



Minutes of IFLA General Assembly Meeting,  
Wrocław, Poland 2017



## World Library and Information Congress: 83rd IFLA General Conference and Assembly

### 1. Opening by the President, Donna Scheeder

President Donna Scheeder opened the meeting at 16.15 on Wednesday, 23 August and welcomed the members and delegates thanking them for their attendance at the Congress. She introduced those on stage: Secretary General Gerald Leitner and Martyn Wade, Parliamentarian.

Apologies were received from Ross Shimmon, Marcelle Beaudiquez, W.R.H. Koops, Marianne Scott, Margreet Wijnstroom, Kay Raseroka, Hans-Peter Geh, Marta Terry, Klaus G. Saur, Christine Deschamps, Ellen Tise, Robert Wedgeworth, and Alex Byrne.

### 2. Appointment of Tellers

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

### 3. Establishment of a Quorum

At the beginning of the meeting there were 130 national and international association members who have paid their fees for 2017 and were not in arrears. With 71 members present, a quorum was established.

### 4. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted.

### 5. Minutes of the General Assembly held in Columbus, Ohio, 17 and 18 August 2016

An error in the naming of the President under Item 7 was noted. With the correction of the name, 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 Maria LaoSunthara, Dr Sigrid McCausland, Erland Kolding Nielsen, Ibu Mastini Hardjoprakoso, Betsie Bethel and other colleagues who have died during the past year.

### 7. Presentation of the report of the President, Donna Scheeder

The President noted that her agenda had focused on two major areas: the call to action and the critical role of libraries in achieving the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Goals. She was able to speak at national meetings in

Germany, Sweden, China, Cuba, Mexico, the United States, Canada and India and saw libraries developing innovative services for their communities. In meeting many ministers, she brought the message that libraries are a critical part of the infrastructure in achieving national goals. Helping librarians and library associations gain the advocacy skills needed to make this happen became the focus of the IFLA advocacy programme. However, for the future of IFLA, her participation in the development of the IFLA Global Libraries Legacy grant proposal was a highlight. The grant will help to transform libraries and IFLA itself and make a strong presence in every region a reality. The president noted the support received during her term from members of the IFLA Governing Board, the Secretaries General Jennefer Nicholson and Gerald Leitner and HQ staff.

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

<http://www.ifla.org/files/assets/hq/general-assembly/presidents-report-2017.pdf>

## **8. Presentation of the report of the Secretary General**

Gerald Leitner, Secretary General noted the major progress made by IFLA towards achieving defined goals. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) provided the opportunity to advocate for the role that libraries play in improving literacy and digital skills. The Trend Report Update captured results of discussions of the original Trend Report and found the five key trends to still be relevant. The report will be updated with short essays and from 2020 onwards, a new Trend Report will be published every five years. The Marrakesh Treaty entered into force with IFLA representatives cited for their contribution. IFLA will now work to promote its implementation and to support the work of libraries in helping users with print disabilities. In the area of preservation IFLA helped to develop the *UNESCO PERSIST Guidelines for the Selection of Digital Heritage for Long-term Preservation*. IFLA's capacity building programme for library associations, Building Strong Library Associations (BSLA), continued with the first ever BSLA Global Meeting in Manila, Philippines and further regional workshops in Zimbabwe, Panama and Myanmar. A booklet *Access and Opportunity for all* provided examples of libraries' contributions to the UN 2030 Agenda. The International Advocacy Programme brought together 150 participants from 73 countries who have gone on to mobilise and promote library advocacy around the world.

The Secretary General also noted the receipt of the Global Libraries Legacy Partner grant. The grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will provide IFLA with ten years of funding worth 31,100,000 USD. Working with the Public Libraries Association (PLA) and TASCHA, IFLA aims to transform the library field and itself through concerted and coordinated efforts at the global, regional and national level. The first projects from the grant – the Global Vision project, IFLA's first Membership Survey and the Library Map of the World are underway.

The Secretary General invited Deborah Jacobs, Director of the Global Libraries initiative on stage to receive a bouquet of flowers in recognition of her support for IFLA and its future. Deborah Jacobs made a short speech noting that the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation had invested over one billion US dollars in libraries around the world over the last 20 years. The IFLA grant is the largest grant that Global Libraries has ever made. Along with grants to PLA, AfLIA, TASCHA and EIFL, the Gates Foundation has contributed to a better library field and world.

