



Attendance:

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Guest:

Helen Mandl, IFLA Deputy Secretary General
MLAS Business Meeting
13 January 2025

15:00-15:30 (CET Amsterdam)

IFLA Elections – Orientation for MLAS Members

MLAS Members at large present:

Soledad Canovas

Louis Coiffait-Gunn

Heidi Anderssen

Michelle Arbuckle

Judith Geranser

Loida welcomes all the MLAS Section Members and MLAS Section Members at large present for an orientation on IFLA Elections 2025. Loida informed MLAS is hosting a half an hour orientation on the IFLA elections, and after this, we have our usual business meeting. Loida also welcomes Helen Mandl, IFLA Deputy Secretary General from the Hague, Netherlands to give a presentation on the IFLA Elections 2025. Helen informed IFLA HQ has launched the nominations phase on 13 January and has engaged a platform company called My Voice to run the nominations and the elections.

Loida gave a presentation on MLAS and IFLA in general followed by Helen Mandl on the IFLA Elections. MLAS SC enquired on how IFLA Members or current Standing Committee know the number of vacancies for each of the 42 IFLA Professional Units. Helen Mandl informed them that they could contact the Chair and Secretary of each section on the number of vacancies available in the elections.

Helen also highlighted that the voters are the fee-paying members of the section. So those members who have registered to MLAS whether they are associations, institutions, or individuals will be the ones who vote for MLAS. Loida highlighted that MLAS has five vacancies open for nomination as MLAS Standing Committee for the term 2025-2029. All the officer positions for the term 2025-2027 that MLAS are up for re-election.

Further information on the IFLA Nominations 2025 can be accessed via: [IFLA Elections 2025 – IFLA](#) and IFLA Elections 2025 Guide via: [ifla-elections-guide-2025_v.1.2.pdf \(1.18 MB\)](#)

The MLAS PowerPoint presentation on IFLA Nominations and Elections 2025 is attached in the minutes.

MLAS SC Meeting (15:45-17:00 CET Amsterdam)

1. Welcome

Loida Garcia-Febo, MLAS Chair started the meeting at 15:45 (Central Europe Time, Amsterdam) after the presentation on IFLA Elections 2025 as an orientation for MLAS Members. Loida thanked all the MLAS members at large present today which include Judith Geranser, Soledad Canovas, Louis Coiffait-Gunn, Heidi Anderssen, and Michelle Arbuckle. Loida also thanked Helen Mandl, IFLA Deputy Secretary General who graciously gave a presentation on the IFLA Elections. Loida then welcomed and thanked all MLAS Standing Committee Members, NPSIG Convenor, and WILC SIG Convenor present.

2. MLAS Secretary Items: Attendance, Agenda, Approved MLAS Standing Committee Meeting Minutes, 25 November 2024 (Zoom)

Loy Jyoon, MLAS Secretary informed that members not present today sent their apologies: Micheline Brule, Deepali Talagala, Wang Yanhang, Namutenya Hamwaalwa and Alicia Sellés Carot. The agenda for the meeting was confirmed and approved without any additions.

Loy Jyoon informed that the draft minutes of the MLAS Standing Committee Meeting held on 25 November 2024 via Zoom which has been reviewed and approved by MLAS Chair were emailed to all SC members for their comments and approval. The Minutes were approved without any comments by all the MLAS SC via email. The minutes have been submitted to the IFLA Repository and have been accepted and archived and assigned the following identifier: <https://repository.ifla.org/handle/20.500.14598/3767> on 13 January 2025. MLAS Chair thanked Loy Jyoon for preparing the minutes.

3. Updates from the IFLA Governing Board

Loida as MLAS Chair is also a member of the IFLA Governing Board and informed that the IFLA Governing Board Meeting was held on the 9 to 11 December 2024 in-person at the Hague, The Netherlands. Loida is happy to inform that the IFLA President is sending updates, that Loida shares highlights from MLAS SC discussions with the IFLA GB that reflects our meetings. Loida then gave an update which included among others the IFLA WLIC Steering Committee which has done a marvellous job and will be meeting this Wednesday, 15 January to finalize the report. Loida reiterated that she and Loy Jyoon are in the Steering Committee for different reasons: Loida is a member of the IFLA Governing Board and Loy Jyoon is from the regional geographical diversity and a member with experience from the WLIC National Committee 2018. Loida also informed that new professionals were also represented in the IFLA WLIC Steering Committee. The feedback from the WLIC survey includes hosting the WLIC every year and the cultural night and poster session are here to stay.

