarding building a database for research materials, members suggested:
 - We provide links to reports summaries rather than build a stand alone database
 - Using the IFLA Repository or IFLAPARL's Directory to provide links to research materials
 - Partnering with UNESCO, which offered help to those that want to build databases of research materials
- Social media initiative:
 - Lila suggested we ask for submissions of short videos from the membership on special items in their collections or a special service they provide. We could share them through social media to create engagement and a sense of community. Lila will draft a call for submissions.
- Next Meeting:
 - November 24 at 12 UTC, or,
 - November 25 at 13 UTC

Zoom links will be sent out through Basecamp and the Listserv.

Minutes

1. Attendance & confirmation of agenda (Secretary)

Secretary confirmed attendance. In the first instance, Ellie Valentine moved the agenda approved. In the second instance Lila moved the agenda approved.

2. Welcome (Chair)

The Chair welcomed everyone.

Updates:

- The 2020-2021 Annual Report was submitted to IFLA by the required deadline. The report is posted on [Basecamp](#) and in the IFLA repository.
- The [2021 Covid Survey Results](#) has been posted in the IFLA repository.
- The IFLAPARL Officers (Josefa, Fabiola and Julie) met with the Division B Officers to discuss commonalities amongst the three sections and perhaps doing a shared session at WLIC 2022.
- In the upcoming IFLAPARL Newsletter (ETA: February 2022), the Chair will be providing a welcome message and an abstract of our Section's future plans.
- A summary of the IPU/IFLAPARL event will be submitted to IFLA's General Newsletter (a new initiative starting this year)
- Work will be starting soon on organizing a pre-conference to WLIC 2022 for the IFLAPARL Section. It is hoped we can provide a hybrid pre-conference, allowing for in-person attendance while also engaging those who are not able to travel to Dublin.
- The Workload of the Standing Committee must be equitably distributed amongst its members. The Action Plan provides many opportunities to network within the Committee and beyond.
- If members have no interest in participating, please resign and give your spot on the Committee to someone who wants to engage and support our efforts.
- The Action Plan is due Nov. 1st. It is to be a living document and we will update throughout the year

3. IPU Event: Thanks

The Chair thanked everyone involved in the event, congratulated the team on its success and acknowledged the tremendous amount of time and effort it took to produce.

The event proved to us that we successfully use on-line events to provide content and help jurisdictions that are requesting support and do not have the resources to travel.

The Evaluation Survey will close on Oct. 22nd. To date 103 responded.

The results of the Survey will be summarized. It is unclear if the IPU will summarize. If they are not able to, the Information Coordinator and staff from the Spanish Senate will produce a report.

The IPU set-up a "[Global Public Square](#)" to host materials anyone is interested in sharing. Submissions will sit on the IPU platform for six months. After this time, we can move them to the IFLA Repository. To date, there were only a handful of submissions from Mexico, Spain and Uruguay.

4. Action Plan

The Chair invited comments about the draft Action Plan.

Comments from the first instance:

Sonia: will continue to work on the Guidelines with Edward and agreed with the Chair that it is an interesting option to make the Guidelines available through a wiki to honour the multitude of perspectives and bring in different contexts and perspectives. She raised concerns about Section A: is what we are proposing a duplication of efforts? Perhaps we should focus on unique or hard to find materials?

Ellie: commented on sections A1 and B1, noting that IFLA now has a repository, and there we can post all papers, conference notes etc. there. She also noted that [ECPRD](#) has a request service, where bills and legal comparisons will be provided upon request. Ellie suggested that we can leverage this service instead of constructing a new database.

Ida: Provided information on the ECPRD Request Service:

- It is closed to the public
- Each Parliament appoints a delegate for posting questions / providing answers
- The number of questions that can be asked is unlimited
- Parliaments can address questions to all Parliaments or just EU Parliaments
- There are two main types of questions: 1. About the work of Parliaments (approximately 1/3 of questions); 2. About public policy (approximately 2/3 of questions)
- There are approximately 250 questions a year
- Questions can be posted in English, German or French

Ida: Commented on the Action Plan: regarding research dossiers and reports, we need to consider what we would like to have. Perhaps it is enough to link to papers. She proposed that once the Directory ([WDLRS](#)) is finished, we use this platform to provide links instead of building a sophisticated database. She is willing to participate in this venture. Regarding A.3 and C.5, she volunteered to strengthen links with the ECPRD.

Mary: noted her confusion and asked for clarification: are we proposing we set up a new service to respond to requested like the ECPRD?

Josefa clarified: the plan is to set up one database of selected materials such as commentaries of national laws, or references to studies, providing metadata such as title, author, an abstract and URL.

Mary: commented that the best way to find US Government information is to go to their website.

She commented that the US Congress already has a repository of 10K reports that are available to the public. Saving them to a new repository would be a duplication of work. Also, the mandate of the Congress is to serve Congress; her institution would be unable to participate in supporting a request service. She offered to ask the Library if they would be able to.

Charma: shared that a new group has been formed for Research Services, with representatives from the East and South Africa. She offered that we could engage these researchers to obtain materials by sending a formal request to their Parliaments.

Also, she attended a UNESCO session at WLIC. UNESCO offered to help anyone setting up a database to archive materials. Perhaps they could help us, assuming they are one of our partners.

Karin: noted confusion between A.1 and A.3; are we proposing three different databases? She supported Ida's idea to instead leverage the Directory to provide links to Parliament's existing portals and websites. She also stated that setting up a request service, like the ECPRD, is a huge task. She suggested we set up informal Zoom meetings to exchange information informally. IFLAPARL organizes and interested participants can join to discuss. Karin volunteered to help with the Directory and strengthening ties with regional partners

Janice: supported the idea of leveraging the Directory to provide access to Parliament's portals and websites instead of building a unique database.

Comments from the second instance:

Lila: shared that Greece has posted all COVID related materials on its website and they provide links to external sites (e.g., medical science links). She commented that most people will use google to find reports. She suggested it would be useful to stream the pre-conference and/or upload it afterwards for those not able to attend and provide a written summary afterwards.

Josefa: suggested that live streaming would be optimal to provide a platform for real-time engagement and discussion.

Lila: shared that in Greece, they are making short videos to share information on its website, such as focussing on a rare book or a small archival fonds. She suggested

IFLAPARL provides the same: jurisdictions are invited to provide short videos from their Libraries to share something special about their collections, or a service they provide.

Fabiola: asked that Lila draft a call for this initiative and, once approved by the Officers, Fabiola will share it on the Listserv and through social media.

Zhang: shared that most social media is blocked in China. They do have access to Tik Tok Instagram and V chat.

She raised the concerns that the scope of such a database is hard to define and it is unclear if she would be able to help or contribute any content.

Josefa: replied that we can start simply, and start with Parliamentary documents.

5. Any other business / Roundtable

Zhang: suggested a topic for future discussion: evidence based practice.
No other business items were raised.

6. Next meeting and adjournment

Next Meeting:

- November 24 at 12 UTC, or,
- November 25 at 13 UTC

Zoom links will be sent out through Basecamp and the Listserv.

- The first instance of Business Meeting 2 adjourned at 13h10 UTC.
- The second instance of Business Meeting 2 adjourned at 14h00 UTC.