



The endorsed Minutes of the sixty-seventh meeting of the Governing Board held on Wednesday 3 June 2020 from 14:00 – 16:00 CET by teleconference.

Present:

Members: Christine Mackenzie (President, Chair) Antonia Arahova (Treasurer); Sanjay Kumar Bihani; Adjoa Boateng; 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)

Welcome and apologies

The IFLA President welcomed all to the meeting. She noted the sad news of the passing of the husband of former Governing Board member, Inga Lunden.

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

1. General business

1.1 Adoption of agenda

The agenda for this meeting focused on the Governance proposal and consultation plan.

Resolution: The Governing Board adopted the agenda.

2. IFLA Governance Review

2.1 Report about Governance Review activities since last meeting

The Steering Committee met following the workshop and received input from Governing Board members particularly concerning the Regional Council proposal. The President and Secretary General held a teleconference with members of the Governing Board from the Regions and Adjoa Boateng to further discuss the issues and listen to concerns. A number of points were raised regarding membership, roles and representation with the group coming to some points of consensus that could provide further detail to the proposal. A summary is contained in the paper.

Resolution: The Governing Board noted the report.

2.2 IFLA Governance Draft Proposal

2.2.1 Report

The President noted that following the last workshop, the Steering Committee had met to discuss issues that had arisen and were yet unanswered. The paper provides an overview of discussion and comments from the Steering Committee. A major outcome is the proposal to develop three different documents – the IFLA Statutes, the Rules of Procedure and a

Guidebook to be approved by the Governing Board. The Guidebook could include more detail than is necessary in the Rules of Procedure and could be easily amended as needed by the Governing Board.

Resolution: The Governing Board noted the report.

2.2.2 Approval of IFLA Governance Draft Proposal for Consultation with Members and PUs

In order to go ahead with the draft proposal outlined in the paper, a series of decisions was required.

1. The Governing Board voted on options for the number of regions. Options included between 6-8 regions or another scheme altogether. In the final vote, the option of six regions (Africa, Asia Oceania, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, MENA, and North America) was adopted and will be included in the proposal document.

It was noted that larger Regional Divisions could require greater membership and that Regional Divisions could, like Sections, be reviewed on a regular basis e.g. every 5-6 years.

There was general support for the Regional Council model as it normalised that every member of IFLA was in a region.

Resolution: IFLA would like to ensure greater country representation within the Regional Divisions and will invite the Sections in the current Division V for ideas on how this could be achieved in the new model.

2. It has been difficult to reach consensus on whether there should be a cap on the terms of people on Standing Committees. On the one hand some people move from Section to Section following their two terms and do not leave room for newer professionals to join; on the other hand, IFLA is able to keep expertise and skills available.

Resolution: Information will be prepared outlining the context, background, concerns, pros and cons. The Professional Units will be asked to provide feedback before a final decision is made.

3. The Governance Draft Proposal was discussed. The President noted that the Governing Board was at the stage in a community consultation of seeking input and understanding local needs. For that reason, the Governance Draft Proposal had been designed as a high level document, answering questions that had arisen in previous consultation rounds and outlining the principles that were guiding its development.

There was overall support for the question and answer format of the first part of the paper as it showed why and how IFLA was approaching the changes. Some concerns with the draft structure section of the paper included:

- Reworking the explanation of the Governing Board to describe it as the decision-making body for the Federation and outlining its leadership role;
- Clarifying the language around professional units, sections and SIGs;
- Noting that this provides for a more flexible structure for the Federation into the future;

- Explaining the additional opportunities for engagement through working groups and networks;
- Noting what is not being covered within the scope of the Governance Review.

It was suggested that the paper be given to a trusted outsider who has not been involved with the work to obtain feedback.

The Steering Committee will revisit these comments and finalise the proposal paper.

Resolution: The Governing Board approved the IFLA Governance Draft Proposal for consultation with IFLA Members and Professional Units.

2.3 IFLA Governance Consultation Plan

2.3.1 Report

The Secretary General spoke to the plan and noted that it was not possible to go out with one document and only one consultation phase. Therefore, there is a plan for consultation with feedback loops built in to provide additional information before a final document is prepared for the General Assembly. It is planned to use a variety of formats for discussion and feedback from videos, surveys, and online meetings. The plan allows many opportunities for questions and responses.

Following this meeting some dates will need to be amended and it was suggested to add who would need to be involved at different times so that Governing Board members could be available. It would also be useful to explore how to schedule discussions using time zones with members and Professional Units.

Resolution: The Governing Board approved the Consultation Plan