



**IFLA Section
Management of
Library Associations**

**Minutes of Management of Library
Associations Standing Committee
Meeting**

Teleconference (Zoom)

Tuesday, 23 April 2024

14:00 – 16:00 (CEST) (Amsterdam)

Attendance:

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Guest:

Sharon Memis sharon.memis@ifla.org (IFLA Secretary General) THE NETHERLANDS

MLAS SC Meeting
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1. Welcome

Loida Garcia-Febo, MLAS Chair started the meeting at 14:00 (CEST Amsterdam) and welcomed all MLAS Standing Committee Members, New Professionals Special Interest Group (NPSIG) Convenor and Women, Information and Libraries Special Interest Group (WILSIG) Convenor present at the meeting. The MLAS Chair and Standing Committee welcomed Sharon Memis, IFLA Secretary General for her presence at the meeting today. MLAS is indeed delighted to have Sharon joining us today to give an update on IFLA activities despite her busy schedule. Loida then informed that the MLAS Standing Committee present today are from various countries which include Macau SAR, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Canada, USA, Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, Montenegro, Namibia, Botswana, Bagdad, Egypt, France, and Germany.

2. MLAS Secretary items: Attendance, Agenda, Approved Minutes 05 March 2024

Loy Jyoon, MLAS secretary informed that members not present today sent their apologies. They are Vidar Lund, Adama Kone, Wang Yanhang, Julia Demasi, Alicia Selles Carot, Dijana Machala, and Irina Trushina due to work commitments. The agenda for the meeting was confirmed and approved with an addition of a report on IFLA activities by Sharon Memis.

Loy Jyoon informed that the minutes of the MLAS SC Meeting held on 05 March 2024 via Zoom 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 were submitted to the IFLA Repository and have been accepted and archived in DSpace. It has been assigned the following identifier: <https://repository.ifla.org/handle/123456789/3262>. Loy Jyoon thanked all the MLAS SC for their cooperation.

3. Updates from Special Interest Groups (SIGs) Convenors

Loida highlighted that she moved the NPSIG and WILSIG updates to the first or second items in the MLAS SC Meeting agenda, so we can hear from them as they work very hard. MLAS thanked the NPSIG and WILSIG for their active involvement.

i. New Professionals SIG

Paria Aria, New Professionals Special Interest Group (NPSIG) Convenor introduced herself and gave an update for April which included the following activities:

(i) Multicultural Cafes-Collaboration with Library Services to Multicultural Populations Section
The first Cafe with the theme 'Holidays' took place on March 26th with 44 participants including NPSIG and MCULTP members from various countries. The next cafe is scheduled for June 9th and is about music.

(ii) Opportunities and Challenges on the Job Market-Collaboration with ASIS&T
The first Panel was held on March 28th and two faculty and a career coach from the US shared their recommendations about writing good resumes / CVs and cover letters. The next and last webinar on hiring librarians and faculty members will be held in June. Loida requested that the recordings of the webinars be shared as new librarians and students around the world will benefit from knowing about resumes.

(iii) IFLAeCamp- August 30th and 31st
The IFLAeCamp will be held online on August 30th and 31st. Among the activities include presentations from participants, online flash mobs, and an avatar contest on social media.

(iv) NPSIG 20th Anniversary in August 2024.

ii. Women, Information and Libraries (WIL) SIG

Jelisaveta Blagojeric, WILSIG Convenor introduced herself as head of the Center for Library Documentation and Archive Department in Montenegro. She then gave an update on the activities of WILSIG which include the following:

(i) The WILSIG working group held a meeting on Friday, March 22 to prepare bibliographies of children's books focusing on women's rights and gender equality. The bibliography will be a collection of bibliographies from different countries and in different languages.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/10g1anqgorVwpW8DNQ0NZI9jURqS4sc97ZzNZuD9lhgQ/edit?usp=sharing>.

(ii) WILSIG agreed to support the organization of MLAS webinars.

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(iii) Preparation of WILSIG Newsletter and public call for contributions by 30 June.

(iv) Improving communication tools, reactivating the WILSIG IFLA webpage reposting news from MLAS on WILSIG activities, and recovering the WILSIG Facebook page.

(v) WILSIG welcomes Marija Miletic from Croatia as the new WILSIG co-opted Member.

4. Report from the IFLA Governing Board / IFLA Secretary General

Loida invited Sharon Memis, IFLA Secretary General to give an update on IFLA activities. Sharon thanked MLAS for the invitation to attend the Standing Committee Meeting today. Loida then invited all the MLAS SC present to introduce themselves.