The full text of the Secretary General's report is on the IFLA website

<https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/hq/annual-reports/2016.pdf>

Members asked a number of questions and provided comments on the content of the membership survey, articles within the IFLA Journal and appreciation for the discussion opportunities provided by the Global Vision.

## 9. Presentation of the annual accounts by the Treasurer

Treasurer Christine Mackenzie presented the 2016 annual report as accepted by the Governing Board in its April 2017 meeting for presentation to Members.

The year 2016 shows a surplus of €86,678 euro. This compares to a surplus of €170,548 euro for 2015. 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 €1,204,901 euro, and earmarked reserves at €53,044 euro. 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 outside support such as grants from Global Libraries which have allowed IFLA to develop and implement new programmes around the world.

The meeting adopted the 2016 Annual Accounts.

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

<http://www.ifla.org/files/assets/hq/general-assembly/annual-accounts-2017.pdf>

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

The results of the election for President-elect 2017 – 2019 are:

- **Christine Mackenzie** (elected unopposed)

The results of the election for the Governing Board 2017-2019 are:

|  |      |
|--|------|
| 1. <b>Barbara Lison</b> (Germany)                            | 1197 |
| 2. <b>Victoria Okojie</b> (Nigeria - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Term)   | 985  |
| 3. <b>Victoria Owen</b> (Canada - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Term)      | 965  |
| 4. <b>Knud Schulz</b> (Denmark)                              | 936  |
| 5. <b>Viviana Quiñones</b> (France – 2 <sup>nd</sup> term)   | 919  |
| 6. <b>Torbjörn Nilsson</b> (Sweden)                          | 888  |
| 7. <b>Ágnes Hajdu Barát</b> (Hungary – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Term) | 803  |
| 8. <b>Marwa El Sahn</b> (Egypt)                              | 748  |
| 9. <b>Patrick Losinski</b> (United States of America)        | 723  |
| 10. <b>Cheng Huanwen</b> (China)                             | 687  |

These ten candidates received the highest number of votes and were declared elected.

The following candidates also stood for election and were not elected:

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Frederick Zarndt (United States of America) | 676 |
|---|-----|

Alim Garga (Cameroon) 602

Vadim Duda (Russia) 361

The following Members of the Governing Board were also elected:

Chair Professional Committee: Raissa Teodori (Italy)

Chair Division I: Vicki McDonald (Australia)

Chair Division II: Ann Okerson (United States of America)

Chair Division III: Maja Žumer (Slovenia)

Chair Division IV: Antonia Arahova (Greece)

Chair Division V: Sueli Mara Soares Pinto Ferreira (Brazil)

Chair MLAS Michael Dowling (United States of America)

## **11. Motions and Resolutions**

### **11.1 Approve the holding of the next General Assembly**

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 2018. In the case of an unavoidable delay the General Assembly may be convened at a later date, but no later than 30 November 2018.***

### **12. Motion to adjourn and reconvene at 16:15 on Thursday 24 August 2017**

The General Assembly resolved in the affirmative:

***Resolution: The General Assembly resolved that this meeting adjourns to meet at 16.15 tomorrow (Thursday 24 August) for the Closing ceremony.***

## **1. Closing Session**

### **Address by President Donna Scheeder**

The President acknowledged all those she had worked with over the past two years. In issuing the call to action at the beginning of her term, she never imagined that we would travel so far together and so fast. She expressed her admiration for those transforming libraries around the world and raising the profile of libraries and librarians. At the national level, librarians are planning campaigns and meeting with policy makers to ensure libraries are recognized as key partners in social development. Her final call to action was to ask the audience to reach out to others to participate in the Global Vision discussion voting platform. The President thanked everyone for their dedication to taking action.

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

<https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/hq/general-assembly/address-by-the-president-2017.pdf>

### **Presentation of Awards**

Maria Carme Torras I Calvo, Chair of the Professional Committee, presented the Professional Committee awards for 2017.

#### **IFLA Professional Unit Communication Award 2017**

This was awarded to the Academic and Research Libraries Section and the Knowledge Management Section. The Academic and Research Libraries Section had shown improvement and growth in their communication activities with a focus on communication with industry partners and members from developing countries. The Knowledge Management Section were commended for their use of various tools and the efforts to communicate in all IFLA languages. The awards were received by Mimi Calter, Secretary of the Academic and Research Libraries Section, and Wilda Newman, Information Coordinator of the Knowledge Management Section.

