



International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions

Minutes of Council Meeting

held in the COEX Conference Centre, Seoul, South Korea

24 August 2006

1. Opening

The President of IFLA, Alex Byrne, opened the Council meeting at 15:00, welcomed the approx. 330 delegates and thanked them all for their attendance at the congress. He welcomed the IFLA Parliamentarian, Jan-Ewout van der Putten, who had been appointed to advise the President and office bearers on correct parliamentary procedures, should this be necessary.

2. Appointment of Tellers

At the request of the President the Secretary General proposed the following persons to serve as tellers for the Council meeting:

Jan Bos (Netherlands)
Jo Anne Boorkman (USA)
Joan de Beer (South Africa)
Michael Dowling (USA)
Gunilla Jonsson (Sweden)
Tove Pemmer Saetre (Norway)

He proposed that Jan Bos be designated as head teller. The meeting **approved** the appointment of the tellers.

3. Establishment of a Quorum (5 minutes)

The President announced that at the beginning of the meeting there were 128 Association Members in good standing (had paid their fees for 2006 and were not in arrears). A quorum of 65 Association Members was therefore needed. The Tellers counted 67 such members. A **quorum** was therefore **established**.

4. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was **adopted** by the meeting, following a motion by Bernard Margolis, seconded by Judith Fields.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting, held in Oslo, 14th and 18th August 2005

Bernard Margolis, seconded by Judith Fields, moved the adoption of the minutes. The minutes were **adopted**.

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

The President read the names of a number of colleagues who had passed away since the Oslo Conference, and of whose death IFLA had been informed:

- Anne Clyde (Australia)
- Cynthia Durance (Canada)
- Marco Marandola (Italy)
- Henriette Avram (United States)
- Milisa Coops (Netherlands)

He also recalled other colleagues who had died during the past year. Members stood for a moment of silence.

7. Presentation of the report by the President

The President stated at the beginning of his report that IFLA is in good shape. With 1700 members in 150 nations, indirectly representing many hundreds of thousands of information professionals, and the interests of several billion users of our services, we are a large and influential professional association.

This influence has been seen in our sustained, large scale intervention in the World Summit on the Information Society which concluded with the Summit meeting in Tunis last November. That campaign, which extended from the beginning of 2002 to the end of 2005, achieved very significant recognition by the governments of the world of the important role played by libraries and information services in the global information society. The importance of our role and the positive contribution that we made to the Summit were recognised when the President was invited, on behalf of all IFLA members and those we represent, to give a plenary address at the Tunis Summit. That invitation represented very significant recognition because few outside governments and intergovernmental organisations were allowed to address the plenary sessions.

The President had concluded his intervention in Tunis by urging national, regional and local governments as well as international organisations to

- *invest in library and information services as vital elements of Information Society strategies, policies and budget;*
- *promote open access to information, recognise the importance of information literacy and vigorously support strategies to create a literate and skilled populace which can advance and benefit from the global Information Society.*

He continued by thanking in particular our colleagues in the host nations of the Summit, Switzerland and Tunisia, as well as the Bibliotheca Alexandria in Egypt for hosting our pre-Summit meeting last November in which we demonstrated that libraries are “the information society in action”. Those important contributions were matched by the efforts of many and the financial support of some including, especially, OCLC.

The formal Summit process has now finished but the work continues. We – each of us individually in our practice and through each of our associations – must continue to advocate the role of libraries and information services in the information society. We must use the declaration of the Summit and our own statements and declarations, including the *Alexandria Manifesto on libraries, the Information Society in Action*, to influence the governments of our nations and regional groupings to invest in libraries and information services.

The President continued by stating that *Partnership*, his presidential theme, is fundamental to all we do. We could not have achieved so much in the World Summit process or in so many other areas of activity without strong partners. Among the most important to IFLA is UNESCO, as well as the Royal Library of the Netherlands which has generously hosted our headquarters for many years.

