



## IFLA Management of Library Association Section (MLAS)

### **MLAS Standing Committee Meeting**

#### **SC Meeting II:**

**Time:** Thursday 20 August 2015, 11.30-13.00

**Venue:** Room 1.61, Cape Town International Convention Centre, 1 Lower Long Street, Cape Town 8001, South Africa

#### **Participants:**

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

Judy Brooker, Maria Cotera, Michael Dowling, Alim Garga, Susan Haigh, Marian Koren, Janice R. Lachance, Gerald Leitner, Niclas Lindberg, Kelly Moore (secretary), Alicia Ocaso-Ferreira, Jukka Relander, Pascal Sanz, Mariann Schjeide, Barbara Schleihagen (chair), Silvia Stasselová, Sabine Stummeyer

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

Béba Stankovic (WIL SIG convenor)

##### **Other observers:**

Abeer Al-Kuwari, Samia Hassan Al-Shiba, Omoh Atsenokhai, Richard M. Atuti, Maria Violeta Bertolini, Charly Kamdem, Philip Cohen, Wiebke Dalhoff, Iaguba Djalo, Annie Dourlent, Simon Edwards, Adriana Ferrari, Loida Garcia-Febo, Kelly Grogg, Andreas Hainghumbi, Raouf Helal, Jabu Hlophe, Alina Jaskuniene, Lynn Jibril, Randa Kamal, Howayda Kamel, Hella Klauser, Mathilde Koskas, Bongwiwe Magocha, Wenceslas Mahoussi, Enrica Manenti, Mandiaye Ndiaye, Esther Nxumalo, Gray Nyali, Celina Qobo, Ramesha, H. Saafi, Tirong Arap Tanui, Patricia Tlale, Milan Vasiljevic

##### **IFLA past-president, president-elect, HQ:**

Sinikka Sipilä, Glòria Pérez-Salmerón, Stuart Hamilton

##### **Apologies:**

Randa Al Chidiac, Marijana Misetic, José María Nogales Herrera

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

Outgoing chair Gerald Leitner opened the meeting and welcomed all participants. He indicated that, while the terms for the new chair and secretary do not officially begin until after the congress, it would be best for continuity if they managed this meeting. With the approval of the SC members, the new chair, Barbara Schleihagen, led the meeting, supported by the new secretary, Kelly Moore. She started by thanking Gerald very much for his excellent leadership during the last four years.

Barbara invited all participants to introduce themselves. There were more than 50 individuals from 35 countries in attendance.



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### **2. Approval of agenda**

Items not discussed at the SC I meeting were added to the SC II agenda. Item 17, reports from SIGs, was moved to later on the agenda as participants required for that item would be joining the meeting late. The amended agenda was approved.

### **3. Information for new SC members on how the section works (deferred from SC I)**

Barbara explained that the standing committee meets twice during the congress: once on the Saturday before the congress opens, and once later in the week, usually on the final Thursday of the congress. The main concerns of these meetings are to determine the business of the section for the coming year and plan activities for the next year's congress. MLAS also usually holds a mid-term meeting in February or March each year. These meetings are often combined with workshops in coordination with IFLA HQ. In between meetings, business is conducted by email via the MLAS SC listserv, or by email within smaller working groups. New SC members were encouraged to direct any questions they may have to Barbara or Kelly.

### **4. MLAS Communications**

Barbara posed a question to members as to whether we want more communications via social media (e.g. Facebook and Twitter), in addition to the MLAS pages on the IFLA website and the two MLAS mailing lists. It was recognised that we need to improve our communications with MLAS members beyond the SC. Members agreed that increased use of social media is important for the Section. Niclas Lindberg, after an informal chat with Barbara, had already launched an MLAS presence on social media platforms as a test case only. As this development is now agreed, all MLAS members will be alerted to the various communications tools available to the Section.

**Actions:** Niclas to confirm details of the MLAS presence on Facebook and Twitter.  
Barbara/Kelly to contact all MLAS members with details of new and existing communications tools.