Sharon gave an update which included the following:

- (a) Communicate and engage with the broader membership to hear the news directly from IFLA as it is a membership organization;
- (b) Fuller minutes from the IFLA Governing Board will be posted on the IFLA Website so that it is more informative on what the IFLA GB is doing;
- (c) IFLA General Assembly 2024 will be held on Thursday, June 20th, 2024 at (13:00 – 15:00 CEST Amsterdam) in a hybrid format in The Hague, Netherlands. In the General Assembly, the proposal for IFLA to become a charity ([ANIBI Status](#)) and an organization for public benefit and working with libraries and librarians will be discussed. The link to the General Assembly can be viewed via the [2024 General Assembly – IFLA](#) ;
- (d) IFLA received one bid for the Expression of Interest to host WLIC 2025 from Kazakhstan. IFLA will make a site visit to Kazakhstan before making any decision;
- (e) IFLA Information Futures Summit hosted by IFLA President Vicki McDonald. It will be held in Brisbane, Australia from 30 September to 3 October 2024. Among the items on the agenda during the Summit will be the launching of the new IFLA Strategy and the new IFLA Trend Report. Information on the Summit can be accessed via this link: <https://2024.ifla.org/>
- (f) A survey on the IFLA WLIC Review has been sent out and is getting good responses. Sharon encouraged MLAS members, particularly those representing the associations to respond. She also encouraged the MENA region; Sub-Saharan and the Caribbean Region; and Asia- Oceania Region to respond to the survey.

- (g) A group of directors from Nordic Library Associations wanted to contribute directly to the IFLA WLIC Review Survey. Sharon has connected them with Leslie Weir, Chair of the IFLA WLIC Steering Committee.
- (h) IFLA Governing Board Meeting in December will be held in one of the libraries in the Netherlands to engage with the librarians and do some events there.

Loida and the MLAS SC thanked Sharon for sharing the updates from IFLA as a new level of transparency. Loida reiterated that the new IFLA Strategy looks inclusive, and everybody will feel part of it. However, there were concerns from MLAS SC members about the hosting of WLIC 2025 as it took about two years to prepare for the conference.

5. Update Code of Conduct for Volunteers Working Group: Irina Trushina

Irina Trushina sent an update on the Code of Conduct for Volunteers as she was not able to attend the meeting. Among the matters reported in the update include the definition of IFLA Volunteers, the setting up of a Sub-committee on Communications, and suggestions to use the Triple Diamond Approach model for project planning. The next meeting will be held on April, 24.

6. Update: MLAS priorities for 2023 – 2024: see

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1nTzDNDt8PbDfY-MK6rjuQywukPyA3FWI2ny_9_INesg/edit?usp=sharing

Loida reiterated that the MLAS priorities for 2023-2024 are library advocacy, financial sustainability, membership retention, strategic forecasting, and information integrity right from the United Nations. The Data Points for MLAS priorities are based on MLAS Associations Survey; Regional Professional Priorities Survey Results – GLOBAL; IFLA Pulse [survey results](#) and United Nations focus on information integrity.

7. Update: MLAS Standing Committee Mid-Term Meeting 2024: Kazakhstan, May 29-31, 2024

Loida gave an update on the 13th Eurasian Academic Libraries Conference (EALC): Connect, Collaborate, Create: Advancing Library Associations and Partnerships to Future-proof our Profession which will be held on May 29-31, 2024 in the Nazarbayev University, Astana, Kazakhstan. It will be a hybrid Conference with a registration fee, but MLAS SC will be given free registration. The Conference website can be viewed via this link:

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<https://nu.kz.libguides.com/ealc2024>. The MLAS Session will be held from 15:00 to 17:00 (Astana Time) on 29th, 30th and 31st May 2024.

Loida informed me that as of today, Loida, Loy Jyoon, Michelline, and Irina will be attending the Conference in person. Loy Jyoon will be on the panel for Library Association Financial Sustainability on 29th May and Irina for Library Advocacy on 30th May. Loida will deliver the closing remarks at the Conference Closing Ceremony on 31st May 2024. Loida has sent an email inviting MLAS SC to participate as presenters at the conference.

Loida also informed that the MLAS Standing Committee Mid-Term Meeting 2024 will be held on 31st May 2024 at the Nazarbayev University in Astana, Kazakhstan from 16: 00 to 18:00 (Astana Time) (The time was later changed to 15:00 to 17:00 to sync with the Conference Programme). Loy Jyoon will send the invitation to attend the Mid-Term meeting either in-person or online to all MLAS SC and MLAS Members. The Zoom link for the meeting will be sent to all MLAS SC and MLAS members attending the meeting online.

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

(a) Advocacy Impact Evaluation Working Group

Hella Klauser as a member of the Advocacy Impact Evaluation Working Group informed that there will be an advocacy impact evaluation meeting in Croatia hosted by Dijana Machala, leader of the working group. Hella and Susan Haigh will attend the meeting in person and Pascal Sanz will attend online.