We also value our partnerships with many other organisations including several national libraries and other organisations which support our core activities financially and by providing resources including staff and accommodation. These partnerships enable us to pursue the agendas of our profession and society pillars. They enable us to advance our profession through improvement of techniques, standards and other key elements of our professional work. In doing so, they enable us to take up the big challenges for the betterment of society.

The President commended the IFLA staff and Secretary General for achieving so much with limited resources, by expressing his gratefulness for their dedication, forbearance and willingness to work together to help us achieve our important goals. This is in particular true for Peter Lor for his leadership which has enabled us to do so much over the past year, and to lay the foundations for even more over the coming period.

In addition he commended his colleagues on the Governing Board. They, together with some former members and other colleagues, have given much time and intellectual application to the work of IFLA. Together they are achieving much, including a process to review the operation of the new Statutes five years after they came into force, the review of the Sections, the repositioning of our publications, the development of a strategic plan and strategies to enhance our finances.

IFLA aspires to do more than our resources can support. If we are to achieve all that we believe to be necessary – that is, all that our members are telling us is important – then we must build our capacity by attracting more members, more corporate supporters and more financial and other resources. The President called upon each Council member to leave this meeting determined to persuade at least one other institution or association to join IFLA, to tell them how important IFLA is, how much good work it does, and how they would enjoy participation.

Also we should attract other partners including corporate partners. The President encouraged members to work with the corporate partners and to make their own partnerships with them; members should urge other supplier organisations to become IFLA corporate partners.

We also have close partnerships with cognate organisations including our sister organisations in the International Committee of the Blue Shield – with which we have recently issued a statement of concern regarding the tragic conflict in Lebanon, Israel and Palestine – and with those who assist the vital and demanding work of CLM and FAIFE. Those partnerships and many others are crucial to the achievement of our aspirations. They need to be fostered by each of us at national and organisational levels.

8. Presentation of the Annual Report by the Secretary General

Peter Lor reported briefly on IFLA's operations over the year since the 2005 Congress in Oslo. We have had a better year than the previous one, both financially and operationally. IFLA has consolidated its operations and is organising itself for working more effectively in its three pillars, delivering services to members, supporting a wide range of professional projects and activities, and promoting the contribution of libraries and information to making a better, more humane world.

The Secretary General divided his report into two parts. Under the heading *Organising ourselves for action* he first described the business process review at IFLA Headquarters (HQ). This study – based on interviews, study groups and workshops – had as major recommendations a pragmatic scenario for implementing a more powerful advocacy role, including a budgetary provision for a study of IFLA's ICT needs, and the appointment of two staff members for a new advocacy component based at IFLA/HQ.

Prompted by the findings of the business process review, an IT scoping study was carried out. It examined IFLA's needs in respect of two related aspects: the modernisation of IFLANET and the use of IT in streamlining key business processes.

A further outcome of the business process review is a stronger focus on IFLA's advocacy work, which is to concentrate on three main – interrelated – themes: freedom, equity and inclusion. IFLA's advocacy staff should mobilise expertise by networking, alerting, coordinating and providing professional backup. It is hoped to move towards the establishment of the advocacy unit in early 2007, but a number of obstacles remain to be overcome.

In June 2006 a post-WSIS advocacy workshop took place in Geneva to prioritise and strategise the work following the Geneva Plan of Action (2003) from IFLA's perspective. The following were listed as our most important action lines:

- C1 The role of public governance authorities and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development;
- C3 Access to information and knowledge;
- C4 Capacity building;
- C7 ICT applications (incl. E-learning, E-health and E-government);
- C8 Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content.

Coordinators are being appointed for each of these action lines and a WSIS Working Group is being set up, to serve as a sounding board and a network of expertise to support the advocacy unit at IFLA/HQ, once it is established.

Under the heading *IFLA on the move* the Secretary General presented the second part of his report, outlining some of the steps IFLA is taking to reach out more effectively to members, the profession and society worldwide.

