



Approved Minutes
Professional Council Meeting
Friday, 25 August 2023, 08:30 – 10:00 CEST
Hybrid

Present: Te Paea Paringatai (Professional Council Chair), Marian Morgan Bindon (Chair, Division Committee A), Lisa Jannicke Hinchliffe (Chair, Division Committee B), Karin Byström (Chair, Division Committee C), Ann Okerson (Chair, Division Committee D), Russell Lynch (Chair, Division Committee E), Vincent Boulet (Chair, Division Committee F), Edmund Balnaves (Chair, Division Committee G), Athena Salaba (Chair, Division Committee H), Alejandro Lorenzo César Santa (Chair, Regional Council), Vicki McDonald (IFLA President, 2023-25)

Apologies: None noted

Staff: Sharon Memis (IFLA Secretary General), Helen Mandl (Deputy Secretary General), Megan Price (Professional Support Officer)

Observers: 8 observers were present

Welcome and Apologies

The Professional Council Chair opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance.

1.0 Approval of agenda

Resolution: The agenda was approved, noting that item 5.2 should have been listed as item 5.1.

1.1 Approval of Minutes from June meeting

Resolution: The agenda from the 2021-23 Professional Council Meeting was noted by the incoming Professional Council.

2.0 *For information

Papers from the August outgoing PC meeting were provided for information. The Chair took the papers as read. A point of clarification was requested regarding item 2.8. It was clarified that Action Plans are developed for two years, regardless of the change from the current IFLA Strategy to the forthcoming IFLA Strategy.

3.0 Strategic matters for discussion (75 minutes)

3.1 PC Funding Guidelines, feedback requested offline

The Professional Support Officer will place a draft of the PC Funding Guidelines in the shared Google Drive for Professional Council feedback, suggestions and edits. The Guidelines will be approved

offline and shared with Units via the Officer Basecamp by 31 October 2023. It was noted (as agreed from the August outgoing PC meeting - PC 23-08(01)-3.2) that Review Group funding approvals will continue to be processed through the Professional Council through December 2023.

3.2 & 3.3 Regional diversity on IFLA Committees and Regional Council collaboration opportunities

Alejandro Lorenzo César Santa, Chair of the Regional Council, provided an introduction and identified the preliminary items and priorities to be discussed at the upcoming Regional Council meeting, noting that all Regions will have their own priorities and that these would be identified and discussed.

It was noted that the topics of discussion and collaboration, the manner of working and the vehicle for collaboration can be determined once the Regional Division Committee has met. The Regional Council Chair affirmed his commitment to working closely with the Professional Structure to achieve goals as identified by the Regional Division Committees.

It was noted that the Infinity platform would also be a helpful tool to identify areas of collaboration across the organisation.

To the point of regional diversity on IFLA Committees, it was suggested that the PC look to those committees who are doing well, to determine the best course of action for maintaining or increasing regional diversity across the organisation. The Regional Council Chair identified language as one of the barriers to regional participation on IFLA Committees. The Professional Council Chair indicated that a subcommittee could be established to address this and other barriers to regional participation. The co-opting process for 2023-25 was clarified by the Professional Support Officer, as it is the main mechanism for ensuring Regional Diversity when not achieved through the elections process.

Resolution:

- Regional diversity will be added as a standing item to the Professional Council agenda.
- A subcommittee on the topic will be established to address identified needs in a more detailed way.
- Information on the co-opting call will be posted in the Officers Basecamp the 2nd week of September.

3.4 Professional Council Development Plan process (Draft)

The process for developing the Professional Council's Professional Development Plan was introduced. Additional items to those listed for the preliminary subcommittees were discussed. Among these items were: Regional Diversity; A code of ethics and conduct for IFLA volunteers; WLIC 2024

It was noted that the initial work on needs and ideas for a code of conduct preliminarily be led by the Division Chairs within the Division Committees, being mindful that the Professional Council should lead by example.

It was agreed that there is a lot of work to be done, and that through the process of developing the Professional Development Plan, the priorities will be identified.

Resolution: A collaborative document will be opened to for the Professional Council to undertake the development of their Professional Development plan, with the goal of presenting the plan to the Governing Board at the December 2023 meeting. Logistics will be facilitated by the Professional Support Officer.

3.5 WLIC 2024

It will be important to determine which groups are planning on presenting a program at Dubai, as this will be important in guiding the WLIC Subcommittee's work. The change in possible locations of satellite meetings for WLIC 2024 was raised – this is an item that is determined by the Governing Board. The Deputy Secretary General reported that the arrangement for Satellite meetings occurring only in the UAE, was discussed during the site visit. It was noted that for each country outside of the UAE, a separate visa would be required and this created additional barriers for attendance. It was confirmed that hybrid satellite meetings will be possible for WLIC 2024 however this is up to units to arrange and, if necessary, fund by themselves.

It was confirmed by the Secretary General and the IFLA President that there would be no censorship inside the conference centre's walls and there will be no additional levels of scrutiny for conference proposals, beyond that of the PC WLIC Subcommittee. The decision on whether a conference session proposal moves forward will lie with the Professional Council WLIC 2024 Subcommittee.

3.6 PC Subcommittee & Working Group updates

Item 3.6 was moved up for discussion following the discussion of the Professional Development Plan. The initial committees were identified, and the number of members requested for each committee was revisited. It was noted that there would likely be additional subcommittees added and that attention should be paid to balancing one's efforts to not become overwhelmed nor to "burn out."

It was clarified that the subcommittee provides an update on work at each Professional Council meeting and that this update offers an opportunity for other PC members to ask questions, make comment, etc.

4.0 Division matters

4.1 Other matters not covered in 3.0

5.0 Other matters

5.1 PC Vice-chair Election

An election employing a paper ballot was held to determine the PC Vice Chair. There were two Candidates, Marion Morgan-Bindon and Ann Okerson. One member participated virtually. Marion Morgan-Bindon was the successful candidate in a vote of 5 to 4.

6.0 Closing

Upcoming meetings – a PC meeting will be held within the first weeks of September to continue the discussion begun at this meeting. A doodle poll will be sent to PC members.

- PC – TBD
- GB - TBD
- RC - TBD