



**IFLA Section  
Management of  
Library Associations**

**Minutes of IFLA Management of  
Library Associations Section Meeting  
Thursday, 25 July 2024 (Zoom)  
15:00 – 17:00 (CEST, Amsterdam)**

**Attendance:**

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**Excused:**

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MLAS Business Meeting  
25 July 2024

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Loida Garcia-Febo, MLAS Chair started the meeting at 15:00 (CEST, Amsterdam) and welcomed and thanked all MLAS Standing Committee Members, NPSIG Convenor, and WILC SIG Convenor present. She also welcomed Edmund Junhao Lim as our new co-opted Standing Committee member.

### **2. Updates from MLAS Secretary - Attendance, Agenda, Approved MLAS Mid-Term Meeting Minutes, 31 May 2024**

Loy Jyoon, MLAS secretary informed that members not present today sent their apologies. They are Dijana Machala, Julia Demasi, and Helene Voldner due to work commitments. The agenda for the meeting was confirmed and approved without any additions.

Loy Jyoon informed that the draft minutes of the MLAS Mid-Term Meeting held on 31 May 2024 via in-person and online in Astana, Kazakhstan which was reviewed and approved by MLAS Chair were emailed to all SC members for their comments and approval. The Minutes were approved without any comments or amendments by all the MLAS SC via email. The minutes have been submitted to the IFLA Repository and IFLA HQ has informed that there is a backlog of Repository uploads that IFLA staff is working on reviewing and approving. IFLA Repository will send a notification and assign an identifier as soon as the minutes are approved and archived in DSpace. MLAS Chair thanked Loy Jyoon for preparing the minutes.

### **3. Welcome two new MLAS Co-opted members**

MLAS Chair and MLAS SC welcomed two new MLAS co-opted members. They are Edward Junhao Lim from the United States of America and Helene Voldner from Norway. They were co-opted to replace Nicholas Poole (UK) and Vidar Lund (Norway) who have stepped down as MLAS Standing Committee Members.

#### **4. Updates from Special Interest Groups (SIGs) Convenors**

##### **(a) New Professionals SIG**

Paria Aria, NPSIG convenor announced its first online IFLAeCamp! to be held on 30 – 31 August 2024. IFLA's President, Vicki McDonald, will be the speaker on the first day via Zoom. On the second day, NPSIG will use Gather Town, a very fun page for conferences, to listen to presentations and maybe play some games. The IFLAeCamp special website can be accessed at <https://iflacamp.wordpress.com/> Paria invites all MLAS SC to join by filling in the IFLAeCamp 2024 Online Registration Form via <https://forms.gle/guZtEEsrmaJAK6Ab6>. Paria Aria informed us that Gather Town is not a free platform and is asking IFLA for funding.

MLAS Chair informed that in principle, MLAS SC has agreed with the proposal of a new IFLA Award for young professionals proposed by Paria Aria. However, there are details in the criteria that need to be looked into again. MLAS and NPSIG will continue working on that via email.

##### **(b) Women, Information, and Libraries SIG**

Jelisaveta Blagojeric, WILSIG Convenor submitted a report for this meeting as in the attachment. She reported that WILSIG has been engaged in several activities. Among the activities include the following:

- i. Improving Communication Tools: WILSIG reactivated the Web Page; Twitter Account and Facebook Account.
- ii. Preparation of WILSIG Newsletter: Jelisaveta informed that the dateline for submission of articles for the newsletter is 31 July but has been extended to the end of August 2024 due to the summer holidays.
- iii. Preparation of Children's Books on Women's Rights and Gender Equality. Jelisaveta informed that the criteria for the bibliography preparation were discussed and will be finalized in the next meeting in September.

MLAS Chair reiterated that MLAS is the sponsoring section for NPSIG and WILSIG and thanked them for their active participation.