4. MLAS Mid-Term Meeting 2025, 3rd- 4th February 2025, Berlin, Germany –**

Loida and Hella as the host welcome all MLAS SC to attend the Mid-Term Meeting in Berlin from the 3rd to 4th February 2025. Imad and Alicia informed that they will not be able to attend the Mid-Term Meeting. In this context, there will be five MLAS SC attending the Mid-Term Meeting in person namely, Loida, Hella, Dijana, Helene, and Loy Jyoon. MLAS members have indicated the increase on costs to fly as a main reason to have to cancel their attendance as more had hoped to join the meeting in person.

The MLAS-Midterm Working Group has drafted the programme and information on the hotel for the Mid-Term Meeting can be accessed via this link:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1EHQ7K9rLIR_FSW69o08Jw7uwVSEK8cXxhm1J5nNNEA8/edit?usp=sharing

The programme will include presentations by German Library Associations and other library associations; Advocacy Evaluation Impact Project; workshop on New Professionals collaboration with library associations and strategic planning. Loida and the working group agreed that the discussion on Financial Sustainability and Membership Retention will not be included in the Mid-Term programme as MLAS will be

hosting a webinar on Financial Sustainability in the latter part of the year. Hella proposed and Loida agreed that Helene and Loy Jyoon will be sharing the strategic planning of their respective library associations. Hella informed that she has difficulty contacting Mahmoud Khalifa, a member of the IFLA New Professionals Special Interest Group residing in Germany, and requested Paria to help.

The MLAS SC Business Meeting will be held on the 4th of February at 14:00 (CET, Berlin) and will be a hybrid meeting (in-person and online). The library visits will be on the 3rd and 4th of February.

5. 2025 MLAS Webinars (March - July 2025)

As per agreement with various groups and MLAS, Loida informed that MLAS will be presenting the following 2025 MLAS webinars between March to July 2025 and further information on each event can be accessed via this link:

<https://www.ifla.org/news/2025-mlas-webinars/>

(a) IFLA MLAS Advocacy-Impact Evaluation Project.

The project is aimed at strengthening practices focusing on the evaluation of library advocacy impact. The resulting insightful and highly practical guidelines and recommendations under the title “The Strengthening Library Advocacy Impact Evaluation Practice” will be presented during this webinar.

(b) IFLA Women, Information and Libraries Special Interest Group: opportunities to collaborate

This IFLA WILSIG webinar will showcase how to collaborate on projects developed by the IFLA Women, Information, and Libraries Special Interest Group (WILSIG) which is sponsored by IFLA MLAS. Current and past convenors will share insightful perspectives of IFLA work related to women and libraries.

(c) MLAS Building Strong Library Associations Initiative: Financial Sustainability

Financial sustainability is one of IFLA MLAS's priority areas to strengthen library associations. The webinar will offer valuable insights on maintaining long-term financial health for library associations.

6. IFLA World Library and Information Congress (WLIC) 2025, 18-22 August 2025, Astana, Kazakhstan

(a) MLAS Open Session

Loida has initiated a Working Group comprising MLAS SC for the MLAS Open Session during IFLA WLIC 2025 in Astana, Kazakhstan. The proposal for the MLAS Open Session will be submitted to IFLA before 28 February 2025 after discussion with the MLAS SC.

(b) MLAS Business Meeting

Loida informed that as for every WLIC, an MLAS Business Meeting will be held in Astana during IFLA WLIC 2025. MLAS Chair will be attending IFLA WLIC and invite MLAS SC to attend.

7. Updates from Special Interest Groups (SIGs) Convenors

(a) New Professionals Special Interest Group (NPSIG)

Paria, NPSIG Convenor gave an update on their recent activities which include publishing a Newsletter in December; a Multicultural Cafe coming up next week with the multicultural population section; library tourism; a workshop proposal about introducing Artificial Intelligence (AI) to beginners; and flash mob in Astana during IFLA WLIC 2025.

Loida thanked the New Professionals SIG as they are very active and prolific in ideas and the New Professionals are not part of the official list on the website. Loida informed that MLAS will need to elect a new SIG convenor who is very active and has initiative for the new term (2025-2027) because Paria is ending her term.

