



Draft minutes of the General Assembly held on Wednesday, 28 & Thursday, 29 August 2019, in the Lambrakis Hall of the Megaron Athens International Convention Centre, Athens, Greece.

1. Opening by the President, Glòria Pérez-Salmerón

President Glòria Pérez-Salmerón opened the meeting at 16.15 on Wednesday, 28 August and welcomed the members and delegates thanking them for their attendance at the Congress. She introduced those on stage: Secretary General Gerald Leitner, Parliamentarian Martyn Wade, and Treasurer Barbara Lison.

Apologies were received from Viviana Quiñones.

2. Appointment of Tellers

Members agreed that Genevieve Clavel-Merrin be appointed Head Teller and that Patrice Landry, Eve Woodberry, Hella Klauser and Kerry Smith serve as Tellers.

3. Establishment of a Quorum

At the beginning of the meeting there were 136 national and international association members who have paid their fees for 2019 and were not in arrears. With 81 members present, a quorum was established.

4. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted.

5. Minutes of the General Assembly held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 28 and 29 August 2018

The minutes were adopted.

6. In memoriam of those members who have died during the past year

The President invited members to stand in silence to remember Svein Inge Opdahl, Margreet Wijnstroom, Maria José Moura, Prof. S. B. Ghosh, James H Billington, Lantern Rangarirai Fusire, JoAnn Frey, Wanda Dole, Joe Coyne, Flavia Renon, Judith Field, Ia McIlwaine and other colleagues who have died during the past year.

The Secretary General made special mention of Margreet Wijnstroom who was IFLA's first full-time Secretary General and oversaw the move of IFLA Headquarters from the United Kingdom to the Netherlands. Over 16 years she helped IFLA quadruple in size and strength and was passionate about expanding IFLA's global engagement and libraries in the developing world. Margreet left a legacy for IFLA through the Margreet Wijnstroom Grant with supports delegates from the least developed countries of the world to attend the IFLA World Library and Information Congress.

7. Presentation of the report of the President, Glòria Pérez-Salmerón

The President noted that she had intensified her work with the library field in 20 countries and 30 cities worldwide, promoting what it means to be a member of IFLA and part of the global library movement. Her speeches at conferences have

encouraged participants to work for a better understanding of the impact of libraries on development and wellbeing, using the UN Sustainable Development Goals as a framework. She noted her passion for engaging libraries in areas of the world where IFLA currently has fewer members. As the first Spanish speaking IFLA President, the LAC Region provided a particular focus with many meetings culminating in the Buenos Aires Declaration underlining the need for access to information and the importance of libraries if the countries involved were to realise the SDGs.

Glòria's second President's Meeting reinforced her theme of libraries as 'motors of change'. She noted how IFLA has extended cooperation with other actors in the information and book sector as part of facilitating meaningful access and it was her pleasure to meet with many across the sector. The President noted the support she had received from her employer, the Diputacio de Barcelona and thanked the thousands of librarians involved in IFLA's transformation.

The full text of the President's report is on the IFLA website:

<https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/hq/general-assembly/presidents-report-2019.pdf>

8. Presentation of the report of the Secretary General

The Secretary General noted that in its tenth decade IFLA is continuing to move firmly into the future. IFLA's membership of around 1500 in 150 countries are central to our work. He noted the initiative taken in Australasia and the Pacific to collect funds to support the membership of associations from Papua New Guinea, Samoa, and Vanuatu in addition to the libraries of Kiribati and the Cook Islands. The generosity of many is assisting those who may be struggling.

IFLA's strength is in the willingness to assist and to volunteer. The thousand plus experts on IFLA's committees are key to enhancing professional practice, building better services and strengthening advocacy. They are the force being the IFLA publications programme and the IFLA Library which saw its one millionth download in 2018.

The four Strategic Directions have guided IFLA's work, playing an active role in the area of media and information literacy and debates on copyright in various regions of the world. The Marrakesh Treaty remains an important milestone and new guidance was provided for libraries advocating for connectivity in order to enhance services to users. In areas of cultural heritage, IFLA has been active in digital preservation, digital unification and the prevention of trafficking of cultural items.

The UN 2030 Agenda continues to offer an affirmation of the importance of what libraries do and IFLA held a Global Convening in New York to show our work to ambassadors and diplomats. At this meeting we said goodbye to our second cohort of the international leaders programme who are all making their mark in our field.

