

International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)	
Document nr	RC 22-07-1.2
Agenda Item	1.2
Subject	Minutes of the Regional Council meeting on 4 May 2022
From	
Purpose	To present the draft minutes
Date	24 July 2022
Note	Minutes were approved on 24 July 2022
Recommendations	That the Regional Council accepts the minutes as a true and accurate record

MINUTES

**The fourth meeting of the Regional Council was held on Wednesday 4 May 2022
from 13.00 – 14.30 CEST 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; Frédéric Blin, Europe Regional Division Committee Vice-Chair (substitute for Stuart Hamilton, Chair); Winston Roberts, Asia-Oceania Regional Division Committee Chair

Observer: Jan Richards, IFLA PC Chair

GB Members and Staff: 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.

1. General business

1.1 Adoption of agenda

RC 22-05-1.1

The agenda was adopted.

1.2 Adoption of minutes of the previous meeting

RC 22-05-1.2

Minutes of the previous meeting were adopted. Jan Richards asked to be listed as the PC Deputy Chair and PC Liaison.

1.3 Chair's Update, including Professional Council update

The RC Chair referred to the meeting that took place on the 28th April with the President and interim IFLA CEO, and she mentioned that she now acts as interim President-Elect, without leaving her role

on the Regional Council, to which she remained committed. She noted the talking points document being prepared covering regularly asked questions, and apologized that this was not ready yet. She advised the RC members to stick to the messages as they have gone out officially at the moment. Members of the RC agreed that the talking points should come as quickly as possible, and the RC Chair confirmed that she will follow up on that matter.

Specific issues raised included:

- being clear which info should be confidential and so not communicated to committee members.
- the value of offering more information than is already simply available on the website.
- the need to address questions about extravagance.
- the need to be clear about IFLA's own structures.
- the need to demonstrate that IFLA is well managed, and get out of a cycle of over-focus on specifics
- the value of collecting questions to be answered
- the need to clarify why the General Assembly is taking place at a different time to WLIC
- the need for clarity in communication, and rapid responses in order not to erode faith in IFLA

1.4 Matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda

There were no matters arising.

2. WLIC Planning

2.1 Updates on progress on WLIC sessions

WLIC UPDATES from the PC Liaison:

The RC Chair shared that the registrations are around thousand and that programme looks good and that people have been very innovative. The RC Chair gave the floor to the PC Liaison, suggesting combining this matter with the report from the PC Liaison.

Jan Richards mentioned that registration is better than expected, that there is a much more interesting, targeted programme, with original presentations and diverse speakers, despite the limitations on travel. Not every Professional Unit (PU) has submitted a session bid, simply because they won't have enough members in ground to do that. But even with that, the programme has been completed. There will also be a number of satellites, and a few posters. It is going to be a much more intimate conference, but people will get a lot from this. A lot of units are actually doing their meetings virtually before and after and physically they'll work there on some of their projects. It is not ideal for an international conference but given the parameters, it is going to go well.

Jan Richards, also mentioned that some of the policies around casual vacancies, coopted members and mentors have been finalized. The one for co-opted members is most interesting for the RC. A number of PUs have already issued calls.

Key issues emerging in the discussion included:

- Inactive members: The RC Chair mentioned that it is very important to record the people who are in the meetings, while the PC liaison mentioned that with the removal of the inactive members, it takes about 3 months to go through this process, which should be run professionally and respectfully.

- Co-opted members: this has already happened in the RDCs.
- There is a possibility for mentors in every region who can give additional support and help other members be inspired in their work.

It was noted that:

- IFLA HQ will share the document on how to recruit members, following the formal approval process. It will have the same format as the PC document. This was used also for inactive member.
- A definition of the active and inactive member is needed.

WLIC UPDATES from the RDC Chairs:

Each RDC Chair and the EU Vice-Chair shared brief oral updates about plans for their WLIC sessions. After each chair's presentation, the floor was open for comments/questions per session.

Key themes emerging in the discussion included:

- All RDCs are preparing open sessions for WLIC, with these well advanced. They address diverse themes, and will likely involve a mix of in-person and recorded content
 - EU: a programme on Ukraine, resilience in war times
 - MENA: Engagement and inclusivity
 - AO: Library cooperation - presentations from different sub regions within the wider AO
 - LAC: post-pandemic inequality and poverty
 - SSA: interviews: will bring together leadership ideas around library initiatives
 - NA: we are stronger together engaging the library in NA
- Some RDCs will have only a few members on site in Dublin
- There will be no Russian caucus this year, and none had registered so far
- Grants will be out shortly, and Ukrainians will of course be encouraged to apply

3. SDGs

3.1 Update on progress on the SDGs action plan

RC 22-05-3.1

Stephen Wyber talked about the updates on the SDGs roadmap. He mentioned the really successful participation in the regional SDG fora, representing a big step up on what we have been able to manage in the past. He asked for reflections about next steps, suggestions and updates in the annex part in writing. For example, what possibilities the RDCs have to build connections with governmental UN officials so we can logically send emails. How about a follow up with people the RDCs engaged in the meetings?

It was noted that:

- Maybe another full house RC meeting is needed to get updated on the SDG work. Winston initially suggested a meeting with the sub-group, but it's important to get ideas from everyone in this group.

3.2 Potential bid for a side-event at the 2022 High Level Political Forum

RC 22-05-3.2

The Council members were invited to comment on the elements of the proposed HLPF side-event bid, as well as to suggest names/countries for consideration to attend HLPF in person.

In particular, it was noted that VNRs would be presented between 11 and 15th July, in NYC and IFLA HQ would be in touch with regions to identify engaged and effective representatives who could go to the High Level Political Forum. Others suggested opportunities to engage, with Alejandro and Julius already planning to attend.

4. Updates

4.1 IFLA Updates

The Chair did not provide any further updates from the Governing Board and across IFLA, as this was covered in the beginning of the meeting.

4.2 RDC Updates

Regional Division Committee chairs are encouraged to share updates in writing by 2 May.

Main items raised here, that cannot just be covered in written reports, included:

- Revision of action plans:
 - o Based on Winston Roberts' call to revise the AO RDC action plan to add in successful activities that have been done already, it was confirmed by the RC Chair that the action plans are living documents and the RDC chairs are free to edit them. For example, projects that have come from the action plans, applying for funding etc.
 - o Winston mentioned that he is trying to see if the AO RDC can work with the Pacific Library Network.
 - o The RC Chair asked all RDC Chairs to put this in their agenda to be discussed in the business meeting during WLIC 2022.
- Alejandro Santa asked if he himself is authorized to sign the agreement between IFLA and CERLALC, since this agreement was put by the former SG. Stephen Wyber mentioned to discuss this through emails, since this is an internal matter that needs to be looked up.

4.3 RDC Communications

RC 22-05-4.3

Despina Gerasimidou shared an update on the support for RDC communications, which included the finalisation of communications leads per RDC; the finalization of the comms materials -these are uploaded on each RDC basecamp; let IFLA HQ know about potential web editors; that an explanatory and brainstorming webinar will be offered by IFLA HQ to each RDC comms team; project descriptions have been uploaded on the RDCs webpage –pending only for AO and LAC.

5. Any other business

No other business matters were raised.