(b) Communications Working Group

Micheline informed that she has promoted the Libraries and the Digital Preservation of Cultural Heritage 6th Conference of the Lebanese Library Association (LLA) and the 13th Eurasian Academic Libraries Conference (EALC): Connect, Collaborate, Create: Advancing Library Associations and Partnerships to Future-proof our Profession in the MLAS website and social media.

(c) Collaboration with LLA, MENA and the UN ESCWA

Imad as coordinator of the MLAS Working Group gave an update on the MLAS Open Session held in collaboration with the Lebanese Library Association (LLA), the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region, and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN ESCWA). The Libraries and the Digital Preservation of Cultural Heritage 6th Conference of the Lebanese Library Association (LLA) will be held from 14-17 May 2024 in Beirut, Lebanon. The MLAS Open Session will take place on Thursday, May 17th from 9:00 to 10:00 am (Beirut Time) with Imad, Claire Macguire, and Stephen Wyber on the panel. The Conference will be conducted in-person and online. The Conference website can be viewed via this link: <https://lebaneselibraryassociation.org/>

Imad invited all the MLAS SC to participate in the conference as there is still time and they can present any projects concerned with cultural heritage preservation. Imad also reiterated that as MLAS members, they are not requested to submit a full paper but just a PowerPoint presentation.

Imad informed that there is a possibility to hold a business meeting on Friday, May 17th from 10:00 am to 11:30 am or 12:00 pm Beirut time. If so: around 20 people could be present in the meeting room, and invitations would be sent to Arab library Associations and some Arab authors in the field to join online. MLAS Chair would send the invitation and the link for the meeting would be through an IFLA zoom account with an interpretation facility from English to Arabic and vice versa.

Loida informed that each IFLA Section has an allocation of 100 Euro Dollars and can apply for very specific matters such as snacks and refreshments during meetings. Loida has already contacted IFLA HQ for the allocation of the coffee break during the potential Business Meeting and would apply for the allocation from the Professional Council.

Loida thanked Imad and Marwa for this amazing opportunity to partner with the Lebanese Library Association. 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.

(d) Building Strong Library Associations Initiatives

Loida informed that MLAS has three Building Strong Library Associations Initiatives as follows:

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(i) Building Strong Library Association sessions at conferences and events.

Loida highlighted that two MLAS events are happening in May 2024 in Lebanon and Kazakhstan

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

Loida informed that she has contacted the Chair of the IFLA Regional Council on the Building Strong Library Associations webinars. Loida informed that the Chair of the IFLA Regional Council has included MLAS Webinars in their report to the IFLA Governing Board meeting in April. The first webinar is scheduled to be held in July 2024.

(iii) Building Strong Library Associations Mentorship Programme

Loida informed that she has spoken to Sharon, the IFLA Secretary-General about the Building Strong Library Associations Mentorship Programme and they are available to collaborate when the time comes.

9. MLAS Standing Committee Mid-Term Meeting Next Date: 31 May 2024 in Astana, Kazakhstan (hybrid)

(a) Proposed Agenda

The proposed agenda for the MLAS Standing Committee Mid-Term Meeting scheduled to be held on 31st May 2024 at 15:00-17:00 (Astana time) in a hybrid format (in-person and online) will be prepared by Loida and discussed with Loy Jyoon and Micheline. The agenda will be sent to all attendees nearer to the date of the meeting.

10. Miscellaneous- All attendees

(a) Co-option of MLAS Standing Committee

Loida informed that MLAS needs final confirmation from Nicholas Poole and Vidar Lund that they are stepping down from MLAS before MLAS moves forward with the co-option. IFLA HQ informed that to fill in a casual vacancy, MLAS may co-opt individuals who are willing to join the standing committee. Loida will ask IFLA HQ for the list of people who have expressed interest in being members of MLAS. MLAS will be looking for someone who can support the MLAS Communications group.

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Vidar Lund completed his term as the President of the Norwegian Library Association in March 2024. Loida will check with IFLA HQ about the duration of Vidar's term in MLAS.

11. Closing Remarks- MLAS Chair

MLAS Chair MLAS Chair thanked all the MLAS SC and SIG Convenors for their active participation and valuable inputs which have contributed to a very fruitful meeting. MLAS also thanked Sharon Memis, IFLA Secretary General for sharing the updates on IFLA activities.

The MLAS Mid-Term meeting will be held on Friday, 31 May 2024 from 15:00-17:00 (Astana Time) in Astana, Kazakhstan in hybrid format (In-person and online). The Chair hopes to see all MLAS SC in-person or online in the Mid-Term Meeting. On this note, the MLAS Chair ended the meeting at 15:45 CEST (Amsterdam).

