IFLAPARL Standing Committee, Business Meeting 2 for 2021

Held virtually in two instances:

Sept. 08 2021 at 10h00 UTC: Josefa Fuentes; Fabiola Rosales Salinas; Julie Anderson; Ellie Valentine; Sonia Bebbington; Chama Mpundy Mfula; Mary Mazanec; Bello Fatimadou; Jonathan Curtis; Ida Keleman; Chifuyu Hiyama; Karin Finer; Karin Zaal

Sept. 09 2021 at 14h00 UTC: Josefa Fuentes; Fabiola Rosales Salinas; Julie Anderson; Janice Silveira; Holger Scheerer; Zhang Shuguang; Agustin Lopez; Paola Mandillo; Ioulani Theodosi

Guest: Anoja Fernando, IFLA Chair of Division B

Regrets: Youlim Lee

Minutes:

1. **Attendance & confirmation of agenda (Secretary)**
   Secretary alerted the Committee that the session was being recorded and reminded everyone to speak slowly for the benefit of all attending.
   Secretary confirmed attendance and noted an addition to the agenda for the second instance: introduction and words from Anoja Ferando, Chair of Division B.

2. **Welcome (Chair)**
   The Chair welcomed everyone and urged them to connect with each other and our work on Basecamp.

3. **IPU Event update**
   The Chair updated attendees about the status of the IFLAPARL/IPU event on behalf of Iain Watts.

   Planning continues to go well. There are over 100 registrants to date. Andy Richardson has added an action item: submissions received that are not on the official program will be shared on the IPU site or IFLAPARL's webpage.

The Chair called out for volunteers to support the Workshop on Oct. 8th. Volunteers are needed to keep the discussion going in the breakout rooms and ensure there is dialogue amongst participants.

Karin Zaal offered to help.

Please contact sonia.bebbington@parl.gc.ca if you are able to volunteer.

In the first instance, Jonathan commented that he and Karin F. will be pre-recording their session.

Please register for the event if you haven't done so already:
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_GbYIL1mjRmyp6N6qmZwj2A

4. **IFLA-WLIC 2021 report**
In the first instance Sonia thanked the participants of IFLAPARL's session for IFLA-WLIC, entitled *Libraries and Research Services Enable: evidence-based practice in parliamentary library and research services*: Ido Avgar, Christine Weidenslaufer, Raimundo Roberts, Ahmed Odhowa. The session was a guided conversation rather than three separate presentations. There was a lively chat with great questions asked. Sonia reported that attendance numbers may not reflect the level of interest, due to the timing of the session and the challenge of time-zones. Of more interest will be how many times the posted video is viewed. Sonia will look into if we can pull this data. In summary, the feedback was positive and the session is considered a success.
[In the second instance, the Secretary repeated this report on Sonia's behalf]

5. **Draft Action Plan 2021-2022**
The Chair provided a summary of the draft Action Plan (posted to Basecamp on Sept. 08). The Plan is formally due to IFLA HQ by November 1st. Everyone is asked to provide their comments before the next Business Meeting and indicate which task they are committing to.

Summary:
- It is an evolution of the previous one as some actions go on beyond one year and the challenges experienced due to the Pandemic have extended timelines even more.
- Initiatives carried over from last year's plan:
  - Strengthen our relationship with IPU and regional groups
  - Capacity building
  - Finalize the *Guidelines for Parliamentary Libraries*
  - Review existing IFLAPARL published guidelines and identify those that require updating
  - Plan for WLIC July 2022 (Dublin): Preconference and main conference
  - Maintain and update the IFLAPARL Communication Plan

- - Stabilize/increase IFLAPARL membership
- The new proposals have to do with these three specific aims of the Section:

  1. To promote networking amongst parliamentary library and research services
  2. To provide of information about legislation and parliaments to citizens
  3. To promote standards in providing information and knowledge to parliaments

- New proposals:
  - Create and maintain a World Database of Research Dossiers/Papers/Reports
  - Create a World Database of legal commentary
  - Preserve and make available the bibliographic heritage existing in Parliamentary Libraries
  - Track the evolution of post COVID-19 services
  - Create a Master of Parliamentary Librarianship, or a single course (partnering with a University)
  - Survey the membership about Social Media preference and application
  - Ensure suitable candidates are encouraged to stand for the Committee when vacancies are open

Comments from the first instance:

Jonathan suggested an addition: to produce a joint publication on a mutually chosen topic of interest, as was done in the past (the selected topic: Parliamentary scrutiny of intelligence agencies). Jonathan suggested repeating this endeavour as these briefs are easy to write when describing one's own jurisdiction, and so helpful because but getting an inside view into another's is challenging. He suggested that including non-English speaking jurisdictions would bring great value.

Comments from the second instance:

Paola commented that perhaps we could create guidelines of how to conduct research in our various jurisdictions as using databases in other countries (e.g., when researching legislation) is time consuming and challenging.

Zhang commented that the plan is rich in content and perhaps some actions need to be minimized so they can be completed. A World Database would be useful, but how will it include various countries and languages? The Chair replied that we could build multi-lingual tools, such as a thesaurus and submissions could be translated into English

Holger commented that creating a database is interesting, but would be 10-15 years of work and raised the issue of languages: would someone in China be interested in

reading a paper written in Spanish? Holger proposed a creating an internet page with links to resources rather than a database. He provided the example of project in Germany where Research Papers were collected and made available: https://www.bundestag.de/en/documents/research_and_documentation [verifying link with Holger]. The Chair replied: we have the tools to translate the various languages.

Ioulani suggested submissions to the database include a short summary in English because automatic translation of non-Latin based languages is poor. The attendees agreed this was a good idea.

Anoja echoed Holger's comments about the ambition of the World Database but agreed that it is a great aspiration.

6. Address by Anoja Fernando, IFLA Chair of Division B (in the second instance)

   Our Division Chair introduced herself. Anoja:

   - Works at the Department for Work and Pensions in her majesty's government in the United Kingdom. It is the largest Department of State with the largest budget in the country, looking after the welfare of the citizens from cradle to grave.
   - Manages a team of Librarians who do the literature searching for evidence-based policy making for the analysts in the department. This research is ultimately used to draft White Papers, which are scrutinized by the Parliament and eventually may support the creation of legislation.
   - Has experience of working with all the stakeholders involved this work (librarians, analysts, data scientists, Parliament, legal libraries) and respects the unique aspects of each group.

   Anoja thanked the Committee for inviting her to observe our meeting.

7. **Any other business / Roundtable**
   At the second instance, it was noted that WLIC 2022 (in Dublin) will be held in July. Anoja will be inviting the three Standing Committee Officers (Josefa, Fabiola and Julie) to a divisional meeting. Details to follow.

   No other business items were raised.

8. **Next meeting and adjournment**
   In the second instance, it was decided that a second meeting will be held at the end of October to finalize the Action Plan. Details will be sent out through Basecamp and the Listserv.

   - The first instance of Business Meeting 2 adjourned at 10:40 UTC.
   - The second instance of Business Meeting 2 adjourned at 15h00 UTC.