



The endorsed Minutes of the sixty-eighth meeting of the Governing Board held on Thursday 23 July 2020 from 14:00 – 16:00 CET by teleconference.

Present:

Members: Christine Mackenzie (President, Chair) Antonia Arahova (Treasurer); Sanjay Kumar Bihani; Huanwen Cheng; Michael Dowling; Marwa El Sahn; Jonathan Hernández Pérez; Catherina Isberg; Barbara Lison; Halo Locher; Vicki McDonald; Sonia Poulin; Knud Schulz; Ai Cheng Tay; Helen Vincent; Minna von Zansen;

Staff: Gerald Leitner, IFLA Secretary General (Secretary, non-member); Helen Mandl, Deputy Secretary General, Stephen Wyber, Manager Policy and Advocacy (minutes).

Observers: Martyn Wade, Megan McNally (Luma Consulting).

Welcome and apologies

The IFLA President welcomed all to the meeting.

The President explained that with those present, a quorum was in attendance and the meeting could go ahead.

The President expressed her best wishes and the Governing Board's congratulations to Adjoa Boateng on the recent birth of her daughter.

Apologies: Sonia Poulin and Adjoa Boateng.

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda for this meeting focused on the results of the survey on the Governance proposal and the next phase of consultation for the Governance Review.

Resolution: The Governing Board adopted the agenda.

2. Introduction

The President spoke to the survey results and noted that the Steering Committee were delighted with the 764 responses. The results validate the direction taken by the Governing Board and reminded everyone that the aim of the process was to find the best structure to allow IFLA to achieve its vision.

3. Review and discussion of Survey results

Megan McNally from Luma Consulting reviewed the results and report in detail for the Governing Board. She noted that 29% response rate was good for this type of survey and that the comments contained in additional letters had been integrated into relevant areas of the survey.

The input received is directional and not a vote and therefore should be used to inform the next steps in the process.

Overall, there was strong agreement with the direction and suggestions of the proposal – in general 80% agreed or strongly agreed. Strongest agreement came from Association Members - 82%, IFLA participants who have never held a formal volunteer role - 83%, Respondents from the MENA region - 85%. Overall, respondents agreed most strongly (86%) that the proposals in Part 4 move IFLA generally in the direction of more varied opportunities to participate especially for young leaders. The question on limiting terms on committees had the least agreement at 71%.

No part of the proposal received an overall rating indicating widespread disagreement, though in comments there were several areas of concern, recurring questions, and many suggestions for improvement stated.

In general, there were many calls for more detail and some concerns with the survey itself. At this stage, these results indicate the proposals are generally headed in the right direction, with opportunities to clarify and improve to address concerns and new ideas.

The survey respondents came from all IFLA regions.

Though there is general agreement to the proposals, concerns in comments centered around several themes:

- Governing Board – Representative nature of board; concerns around co-option;
- Regional Representation – What would this actually look like; fair / equitable representation within regions; relationship to professional divisions;
- Committee Participation – Concerns about limiting participation;
- Practices – Though not specific to governance, several themes occur throughout the responses that have also appeared in past surveys: communication, website, multi-lingualism.

The results document provided a summary of the range of questions, suggestions and ideas, and concerns and critiques for each area. Clearly many respondents would like to see additional detail to understand the concepts in the proposal more clearly. It should be seen as very positive that so many provided additional comments and ideas, demonstrating that there is a real interest in engaging with the process.

Resolution: The Governing Board noted the Survey report.

2.1 Notes of the Steering Committee

The Steering Committee met on 20 July with Megan McNally and reviewed the survey results.

It was very pleasing for the Steering Committee to note that there was strong general agreement with the direction of the IFLA Governance Proposal from the survey respondents. The Steering Committee acknowledged several aspects of the proposal that require further consideration and development. These are outlined below, together with the Steering Committee's recommendations to the Governing Board.

The Governing Board discussed the Survey results and the Notes of the Steering Committee. The composition of the Governing Board was debated. Some raised the question of whether there should be greater representation by region. Others noted that members of the Governing Board were elected to work on common goals and not their constituencies. It was felt that the proposed future role of the Governing Board needed to be explained in more detail.

In terms of sharing the Survey results with members and volunteers, the Secretary General advised the Governing Board to publish the survey report in full. This would demonstrate

IFLA's position on being transparent about the process and show that their voices are being heard.

Resolution: The Governing Board noted the report of the Steering Committee.

4. Recommendations about next steps

4.1 Governing Board proposal

The Governing Board voted on which model to take forward for further discussion, voting first on whether to retain the focus on a smaller board and then on whether to remain at 9 members without co-opted members, or to move to 11.

Resolution: The Governing Board will advance the model of a smaller board.

Resolution: The Governing Board will advance the model of a smaller board with 11 members and replace the two co-opted seats with two elected seats.

4.2 Regional Representation proposal

The Governing Board decided:

- Focus the regional round tables on discussions on co-developing the details of participation for their own regions.
- Acknowledge that these are important issues to address in the next phase of IFLA's development roadmap when we undertake a careful examination of membership.
- That more context is provided for the recommendation and clarify how the council/division model gives more voice in governance to developing regions.
- That the PC Chair work with Division chairs to solicit ideas for increasing regional representation in committee leadership.

4.3. Committee participation proposal

It was reiterated that the issue of terms and time on IFLA's committees received the least agreement and should be clarified in the next phase.

Resolution: The Governing Board adopted the following recommendation:

1. That the Governing Board invite alternate solutions and at Professional Unit Round Tables workshop the question: *How should IFLA balance the need for continuity on standing committees by active contributors, with the interest in making space for new contributors, especially young leaders?*

4.4 MLAS request

The Steering Committee discussed the request from members of MLAS to elevated MLAS to a council. The Steering Committee agreed to recommend that the Governing Board to vote on whether to stay with the proposed two council model (Professional and Regional Council) or to move MLAS to a council model.

Resolution: The Governing resolved to stay with the proposed two council model.

5. Overview of Next Phase of Consultation

Resolutions: The Governing Board adopted the following recommendations.

1. That the Governing Board agrees to the overall proposals for planning the round tables, including the draft timeline

2. That Governing Board members volunteer for the two planning teams preparing workshops for the professional structure and regions
3. That Governing Board members agree to volunteer to participate in the round tables as moderators

6. Any Other Business

There was no other business. The meeting concluded at 16:30.