



**IFLA Section
Management of
Library Associations**

**Minutes of Management of Library
Associations Standing Committee
Meeting
Teleconference (Zoom)
Tuesday, 21 November 2023
14:00 – 16:00 (CET) (Amsterdam)**

Attendance:

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1. Welcome and Confirmation of Agenda

Loida Garcia-Febo, MLAS Chair welcomed all MLAS Standing Committee Members present at the meeting. She then informed that members not present today sent their apologies. They are Hella Klauser, Nicholas Poole, Julia Demasi and Alicia Sellés Carot. The Chair welcomed Paria Aria, New Professionals SIG Convenor, and Jeli Saveta Blagojeria, Women, Information and Libraries SIG Convenor. The agenda for the meeting was confirmed and approved without any amendments.

2. Introductions providing information about one successful highlight from your library association/country/personal

The Chair invited all participants present to introduce themselves by sharing information about one successful highlight from their library association, country, or personal. All the participants gave very interesting highlights about their library associations and libraries and their involvement in the library field. Among the highlights mentioned include the Annual Library Association Conferences / Annual General Meeting in their respective countries; Redesigning the Croatia Library Association Constitution; French IFLA Library Map of the World; Chinese Library Annual Conference; developing capacities of the members in different areas of leadership; Library of the Year Award; Access to Information; Library Association Newsletter.

Deepali shared the link to the Sri Lanka Library Association Newsletter https://www.slla.lk/index.php/publications/sllanewsletter?fbclid=IwAR0h0sZUI6hn4uiYYfdV5lbiuQmliCEPD1XbmZOG2WCExs4_Jq_gQkaUoGM

Vidar shared the link to the Norway Library of the Year Award 2023 <https://norskbibliotekforening.no/sterke-kandidater-til-arets-bibliotek-2023/>

3. Approval of Minutes from 19 September 2023 MLAS Standing Committee Meeting

The Chair invited Loy Jyoon, MLAS Secretary to present the minutes of the MLAS Standing Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 19 September 2023 via Zoom. Loy Jyoon informed that the minutes have been reviewed and approved by the MLAS Chair and sent to all MLAS Standing Committee Members via email for their comments. Wilson Hoi sent a note about the country he is from, which is Macau SAR, China, and not Hong Kong.

Loy Jyoon presented the minutes and Dijana proposed to remove Vidar's name in paragraph No. 7d as Vidar is not a member of the Advocacy Impact Evaluation Project Working Group.

The Chair then asked to move the approval of the minutes from the members present and was approved by Imad Bachir. The Chair thanked Loy Jyoon for preparing the minutes.

The Chair proposed and with the consensus of the participants that the minutes MLAS Standing Committee Meeting be approved via email before the next meeting is held. The Standing Committee member will be given a reasonable time to review and approve the minutes via email. This is to allow the minutes to be uploaded to the IFLA repository website in a shorter time as the MLAS Standing Committee Meeting is held every two months.

4. IFLA Governing Board Update by IFLA President and IFLA Secretary General – Guests

The Chair informed that IFLA President, Vicki McDonald and IFLA Secretary General, Sharon Memis sent their apologies as they have other work commitments which coincide with the MLAS Standing Committee meeting today.

Loida highlighted that the MLAS Chair is the only Chair of an IFLA Section that is automatically a member of the IFLA Governing Board. All the 170 IFLA institutional members comprising libraries and library associations and eight individual members are also members of MLAS. At the moment, MLAS has a nice representation of 21 Committee Members from the various library associations in the world. MLAS Chair consults with this section and brings comments and the voice of MLAS to the IFLA Governing Board and this is very important.

Loida informed that the IFLA Governing Board Meeting was held on 9 November virtually. IFLA Communications has sent a report with highlights from the IFLA Governing Board meeting on the IFLA website and can be viewed online via: <https://www.ifla.org/news/ifla-governing-board-meeting-report-9-november-2023/>

Loida shared some of the highlights not in the IFLA Governing Board report. Among the matters discussed was general information on the SIGL funding; a new Open Scholarship Advisory Committee is under work; a new Working Group comprised of the IFLA President-Elect, one representative from the IFLA Governing Board, and the MLAS Chair (Loida) with consultation with the Sections and Special Interest Groups (SIGs) will look into the WLIC 2025. The IFLA Governing Board will meet in person in the Hague, Netherlands from 4-6 December 2023 whereas the Regional Council will meet on 7-8 December 2023. Discussion on the next steps in developing the IFLA Strategy for 2025-2029 will be one of the topics at the Governing Board's December meeting.

