

International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)	
Document nr	RC 22-10-1.2
Agenda Item	1.2
Subject	Minutes of the Regional Council meeting 24 July 2022
From	Nthabiseng Kotsokoane, Chair
Purpose	Adoption of Agenda
Date	2 October 2022
Note	
Recommendations	That the Regional Council adopts the agenda.

Agenda

The fifth meeting of the Regional Council was held on Sunday 24 July 2022, from 9:30 – 11:00 UTC (10:30-12:00 local time) in Dublin, Ireland

Welcome and apologies

Present:

- Regional Council: Nthabiseng Kotsokoane (Chair), Winston Roberts (Asia-Oceania), Stuart Hamilton (Europe), Imad Bashir (MENA), Julius Jefferson (North America), Isela Mo Amavet (LAC), Jan Richards (Professional Council liaison).
- Observers and others: Barbara Lison (IFLA President), Te Paea Paringatai (Chair, Division D), Patrick Danowski (Chair, Division E), Cellia Joe-Olsen, Dilara Begum (Chair, Division C), Helen Chan (Chair, Division F), Despina Gerasimidou (IFLA HQ, remote), Stephen Wyber (IFLA HQ)

Apologies

- Sarah Kaddu (Sub-Saharan Africa)

1. General business (10min)

1.1 Adoption of agenda **RC 22-07-1.1**

The agenda was adopted

1.2 Adoption of minutes of the previous meeting **RC 22-07-1.2**

1.3 Intervention of IFLA President **Oral Report**

First of all, the President thanked the Council and Regional Division Committees for their work and noted their role in driving a sustainable future. She noted the particular role of the Regional Council Chair in recent months, acting as President-elect.

The President highlighted recent developments and promoted the ‘Out in the Open session’. She noted the reasons for the President-elect’s absence at this conference, but looked forward to her virtual participation in key sessions, including of course the President’s session, which would also include discussions with people in partner organisations.

The Chair echoed the invitation to attend the Out in the Open session and the opportunity it provided to ask questions. She also underlined that with Vicki McDonald now in the role of President-elect, she would be able to focus more strongly on the Council.

1.4 Chair's Update, including Professional Council update Oral Report

The Professional Council chair noted the PC's focus on the WLIC programme, the results of which would become clear in the coming days. She also recognised that not all volunteers had been able to travel, and so many business meetings were taking place online.

The Chair of Division E noted the planned session on Networks and Working Groups, and invited Regional Council members to attend.

1.4 Matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda

No other matters were raised.

2. WLIC Planning (10min)

2.1 Updates on progress on WLIC sessions and meetings Oral Reports

Each Regional Division Committee Chair (or their representative) shared updates on planned sessions – each RDC had an open session planned, while not had a formal business meeting, due to low potential turnout. In these cases, either an informal gathering was planned, or a meeting would take place online.

3. SDGs (15min)

3.1 Report from HLPF Participation RC 22-07-3.1 Oral Reports

The Chair of the North American Regional Division Committee presented on his participation in the High-Level Political Forum alongside colleagues from Latvia, Jamaica, Botswana, Lesotho, Sri Lanka and Argentina. This included side-events, as well as conversations with high-level people, and enabled both new connections to be made, and useful learning to happen.

There was general welcome for what was achieved at the High-Level Political Forum, as well as at other international meeting such as the African regional Internet Governance Forum in Lilongwe, Malawi. This too had provided a unique opportunity to engage with ministers and others in a way that wasn't possible elsewhere.

It was noted that this experience should be shared, and that a webinar to do this was planned. There was important learning to be done, in order to make sure that those with such opportunities had the training and support to seize them.

The Committee agreed that there should be a focus on helping libraries in countries to engage in their VNR processes in 2023, and that the experience of 2022, with a library delegation coming to New York, should as far as possible be replicated. We could also use regional SDG fora. In each case, it should be IFLA HQ leading in organisation, working with relevant countries and RDCs as appropriate.

3.2 Looking ahead – updated action plan RC 22-05-3.2

This item was not discussed.

4. Evaluating Year 1 of IFLA's Regional Structures (30min)

4.1 Evaluations by RDCs

Oral Reports

RC members shared some reflections on their first year of operation, noting in particular the need to create a sense of togetherness across regions, to ensure resources for regional and advocacy work (it was noted that this was in fact happening), to be realistic in action plans, and to be clear about the role of Regional Division Committees, and of the Council itself.

The RC reflected that meeting in person already helped in building a community and bringing out key issues, and that it would be welcome to have more time for an in-person meeting in order to go further.

4.2 Revisions to Action Plans

Oral Reports

This item was not discussed. IFLA HQ has subsequently followed up with RDCs in order to seek updates to action plans.

4.3 Proposed processes for co-option, casual vacancies, removals and mentors

RC 22-07-4.3

The Committee discussed in particular the issue of non-participation in committee activities, and questions around ensuring that volunteers took on responsibilities. Communication was highlighted in particular in this respect.

Chairs shared their experiences, usually starting with asking people informally. After three e-mails without response, then they could be informed that they were being removed from the Committee. However, in some cases there were good reasons, for example conflict. More positively, there were also efforts

The question arose of the division of the world into regions. The size of Asia-Oceania, even after the inclusion of Western Asia in the MENA Division, was raised. So too was the division of Africa between North and Sub-Saharan (although this division worked well for the new MENA RDC). Possibilities to operate at a sub-regional level were also raised, especially in the case of Asia-Oceania given the size of the region.

Another issue raised concerned understanding of mutual focus between regional and professional units. It was noted that once action plans were updated, these would be shared with the PC.

5. Strategic Discussion: Communication (25min)

5.1 Current activities

Oral Reports

Regional Council members mentioned some work here, notably in North America where there was a structured effort to reach out to others in the region and engage them.

A question was raised about caucuses at future WLICs, given that there were fewer this year. There was an interest in bringing these back, although potentially naming them differently in future. Organising things on regional, rather than language lines, could be another option.

This suggestion would be taken to the PC in its future discussions about WLIC organisation.

5.2 Draft template for RDC comms work plans

**RC 22-07-5.2
RC 22-07.5.2.1**

This item was not discussed.

6. RDC Updates*

Oral Report

No oral updates were provided.

7. Any Other Business (10min)

No additional business was tabled.