



Approved Minutes
Professional Council Meeting
Friday, 16 September 2022, 09:00 – 11:00 CEST
Teleconference

Present: Leslie Weir (Chair, Division A), Anoja Fernando (Chair, Division B), Dilara Begum (Chair, Division C), Patrick Danowski (Chair, Division D), Jan Richards (Chair, Division E), Man Yi Helen Chan (Chair, Division F), Camille Callison (Chair, Division H), Nthabiseng Kotsokoane (Chair, Regional Division Committee), Vicki McDonald (IFLA President-elect,), Jaap Naber (IFLA Treasurer) and Ramesh Gaur (IFLA Cultural Heritage Committee Chair).

Staff: Helen Mandl (Acting Secretary General), Megan Price (Professional Support Officer)

Observers: 7 observers were present

Welcome and Apologies

The Professional Council Vice Chair, Jan Richards, opened the meeting and acknowledged the traditional owners of the land on which she lives and works, the Nuenonne people of Bruny Island, Iutrawita/Tasmania.

She welcomed the observers in the audience and thanked them for their interest in the work of the Professional Council.

The Vice Chair thanked the former Professional Council Chair, Adjoa Boateng, for her commitment to the Professional Council, and to the Units and for her support of the Division Chairs.

1.0 Approval of agenda

Resolution: The Council approved the agenda, moving item 3.4 to the first item of business and adding an item regarding the Governing Board Code of Ethics Working Group.

1.1.1 Approval of Minutes from July PC Meeting I

1.1.2 Approval of Minutes from July PC Meeting II

The minutes for both meetings were approved.

2.0 *For information – Items reviewed/determined outside PC meeting

2.1 Unit updates

An update on Units + IFLA Strategy coverage, Professional Unit Virtual Events and Standing Committee changes was provided.

The Council noted the report.

2.2 Guidelines, Standards, Unit Publications

An update on the status of in progress guidelines, standards and unit publications was provided. A Libraries for Children and Young Adults Professional Report on Safer Internet Day Survey proposal was approved between the July and September 2022 meetings.

The Council noted the report

2.3 Funding update and funding requests

A confirmation of funding requests and an update on allocated, spent and remaining funds for 2022 was provided.

The Council noted the report.

2.4 Actions from previous meetings

An overview of the work that had been completed following the July 2022 meeting of the Professional Council was provided, along with a status update of ongoing work. New items resulting from the September meeting will be added to the list with dates set as available. An updated action list will be shared with the Professional Council and reported on at the November 2022 meeting.

2.5 Draft matrix of volunteer structures

Carrying from a SIG, Networks and Working Groups Subcommittee meeting on 18 August, 2022, a matrix of volunteer options was created and posted for feedback from the Professional Council on any issues or gaps. The topic will be taken up at the November 2022 PC meeting.

3.0 Strategic matters for discussion (90 minutes)

3.1 Advisory Committee on Cultural Heritage – Ramesh C. Gaur

The Chair of the IFLA Advisory Committee on Cultural Heritage (CCH) presented the planned work and priorities of the Committee to the Professional Council, among them digitisation and digital archiving, support for UNESCO Memory of the World submissions and coordination with the IFLA

Risk Register. The Council encouraged the Committee's involvement and collaboration with both the Regional and Professional Structures and asked that the Committee's Action Plan be made available so that they could further consider opportunities to support and further the work in this area.

3.2 Feedback from Officers Briefing – Jan Richards

At the 2022 WLIC Officers Briefing, Officers met in small groups with a Division Committee Chair or Division Committee Secretary to discuss Officer best practices and needed support in the areas of communications, member engagement, and project implementation.

Division Chairs and Secretaries noted the highlights of these discussions, which were later compiled by the Professional Support Officer for additional review and input by the Division Committee Chairs.

Additional items were raised from the Units, which were brought forward from the Division Chairs. Among these items were: the provision of key dates and deadlines for units leading up to WLIC 2023 and relevant templates; a governance overview provided for Units, so they understand the structure of IFLA better; the importance of SIGs and Sponsoring Sections being in the same Division; an alignment of affinity for Divisions, so that like-Units are placed together; the importance of social gatherings for Units; to undertake a 360-degree, wholistic examination of the structure.

Further discussion on these topics will be held, with a possible working group planned. Items will be folded into 2023-2025 transition planning for new Standing Committee Officers and Members and current and future professional development opportunities.

3.3 Discussions related to existing PC Subcommittee

****3.3.1 Co-opting process change for 2023 – 2025**

The current co-opting procedure has been in place since shortly after the April 2022 Professional Council meeting. Since its introduction, 15 Professional Units have used the process to co-opt new members. In reflecting on the process, several issues had been observed related to repetition, co-opting awareness and consistency of messaging. Division Chairs were asked to contribute additional usability or other issues that have arisen during the course of co-option.

A proposal on a revised procedure addressing these issues will be posted in Basecamp for input and feedback between the September and November PC meetings, with the aim of having a revised policy in place for the 2023-25 term.

****3.3.2 Co-opting for regional diversity change**

A Unit Chair has raised an issue regarding co-opting for regional diversity on Section Standing Committees, which was brought to the attention of the Subcommittee, who asked that the topic be brought to the full Professional Council for discussion.