5. Co-option of Members

The Chair informed that the IFLA Professional Council invites expressions of interest from those seeking to serve as co-opted members on an IFLA Section or Special Interest Group (SIG) for the term 2023-2027. Co-opted members will be selected based on the needs of the particular committee. Co-opted members may stand for election for one additional term with the same standing committee.

Loida informed that WILSIG and NPSIG are under the sponsorship of MLAS although WILSIG is in Division B and MLAS and NPSIG are in Division C. In this context, MLAS has to approve the recommendation of co-opted members by NPSIG and WILSIG. Jelisaveta Blagojevic, WILSIG Convenor, expressed interest in co-opting new members.

At the moment, MLAS has 21 members and if MLAS needs another member to help, we need to look at geographical diversity for someone who can work. Loida also highlighted that, after consulting with IFLA staff, she found out that Susan Haigh and Pascal Sanz who have just completed two terms as Standing Committee in MLAS cannot be co-opted in MLAS and need to stay out for one term.

6. Open Meeting Issue

Loida indicated that generally MLAS meetings have not been open for observers or library representatives. However, MLAS can have open meetings based on the consensus of the Standing Committee. The Meeting agreed that MLAS Meetings can be open meetings but matters that are considered sensitive or closed should not be open to observers.

7. Action Plan 2023-2024: Reports from Working Group Leaders and Members

a) Advocacy Impact Evaluation

Dijana, leader of the Advocacy Evaluation Working Group reported MLAS held an Open Session during IFLA WLIC 2023 in Rotterdam. MLAS hosted an IFLA WLIC MLAS Open Session on-site with the topic: "Strengthening Library Associations - The Importance of Advocacy Impact Evaluation and its Relevance to SDGs Advocacy" on Thursday, 24 August 2023.

The IFLA MLAS Advocacy Impact Evaluation Project is a two-year project started in November 2021. The project aims to strengthen the advocacy impact evaluation practice in the library field by providing a set of guidance and recommendations about how to measure and evaluate the library advocacy impact. Impact evaluation is still a

bit abstract in our field and so this project will be a good contribution.

The final project result, the Review of Advocacy Impact Evaluation Practices in the Library Field, was scheduled to be published in August 2023. Dijana has requested for an extension of the project to be completed at the end of 2024. MLAS agreed to extend the work of the Advocacy Impact Evaluation Working Group for one more year as the project will be significant for the field. MLAS also suggested the possibility that two outgoing MLAS Standing Committees who were in the working group that is, Susan Haigh and Pascal Sanz be co-opted members of MLAS SC. Loida has communicated with Megan from IFLA HQ on this matter and was informed that Susan and Pascal could not be co-opted as official members of MLAS as they have already served two terms in MLAS and have to sit out for one term before being co-opted to the same section.

The meeting agreed that Dijana on behalf of MLAS contact the North America Regional Division and European Regional Division where Susan Haigh and Pascal Sanz are committee members respectively to allow them to continue as members of the Advocacy Evaluation Working Group.

Dijana welcomed MLAS Standing Committee, Namutenya Hamwaalwa, and Ana Carolina Lopez Scondras as new members of the working group. The Working Group will meet virtually every last Friday of the month.

b) Associations Survey Update

Loida reported on behalf of Nick, who is the Chair of the Associations Survey Update Working Group that she has sent a request to the MLAS SC to share their links to their library associations' work plans or strategic plans. Some members shared that their plans are not on a website and they were encouraged to send to MLAS a PDF. MLAS hopes to complete this information collection by January 2024. This work together with the results of the Associations Survey MLAS carried out in 2021 will help MLAS identify new topics for a new potential webinar series / or new resources. soon. The link to write the information on the following Google document is <https://docs.google.com/document/d/19LcMM5R7EaoDH9a2c-ACrbnIQ8dD2NoUoZUS21wDr5A/edit?usp=sharing>

