

<b>International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)</b>	
Document nr	<b>RC 23-11-2</b>
Agenda Item	<b>2</b>
Subject	Minutes, Regional Council Meeting, 29 September 2023
From	Alejandro Santa, Chair
Purpose	Agree on the minutes
Date	14 November 2023
Note	
Recommendations	That the Regional Council agrees these minutes

## **MINUTES**

**The second meeting of the IFLA Regional Council 2023-2025  
was held on Friday 29 September 2023, online, 11:30-13:00 UTC**

### **1. Welcome, apologies, and agreement of agenda**

**RC 23-08b-1.1**

**Present:** Alejandro Santa (Chair), Jeannette Lebron (LAC RDC Chair), Ertugrul Cimen (Europe RDC Chair, remote), Ayanda Lebele (Sub-Saharan Africa RDC Chair), Saif Al-Jabri (MENA RDC Chair), Lin Li Soh (Asia-Oceania RDC Chair), Diane Koen (North America RDC Chair), Te Paea Paringatai (Professional Council Chair), Vicki McDonald (IFLA President), Sharon Memis (IFLA SG), Maria Florencia Tebano (Interpreter), Stephen Wyber (IFLA Advocacy and Policy Director), Despina Gerasimidou (IFLA Strategic Development Officer)

The agenda was agreed. The Chair welcomed participants.

### **2. Agreement on the minutes of the previous meeting**

**RC 23-09-2**

Approved, and the translation into Spanish also approved

### **3. Welcome by the Chair, updates from Governing Board, Professional Council, Headquarters**

**Oral report**

IFLA President Vicki McDonald greeted the Council, and congratulated it on a very well-structured agenda and very interesting papers.

The IFLA SG, Sharon Memis shared the importance of the RC for IFLA. Making us a truly global organization in which everybody feels comfortable is the biggest priority.

The RC Chair, Alejandro Santa, welcomed the RC members and thanked them for their responses to his questions. He then shared news from his participation at the General Assembly in the UN in NYC. The SG had a very important and relevant engagement in several meetings, and Alejandro had an engagement at a side-event with Argentina and Mexico. The IFLA team made contacts with a lot of political authorities from different countries and raised our voices to that forum.

### **4. Deep-dive: the state of the library field around the world**

#### **4.1: Introduction on the state of the library field**

**RC 23.09-4.1**

This paper set the scene for this segment of the meeting, intended to allow for deeper discussion. Its purpose is to really know what is going on in the library field per region. The Chair noted what he had learned about the stress facing the field in North America, challenges with disasters in LAC, and work on diversity in AO. There were similarities between Europe and North America on fighting book banning. Meanwhile, heritage was a key theme in MENA. The work done would help to inform cooperation going forwards.

#### **4.2: Regional Division Committee reports**

**RC 23.09-4.2**

Each RDC Chair talked about the main topics and particularities of their region. These are all described in each report submitted by the RDC Chairs to the RC.

The RC Chair thanked SIGL for making it possible for the RC and the RDCs to meet in person, highlighting that this will allow for very good outcomes. He also shared that he will join the Nairobi workshop and RDC meeting in October 2023.

#### **4.3: Background: data from the Library Map of the World**

**RC 23.09-4.1**

Stephen Wyber went through the data from the LMW, highlighting that this is a basis for further discussions. It gives an idea of the diversity, similarities and differences among regions, these results are useful for the action plan, and what kind of collaborations could be organised between regions. It was noted that we should be clear about the limitations of the data, but also the need to get more and better data.

#### **4.4: Implications for the work of the Regional Council**

**Discussion**

It was noted that further work on the Library Map of the World should be part of the work of RDCs going forward.

### **5. Forward work planning**

**RC 23-09-5**

The RC members discussed plans both for dates of meetings, and deep-dive sessions allowing them to explore specific issues under its responsibility in more depth at each meeting.

The RC Chair asked the RC members to read the reports before the meeting and respect those who elaborated the reports. He added that we want to have concrete goals and milestones against concrete timelines and that we should add the regional offices in these meetings. They should listen to what we are thinking and we should listen to them to see what they think in a combined manner –a real diagnosis.

The NA RDC Chair commented that regarding the themes, outreach is key and membership is tricky, due to a WLIC2024-related rocky start. She also asked for documents to read before the workshop in the Hague. The MENA RDC Chair found the themes very interesting and asked to avoid Fridays (a weekend in MENA). The AO RDC suggested to add misinformation as a theme, also LGBTQIA+ and youth and children.

The IFLA President found that the diversity question that the RDC Chairs were asked to report on was quite insightful. According to her, the plan that was mapped out by the RDC Chairs provides the

opportunity to strengthen the RC work and reflects the governance review, which resulted to the creation of the RC. Over the decades there has been a focus on the professional work, but the RC allows us to bring IFLA at a regional and international level. The topics mentioned will allow the Council to leverage this work, particularly advocacy and the existence of networks of associations is a big opportunity.

The RC Chair shared that speaking in mother-tongue is very important. For example, Nthabi speaks 11 languages. But speaking in your mother-tongue is invaluable and enriches our mind and announced the upcoming MetLib in Biblioteca del Congreso de la Nación (BCN), with 90 participants, out of which 50 are international.

## **6. Reports from Regional Division Committee Chairs**

Oral reports

No updates were provided

## **7. AOB**

No other business was discussed.