**Timeline:** by mid-September 2015

### **5. MLAS Guidelines on Communications (deferred from SC I)**

Barbara noted that Marian Koren had drafted guidelines, with support from Barbara, Michael, and Sebastian Wilke (former NPSIG Convenor), and invited Marian to speak to the document. Marian explained that IFLA has been reviewing their procedures for establishing guidelines. The Professional Committee (PC) had reviewed the document and suggested that it either be amended to become a checklist or expanded to a more comprehensive set of guidelines. The document covers three main types of communications for library associations: those to members; those with the media; and those with government (advocacy).

Barbara indicated her support for amending the document to be an internal checklist, a tool for MLAS members which can be posted to our web page. She noted that the BSLA materials contain a lot of information on association communications. Michael explained



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that IFLA guidelines are now intended to be more substantive. MLAS tools need to be flexible, so we should not pursue making this document an official guidelines publication.

Barbara suggested that a communications checklist could be part of a larger communications toolkit. Members agreed that this would be useful. Volunteers would be solicited by email after the congress to work on such a toolkit. Barbara thanked Marian and the rest of the working group for their efforts on this document.

**Action:** Barbara to solicit volunteers to compile a communications toolkit for library associations.

**Timeline:** mid-September 2015

## 6. IFLA Trend Report

Barbara explained that the IFLA Trend Report, an important advocacy tool placing the library and information environment in a wider social context, was released at the WLIC in 2013 in Singapore. She asked if any associations were working with the Trend Report in their countries. Gerald states that the recent Austrian library congress was organised around the themes in the Trend Report, and that it has helped to focus some activities for Austrian libraries. Workshops are now being held in the various Austrian federal republics.

Stuart Hamilton provided information on the next steps at HQ for the Trend Report. The GB has included the Trend Report in its new Key Initiatives for 2016-2016, and is planning a revision of the Report to be released in 2017. HQ staff Christina de Castell will take on responsibility for the Report and arrange some activities. One of these will be the Trend Report Innovation Programme (TRIP), which will look at new types of services that libraries are introducing based on the issues raised in the Report. The Governing Board will be soliciting input from across the IFLA professional units.

Sinikka Sipilä noted that her recent IFLA President's Meeting, held in June in Istanbul, Turkey, focused on the Trend Report and the Lyon Declaration. As well, workshops on the Report have taken place in Slovakia and Finland. Stuart also spoke on the Report at the CILIP conference in the UK.

Barbara encouraged participants to look for more information to follow from Christina at IFLA HQ, and noted that the Trend Report offers associations an opportunity for good visibility with the media and politicians.

## 7. UN Post-2015 Development Agenda

Barbara explained that the newly released UN agenda, now called "Transforming our world: the 2030 agenda for sustainable development", includes 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs), supported by 179 themes. There has been much discussion throughout the congress regarding the 2030 Agenda. Associations will need to find out how their respective countries are going to implement the Agenda at the national level. It is critical for associations to inform their members about the agenda and determine how they will engage with national policy-makers.



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Stuart indicated various social media hashtags specific to the 2030 Agenda that participants should follow: #globalgoals, #post2015, and @ifladpa.

### **8. Plans for mid-term meeting 2016: venue and programme**

Barbara noted that there was unprecedented interest from potential hosts for our 2016 mid-term meeting, with five offers on the table:

- New York City: focus on the UN 2030 Agenda
- Bratislava: building on relations in central Europe
- Colombia: build new relationships in the region, focus on Trend Report or SDGs
- Toronto: connected to the President's meeting, change agenda for libraries
- Panama: connected to LAC Section meeting and BSLA workshops

In the initial discussions, Colombia was withdrawn, as the main intention of that offer was to bring MLAS expertise to the LAC region, and that could be accomplished at the Panama meeting. Bratislava was also withdrawn, as it was recognized that we have held many meetings in Europe in recent years, and it is preferred to try to meet in a different region. After some spirited interventions in support of the three remaining options, Barbara proposed that, in the interest of time, an online poll would be set up immediately following the congress for members to express their location preferences. A working group comprised of Barbara, Kelly, Judy Brooker and Alim Garga would review the poll results and return to the group with a final recommendation. There is a tight timeline to reach a decision as the Panama organisers need to set their dates as soon as possible. While there was some desire for continued debate at the table, members agreed to the proposed plan.