Loida thanked all MLAS Standing Committee Members who have sent the link to their information in the Google documents.

c) Communications Working Group

Micheline, Chair of the MLAS Communications Working Group reported that the first MLAS Section Communication Group meeting was held virtually on 25 October. Among the matters discussed were the MLAS Communications Plan and the division of tasks for the MLAS Section as follows:

Website: Micheline and Loy Jyoon

IFLA-L and MLAS-L: Micheline

Facebook: Vidar

Twitter (X): Antoine

The participants agreed with the Working Group's proposal that the Facebook group be changed into a Facebook page that can be used to publish events and a LinkedIn page if someone can manage it.

Loy Jyoon reported that she has contacted Wang Yanhang and Wilson to check if there is a need for another social media. Yanhang informed that the Library Society of China used WeChat whereas Wilson shared that the University of Macau Library used Facebook / X (Twitter) / Instagram / Sina Weibo / Wechat / LinkedIn https://library.um.edu.mo/lib_info/social_media_en#wechat

The participants also support the suggestion of creating an MLAS Blog. Julia Demasi has volunteered to work on creating a blog space for MLAS and Vidar Lund will also be available to work on the Blog. Imad will also forward information for the blog. The IFLA webmaster informed that IFLA is not hosting blogs in the website, but sections can create a blog in for example, Wordpress. MLAS can go ahead to create a blog and link it to the IFLA website.

d) MLAS WLIC 2024 Open Session (Former)

The Standing Committee agreed that what was the MLA Open Session for WLIC 2024 will take place in Lebanon in May 2024 in collaboration with the Lebanon Library Association, the United Nations Regional Office in Lebanon, and the IFLA MENA Division. MLAS will contribute to one session at the Lebanese Library Association Conference under the theme "Libraries and digital heritage preservation". Imad Bachir and Marwa will be leading the coordination as MLAS Chair and Secretary will not be

able to attend in person.

MLAS proposed that this event be held in a hybrid format for attendees to go in person or attend online. Most MLAS Standing Committee have indicated that they will attend online. The proposed date for the Conference is from May 14 to May 16, 2024. MLAS Chair will meet with Imad and Marwa to continue planning.

e) MLAS Mid-Year Meeting 2024

Loida as Chair of the MLAS Mid-Year Meeting presented the MLAS Midterm Concept Note. The proposed themes for the Mid-Year Meeting include Library associations, intellectual freedom, censorship, and freedom to read. MLAS SC is encouraged to propose other possible themes. Loida reiterated that MLAS is a popular section and has received several Expressions of Interest in hosting MLAS Mid-Year Meeting 2024. Among the location suggestions were Croatia, Kazakhstan, Portugal, and San Diego as follows:

i) Croatia

- Initial positive possibility expressed unofficially in Rotterdam
- Date: November 2024 in Zagreb (book fair) or November 2024 in Rijeka (Croatian Library Association Annual Conference and Assembly)
- Reference:
 - IFLA CPDWL Satellite Meeting was organized in the National and University Library in Zagreb → <https://ifla.hkdrustvo.hr/>
- Format:
 - Conference with a high-level meeting (IFLA GB, representatives from the national Ministry of Culture and media, representatives from EBLIDA, etc.)
 - Hybrid event
- Theme:
 - The social impact of libraries
 - Library Advocacy Impact Evaluation - promotion of the project publication
- MLAS SC: Dijana Machala

ii) Kazakhstan in Astana, June 2024

- Expressed interest in hosting an IFLA event, MLAS event
- The National Library Association conference is in June 2024