The rules about duration and number of terms for co-opted members create inequalities for these co-opted members, as it limits the time they can be involved in a particular IFLA unit compared with

elected members. The rules may limit the time and possible impact of these people in our units and create inequalities with other SC members, who typically face lower barriers to engagement.

A proposed solution is to extend the co-opting term for those individuals co-opted for regional diversity to the end of the four-year term – for example, persons co-opted during 2022 (2021), would stand for election in 2025 as opposed to 2023.

Resolution: A recommendation to extend the co-opting term for those individuals co-opted for regional diversity to the end of the four-year term was approved to move forward to the Governing Board at their September meeting.

****3.3.3 Draft Statement to GB - allowances for existing SIGs**

As most Convenors were not elected until 2022, the subcommittee is asking for an extension to the Convenors' terms to 2025. They are requesting a safe harbour provision for those SIGs reviewed last term and those who were to be reviewed this term until Rules of Procedure and Handbook sections relating to SIGs are finalised.

Resolution: This item was approved to move forward to the Governing Board at their September meeting.

3.3.4 Other Subcommittee updates

A paper clarifying the election rules for the appointment for SIG Members and the Election of SIG Convenors will move to the Governing Board for their review.

3.4 Professional Council representation on the Governing Board

The resignation of the Professional Council Chair has left a vacancy for the position. The Acting Secretary General, Helen Mandl, presented the options for next steps for replacing the Chair according to the IFLA Statutes and Rules of Procedure:

1. Hold an election among the existing Division Committee Chairs and Secretaries for the position, filling any vacancies created by this initial election with additional elections (Division Chairs and Officers). The person elected would be allowed to stand for Professional Council Chair in the 2023-2025 elections. Similarly, the person who fills the vacancy for a Division Chair and/or subsequently the Chair or Secretary, could also stand again at the next elections.
2. The Professional Council Vice-Chair remains as Chair of Professional Council Meetings and as a representative to the Governing Board but would have no voting rights in the latter.

A discussion was held, and a unanimous decision was made to move ahead with option 1.

It was also noted that the process for replacing the Chair, which is a two-year term was seen as cumbersome and that this process, along with relevant rules and statutes, be reviewed and adjusted accordingly.

The Professional Council Vice Chair would post a draft position statement for discussion, the final version of which will go to the Governing Board at their September 2022 meeting regarding the PC Chair vacancy. Information slides provided by the Acting Secretary General are posted below to support development of the recommendation.

Resolutions:

1. The Professional Council recommends to the Governing Board to move ahead with an election for the replacement of the Chair of the Professional Council in order to ensure voting representation at Governing Board meetings.
2. The Governing Board is asked to specifically note the application and interpretation of Statute 15.11 in this case of a partial term, to allow that an existing Division Committee Chair or Secretary who was successful in being elected to fill the casual vacancy as Chair of the Professional Council, could also stand for election to the same position for 2023-2025.

4.0 Division matters – Discussion

The following were raised by the Division Chairs on behalf of their Units: the inclusion of photos for Officers and other Members on the IFLA website; difficulties with the current action plan interface; the importance of acknowledging volunteer service; whether satellite meetings were required to support hybrid attendance; the call for representation on the Open Access working group; opportunities for Members and Officer to meet socially either virtually or in person to keep those connections formed during WLIC and to include those who were not able to attend.

Where possible, IFLA HQ will respond or provide further information. Other matters will be discussed further by the Professional Council.

5.0 Other matters

None noted

5.1 Regional Committee Update

The Regional Council Chair updated the Professional Council on the recent and upcoming work of the Regional Council, among these were attendance at the Internet Governance Forum and other high-level meetings, in-person meetings in the Hague and regional workshops in Bangkok, Thailand. Additionally, the Regional Divisions will be rerunning their WLIC Sessions as webinars.

The Regional Council and Divisions are seeking ways to communicate their work and planned work more effectively with the Professional Structure and with the field at large.

The Council noted the report.

5.2 Other matters not in 3.0

5.3 Representative to the Governing Board Code of Ethics Working Group

The Professional Council has been asked to propose a representative for this Working Group.

Resolutions:

1. The Professional Council approves Anoja Fernando, Chair of Division B, as the representative to the Governing Board Code of Ethics Working Group.
2. The Professional Council recommends to the Governing Board that a representative from both the signatories' group (those who had sent a letter of concern to the Governing Board) and another from the wider members of IFLA be invited to be part of the Working Group.

Confirmed and Proposed GB and PC meeting dates

- Professional Council Friday, 16 September, 09:00 CEST - teleconference
- Governing Board Tuesday, 27 September, 12:00 CEST – teleconference
- Governing Board Thursday, 20 October, 13:00 CEST – teleconference
- Professional Council Friday, 25 November, 20:00 CET - teleconference
- Governing Board Monday - Wednesday, 5, 6 & 7 December, time TBD, format TBD
- Professional Council (Proposed) Friday, 17 February, 13:00 CET - teleconference
- Governing Board Monday, 27 February, time TBD – teleconference
- Professional Council (Proposed) Friday, 14 April, 06:00 CET - teleconference
- Governing Board Monday, 24 April, time TBD - teleconference