(b) Women, Information and Libraries Special Interest Group (WILSIG)

Jelisevata, WILSIG convenor informed the closure of WILSIG by August 2025 and gave an update on activities defined by the Action Plan 2023-2025: Among the activities are communication tools will be halted; Children's Books on Women's Rights and Gender Equality Bibliography will be transfer to IFLA Children's and Young Adult Section; WILSIG Newsletter; Webinar on the achievements of WILSIG in collaboration with MLAS. The proposal paper for the webinar can be accessed via [WILSIG Webinar Proposal](#)

Loida and the MLAS SC thanked Jelisevata and the WILSIG members for their active involvement and encouraged WILSIG members to continue working with IFLA in different groups.

8. Update: MLAS priorities for 2023 – 2024: see
[MLAS priority topics for 2023-2025 - GoogleDocs](#)

Loida updated the MLAS priorities for 2023-2024 and informed that MLAS is currently working with the Building of Strong Library Association's initiative to host a regional webinar series with the respective IFLA Regional Division until July 2025. Loida is now in conversation with the following Regional Division, that is North America, Latin America and the Caribbean; Sub-Saharan Africa; and Middle East and North Africa (MENA) to have a webinar with them. The webinars will be around the priority areas which include information integrity, library advocacy, financial sustainability, membership retention, and strategic planning. Each webinar is based on needs from the regions library associations. Loida proposed the next webinar to be held in March 2025 hosted by MENA Regional Division. Once the date and time are fixed, Loy Jyoon will need to check on the availability of the IFLA Zoom.

Imad informed that the MENA Regional Division is proposing to set up a hub or a focal point to give a chance for all library associations in the MENA region to broadcast their news through the web page, or have their activities published there. He also proposed to have a registry of all professionals and authorities in the field in the MENA Region. Imad reiterated that this proposal is still under discussion and will be in coordination with IFLA and MLAS. Loida highlighted that she has informed IFLA HQ regarding this proposal. Loida thanked Imad and Namutenya for their collaboration in the webinar in their respective region.

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

(a) Advocacy Impact Evaluation Working Group

Loida informed that Dijana Machala, head of the Advocacy Impact Evaluation Project Working Group will be sharing outcomes and discussion of next steps on how to utilize findings and processes used at the MLAS Mid-Term Meeting in Berlin.

(b) MLAS Communications Working Group

Loida informed that Micheline Brule, MLAS Information Coordinator will resign from her Information Coordinator position effective 13 January as she is moving on to a new job. The MLAS Communications Working Group is looking for a new volunteer and the job will involve promoting MLAS activities on the website and Facebook. The Working Group comprising Antoine, Edward, Loida, and Loy Jyoon agreed that they will share the responsibilities of the Information Coordinator until the next IFLA Election. MLAS SC agreed that one of the MLAS Facebook Pages which has fewer members and Twitter be discontinued.

Hella suggested that IFLA HQ check and propose which channels would be good for all our different IFLA Sections and Groups globally so that there is no need for every section to start discussing and looking at the right channels

(c) Building Strong Library Associations Initiative: events, webinars, mentoring program

Loida informed that IFLA MLAS Building Strong Library Associations Webinar Series – Europe “How to internationalize the work in Library Associations?” is part of a webinar series presented by IFLA MLAS in collaboration with IFLA New Professionals Special Interest Group (NPSIG), IFLA Women, Information and Libraries Special Interest Group (WILSIG), and the IFLA Europe Regional Division which was held on November 28, 2024 from 10:00 to 11.30 am (CET, Berlin) via Zoom.

Loida thanked Hella Klauser as the moderator for the webinar and the NPSIG and WILSIG for their support. The recording of the webinar can be viewed via YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_2L353dp0PU.

10. Miscellaneous

(a) Update Code of Conduct for Volunteers Working Group

Loida informed that the Code of Conduct for Volunteers Project has been completed. The MLAS representative in the Working Group, Irina Trushina has answered emails and have not attended MLAS meetings for the past months and hope there is communication from her soon.

(b) MLAS SC Next Meeting 2025

The next MLAS Business Meeting will be held in Berlin during the MLAS Mid-Term Meeting on 3rd and 4th February 2025. Loida will send a doodle to MLAS SC to select the dates and times for the next meetings which will most probably follow MLAS schedule to meet every two months and be scheduled in April, June, and then in August at Astana during WLIC 2025. ■

11. Closing Remarks

MLAS Chair thanked Helen Mandl and all the MLAS SC, NPSIG, and WILSIG for their collaboration. Loida wished everyone good health, prosperity, and hope that peace and harmony are restored as much as possible in the world. On this note, Loida ended the meeting at 17:00 (CET, Amsterdam).

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