2018 was the year when IFLA made the step from vision to strategy and laid the foundations for a new way of working. The Global Vision report was launched with a key finding and ten highlights and opportunities. From the field came the 8500 ideas on how to address the opportunities and how each of us can take action,

and available in the IFLA Ideas Store. Together these important works provided a guiding star in the work to develop the IFLA Strategy for 2019-2020. Now IFLA has a map and directions to inspire, engage, enable and connect the library field. The Secretary General noted the launch of the IFLA Governance Review, the next step in IFLA's transformation.

IFLA's 2018 Annual Report is on the IFLA website:
<https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/hq/annual-reports/2018.pdf>

9. Presentation of the annual accounts by the Treasurer

Treasurer Barbara Lison presented the 2018 annual report as accepted by the Governing Board in its April 2019 meeting for presentation to Members.

The year 2018 shows a surplus of of €290,937. This compares to a surplus of €32,660 for 2017. The overall result of a surplus is a positive sign of a strong and well-managed budget. This surplus means that our general reserves now stand at €1,513,581, and earmarked reserves at €67,961. These reserves are an important asset for IFLA to be able to secure our work and sustainability in the years to come.

It is important that the general accounts meet the needs of IFLA's core business. IFLA has also benefited from an increase in membership income, a positive conference result in 2018 and a decrease in some staff expenses. With funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, IFLA was able to spend €708,712 on key initiatives involving the International Advocacy programme.

In response to a question about the €70,000 donation to Stichting IFLA Global Libraries, the Treasurer noted that was a means of providing funds from the Stichting IFLA Foundation to support the production of the update of the Trend Report.

The meeting adopted the 2018 Annual Accounts.

The full text of the Treasurer's report is on the IFLA website:
<https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/hq/general-assembly/annual-accounts-2019.pdf>

Acknowledgement of IFLA's Donors and Sponsors

The Secretary General acknowledged the valuable contribution of institutions and organisations that have enabled the continuation of strategic and regional activities and development projects in 2018.

Donors

- Koninklijke Bibliotheek, The Netherlands – host of IFLA HQ
- Biblioteca nacional Portugal – host of UNIMARC
- National Library Board, Singapore – host of IFLA Asia and Oceania Regional Office
- University of South Africa, Pretoria – host of IFLA Africa Regional Office
- Biblioteca del Congreso de la Nación, Argentina – host of IFLA Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office

- Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Egypt – host of IFLA Language Centre for Arabic
- National Library of China – host of IFLA Language Centre for Chinese
- Cheikh Anta Diop University, Senegal – host of IFLA Language Centre for French in Africa
- Russian State Library – host of IFLA Language Centre for Russian

Donors include:

- The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- National Diet Library, Japan
- National Library of Australia
- The British Library
- Library and Archives Canada
- National Library of Finland
- Kungliga Biblioteket, Sweden
- Stockholm University Library, Sweden
- Bibliothèque Nationale Suisse
- Bibliothèque National du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg

IFLA's corporate supporters and major conference donors were also acknowledged.

10. Formal announcement of the Results of the Postal Ballot for the Election of President-elect and for places on the Governing Board

The results of the election for President-elect 2019-2021 are:

- Barbara Lison (elected unopposed)

The results of the election for the Governing Board 2019-2021 are:

1. Michael Dowling (United States of America) 2 nd term	801
2. Marwa El Sahn (Egypt) 2 nd term	745
3. Ai Cheng Tay (Singapore)	683
4. Antonia Arahova (Greece) 2 nd term	659
5. Knud Schulz (Denmark) 2 nd term	636
6. Huanwen Cheng (China) 2 nd term	635
7. Torbjörn Nilsson (Sweden) 2 nd term	611
8. Minna von Zansen (Finland)	563
9. Sueli Mara Soares Pinto Ferreira (Brazil) 2 nd term	556
10. Jonathan Hernández-Pérez (Mexico)	539

The following Members of the Governing Board were also elected:

Chair Professional Committee: Vicki McDonald, Australia

Chair Division I: Sonia Poulin, Canada

Chair Division II: Helen Vincent, United Kingdom

Chair Division III: Adjoa Boateng, United Kingdom

Chair Division IV: Catharina Isberg, Sweden

Chair Division V: Sanjay Kumar Bihani, India

Chair Management of Library Associations Section: Halo Locher, Switzerland

11. Motions and Resolutions

11.1 Motion to approve the holding of the next General Assembly in August 2020

In accordance with Dutch legal requirements the Members resolved in the affirmative

Resolution: The General Assembly resolved to authorize the Governing Board to convene the General Assembly to coincide with the next IFLA World Library and Information Congress which shall take place in August 2019. In the case of an unavoidable delay the General Assembly may be convened at a later date, but no later than 30 November 2019.