**Action:** Barbara to initiate poll to determine preferred location for the 2016 MLAS SC mid-term meeting.

**Timeline:** asap

### **9. Special Interest Groups updates and confirmation of convenors**

#### **a. New Professionals SIG**

Barbara was pleased to announce that, due to Loida Garcia-Febo's efforts, new convenors for NPSIG had come forward during the congress, and invited them to introduce themselves. Maria Violeta Bertolini and Milan Vasiljevic noted that they had met with many new professionals during the congress, and were keen to keep the group active. Plans were already underway for another edition of IFLA Camp for 2016.

#### **b. Women, Information and Libraries SIG**

Béba Stankovic referred members to her written report, sent to Barbara prior to the meeting and distributed after the conference, on the WIL SIG's activities. She noted that the SIG held a successful satellite meeting the previous week, and hosted both a session and business meeting during the congress. Programme planning is in place for 2016, and the group's theme for 2017 will be "women in conflicts".



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Maria Cotera introduced Mathilde Koskas as the new convenor and Kelly Grogg as the new information coordinator. Barbara thanked Béba on behalf of all SC members for her very successful work as convenor for the past two years.

MLAS SC members approved the appointments of Maria Violeta and Milan as co-convenors of NPSIG and Mathilde as convenor of WIL SIG for the term 2015-2017.

### **10. Plans for IFLA congress 13-19 August 2016 in Columbus, Ohio, United States**

Michael extended a welcome to all delegates to Columbus. He noted that planning is well underway. Fundraising is being sought to support a large number of grants, both for participants from outside North America, and for new professionals in the United States and Canada.

Barbara acknowledged the good work done by the Section for our programme in Cape Town. She noted that it is important for MLAS activities to align with the new IFLA Strategic Plan and Key Initiatives.

Suggestions for the 2016 session included the IFLA International Advocacy Programme; copyright, and particularly the Marrakech Treaty; the Trend Report and TRIP; the UN SDGs; cooperation of national libraries and national associations on advocacy initiatives; a topic relevant to the LAC region as there is likely to be a higher than usual number of participants from that region.

Discussion will continue by email over the coming months. Kelly noted that at least a general topic needs to be determined by mid-October, for submission to the PC in advance of their December meeting. The specifics can be worked out at the mid-term meeting.

**Action:** email discussion and decision to be taken on a topic for the 2016 MLAS open session in Columbus.

**Timeline:** by mid-October 2015

### **11. Any other business**

#### **a. BiblioNef**

Marian referred members to a document she had provided outlining BiblioNef, a development programme aimed at providing books to children in developing countries. The document highlights a current programme between the Netherlands and Ghana. Marian noted that development projects focused on literacy often do not make the connection with national library associations as potential partners. After a brief discussion as to how associations may be better positioned to take part in these programmes, it was agreed that Marian would re-frame the document and pose specific questions to be discussed at the next meeting.

#### **b. translations**

Gerald expressed his wish that MLAS support the resolution regarding the importance of translations which was presented to the General Assembly the previous day. It is essential



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that IFLA continue to improve efforts to reflect the linguistic diversity of its membership, as language is a critical condition of access to information. In addition, he asked Barbara to encourage IFLA HQ to share the planned IPA/IFLA Statement on Literacy, to be published on 8 September, at least a week before with national translators to ensure that this document could be released in many languages on the same day. Barbara agreed to follow up on these items at the next Governing Board meeting on Friday.

### **c. IFLA President's thanks**

IFLA President Sinikka Sipilä thanked all members of the MLAS SC, NPSIG and WIL SIG for their support during her term, and acknowledged her strong relationship with the Section during her time as a member and chair of MLAS.

### **12. Closing remarks**

The chair thanked all members for their contributions, and closed the SC II meeting at 13.00.

For the minutes:

Barbara Schleihagen, chair

Kelly Moore, secretary