



SSA RDC Newsletter

October 2025



SSA RDC at WILC 2025 Astana Kazakhstan

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Chairperson's Remarks



Dr. Monica Mensah Danquah
Chairperson SSA RDC 2025-2027

Dear colleagues and friends,

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the IFLA Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Division Committee (SSA RDC) 2025-2027 Newsletter, themed ***“Our People, Our Progress, Your Path In.”*** In this issue, we honour the achievements of the immediate past committee, introduce our current team, highlight activities since August 2025, and most importantly show you simple ways to connect with our work and community. We begin by recognizing the immediate past committee under the leadership of Dr. Ayanda Lebele from Botswana, whose dedication laid the groundwork for this new phase. Their programmes, partnerships, and advocacy efforts continue to inspire our agenda. You will also meet the current SSA RDC members, a dynamic, region-wide team, along with guidance on how best to reach us. This edition captures what we’ve done since August 2025, from collaborations to our presence at IFLA WLIC 2025, and offers a forward look to WLIC 2026. You’ll find our communication strategy at a glance, including how to receive timely updates and contribute content.

We are delighted to launch our maiden webinar on the 13th of November 2025, featuring a leading voice from our region in the person of Dr. Buhle Mbambo-Thata. Please look out for the flyer and registration link in this newsletter and on our other channels. You will also find our meeting schedule to help you save the dates and join our conversations as observers. Your engagement is vital to our shared success, hence in this newsletter, you’ll find step-by-step guidance to subscribe to Africa-L, connect with the SSA RDC, and join IFLA as part of a global professional family.

I warmly invite you to participate, share news from your country, volunteer for a working group, and help us amplify Africa’s story.

With appreciation and resolve

Chair- IFLA Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Division Committee

Outgoing Committee Members 2023-2025

(Appendix 1: Hand-over report)

POSITION	NAMES	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	DESIGNATION	EMAIL ADDRESS
Chairperson	Ayanda Lebele	Botswana	Director, Library Services , BIUST	lebelea@biust.ac.bw
Vice Chairperson	Monica Mensah Danquah	Ghana	Assistant Librarian, University of Ghana	momensah@ug.edu.gh
Member	Kgomotso Radijeng	Botswana	Knowledge Commons Manager. BITRI	kradijeng@bitri.co.bw
Member	Adane Tekilay Negasha	Ethiopia	HOD, researcher & Lecturer, Mekelle Uni.	adanetekilay@gmail.com
Member	Antonin Benoit Diouf	Senegal	Head Librarian , ECA/IDEP	Antoninbenoit@gmail.com
Member	Bethilde Uwamwezi	Rwanda	Academic and Digital Library Services Specialist , University of Rwanda	berthildeuwamwezi@gmail.com
Member	Buhle Mbambo-Thata	Lesotho	University Librarian National University of Lesotho	b.mbambo-thata@nul.ls
Member	Damilare Oyedele	Nigeria	Co-Founder & Chief Exec, Library Aid Africa	damilare@libraryafrica.org
Member	Elizabeth Matheus	Namibia	Technical Librarian	Leez22@live.com
Member	Kwame Kodua-Ntim	Ghana	Assistant Librarian University of Cape Coast	koduantim@gmail.com
Member	Namutenya Hamwaalwa	Namibia	Deputy Director, Ministry of Edu, Art & Culture	hnamutenya@gmail.com
Member	Nerisa Kamar	Kenya	Project Coordinator; Information Africa Org.	nerisa@informationafrica.org
Member	Nharai Chibanda	Zimbabwe	University Librarian Midlands State University	chibandanp@staff.msu.ac.zw
Member	Oghenere Salubi	South Africa	Senior Lecturer, University of West Cape	osalubi@uwc.ac.za
Member	Ogu-Gara Richard Seglo	Benin	Supervisor, VIPP Interests Benin	Richardseglo1@gmail.com
Member	Pateka Ntshuntshe – Matshaya	South Africa	CEOSouth African Library for the blind	Pateka.ntshuntshe-matshaya@salb.org.za
Member	Ruth Nalumaga	Uganda	Deputy University Librarian Makere University Library	r.nalumaga@yahoo.com
Member	Victoria Okojie	Nigeria	Lecturer; University of Abuja	vicokojie@yahoo.com
Member	Tahirou Amadou	Niger	Charge de Communication/culture Scientifique . Niger	Tahirou.amadou.@ird.fr
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Regional Officer	Lindy Nhlapo	South Africa	Manager ; IFLA Regional Office for Africa	lnhlapo@unisa.ac.za