**5. Report from the IFLA Governing Board including the General Assembly Loida**

Loida as MLAS Chair is also a member of the IFLA Governing Board. She shared some highlights on the following matters:

- a. IFLA's members gave overwhelming support by giving 948 votes for the necessary changes to the Federation's Statutes to allow IFLA to apply for charity status (ABINI Status in Dutch) in the IFLA 2024 General Assembly which was held on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June in hybrid format at the National Library of the Netherlands in the Hague and online. The IFLA 2024 General Assembly can be viewed via the recording on YouTube: [https://youtu.be/34\\_RKCHxpZY](https://youtu.be/34_RKCHxpZY)
- b. IFLA Members also approved that next year's General Assembly can take place in August at the time of WLIC but no later than 31 October 2024. The Governing Board will decide on the host of WLIC 2025 at its July meeting. Loida informed that IFLA WLIC 2025 will most probably be held in August 2025.
- c. IFLA HQ's email to share news about the upcoming IFLA GB meeting scheduled on 29 July online. Among the important matters to be discussed in the meeting include a discussion on the new IFLA Strategy 2024-2029; a decision on the 2025 World Library and Information Congress (WLIC); an update on the Information Futures Summit (IIFL) in Brisbane; and the revised IFLA Internet Manifesto.

MLAS SC brought to the attention of the IFLA WLIC Review 2<sup>nd</sup> Pulse Survey which was sent to all IFLA members and volunteers. Loida responded that Loy Jyoon and herself are on the IFLA WLIC Steering Committee and they are in the process of compiling the results of the survey. Among the preliminary results include having the Cultural night and continuing professional development program as one of the top priorities in WLIC. The final result of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Pulse Survey will be out in early August 2024.

## **6. Highlights and MLAS at IIFS in Brisbane**

MLAS Chair highlighted again that the IFLA Information Futures Summit (IIFS) will be held from 30 September to 3 October 2024 in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. The link to the website can be accessed via [IFLA Information Futures Summit — IFLA 2024](#). MLAS Chair informed that she and the MLAS officers are unable to attend IIFS. She inquired whether any MLAS SC are planning to attend IIFS. If any of the MLAS Standing Committee is attending IIFS, the MLAS Chair could ask them to attend some events representing MLAS.

MLAS SC responded that the registration fee for attending IIFS is expensive and is the same rate as attending IFLA WLIC. Loida reiterated that she has brought this matter up to the IFLA Governing Board.

## **7. Update Code of Conduct for Volunteers Working Group**

Irina Trushina is MLAS representative in the IFLA Code of Conduct for Volunteers Working Group. MLAS Chair informed that Irina is not present at the meeting today to give an update.

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

MLAS Chair gave an update on MLAS priorities for 2023-2024, especially for Edward. She revisited the Data Points for MLAS priorities which are based on the MLAS Associations Survey; Regional Professional Priorities Survey Results; IFLA Pulse [survey results](#); and the United Nations Focus on Information Integrity. MLAS is working on the 5 priority areas which are, Information Integrity, Financial Sustainability, Library Advocacy, Membership Retention, and Strategic Planning that impact all areas of our library associations.

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

### **(a) Advocacy Impact Evaluation Working Group**

There is no update from the Advocacy Impact Evaluation Working Group as Dijana Machala who is the leader of the Working Group sent her apology due to work commitment. Loida informed that the final report of the Advocacy Impact Evaluation Project would most probably be completed by the end of this year.

### **(b) MLAS Communications Working Group -Call for volunteers**

Micheline Brule, MLAS Information Coordinator informed that there is a vacancy in the MLAS Communications Working Group as one of the members has stepped down as a MLAS Standing Committee. She called for volunteers from the MLAS SC to fill up the vacancy. Loida will follow up via email if there is no volunteer to join the working group.

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

MLAS Chair informed there are three MLAS Building Strong Library Associations Initiatives as follows

#### **i. Building Strong Library Associations Sessions at Conferences and Events:**

Loida highlighted the Mexican Information Global Forum (MEXINFO), which will be held in Mexico City from 5 to 9 August 2024. MEXINFO will feature four events which include the International Symposium on Libraries and Censorship "Unshelving Voices: Empowering Libraries Against Censorship" together with IFLA FAIFE, IFLA LGBTQ+ Special Interest Group, School Library Section, and IFLA Management of Library Associations (MLAS). Loida, as MLAS Chair informed that she will be attending the hybrid Symposium in person which will take place in Mexico City on August 8.

