

# Governing Board Elections 2009-2011

## Statement of Candidacy

For the position of Governing Board Member  
2009-2011

**Barbara Schleihagen**  
(Germany)



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My vision: Libraries and information services are indispensable in the information society. IFLA is the international voice for the library profession. Democracy, freedom of access to information and cultural diversity are central to IFLA's mission. IFLA is an effective and financially solid association based on the contributions from active members from all over the world.

My involvement with IFLA started in 1997 with a presentation of my lobbying experiences for libraries in the European context. In the same year, FAIFE was set up. I was honoured to become a FAIFE Committee member, a member of the FAIFE Advisory Board and then a member of the IFLA Governing Board. Since many years, I have been focusing on both, advocating strongly for libraries and speaking out for what libraries believe in: free access to information and freedom of expression. Serving as Secretary General of the IFLA 2003 Berlin conference gave me excellent insights into the way IFLA is working. During most of my professional life, I have been involved with international projects and with library associations. I strongly believe in professional advancement through personal contacts and international networks. For this, IFLA provides the ideal platform.

My particular objectives would be:

- Assist in international lobbying efforts to influence international library issues, protect the interest of libraries and increase visibility for libraries and the information profession.
- Support the work to strengthen library associations, especially in developing countries.
- Promote IFLA, its work and its publications and make it more accessible and open especially to new professionals.
- Ensure that IFLA's financial basis is sound and its infrastructure effective to carry out its strategic actions and professional programmes.

If elected, I offer my energy, expertise and passion for libraries and the profession to achieve these objectives.

March 2009  
Barbara Schleihagen