Once it has been redeveloped, using a content management system, IFLANET will serve as a much more effective (two-way) communication medium for IFLA's membership, the wider profession and society.

At its meeting in December 2005 the Governing Board decided to add Chinese and Arabic to the five working languages already used at our congresses. Given the high costs of simultaneous interpretation it may not be possible to use all seven languages

at every congress, but appropriate subsets may be selected each year.

IFLA's Regional Office for Asia and Oceania – which had long been based in Bangkok – was successfully transferred to the National Library of Singapore; it was inaugurated in April 2006. The insights gained from the very successful bidding process led the Governing Board to rethink our approach to the regional offices and currently the establishment of regional offices for significant linguistic communities is under consideration.

For the selection of the venue for the IFLA World Library and Information Congress 2009, a new procedure was followed. The Governing Board selected a region and IFLA's Professional Conference Organiser identified potential host cities in all countries in that region (Southern Europe). This new method provides us with two great benefits. It offers us a means of systematically rotating the congress to different parts of the world. Moreover it puts far less of a strain on the library association of the country concerned, so that it opens the way for holding our congresses in countries where the library profession is not yet so well organised.

After having listed a few examples of *IFLA in action*, projects that were recently finalised, the Secretary General concluded by stating that the process of putting systems and procedures in place which allow IFLA to work more efficiently and effectively, will continue in the year to come. We will also start plucking the fruits of our investment of time and energy. IFLA is in good shape and ready for the future.

9. Presentation of the Annual Account by the Treasurer

Due to personal circumstances, the Treasurer, Gunnar Sahlin, had to return to Sweden, earlier in the week. Consequently Secretary General Peter Lor presented a report on his behalf.

The difference between the incomes from 2004 and 2005 is a gain of 330,000 euros. The most significant increases were: membership fees, contributions to Core Activities and IFLA's share of conference registrations.

Expenditures during 2005, in particular the costs of our publications, were less than in the year before.

An increase in income for both Headquarters and the Core Activities could be noted, but the situation was different for expenditures. The expenditure of the Core Activities increased along with the increased income, whereas at Headquarters the expenditure decreased. The main reason for this is that in 2004 IFLA twice incurred costs in replacing its Secretary General.

IFLA was able to eliminate the whole deficit that we had in 2004 and turned it into a surplus of nearly 117,000 euros; this is an improvement of more than 350,000 euros. The surplus from 2005 was added to the General Reserve.

IFLA's Auditor issued an "unqualified opinion". This was the first time that IFLA's Annual Accounts were without remarks.

The President asked if members would like to pose questions or comment on the Treasurer's report.

Frank Kirkwood wanted to know how IFLA's regional offices are financed. Peter Lor replied, that IFLA provides modest financial contributions to the existing offices, but hopes to receive strong financial support from organisations hosting any new offices.

Stanley Kalkus wished to receive a copy of the auditor's report. It will be sent to him.

Council **approved** the Annual Accounts for 2005 and the Treasurer's report, following a motion of Bernard Margolis, seconded by Judith Fields.

10. Report by the Secretary General on the postal ballot on Statutes changes and ratification of Statutes changes

A postal ballot had been held among all voting members of IFLA. The Secretary General reported that the total number of ballot papers sent out was 1265. The number received back is 299, which means a return rate of 24%. Perry Moree and Jan Bos of the Royal Library had acted as scrutineers and had declared that the postal ballot was held in a correct way and that the figures presented are correct.

The Secretary General read out the results:

Proposal A: Voting rights for Other Association Members

The Governing Board proposed to add the following article to the Statutes:

Other Association Members

16.6 Each Other Association member shall be assigned at least one vote in accordance with a formula determined from time to time by the Governing Board. The formula and the number of such votes shall be set out in the Rules of Procedure.

