

International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions	
Document nr	RC 03-06-2
Agenda Item	2
Subject	Minutes, Regional Council meeting, 30 April 2024
From	Alejandro Santa, Chair
Purpose	Agree on the minutes
Date	03 June 2024
Note	
Recommendations	That the Regional Council approves these minutes

MINUTES

**The seventh meeting of the 2023-2025 IFLA Regional Council
was held on Tuesday 30 April, online, 11:00-12:30 UTC**

1. Welcome, apologies and agreement of agenda

RC 30-04-1

Regional Council: Alejandro Santa (RC Chair), Lin Li Soh (AO RDC Chair), Ertugrul Cimen (EU RDC Chair), Jeannette Lebron (LAC RDC Chair), Saif Al-Jabri (MENA RDC Chair), Diane Koen (NA RDC Chair), Ayanda Lebele (SSA RDC Chair), Te Paea Paringatai (PC Chair)

Others: Vicki McDonald (IFLA President), Maria Florencia Tebano (Interpreter), Liliana Medina Delpino (Interpreter), Stephen Wyber (Director, External Affairs, IFLA), Vesna Vuskan (Community Building Manager, IFLA), Despina Gerasimidou (IFLA Consultant, Community Mobilisation and Capacity Building), Michelle Lau (AO Regional Office), Isela Mo Amavet (LAC Regional Office), Yamila Cortenova (LAC Regional Office), Eiman Alshamari (MENA Regional Office 2024-2026), Ian Loh (National Library Board, Singapore)

Apologies: Lindi Nhalpo (SSA Regional Office)

The Chair welcomed participants and sought inputs on any additions or amendments to the agenda. The agenda was agreed upon.

2. Agreement on the minutes of the previous meeting

RC 30-04-2

The Chair sought agreement on the minutes, as circulated soon after the previous meeting. The minutes were approved.

3. Welcome by the Chair

Oral report

The RC Chair thanked all RDC Chairs for their work.

4. Updates from Governing Board, Professional Council, Headquarters

Oral report

The IFLA President commented on the huge work of the RC and provided updates from the last GB meeting in April in the Hague. The email from the GB was now shared in more languages other than English. Additionally, she offered updates about: 1) the review process of the WLIC model led by Leslie Weir, President-Elect; 2) the zero draft of the new IFLA Strategy which has been influenced by feedback from members and volunteers will be shared for comments; 3) IFLA's ANBI status/charity status within NL, which requires a change to the Statutes which will be submitted for approval from IFLA members at the end

of June; 4) the venue for WLIC 2025, for which there is only one nomination from Astana Kazakhstan; 5) IIFS in Brisbane.

The chair then highlighted the importance of ANBI status for IFLA, highlighted the transparency re WLIC processes and the turning point of sharing news in all different languages. He mentioned the SIGL funding, and that the LAC region has not been able to hold its regional meeting. This is not a cancellation but a postponement, there will be a possibility of carrying this out at the end of October, beginning of November we hope.

The President referred to the regional meetings as being dependent on approval from SIGL. In the GB meeting in December the GB decided not to go on without the SIGL funding approval and that it's important for IFLA to have clear discussions with SIGL. Once the budget is confirmed, we will schedule the LAC meeting, while looking for other opportunities –the ANBI status has to do with this as well. The NA RDC Chair, Diane Koen asked if there is funding for the NA meeting, and Alejandro said we are in May and we don't have the budget approved. There is no way of managing our activities, lack of planning is not professional.

The PC Chair noted that there had been more funding for regional activities than professional.

The MENA RDC Chair Saif Al-Jabri asked for funding to reach some countries for the train-the-trainer workshops. The logistics will be done by the Associations, but we need some funding for travel and accommodation for the trainers and it's very important for our committee. The President noted that here too, we needed to get agreement on the SIGL budget first. The President left the meeting here.

The PC Chair provided updates on key issues, including the PC action plans, trying to find an opportunity to work closely with the RDCs.

Alejandro then shared a few updates about their presence at the UN, and the advancements on that sector.