1. INTRODUCTION

The IFLA Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Division Committee (SSA RDC) is one of IFLA's Regional Division Committees working to advance the visibility, capacity and impact of libraries and information professionals across Sub-Saharan Africa. The Committee is constituted by 20 volunteer professionals drawn from national library associations, academic institutions, public libraries, and other IFLA member organizations in the region. It is led by an elected Chair who represents the region on the IFLA Regional Council and amplifies Africa's priorities on the global stage. The IFLA Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Division Committee (SSA RDC) unites passionate library professionals across the region to champion professional development, advocacy, and collaboration. Through their work, African libraries are not just part of the global conversation, they are shaping it.

Leadership



Dr Ayanda A B Lebele
Botswana (Former Chair)



Dr. Monica Mensah Danquah
Ghana (Former Vice-Chair)



Dr Sarah Kaddu
Uganda (Former Info.Coordinator)

Action Plan:

At the core of the SSA RDC's work are partnerships and collaborations that strengthen and sustain the library and information profession. Our action plans focus on developing programmers that demonstrate the value of libraries, highlight emerging trends across the region, and connecting partners with IFLA's wide range of resources and tools. In doing so, we engage with colleagues and organizations both within Africa and beyond, fostering the exchange of ideas and mutual learning. Equally important, our strength lies in capacity building, supporting volunteers and professionals to grow through webinars, workshops, and initiatives such as Webinar 3.

2. HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR WORK (2023–2025 TERM)

Through our activities, the SSA RDC established itself as a visible and proactive regional voice, championing the vital role of libraries in advancing sustainable development, fostering professional growth, and safeguarding cultural heritage. Our initiatives strengthened collaboration, built capacity, and created opportunities for libraries and information professionals to engage meaningfully at both regional and global levels. Below are highlights of the work we carried out during the 2023–2025 term.

Strengthening Libraries for Sustainable Development: At the 2024 UN High-Level Political Forum, IFLA spoke up for libraries as essential partners in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SSA RDC joined hands with other regions to engage ministers, ambassadors, and UN agencies reminding the world that libraries are more than places to store books; they are engines of change for education, equality, and access to information, as well as essential partners in achieving the SDGs. This built on the Nairobi Workshop that was held in October 2023 under the theme *“Towards a Strong and Sustainable Regional Library Field”*, which shaped our 2023–2025 operational strategy around resilience, inclusion, and SDG alignment.

Strengthening Libraries Across Africa: The SSA RDC partners with libraries, associations, and professionals across the region to share knowledge, highlight the value of libraries, and provide training for volunteers. Together, we're building a stronger, more sustainable library and information profession for Africa's future.

Capacity Building & Mentorship: Delivered targeted webinars on professional growth, mentorship, and advocacy including the high-impact “*Mentorship and Collaboration for Professional Development*” webinar (April 2025) in collaboration with CPDWL, which informed the draft SSA RDC Mentorship Strategy.

Collaborations & Networks: Strengthened partnerships with AfLIA, SCECSAL, CPDWL, IFLA MLAS, AVMS, ENSULIB, Unisa, and others, while supporting efforts to revitalize national library associations, such as in Lesotho.

Cultural Heritage & Climate Action: Co-organised regional side events with the Climate Heritage Network (CHN) during the African Climate Summit 2 (ACS2) in Addis Ababa, alongside a capacity-building workshop for LIS professionals hosted by Addis Ababa University.

Knowledge Sharing: The committee Published monthly newsletters to showcase LIS professionals and students’ work across the region and contributed to the first edition of the IFLA Guidelines for Green Libraries (ENSULIB).