Loida also highlighted that there are two potential opportunities to partner with other library associations later this year or next year, and that is Croatia and Germany. Loida informed that the Croatia Library Association is interested in collaborating with MLAS to present a joint event during their annual conference on November 13-17, 2024.

**ii. Building Strong Library Associations Webinars with the IFLA Regional Division based on regional needs.**

Loida informed that during the last years, MLAS has collaborated closely with the six IFLA Regional Divisions: Asia/Oceania, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Middle East and North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, and North America in the MLAS Webinar Series. The webinars were focused on themes from the MLAS Associations' Survey. For 2024, the theme for the webinars will be focused on MLAS priority areas.

Loida informed that she has emailed the IFLA Regional Council Chair for collaboration in the MLAS Webinar Series. She reiterated that MLAS needs volunteers for the Webinar Working Group or alternatively, members in different regions of the world can volunteer to organize webinars which we would do in collaboration with the regions as in the past years. NPSIG and WILSIG are also invited to join the Webinar Working Group... Loida proposed that MLAS SC per region look at the overall scenario of geographical distribution

- North America: Loida, Micheline, Edward
- Latin America and the Caribbean: Julia, Carolina, Jorge
- Europe : Hella, Helene, Dijana, Alicia, Antoine
- Sub-Saharan Africa: Namutenya, Lynn, Adame
- Asia/Oceania: Loy Jyoon, Deepali, Wilson, Yanhang Wang, Irina
- Middle East and North Africa: Marwa, Imad

Loida informed that she received communication from the IFLA Regional Council Vice Chair, Lin Li Soh who is also the Chair of the Asia/Oceania Division. She informed that North America and Europe would like to start first in the webinars. MLAS planned to have three webinars in 2024 and three webinars in 2025.

**iii. Building Strong Library Associations Mentorship Programme**

Loida explained that under this Mentorship Programme, MLAS will facilitate connections between library associations wishing to mentor other library associations or receive mentorship from library associations. She reiterated that this is MLAS and not the IFLA

HQ initiative and this programme will be launched this year and is expected to be completed by July 2025. Alicia Selles has volunteered for this mentorship program.

#### **10. MLAS Standing Committee Meeting Next Date: Monday, 16 September 2024**

MLAS SC agreed that the next MLAS Standing Committee Meeting to be held on Monday, 16 September 2024 at 15:00 (CEST, Amsterdam) via Zoom. The agenda and link to the meeting will be sent nearer to the date of the meeting.

#### **11. MLAS Standing Committee Midterm Meeting 2025**

Upon receiving an email from MLAS member, Hella Klauser, proposing Berlin for MLAS next Midterm, and meeting with her over zoom, Loida proposed that the MLAS Standing Committee Mid-Term Meeting 2025 be held in Berlin, Germany on January 28 and 29. MLAS will join and/or contribute to an event about library advocacy together with the German Library Association. This event will be for politicians and librarians. Loida suggested that MLAS could meet on January 28 and 29 including programs with content, presentations from library associations, visits to libraries, and business meetings. MLAS will join the event on advocacy on January 30.

As not all MLAS SC are present in the meeting today, Loida will send an email to all MLAS SC whether they can attend the MLAS Midterm Meeting in Berlin in January 2025. The meeting also noted that the Chinese Lunar New Year will fall on 29 and 30 January 2025.

Hella on behalf of the German Library Association extended her invitation to all MLAS SC to attend the Midterm Meeting in Berlin, Germany. She highlighted that it will be costly to travel to Germany, especially from Asia and other countries. MLAS SC suggested that a list of budget hotels be made available to travel to Germany.

Antoine suggested that the MLAS Midterm Meeting in Berlin could also be an opportunity for NPSIG to connect with the German New Professionals.



## **12. Miscellaneous**

No other matters were being discussed during the meeting.

## **13. Closing Remarks**

MLAS Chair thanked all the MLAS SC and the SIG Convenors present for their active participation and valuable inputs which have contributed to a very productive meeting. She wished everyone a good season and enjoy the Olympics. On this note, the MLAS Chair ended the meeting at 16:15 (CEST, Amsterdam).

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