



IFLA Management of Library Association Section (MLAS)

## **MLAS Standing Committee Meeting**

### **SC Meeting I:**

**Time:** Saturday, 15 August 2015, 12.30-15.00

**Venue:** Ballroom West, Cape Town International Convention Centre, 1 Lower Long Street, Cape Town 8001, South Africa

### **Participants:**

#### **MLAS SC ongoing members:**

Michael Dowling, Sabine Stummeyer, Kelly Moore, Jukka Relander, Janice R. Lachance, Maria Cotera, Silvia Stasselová, Marian Koren, Gerald Leitner (chair), Barbara Schleihagen (secretary, minutes)

#### **MLAS SC outgoing members:**

See apologies

#### **MLAS SC incoming members as observers:**

Alicia Ocaso-Ferreira, Niclas Lindberg, Mariann Schjeide, Pascal Sanz, Judy Brooker, Alim Garga, Susan Haigh

#### ***Ex officio* members:**

Beba Stankovic (WIL SIG convenor)

#### **Other observers:**

Ashok Thapa, Charles Kamdem, Annie Dourlent, Béba Stankovic, Jessica Dorr, Barbara Macikas, Samia Hassan Al-Shiba, Abeer Saad Al-Kuwari, Elizabeth Naumczyk, Hans Ulrich Locher, Dr. Ramesha, Enrica Manenti, Simon Edwards, Joan Bubape, Joao Lourenco, Dr. Dilora Negin, Bongwiwe Magocha, Lynn Jibril, Lindy Mulapo, Perpetua Dadzie, Kodjo Antwi, Monica Mensah, Comfort Asare, Loida Garcia-Febo, Bina Vaidya, Dashrath Mishra, Wiebke Dalhoff, Chelza Gladia, Segametsi Molawa, Jabu Hlophe, Tirong Tanui

#### **IFLA president, president-elect and future president-elect and HQ:**

Sinikka Sipilä, Donna Scheeder, Glòria Pérez-Salmerón, Fiona Bradley, Stuart Hamilton, Jennefer Nicholson

#### **Apologies:**

Randa Al Chidiac (ongoing), Marijana Misetic (ongoing), José María Nogales Herrera (incoming), Taro Miura (outgoing)

### **1. Welcome and Opening**

The chair Gerald Leitner opened the meeting and welcomed all participants: members of the Standing Committee that are either outgoing, incoming or ongoing, all observers and



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especially current president Sinikka Sipilä, president-elect Donna Scheeder, and incoming president-elect Gloria Pérez-Salmerón who is an active member of MLAS. He also welcomed Secretary General Jennefer Nicholson, who would come a little later, Deputy Secretary General Stuart Hamilton and Fiona Bradley, Manager Member Services and Development. All participants introduced themselves very briefly. Gerald gave a special welcome to the new members of the Standing Committee.

### **2. Apologies for absence**

The secretary Barbara Schleihagen received four apologies for absence (see above).

### **3. Approval of agenda**

The SC members agreed to postpone the election towards the end of session and to allow for some flexibility of the agenda due to the reports by IFLA presidents and IFLA HQ staff. With these changes the agenda was approved.

### **4. Approval of the minutes of the meeting on 13 March 2015 in Athens, Greece**

The minutes were approved without changes and with thanks to the secretary.

### **5. Information for new SC members on how sections work**

It was decided to postpone this item to the second SC meeting.

### **6. Election of new Officers by incoming Standing Committee (ongoing and new Standing Committee members)**

Gerald's two terms as chair have come to an end and he cannot be re-elected. Therefore, as a neutral person, he chaired the election. There were two candidates: Niclas Lindberg and Barbara Schleihagen. Both candidates introduced themselves. Glòria assisted Gerald in counting the votes. Gerald distributed the ballot papers for a secret vote. The paper listed all ongoing and incoming SC members who are eligible to vote. Alicia acted as proxy for José María and Gerald acted as proxy for Marijana.

Barbara won the election with 13 votes, and Niclas reached 6 votes. Barbara accepted the election and thanked the committee members. The current chair congratulated the incoming chair.

There was only one candidate for the position of secretary; therefore, Kelly Moore was acclaimed as secretary.

### **7. IFLA Cape Town Conference:**

**a. Report on planned MLAS Session “With one voice – your role in building and streamlining (inter-)national advocacy”, Wednesday, 19 August, 13.45-15.45 hrs in Ballroom West**

**b. General Assembly, Wednesday, 19 August, 16.15-18.00 hrs in Auditorium 1**

Gerald invited all participants to the sessions on the UN sustainable development goals (SDGs) on Monday, to the association meeting on Tuesday, and to the General Assembly on



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Wednesday. The MLAS session will also take place on Wednesday. First there will be four prominent speakers on success stories, then moderated sessions at world café tables. Volunteers from the MLAS SC were requested to act as moderators at the world café tables. The questions for discussion were already worked out. SC members who agreed to act as moderators would meet for 20-30 minutes for discussion of the questions and modalities following the SC I meeting.