#### **Best IFLA Poster 2017**

The quality of posters was high this year with designs and layouts that were clear and appealing. The winners of the Poster of the Year 2017 Award were Sabariah Sayuti, Mastura Hj Muhamad and Norjasmin Jumhar from Malaysia for *The Buggy Ride*.

#### **IFLA Scroll of Appreciation**

The President presented the IFLA Scroll of Appreciation to Mayor Rafał Dutkiewicz, Dr Tomasz Makowski and Elzbieta Stefańczyk, Chairs, in grateful recognition to the National Committee of the IFLA World Library and Information Congress, 83<sup>rd</sup> IFLA General Conference and Assembly, Wrocław, August 2017.

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

- Elena Escolano Rodríguez for her distinguished service to IFLA, particularly in the development, review and internationalisation of IFLA Standards for cataloguing and bibliographic control
- Terry Weech for his distinguished contribution to IFLA and the library profession, especially in the internationalisation of library and information science education
- Nancy Bolt for her outstanding service to IFLA and international librarianship, particularly in the development of government libraries and through her commitment to library services for people with special needs

#### **IFLA Medal**

There was one recipient of the IFLA Medal

- Martyn Wade for his distinguished service to IFLA and international librarianship, championing freedom of access to information and core professional values

### **Acknowledgement of Outgoing Members of the Governing Board**

The following Outgoing Members of the Governing Board were acknowledged.

Margaret Allen, Kirsten Boelt, Loida Garcia-Febo, Ngian Lek Choh, Christine Mackenzie, Andrew McDonald, Perry Moree, Ellen Ndeshi Namhila, Barbara Schleihagen, Christine Wellems, Frederick Zarndt, Maria-Carme Torras i Calvo.

### **Introduction of the Incoming Members of the Governing Board**

The members of the incoming Board to take office following the WLIC were introduced to the Meeting.

Cheng Huanwen, 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, Antonia Arahova, Sueli Mara Soares Pinto Ferreira, Michael Dowling, Raissa Teodori, Christine Mackenzie and Glòria Pérez-Salmerón.

### **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 2017 was presented to Vuyokazi Jamieson.

### **IFLA WLIC Passport Award**

This award encouraged active engagement with the Exhibition. The awards for 2017 were presented to Anita Rucioch-Gofek and Anoja Fernando.

### **Announcement of WLIC 2019 location**

The Chair of the Conference Advisory Committee announced that as there were several strong candidates, additional time would be provided to get the best outcome. An announcement is expected at the end of 2017.

### **Invitation to WLIC 2018 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**

The Secretary General invited Mr Datuk Rashidi bin Hasbullah, Deputy Secretary General of the Ministry of Tourism and Culture of Malaysia to address the meeting and invite delegates to meet next year in Kuala Lumpur.

### **Conference wrap-up by the WLIC 2017 National Committee**

The Chairs of the IFLA WLIC 2017 National Committee, Mayor Rafał Dutkiewicz, Dr Tomasz Makowski and Elzbieta Stefańczyk, gave the vote of thanks to all who had contributed so much in the organisation and presentation of this highly successful Congress. They recognised the National Committee members and enthusiastic volunteers and hoped participants would leave with an appreciation of Wrocław, an understanding of Poland and a commitment to freedom of information. A brief video provided highlights of the Congress.

The Secretary General noted that over 3000 delegates had attended and that this was the first conference where important sessions were livestreamed.

### **Address by the incoming President**

Incoming IFLA President 2017-2019 Glòria Pérez-Salmerón explained that she is a public librarian who began as a 14-year-old volunteer in her city library. She believes that universal access to information is a question of freedom for every human being and that libraries are the gates to gaining democracy through information for all. Librarians have a responsibility to safeguard and widen these gates for the benefit of our societies. Her focus will be changing the mind-sets of librarians to become highly effective in social involvement and as advocates for those things we value as a profession. Her theme of “Libraries are the motor for change!” relies on the profession working together. Libraries are the motors for change, and librarians are the gears that will drive this change, resulting in effective democratic access to information for all people in our societies.

The full text of the incoming President’s address is on the IFLA website:

<https://www.ifla.org/node/11791>

### **Close of the Assembly**

President Pérez-Salmerón invited all delegates to meet again in Kuala Lumpur in August 2018. She thanked all delegates and formally closed the 83<sup>rd</sup> IFLA World Library and Information Congress at 18:00.