Climate Action and Capacity Building in Ethiopia

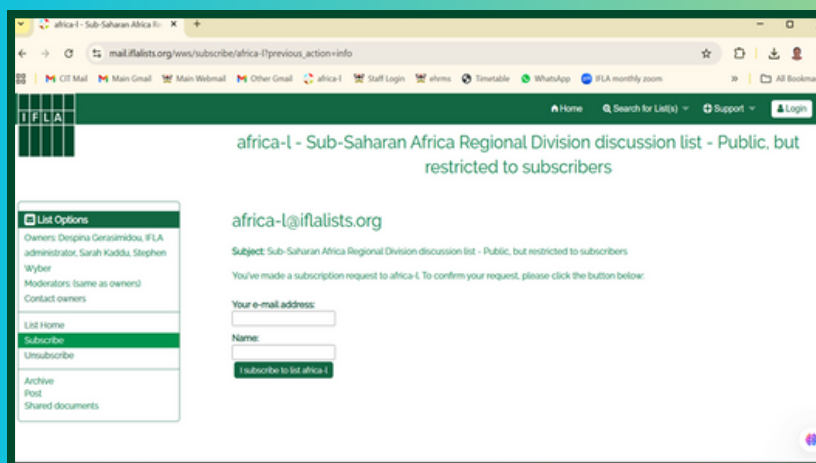
The SSA RDC’s initiative to integrate libraries into climate action began in June 2025, when a strategic collaboration was established with the Climate Heritage Network (CHN) – Africa and Arab States Secretariat. This partnership aimed to highlight the vital role of libraries in climate education, cultural heritage preservation, and community resilience. As part of this collaboration, the SSA RDC co-hosted two side events at the African Climate Summit 2 (ACS2) in Addis Ababa in September 2025, alongside a capacity-building workshop for LIS professionals at Addis Ababa University. These activities showcased libraries as key actors in climate advocacy and sparked discussions toward the establishment of a national library association in Ethiopia. Because the summit took place in September 2025 during the transition between the outgoing and incoming SSA RDC committees this collaboration was formally handed over to the current committee to sustain and expand. The programme was successfully implemented and took place as planned, leaving a solid foundation for future partnerships that link climate action, cultural heritage, and the library profession in Africa.

3. ENGAGEMENT AND CONTACT DETAILS

The SSA RDC actively engaged with its community throughout the 2023–2025 term by sharing information and updates via the AFRICA-L mailing list, which served as a key communication channel for members across the region.

We warmly encourage all librarians and information professionals in the Sub-Saharan Africa region to join the AFRICA-L mailing list to stay connected. To subscribe, please follow these:

1. Fill in your name and email address.
2. Click on I subscribe to link Africa
3. That’s it. You are in. From now on, you’ll get our latest news, updates, and opportunities straight to your inbox.



← ·contact email address for inquiries
For inquiries and collaboration, please contact Dr. Monica Mensah Danquah, current Chair of the IFLA Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Division Committee, at momensah@ug.edu.gh.

4. CALL TO ACTION

We warmly encourage both individual and institutional members across the region to join IFLA and select the Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Division (SSA RDC) in order to actively participate in our programmes and activities. By joining, you become part of a vibrant movement working to strengthen libraries, amplify the voice of information professionals, and drive positive change across Africa. Join the Movement to Strengthen Libraries Across Africa.

Climate Action and Capacity Building in Ethiopia

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Captured.....

Webinar 3: Mentorship and Collaboration for Professional Development | Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Division

When	04 April 2024
Event will be recorded	Yes
Registration	Required
Time	15:00 Eastern Africa Time (EAT) - Nairobi

REGISTER

The IFLA Sub Saharan Africa Regional Division Committee is of the opinion that, the world we live in keeps evolving and as such, both hard and soft skills are essential for navigating successfully the path forward. As such, knowing our needs is key and having a mentor is equally a perfect resource for learning the best strategies to accomplish the goals we aspire to achieve.

Webinar 3: Mentorship and Collaboration for Professional Development (April 2025).

2024 UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF).





IFLA Regional Division
Committee
Sub-Saharan Africa

IFLA Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Division Workshop: advocacy & networking for a sustainable LIS Profession

The IFLA Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Division Committee (IFLA-SSA RDC) is a committee that focuses strongly on advocacy, identifying priorities for the region, and defining and delivering on action plans that respond to these.

IFLA-SSA RDC is planning to host a one-day session that targets early-career professionals, students and general information workers.

Date: 19 May 2025

**Venue: University of Namibia Video conference room or
Online: Google Meet**

link: <https://meet.google.com/eaz-dnbr-umq>

Time: 10h00AM- 13h00PM, Africa/Windhoek Time Zone

The main aim of the session is to motivate voluntarism, collaboration and advocacy for a sustainable library and information service profession.

SPEAKERS



Dr. Ayanda AB Lebele, Director,
Botswana International University of
Science & Tech Library.
Chair: IFLA, Sub Saharan Africa
Regional Division.



Ms. Namutenya Hamwaalwa, Deputy
Director, Namibia Library and Archive
Service.
IFLA, Sub Saharan Africa Regional
Division Committee Member.