### **8. President's programme:**

The President invited all participants to the opening and the closing session as well as to the President's session. She thanked all association representatives for their great work in advocacy. As she will also be retiring from her position in the Finnish Library Association, she introduced her successor as Secretary General, Rauha Maarno.

### **9. President-elect Programme:**

The President-elect thanked all members that did so much to reach the 500 + signatures for the Lyon declaration. This gave IFLA a very strong position in the UN negotiations in New York. She invited all to the session on the 2030 Agenda, to the Highlights Session on IFLA's new Strategy, and to the President-elect's session on building a change agenda for libraries. A new website entry will be launched after the meeting.

As, in her view, library association representatives are the most important people within IFLA, she thanked them again for their engagement.

### **10. IFLA advocacy**

Stuart Hamilton reported that IFLA was successful in advocating at the UN on the post 2015 agenda. Thanks to presentations and 585 signatories to the Lyon Declaration, goal 16.10 "public access to information" is included in the agenda. But there are more goals that are of interest for libraries. Excellent work was done by LAs to get such a high number of signatures to the Lyon Declaration.

The summit of heads of governments will take place at the end of September to sign the agenda, and IFLA will attend. The framework will then be implemented by member states at the national level. The UN framework for monitoring the achievements will be published in March 2016. The 2030 Agenda will come into force on January 1, 2016. Now it is important to make or re-establish contact with representatives of national governments asking them to include libraries in the national development goals. This is a task for national associations. In October, a set of materials will be distributed by IFLA HQ with advice on how to continue working on the issue with a toolkit for the next stage.

Concurrently, the WSIS process is being reviewed and IFLA is involved; this is another policy space in which to promote libraries as providers of public access to ICT, and to free and open software.



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In the copyright area a lot is going on:

1. The Marrakesh Treaty has to be ratified at the national level. Nine countries are signatories; 20 are required for the treaty to come into force.
2. Copyright in Europe is heading towards the right direction; by the end of this year issues like e-lending and digitising of materials should be addressed in updated draft legislation. IFLA is working closely with EBLIDA (e-lending) and LIBER (text and data mining) on these issues.
3. At WIPO, IFLA has been engaged with the SCCR for nearly a decade now. There it is currently problematic for our advocacy efforts. There is support for exceptions and limitations for libraries from Africa, Latin America, Asia and Oceania. However, there is also substantial opposition from the European Union, and the discussion goes completely along different lines than in the EU itself. IFLA is now talking to China and Pakistan to gain their support. It is important for national associations to talk to their national governments on these issues as well.
4. IFLA is still very active also on the question of e-lending.

Regarding the association capacity building programme, IFLA will now focus on building national capacity through the International Advocacy Programme (IAP) to ensure that eventually we all move in the same direction.

Stuart suggested that, in next 12 months, MLAS look to the following: while IFLA needs to do more to communicate, LAs should also increase their communication. The connection from IFLA to the national level is important. LAs were encouraged to register their associations for observer status at WIPO (this does not cost anything) as this adds to the available time for making interventions on behalf of libraries. In addition, LAs should attend their national Internet Governance Forum meetings.

A question was raised as to what IFLA is doing regarding lobbying for VAT reduction for e-publications. Stuart replied that IFLA needs to work closer with publishers and the International Publishers Association on that issue. The VAT question is currently a European focussed issue, but might be relevant to other countries in future. Public lending right is another area where we should cooperate more with publishers. Gerald added that LAs have established a close partnership with publishers on many issues. However, for politicians, it looks like we are enemies; but the only real area of disagreement is e-lending.

### **11. Report on IFLA Governing Board meetings**

Secretary General Jennefer Nicholson informed participants about news at IFLA.

WLIC 2015: there is good representation from African colleagues at the congress. Due to the BSLA programme, huge progress was made with library associations in Africa (strategic planning, advocacy, membership recruitment), and there are a lot of activities going on.

International Advocacy Programme: in July, there was a high-level meeting of 22 people (library leaders and senior government officials) in Namibia to work on an advocacy agenda for Africa for the next 10 years; the document will be discussed further at this conference.



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Yesterday, the South African Ministry of Culture hosted a meeting with representatives from 15 ministries from African countries. This is one of the lasting effects of the Lyon Declaration. The so-called Cape Town Declaration was launched at this occasion, marking support for libraries in the participating countries, especially regarding the sustainable development goals (SDGs). The declaration will be taken to the African Union.

The SDGs form the UN 2030 Agenda for Development. The goals are intended for all countries, not just developing countries. For IFLA the important statement in the 2030 Agenda is: “no one is left behind”. Here is where libraries can contribute: universal literacy, access to information and access to culture. How can libraries and library associations work in their countries? It is about how to improve life for people in their countries. Libraries have to demonstrate how they improve the life of their customers.

