

Governing Board Elections 2009-2011

Statement of Candidacy

For the position of Governing Board Member
2009-2011

Sinikka Sipillä
(Finland)



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Since my first IFLA Conference in Copenhagen in 1997, I have been impressed by the impact of IFLA on the global library community. IFLA with its annual conferences, sections and core programmes gathers library professionals together to develop the profession, to advocate for libraries and their services, to network and to build connections between colleagues from all over the world.

I have had an opportunity to learn to know IFLA and its functions while I have served IFLA as a Standing Committee member for four years, and as Chair for two years in the Management of Library Associations Section. In that capacity I have also been a co-opted member of the IFLA Governing Board for two years.

I have learnt that IFLA has a unique position in the library community as a global voice for libraries. What is still needed is to make that voice even louder and more widely heard. Then IFLA would be even more capable to help libraries and librarians in all parts of the world to meet the information, cultural and recreational needs of the citizens. IFLA has a key part to play in bringing the role of 'libraries in driving access to knowledge' to the international forums and agendas.

I will bring my professional experience especially from the public library sector and from library associations to the IFLA Governing Board.

During my term of office some of my main objectives will be:

- promoting free access to information and defending freedom of expression world-wide
- supporting libraries and library professionals in developing countries by increasing the participation from developing countries in IFLA and by promoting projects between developed and developing countries
- promoting library services to multicultural populations
- strengthening library associations to defend and to promote libraries and their role in the society

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