INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS (IFLA)

Document nr  | RC 21-10-1.1
Agenda Item   | 1.1
Subject       | Minutes of the Regional Council meeting on 6 December 2021
From          | Gerald Leitner, Secretary General
Purpose       | To present the minutes
Date          | 9 February 2022
Note          | Minutes were approved on 9 February 2022
Recommendations | Approve the minutes

MINUTES
The second meeting of the Regional Council was held on Monday 6 December 2021 from 21.00 – 23.15 CET by teleconference call via Zoom

Present:
Members: Nthabiseng Kotsokoane, Regional Council Chair; Alejandro Lorenzo César Santa, Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Division Committee Chair; Imad Bachir, Middle East and North Africa Regional Division Committee Chair; Julius C. Jefferson Jr., North America Regional Division Committee Chair; Sarah Kaddu, Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Division Committee Chair; Stuart Hamilton, Europe Regional Division Committee Chair (obliged to leave early); Winston Roberts, Asia-Oceania Regional Division Committee Chair

Observer: Jan Richards, IFLA PC Chair

GB Members and Staff: Gerald Leitner, IFLA Secretary General; Stephen Wyber, Director, IFLA Policy and Advocacy; Despina Gerasimidou, IFLA Strategic Development Officer

Welcome and apologies:
The Regional Council Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all. There were no apologies, all members of the Regional Council were present and therefore the meeting of the Regional Council could take valid resolutions in respect of proposals set out by a majority of the votes cast. The RC Chair welcomed Jan Richards as PC liaison and welcomed Winston Roberts as the RC Vice-chair.

1. General business

1.1 Adoption of agenda

The RC Chair suggested changing 2 and 3 around, given the need to focus on getting action plans advanced. The agenda was adopted.

1.3 Adoption of minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting were adopted.

1.3 Matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda

There were no matters arising.
1.4 Decisions taken since previous meeting

The Chair noted the decision of the Council, in writing, to elect Winston Roberts as Vice-Chair.

2. Work Planning

2.1 Action Plan on the SDGs

Winston Roberts described the RC proposed action plan, the result of teamwork between Alejandro, Julius and Winston RC members were asked for inputs, with the resulting document then to be submitted to the Governing Board as the main substantive element of the RC’s Action Plan, alongside work to support Regional Division Committees in their different areas of work.

RC members suggested adding this to the same template as all the RDC plans.

Following GB approval, the plan would be shared with the RDCs so that they include the tasks assigned to them. Each RDC will have to incorporate the tasks of the RC global plan into their regional plan, as all plans will be synchronized at the end.

The RC plan was approved and adopted by the RC.

2.2 Reviewing RDC Action Plans

Each RDC Chair described their regional action plan. After each chair’s presentation, the floor was open for comments/questions per action plan.

Key themes emerging in the discussion included:

- collaboration among RDCs and between RDC and Professional Units
- the importance of outreach and building membership (including that it will be important to set numerical targets for membership). There will be a membership campaign in Q1, and RDCs will be included, with a strong focus on action at the country level and identifying institutions that could/should be members.
- the importance of participation in WLIC. There would also be a campaign on this.

The Secretary General underlined the key role of RDCs in reaching out and building awareness of IFLA and interest in membership. He stressed that this should be a key strength of the Committees.

It was noted that:

- IFLA HQ will share suggestions about RDC action plans by the end of the week (10 Dec).
- RC members are welcome to make any further suggestions on others’ action plans as soon as possible, including reflecting on potential to cooperation, also by adding a ‘cooperation’ column to their RDC action plan templates
- IFLA HQ will share a note making clear the elements of the SDG action plan which are most relevant to RDCs by the end of the week (10 Dec).
- RDC chairs are asked to consider the above, and submit revised action plans by 14 January, in order to get final approval in the next RC meeting. RDC chairs are of course free to choose how they want to manage this process. The corrected versions of the actions plans will be uploaded on IFLA’s website.
2.2.1 Consolidated RDC Action Plans

3. Updates from RDC Chairs

As above, this was swapped with number 2 and was not discussed, giving the priority of discussing Action Plans.

4. Communications

4.1 RDC Communications

High level points around RDC Communications were briefly described by Stephen Wyber, in particular in the context of outreach efforts. Topics mentioned were the development of strong mailing lists, as well as content for the website, social media if the RDC chairs can guarantee that it will be well used, new logos that feature in the wider set of guidance uploaded to Basecamp.

RDCs were asked to discuss who their communications leads will be, and to start discussing how to do this work, RDC Chairs in particular were asked to highlight the opportunities for training to communications leads and others who are interested, if desired. IFLA HQ will follow up through emails on the matter.

5. Any other business

No other business matters were raised.