Strategic plan: The Governing Board (GB) has developed a new strategic plan. The approach is different this time: there are four strategic directions for six years until 2021, supported by many key initiatives (KIs) for two years (2015-2016) as priorities. The development of this new plan was an easier process, as it built on the previous strategic plan which was in place for the last six years. The GB was very clear what the current KIs should be.

The four strategic directions were presented. The schedule for implementation is as follows: first, consultation on the plan here at the conference. No new items should be included, but it should be debated where MLAS goals fit into the plan and how IFLA’s strategy can be implemented also at the regional and national level. The incoming GB will sign off the plan, with the KIs are continuing in 2015-2016.

It was asked which countries have been able to participate in BSLA and in IAP. There is a lot of information on the website, including the impact evaluation reports. It was further asked whether photos could be made public of people that participated in these programmes so it is easier to get in contact with them. In addition, there was a question as to the status of the International Advocacy Programme. The information seems to suggest that the IAP is open for English speaking people only. Jennefer noted that the BSLA training materials have been translated. In some regions English was used as the most common language in a given country. IFLA does conduct the training in the language that is predominant in the country. Certainly BSLA training was conducted in French and in Arabic in certain countries. BSLA is not English focused, and trainers are provided in the required languages. IFLA does not require English language skills to participate in the IAP; it will be available in many languages.

It was noted that, during the ALP meeting some hours ago, IFLA was encouraged to translate important information to many languages, and to involve more associations in the training to ensure linguistic diversity. Associations can assist with this capacity; there is a need for translation especially in key advocacy areas.

One observer from India stated that many people do not know about the wonderful projects of IFLA, or about the standards available. The message needs to go down the line not only through associations and governments but also through private companies. More leadership



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and support from IFLA is needed. Jennefer indicated that India will be encouraged to take part in both the IAP and BSLA programmes.

### **12. BSLA programme:**

Fiona gave information on BSLA, a programme that started 5 years ago. She reported on a Cameroon project that builds on the results of their BSLA participation. IFLA is currently considering the future of the BSLA programme.

The International Advocacy programme (IAP) was announced last year, and a lot of information was given to MLAS at the midterm meeting in Athens. The programme has since been revised. IFLA will look at international/national issues and will tackle the question of how to raise awareness at the local level (public libraries, national libraries and other libraries). The programme will last much longer than originally thought. As mentioned earlier, three weeks ago there was a pilot meeting in Namibia with more than 20 representatives from all across Africa to work on an Africa agenda. IFLA is now considering how to continue in April next year in the other regions. There is a possibility for MLAS involvement: either by joint workshops or personal involvement (cooperation between associations).

Finally, Fiona highlighted two important sessions on the SDGs: Monday, session no. 97 and session no. 103 on how to implement the SDGs and what support is needed at the national level.

### **13. MLAS Membership Update:**

Barbara circulated a list of all MLAS members that she had received from the IFLA Membership Officer. The list contained confidential information about which LA members have not yet paid, so that SC members can get in touch with those that they know. She asked for the list to be returned by the end of the meeting.

### **New: information on IFLA Officers conference Brief: draft IFLA Strategy**

Barbara reported on the officers' conference brief that she attended on Saturday morning. The PC has clarified some rules and set new SIG rules: as from 2016, SIGs should also include a discussion part in their sessions; they will not have time slots allocated for separate business meetings. The IFLA publishing contract with de Gruyter will expire at the end of 2015. The IFLA Journal will become electronic by default as of 2016. The IFLA Library can now be expanded and will in future include also metadata, papers of satellite meetings and posters. The standards manual will be reviewed. Barbara made special mention of the new IFLA strategy and distributed copies of the draft document.

Gerald referred to the association meeting as an opportunity for further discussion of the Key Initiatives that are mentioned in the draft strategy paper. It is important that MLAS members inform themselves about the new strategy before this meeting on Tuesday.



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**Action:** MLAS should react to the draft strategy paper and should start communicating it to all MLAS members to ask for their feedback before the end of September. Michael will take this up and distribute the draft. Jukka will talk about it in EBLIDA.

### **14: MLAS communication:**

- a. Michael reported that after the congress he will update the website. He encouraged all members to share success stories or questions on the mailing list. He also welcomed ideas for discussion items.

Gerald informed members that there is no election needed for the position of information coordinator as this is done by appointment. Michael has done a great job. He agreed to be re-appointed, to much applause by SC members.

- b. Jukka will still work on the blog.

### **17: Special Interest Groups update**

Gerald reported that the New Professionals SIG seems to be in trouble and needs help from experienced library associations. There is some project money available for that. Before the SC meeting on Thursday, we need to see what can be done to support them. Loida Garcia-Febo was a founding member of the SIG in Buenos Aires; she therefore offered to give support to the group.

The chair thanked all members for their active participation. He closed the meeting at 15.00 hrs.

For the minutes:

Gerald Leitner, chair

Barbara Schleihagen, secretary