



# IFLA Section Library and Research Services for Parliaments

IFLAPARL SC meeting, October 2020

Held by videoconference

- Oct 5<sup>th</sup>, 08h30 EDT
  - o Present: I. Watt; E. Valentine; S. Bebbington; C. Wellem; I. Keleman; K. Finer; K. Zaal; M. Mazanec; J. Anderson; C. Hiyama; C. Mfula; P. Mandillo
- Oct 6<sup>th</sup>, 17h30 EDT
  - o Present: I. Watt; E. Valentine; S. Bebbington; J. Silveira; C. Bessa

Proposed agenda

(all referenced documents are available on Basecamp)

- Welcome
- Announcement re IFLA-WLIC 2021-23
- Action Plan (see related document re. New ways for IFLAPARL to work 2020-22)
- Annual Report (see AR draft)
- COVID survey report (see related document)
- Virtual event proposal (see related document)
- Roundtable and other IFLAPARL activities

1) Welcome (Chair)

The Chair called the meeting to order and welcomed the SC members, thanking them for their attendance on short notice

The Chair acknowledged that the agenda has interrelated items and that the discussion may jump around somewhat; minutes reflect this

2) Announcement re IFLA-WLIC 2021-23 / New ways for IFLAPARL to work 2020-22

This item will flow into the following item and related document, as the announcement regarding the cancellation of an in-person event in Rotterdam in 2021 necessitates a change in our workplan, which has the management of the pre-conference as a major item

The Action Plan, originally due early October, is now due early November.

SC members thought our themes were still valid but needed more info on how the open session would be planned, as well as whether or not we would use the same approach for a pre-conference

The SC members thought that as long as WLIC was not an in-person event, it would be impossible to justify planning an in-person pre-conference, and therefore we should limit our discussions to virtual events (VEs)

SC members were open to the idea of virtual events as well as having more frequent and less formal events through the year rather than a multi-day VE which would be difficult to manage with time zones, and difficult to ask the audience to sit before a computer for several days at a stretch

The proposal for a VE this calendar year has been tabled with the SC and will be discussed later in the meeting

There was also interest and support for hosting virtual coffee breaks for informal discussions and networking, which is much of the value of the in-person event. These may be managed regionally to accommodate time zones. These may be on themes as well – members could participate by interest and availability

Other topics for VEs (beyond the proposal to be discussed) include the update to the Library Guidelines, an update to the COVID Survey (e.g. re-launching the survey at one year in)

The COVID survey report was discussed very briefly here and would form part of the proposed VE to be discussed later in the meeting

SC members missed the opportunity to visit other services and have an in-depth look at how they work – could this be part of our informal VE offering?

There are challenges arranging a multi-day conference in a way that allows all members to participate, but if we did a larger event, it should be over 2 or 3 days, session of only 2-3 hours max and bookended with informal networking session; however the feeling that smaller more frequent and varied events was better received

Also discussed: the importance of holding an open meeting of the SC as we do at the conference with attendance by any section member or other interested party; once planned, a Notice of Meeting would be shared not only on Basecamp but also the Listserv

### 3) Action Plan and New ways for IFLAPARL to work

Discussed the Guidelines - the draft has been submitted to IFLA; no further communication from IPU; discussion of the idea to put the Guidelines into a more self/community-published format such as a wiki

Iain has created a proof of concept and it is relatively flexible; IFLA has not expressed interest in hosting this format on its new website project funds will be sought to pay for the wiki license and site

Discussion about translation – IFLA published in English and requests volunteers from the relevant SC to provide translations; this was how the translation into French and Spanish occurred with the Ethics Checklists

Iain spoke about work with parliamentary strengthening organizations and that they occasionally request assistance from IFLAPARL; was there interest among SC members to be considered as volunteers and if so to contact Iain

IFLAPARL membership status – some gains and some losses in membership overall: not certain if these members are shifting into other Sections of IFLA or if they are leaving IFLA completely

Agreed that in planning all events, section members would have priority for registration

### 4) Annual Report

The SC members were invited to make comments on the draft, which will be submitted on Oct 10<sup>th</sup>

### 5) Virtual Event proposal

The SC discussed the VE proposal that was shared on Basecamp

SC members liked the idea and the focus for a first attempt at delivering a VE

It was agreed that 5 minutes is not enough time and therefore presenters would have a limit of eight minutes, understanding that many would use 10

5 slides - still an acceptable limit

It was agreed that this first event would be managed by invitation rather than open call: all services that responded to the COVID survey (which was itself an open call) would be approached

Based on time zones, this may be multiple events over two days, with the events limited at 2.5 – 3 hours max

Where the VE proposal document indicates jurisdiction, it was clarified to refer to service with only one presentation by service (and all depending on whether or not the service responded to the survey)

SC members discussed the Zoom platform provided by IFLA including the webinar mode, which allows for better management of VEs, including the ability to limit screen sharing and microphones, options for interpretation (though we would have to request volunteers for interpretation), breakout rooms and more

SC members volunteered to form part of a VE team and a meeting would be arranged as a follow up, to discuss communications, planning, roles and responsibilities, etc.

6) Roundtable

SC members shared informally their current work situations and challenges

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- Comments on the AR by Oct 10th (all)
- Convene a meeting of the VE team (SB)