- Would provide opening reception
 - Has Hybrid Capabilities
 - Understands the programme will be determined by MLAS and country library leaders confirmed the program can include all topics under IFLA Sections/SIGs
 - Tourism link:
<https://www.instagram.com/reel/CysEVwgqeS8/?igshid=MzRIODBiNWFIZA%3D%3D>
 - Visa information link:
<https://www.gov.kz/memleket/entities/mfa-washington/activities/5896?lang=en&parentId=5894>
- iii) EBLIDA Conference in Lisbon, Portugal, April 9-10, 2024
- Suggested by an MLAS member, but it ends on the last day of Ramadan making it difficult for some members and/or potential attendees to travel
- iv) ALA Annual Conference in San Diego, California, June 27 to July 2nd, 2024
- Suggested by an MLAS member
 - MLAS Midterm could be on Thursday, June 27, and Friday, June 28 at the beginning of the conference
 - ALA can give a special registration rate to MLAS members attending the conference
 - Has Hybrid Capabilities
 - Opening reception and lunch
 - MLAS will select its theme and coordinate its sessions
 - Possibility of touring local libraries in San Diego, for example public, academic libraries
- v) Germany, Berlin, January 2025
- Suggested by an MLAS member
 - MLAS could go to Berlin where the German library is having programmes in advocacy

The participants placed Kazakhstan at the top of the list for the MLAS Mid-Year Meeting; followed by Croatia and ALA. Vidar suggested Mexico in collaboration with FAIFE if there is a possibility. The Chair will follow up with colleagues in Kazakhstan for more information and have further discussions with the Working Group and MLAS SC. The meeting agreed that the

MLAS Mid-Year Meeting 2024 location will be decided before the end of 2023. The Chair will send a link to a Google document for members to indicate who can attend the Mid-Year Meeting in person.

Loy Jyoon informed that the attendance in person for the previous MLAS Mid-Year meeting was: Chicago, USA 2019 (10); St Gallen, Switzerland 2022 (10); Paris, France 2023 (8 + 1 NPSIG Convenor). Previous hosts offered lunches, reception, and tickets to museums.

8. New Professionals Special Interest Group (NPSIG) Action Plan and Updates

Paria informed that NPSIG in collaboration with CPDWL will be hosting a webinar on December 5th at 1 pm UTC to celebrate International Volunteer Day. Barbara Lison will be the keynote speaker and Paria extended the invitation to MLAS to be one of the speakers in the Webinar. The theme of the webinar is about the benefits of volunteers or the impact of volunteers on libraries.

9. Women, Information and Libraries Special Interest Group (WILSIG) Action Plan and Updates

Due to the constraint of time, Loida requested that the updates on WILSIG be reported in the next meeting or through other communication channels. MLAS supports WILSIG's proposal to open for a co-opted member as one of the committee members has resigned. The number of Committee Members in the Special Interest Group is 12 persons including the Convenor.

10. Next MLAS Meetings

Loy Jyoon informed that MLAS will coordinate a business meeting during working hours for colleagues in Asia to provide a time for members in that region to attend during times when access is optimal. The suggested meeting time is 14 hours Beijing (afternoon); 06 hours Amsterdam (morning); 12 am hours (New York); 22 hours in Los Angeles (night); 03 am hours in Uruguay (morning); 03 am hours in Argentina (morning); 04 am hours Brazil (morning); 08 am hours (Namibia), 06 am hours Cote d'Ivoire (morning).

Loida will send a doodle document to the MLAS SC on their availability for the next MLAS SC meeting. <https://doodle.com/meeting/participate/id/aK6PKGle>

11. Other Matters

(a) Collaboration with FAIFE

Loida informed that MLAS received an invitation to collaborate with the Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression Advisory Committee (FAIFE) at a possible event in

Mexico in August 2024. The Chair reiterated that this collaboration is not associated with the MLAS Mid-Term Meeting and that the LGBTQ SIG will also be joining in this event. The participants welcomed the possibility and will be happy to learn more about this event and how to collaborate. Loida will communicate further with FAIFE on this collaboration.

(b) IFLA President's Meeting <https://www.ifla.org/about-presidents-meeting/>

IFLA President, Vicki McDonald issued a message on 10th November to relaunch the President's Meeting in 2024. Loida informed that it will be held in Brisbane, Australia from the 20th-24th September 2024. The message can be viewed via this link: <https://www.ifla.org/news/message-ifla-president-10-november-2023/>

12. Closing Remarks

MLAS Chair thanked all the MLAS SC, NPSIG Convenor, and WILSIG Convenor for their active participation and valuable inputs which have contributed to a very fruitful meeting. This meeting will be the last meeting for 2023 and wished everyone happy holidays. A Kudo Board will be sent for greetings for the new year 2024. On this note, the meeting ended at 16:00 CET in Amsterdam.