5. Deep-Dive: Effective working practices between professional and regional units

5.1 Good practices

5.2 Progress against proposed collaborations

5.3 Exchange meetings between RDCs and regional volunteers

5.4 Ideas on next steps

RC 24-04-5

The RC members built on the discussions in December about how to address both the apparent lack of understanding of what Regional Units do, and promote closer cooperation that realises the potential synergies between the two types of unit. Regional Council members reflected on what they think could help boost cooperation.

The PC Chair suggested face-to-face opportunities for both councils to meet, the PC will meet even informally on Thursday after the IIFS in Brisbane: is there any opportunity to meet with the RC members, strengthen our connection, and see what we could do together? Alejandro commented that the RC is brand new, only two years in existence, but it is trying to give an identity, to shape a personality. He then suggested a common council to take place between the RC and PC in Brisbane. Diane mentioned that on Friday June 28th the NA RDC has events during the ALA, and wishes to present a robust look of the NA RDC

action plan and to have a strong discussion, so would like to invite anyone from the PC committees to the events. Ayanda and Saif asked about their role when representing the RC in the PC meeting. The PC Chair said that they are the voice and ears of the RC to the PC, instead of Alejandro. Te Paea said it's important that we have people from the RC in the PC meetings, it reminds us of its existence.

6. Deep-Dive: How to engage in the Information Futures Summit

RC 24-04-6

This item follows from the Chair's request at the March session to talk more about how to engage in the Information Futures Summit. Stephen Wyber talked about the IIFS, drawing on some regional expertise to maximise participation at the event, and the preparatory activities (the Strategy and Trend Report). Alejandro said that they should now determine who will be able to attend, LAC is far from Australia and regrettably don't know if he will be present, but we need to determine and think the possibility for some funding from third parties.

Ertugrul shared his thoughts about the IIFS, mentioning that many EU RDC members won't attend, and that they are organizing the EURDC meeting one week after in Spain. But, there are some possibilities to find some financial support from different associations. Ertugrul then highlighted the translations of the Trend report (more than 19 languages) which greatly help its revision, and that IFLA HQ already sent many messages, and there is very good communication on social media, and on the IFLA official discussion lists –this is enough for IFLA people for now, but we have to promote IIFS in our own professional networks and encourage some people who work in special subjects, like automation and other things.

Ayanda mentioned that they need another RC meeting to discuss assignment to each chair during the IIFS, to also enable them review what impact IIFS has made to them after it is finished.

Lin Li mentioned that there was a meeting with the AO Regional Office, Vesna, Louis and Despina to discuss the IIFS, target the associations, and boost registrations; they are going to send a newsletter to their lists and ask their members to send to their associations and libraries in their countries, to explore if sponsors can fund the registration for some people. Associations will work on some grants for their members, enabling them to see how an international event is done.

Eiman mention how surprised she was to see at an UNESCO event she recently attended about information literacy that many librarians don't know IFLA.

Ertugrul thanked Diane for asking for a video recording to present the EU RDC activities in the ALA -a great opportunity for cross-promo among RDCs.

7. Update on work on RDC Reviews

Oral Report

Diane offered an update on the work to develop a model for review of RDCs, in order to help identify and share good practices, as well as establish how to help our regional structures realise their potential. She underlined that the work has started and there are talking points. She encouraged everyone to participate at the meeting, planned in May.

8. Update on communications and advocacy work

Oral Report

Despina shared that a communications meeting took place in April, in which Yamila from Alejandro's team also took part. The IFLA HQ Comms team is now preparing a content comms strategy for regions.

9. Discussion of future deep dive themes

Oral Report

Regional Council members were encouraged to share ideas about future topics for in-depth discussions. Themes proposed were

- i)** New technologies and information; and
- ii)** Lack of participation in RDCs: find a way to get more involvement, encouragement to get more active role in RDC activities
 - Add a special note about participation in the code of conduct for volunteers: how can they participate and what's the way to participate in the IFLA activities as volunteers. There are hundreds of volunteers, but many of them are not active as of now
 - One issue here is language is an issue: some of the volunteers aren't active due to language, that's why it's important for decision-makers to think about the language, all the documents to be translated and the proximity aspect/closeness

10. Regional Division Committee Chair Updates (only if urgent, otherwise in writing)

Oral Report (only if necessary)

None

11. Any other business

None

12. Commitments and close

The meeting ended.