IFLA Section
Library and Research Services for Parliaments

IFLAPARL – Standing Committee Open Meeting, June 2021
Held virtually:

- 25 June, 2021 at 08h00 (Montreal)
    - I. Watt; E. Valentine; S. Bebbington; K. Zaal; K. Finer; C. Wellems; J. Anderson; C. Hiyama; Augustin Lopez; Holger Scheerer; Sangduen Pongput; Aida Sepulveda; Laura Mendez; Graciela Davicce; Usuario Portatil; Marcela Ellero
    - Regrets: F. Elena Rosales Salinas; J. Silveira; P. Mandillo; V. Kulczewski; Shu Guang Zhang; Chama Mpundy Mfula; I. Kelemen

Agenda:

1. Attendance (Secretary)
2. Welcome (Chair)
3. Elections
    - Results for the Standing Committee
    - IFLAPARL Officers
4. IFLA-WLIC 2021
    - General conference information
    - Update on the IFLAPARL session
5. IFLAPARL-IPU Event update
6. Survey update
7. Other business
    - Newsletter reminder
    - Website and Social media
    - Roundtable

1) Attendance
Attendance was recorded through the meeting platform.

2) Welcome
The Chair welcomed SC members and all attendees to the meeting and made special mention of excellent virtual meetings and conferences held since our last SC meeting, including by the network of Latin American and Caribbean Libraries and APLAP.

3) Elections
The Chair updated the committee on the election results for the IFLAPARL Standing Committee which had been confirmed earlier in the morning by IFLA.

Members newly elected or re-elected:

- Holger Scheerer; Karin Zaal; Sonia Bebbington; Augustin Antonio Lopez; Mary Mazanec; Janice Silveira; Julie Anderson; Fabiola Elena Rosales Salinas; Josefa Fuentes; Youlim Lee; Shuguang Zhang

Members continuing:

- Iain Watt; Ida Kelemen; Jonathan Curtis; Fatimadou Epse Bello Mohamadou; Karin Finer; Chifuyu Hiyama; Paola Mandillo; Chama Mpundy Mfula; Ellie Valentine

The Chair stressed the requirement that SC members attend meetings and participate actively in SC activities, and referred to the IFLA rule which states that members who miss two meetings of the SC without valid reason are considered to have resigned. There are some current members in this situation and the Chair will consider action to follow-up. This report was received without comment by the Committee. The Chair also confirmed the resignation from the SC of José Maria Hernandez Vallejo and thanked him for his contributions.

The Chair confirmed that the election of three officer roles is still to come, and that this year the election of officers is managed by IFLA, using e-voting (as with the SC election process).

Any continuing SC member or newly elected member may self-nominate for one of the officer positions until July 12th (https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6382396/SC-2021-Officer-Nominations) and if an election is required it will take place between the 13th and 26th of July. Candidates will be informed of the election results by 28 July and run-off elections will be held if required so that confirmed officers can take their roles as of the second SC meeting in August.

The first meeting of the SC, to include all members and to be managed by the current officers, will be held between the 2nd and 13th of August. The second meeting of the SC will take place after the 13th of August, will be managed by new officers, and will include all new and continuing members. At this meeting, the Action Plan draft will be presented and discussed so that it can be submitted by October 1st.

The Chair also announced that he will not seek nomination as Chair for the new term, and he will step down from the SC by October.

4) IFLA-WLIC 2021

The Secretary updated the committee that IFLA-WLIC is a fully online conference this year, taking place between 17 – 19 August. The WLIC 2021 requires fee-based registration: https://www.ifla-wlic2021.com/pages/registration-information . Early Bird registration is open until July 9 and standard fee applies until August 16.

Time slots for sessions are limited to 45 or 60 minutes, and the IFLAPARL session is confirmed to be 45 minutes panel presentation with contributions coming from our open call last year. The three jurisdictions presenting are Israel, Chile and Kenya, and the session will be managed as a discussion.

The conference is pre-recorded this year, and pre-recordings are managed by a third party, Delegate Connect. The Secretary is expecting more information from Delegate Connect in the coming days.

Specifics on the time and date of our session will be shared with the SC once they are confirmed.

5) IFLAPARL-IPU Event Update
The Chair confirmed that the IPU has agreed to collaborate on a virtual event, with dates to be confirmed but tentatively planned as Sept 29 – October 1, with an estimated 4 hours of programming on each of these three days. IPU had previously recommended the timeslot of 12 – 4 pm Geneva time, but this detail as well as the dates must still be confirmed. A formal agreement with IPU (similar to that used by IFLAPARL when arranging pre-conferences) will need to be developed.

A survey was shared with IFLAPARL members to gauge appropriate timing and topics of interest. The Chair thanks all who responded to the survey.

There is a sub-group of the SC working on programme development following the survey. Tentatively:

- Day 1 would start with an introduction by the IPU, a follow-up to the COVID Survey (which is still open and all interested parties are invited to complete it), and a session which proved to be of great interest in the survey, parliamentary strengthening, with a focus on the role of Library and Research services in ensuring strong practice.
- Day 2 will focus on services, with a session on data – its role in collections, products and services, a session on accessibility, diversity and inclusion initiatives, and a session on service strategies in the 2020s.
- Day 3 will focus on workshops relating to the Guidelines, and these workshops will be promoted on the previous days.

K. Zaal asked about the possibility of pre-recording content. E. Valentine mentioned that pre-recording had been done for some content during the December IFLAPARL event but that live tends to be more interesting in terms of dynamic exchange between presenters and attendees. The recent IPU e-parliament conference had the option of pre-recording content though this was not used for the session managed by IFLAPARL. The sub-group could keep the option of pre-recording in mind for those who have scheduling conflicts.

6) Survey update
The Chair reminded attendees that the IFLAPARL follow-up survey on services during the pandemic is still open with an extended deadline of mid-July. Attendees were requested to respond to the survey if not already done. Note that the survey is to be completed by a head of service or their delegate in order to be able to speak from a 'whole of service' perspective.

7) Other business
Newsletter:

- The Secretary reminded attendees that there is a Newsletter in development and last-minute items received today could still be included.

Website and social media:

- The Information Coordinator updated the group on the ongoing beta-testing of the new IFLA website and the clean-up required. Volunteers to assist with this activity would be most welcome – please reach out to Ellie directly or through Basecamp.

- The information Coordinator also updated on IFLAPARL's current use of social media which is not very active. Volunteers are sought from among the SC to assist with social media.
- A longer-term social media strategy, called for in past and present Action Plans, would also be helpful in order to guide activity going forward.
- Karin Finer indicated that Steve Wise had initiated some website cleanup in 2018 and she would transfer any related documentation to Ellie and would also send the communications plan for social media outreach that had been discussed at that time.
- The Action Plan will need to be updated for submission to IFLA in October and this could include scope and responsibility for the work related to website and social media.

Roundtable of SC members was managed by exception.

- Julie Anderson updated the committee on the WDLRSP:
    - Julie has analysed the questions asked of jurisdictions and has removed some and re-ordered them for simplicity. She has been in touch with the hosts of the directory in Chile and they are currently unable to assist due to their legislative schedule but will be in touch when they have the capacity. The question of requiring an MOU was raised and will be examined after discussions with the hosts of the directory have resumed.

No further items for the roundtable.

The next meeting of the SC will be scheduled between the 2nd and 13th of August.

The meeting was adjourned at 08h50 Montreal time.