98% voted YES

Proposal B: Establishment of quorum at meetings of Council

The Governing Board proposed to revise article 15 to stipulate that a quorum will be determined by the presence specifically of National Association Members and International Association members. The revised article would read as follows:

15.8.2 A simple majority of the National and International Association Members in good standing shall be present or be represented at Council to constitute a quorum, except where otherwise provided in these Statutes.

95% voted YES

Proposal C: Reduction of time required for distribution of the convening notice for Council meetings

The Governing Board proposed to reduce the time required for distributing the agenda to 3 months before the meeting, and further proposed that agenda items proposed by members should be submitted 4 months prior to the meeting.

The revised articles would read as follows:

14.5 Convening notices, together with the agenda, shall be sent by the secretariat at least 3 months prior to the date of the meeting to all Members in good standing. The convening notice shall also be sent at least 3 months prior to the meeting to all Affiliates, bodies with Consultative Status, invited observers and members of the Governing Board and officers of all units of the Federation.

14.6 Items which members wish to propose for inclusion in the agenda must reach the secretariat 4 months before the date of the meeting.

98% voted YES

Bernard Margolis, seconded by Judy Fields, moved to ratify the results of this postal ballot. The three proposals were **approved** unanimously.

11. Proposal - inflation increase on membership fees

The Secretary General introduced a proposal to give powers to the Governing Board to increase membership fees. The Board would prefer to have increases in membership fees keep pace with the rate of inflation and remove the existing provision that the increase is “no greater than one percent less” than the inflation rate.

The Governing Board therefore proposed:

“It is proposed that Council give the power to the Governing Board to increase the IFLA 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.

Council will continue to approve the IFLA membership rates for all categories at intervals of no more than three years.”

Following a motion by Bernard Margolis, seconded by Winston Tabb, Council **approved** this proposal unanimously.

12. Motions and Resolutions

The President reported that two identical Resolutions on Imprisoned Cuban Librarians had been received from the Library Association of Latvia and from the Lithuanian Librarians' Association.

The Lithuanian resolution was withdrawn prior to this Council meeting, leaving the Latvian resolution without a seconder. According to the Statutes (14.6) and the Rules of Procedure (3.12) the Latvian Resolution was invalid and could not be maintained on the agenda.

A further resolution had been proposed by Paul Sturges, seconded by Ellen Tise. However this resolution was deemed not urgent and not exceptional because it is a confirmation of earlier statements on the matter of National Security Legislation (Council, Berlin 2003).

The President allowed Paul Sturges, Chair of the FAIFE Committee, to provide Council with a brief update report at the next agenda item.

13. Progress Report on the Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (FAIFE) Committee by the Chair, Paul Sturges

Professor Sturges reminded Council that at its meeting in Berlin in August 2003, it had approved a resolution deploring the national security legislation in various countries; national library associations were encouraged to inform their governments.

In 2005 FAIFE devoted a satellite meeting to the issue, collecting and disseminating materials. 2006 saw increased terrorist activities. FAIFE urges IFLA and its members to ensure that legislative agents should not be allowed to deny or damage the fundamental rights of freedom of opinion and expression. Particular circumstances may call for protest against surveillance of library users. Sturges called for vigilance and action.

14. Statement by President-elect Claudia Lux

Claudia Lux reported briefly on her President-elect Programme. Its theme is *Libraries on the Agenda!*. A brainstorming session during this conference attracted 80 delegates. Also during that session information was exchanged about IFLA's work related to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), including the further development of the *Success Stories database* which provides us with good arguments for a *Libraries on the Agenda!* programme.

She mentioned six items out of many from the brainstorming meeting, indicating methods that can be used for better advocacy:

1. having strong and united library associations which are actively supported by their members;
2. getting other people or institutions to speak for us;
3. providing politicians with ideas for policy making, meaning active agenda setting;
4. showing results, not only values;
5. using statistics, storytelling, case studies;
6. getting librarians in governmental positions.

15. Closure

The President closed the meeting at 16:50.

September 2006