11.2 Motion to approve Membership fees 2019-2021

The Secretary General noted that since membership fees were set last year for 2019, retail price inflation in the Netherlands has increased by 2.3%. Members were asked to agree to increase fees for 2020 by the same amount. They were also asked to delegate the setting of membership fees for 2021 and 2022 to the Governing Board using the same formula.

The General Assembly resolved in the affirmative:

Resolution: The General Assembly resolved to empower the Governing Board to increase the membership fees in all categories by the percentage of the official retail price inflation, as recorded by the Netherlands government, since the time of the last increase. In a year where the average retail price increase is below 1.0%, the Governing Board may increase the membership fees in all categories up to 2.0% in order to ensure financial sustainability. The General Assembly will continue to approve the IFLA membership rates for all categories at intervals of no more than three years.

11.3 This motion was withdrawn.

12. Motion to adjourn and reconvene at 16:15 on Thursday 29 August 2019

The General Assembly resolved in the affirmative:

Resolution: The General Assembly resolved that this meeting adjourns to meet at 16.15 tomorrow (Thursday 29 August) for the Closing Ceremony.

Closing Ceremony

1. Address by President Glòria Pérez-Salmerón

The President noted what an honour and privilege it had been to lead the federation and to work with people who share the values of equality, freedom, justice, peace and progress – the values that dialogue and democracy are built on. Her experience has shown that there is no lack of dedication, no lack of inspiration, no lack of action to drive the motors of change. She encouraged librarians to maintain the momentum. Her term of office coincided with great changes within IFLA, changes that would help to accelerate our work to build a global library field, able to deliver on the Global Vision. Librarians had turned on the ignition, started the motors of social change. Now we must create a global movement in order to bring meaningful access to information to all.

The full text of the outgoing President's address is on the IFLA website:

<https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/hq/news/documents/gps-closing-athens.pdf>

2. Honours and Awards

Chair of the Professional Committee, Raissa Teodori, presented the Professional Committee Awards.

The IFLA Dynamic Unit and Impact Award 2019

To recognise the vital contribution and work of the members of the IFLA Professional Units, the Professional Committee established a new award in 2018 – the IFLA Dynamic Unit and Impact Award. Submissions were evaluated against criteria including quality and impact of work, communication strategy, membership and leadership engagement and development.

Two professional units were awarded with a Special Mention

1. Knowledge Management Section – for good planning, effective communication and advocacy skills, and a focus on building diverse membership and partnerships.
2. Law Libraries Section – achievements towards building effective collaboration and partnerships within and beyond IFLA, in order to strengthen their area of the profession and support access to knowledge and information across the world.

The winner of the award was the Library Buildings and Equipment Section for a robust and inclusive planning process, leading to professional development and to a wide range of initiatives and events, including their annual award. It has built a strong collaborative approach within and beyond IFLA, matched by a clear and effective communication strategy, which includes an active social media presence and good publishing activities.

The award was accepted by Diane Koen, Chair of the Section.

Best IFLA Poster 2019

The jury acknowledges the high quality of the posters presented this year, which combine substantive ideas and content with clear and appealing design. Two runners-up were identified by the jury:

1. From Sweden – *Libraries and climate consciousness*
2. From Malaysia – *Library makeover: the sanctuary of the mind*

The winner of the Best IFLA Poster for 2019 was Donatus Kubilius from Lithuania for *Every good adaptation is also an innovation. The poster displays a case of makerspace in the national library of Lithuania. How to change traditional image of the library among its users in the digital age. Hands-on way to strengthen user's community.*

IFLA Honors and Awards

The President presented the following awards.

IFLA Scroll of Appreciation

The President presented the IFLA Scroll of Appreciation to Christina Kyriakopoulou, Dr Filippos Tsimpoglou and Alexandra Papazoglou, Co-Chairs of the IFLA Greek National Committee in grateful recognition to the National Committee of the IFLA World Library and Information Congress, 85th IFLA General Conference and Assembly, Athens, Greece, 2019.

The President presented the IFLA Scroll of Appreciation to the following recipients:

- Jeanne Drewes for her distinguished contribution to IFLA and international librarianship, particularly in the field of preservation and conservation.
- Steven W. Witt for his extensive contribution to IFLA and engagement in international librarianship, particularly in the field of research and publication.

IFLA Medal

There were two recipients of the IFLA Medal

- Kai Ekholm for his distinguished contribution to IFLA and his leadership as Chair of the FAIFE Committee. The IFLA Medal particularly recognises his achievements and influence in advocating for freedom of speech and people's right to cultural heritage.
- Barbara Schleihagen for her distinguished contribution to IFLA and enthusiastic support of library associations and young professionals. The IFLA Medal particularly recognises her contribution to IFLA's Governing Board and IFLA's organisational development and financial sustainability.

Honorary Fellow

Honorary Fellow is IFLA's highest award and may be conferred on a person who has delivered long and distinguished service to IFLA with outstanding achievements that has brought distinction to IFLA in the international arena.

Two people were conferred with this award.

- The distinction of IFLA Honorary Fellow was awarded to Deborah Jacobs for her outstanding achievements and efforts to inspire librarians and libraries in many regions of the world. With her support through the Global Libraries Program, IFLA has been able to increase its reach and galvanise the library field to advocate more effectively for the role of libraries in society.
- The distinction of IFLA Honorary Fellow was awarded to Donna Scheeder for her achievements, dedication and service to IFLA, particularly in the areas of IFLA's organisational transformation and in advocacy for libraries within the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Outgoing Governing Board 2017 - 2019

The members of the outgoing Governing Board were thanked for their service:

Huanwen Cheng, Marwa El Sahn, Ágnes Hajdu Barát, Barbara Lison, Patrick Losinski, Torbjörn Nilsson, Victoria Okojie, Victoria Owen, Viviana Quiñones, Knud Schulz, Vicki McDonald, Ann Okerson, Maja Žumer, Sueli Mara Soares Pinto Ferreira, Michael Dowling, Raissa Teodori, Christine Mackenzie and Glòria Pérez-Salmerón.

Incoming Governing Board 2019 - 2021

The members of the incoming Governing Board were introduced to the assembly:

Antonia Arahova, Ai Cheng Tay, Huanwen Cheng, Michael Dowling, Marwa El Sahn, Jonathan Hernández-Pérez, Torbjörn Nilsson, Sueli Mara Soares Pinto Ferreira, Knud Schulz, Minna von Zansen, Sonia Poulin, Helen Vincent, Adjoa Boateng, Catharina Isberg, Sanjay Kumar Bihani, Halo Locher, Vicki McDonald, Barbara Lison, and Christine Mackenzie.

IFLA #WLICWOW Award

This award was given to the person who shared the most inspiring social media post on Facebook or Twitter and demonstrated the benefits of attending WLIC to a wider audience. The award for 2019 was presented to Perizat Utebaliyeva.

IFLA WLIC Passport Award

This award encouraged active engagement with the Exhibition. The award for 2019 was presented to Samuel Oladunyoie Odeyemi.

3. Announcement of WLIC 2021 location

The Secretary General announced that the location of the World Library and Information Congress in 2021 would be Rotterdam, Netherlands and invited the National Committee to invite delegates to come to Rotterdam.

4. Invitation to WLIC 2020 in Dublin, Ireland

The Secretary General invited Her Excellency, Ms Orla O'Hanrahan, Irish Ambassador to Greece to invite delegates to meet next year in Dublin. The Chair of the Irish National Committee Philip Cohen and the Co-chairs Cathal McCauley and Marian Higgins were also asked to say a few words.

5. Vote of thanks WLIC 2019

The Co-Chairs of the IFLA WLIC 2019 National Committee – Christina Kyriakopoulou, Dr Filippos Tsimpoglou and Alexandra Papazoglou presented the wrap-up of the conference and gifts to the President, Incoming President and Secretary General.

6. Address by the incoming President Christine Mackenzie

Incoming President Christine Mackenzie began her speech by acknowledging our indigenous colleagues from around the world. She spoke about her background growing up on a farm in the countryside and working in public libraries for most of her career. Her Presidential theme is “Let’s work together” and has collaboration at its heart. To implement the IFLA Strategy, we need to work together to make the library field strong and collaborate with like minded organisations. She exhorted all to make libraries essential for supporting citizens to live to their full potential, for the world’s sustainable development.

7. Close of the Assembly

President Christine Mackenzie invited all delegates to meet again in Dublin in August 2020. She thanked all delegates and formally closed the 85th IFLA World Library and Information Congress at 18:15.