Dr. Monica Mensah Danquah,
Senior Lecturer: Department of
Information Studies, University of
Ghana & Vice Chair: IFLA Sub
Saharan Africa Regional Division.

**Secure your spot now! Register by sending your name to
hnamutenya@gmail.com by the 14th May 2025. Spaces are
limited—don't miss out!**

Advocacy &
networking for a
sustainable LIS
profession
workshop-Namibia



African Climate Summit 2 (ACS2) Addis Ababa -
Ethiopia- September 2025

SSA RDC 2025-2027 Committee Members



Dr Mensah Danquah (Chair)-
Senior Lecturer, University of
Ghana- Ghana



Nerisa Kamar (Vice Chair),
Project Coordinator,
Information Africa organization-
Kenya



Ogou-gara Richard SEGLO (Info.
Coordinator) Sociologist & Cultural
Heritage specialist University of
Abomey-Calavi -Benin



Dr Buhle Mbambo-Thata.
University Librarian, National
University of Lesotho



Dr. Nomsa N. Mathabela
(Senior Assistant Librarian)
University of Eswatini



Kwame Kodua-Ntim, PhD
Lecturer at the University of
Cape Coast-Ghana



Dr. Juliana J. Manyerere
Lecture/Librarian Institute of
Rural Development Planning
(IRDP) - Tanzania



Dr. Victoria Okojie Lecturer,
National Open University of
Nigeria.



Namutenya Hamwaalwa:
Deputy Director, Library and
Archives Service- Namibia



Purity Kavuri, Assistant
Director, Kenya National
Library Service



Melba Sitwala, University
Librarian-The International
University of Management (IUM)-
Namibia



Nthabiseng Kotsokoane
Assistant Director University of Free
State - South Africa



Berthilde Uwamwezi (PhD),
Librarian, University of
Rwanda



Kenneth Abong- Assistant
Librarian
Aga khan University Uganda



Lilian Mmapula Letshabo
Librarian, Botswana University of
Agriculture & Natural Resources



Caroline Ilako (PhD)
Librarian, Makerere University-
Uganda



Jerry Mathema School Library
Media Specialist-
Zimbabwe



Allen Mudenda Hagwelele
Provincial Resource Centre Coordinator
- Southern Province- Zambia

Gilbert Niyomugabo
Uganda

Siviwe Feketshane
South Africa

IFLA SSA RDC Mandate and Purpose

Focuses on advocacy, identifying priorities and defining and implementing SSA RDC action plans

Works with other regional library organizations to build more powerful advocacy and works closely with IFLA Headquarters and the IFLA Regional Office for Africa.

Through its Chair, the Regional Division Committee also raises emerging and priority issues with other Division Committee Chairs through the Regional Council.

Build capacity, promote IFLA's mission, and grow its membership, and empower libraries.

IFLA SSA RDC and CHN – Africa & Arab States Secretariat at the African Climate Summit 2 (ACS2)- Ethiopia, Addis Ababa

By: Dr. Monica Mensah Danquah



The IFLA Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Division Committee (SSA RDC), in partnership with the Climate Heritage Network (CHN) Africa and Arab States Secretariat, successfully convened two high-level side events during the African Climate Summit 2.

(ACS2) in Addis Ababa, followed by a capacity-building workshop hosted at Addis Ababa University from 8th to 10th September 2025. This collaboration emerged from the SSA RDC's broader commitment to fostering cross-sectoral partnerships to strengthen the visibility of libraries in climate action, cultural heritage, and community resilience.



The SSA RDC was well represented at the events by a team comprising Dr. Monica Mensah Danquah (Chair of the Committee), Dr. Buhle Mbambo-Thata (Member of the Committee), Dr. Ayanda Lebele (Immediate Past Chair of the Committee), Ms. Lindy Nhlapo (Regional Council Representative), and Ms. Nthabiseng Kotsokoane (Member of the Committee). The team's collective presence and contributions significantly enhanced the visibility of the SSA RDC and IFLA, and underscored its commitment to championing the role of libraries in climate action and cultural heritage initiatives across the region.....

Side Events

The first side event, themed *“Heritage in Climate Policy- Aligning NDCs with Culture-Based Adaptation,”* took place on 8th September. It brought together policymakers, heritage experts, and LIS professionals to advocate for the integration of cultural heritage into African climate policies and finance frameworks. The session highlighted the role of libraries as inclusive spaces for climate education and concluded with calls to institutionalize heritage considerations within African climate strategies.



The second side event, held on 9th September and themed *“Mobilizing Culture and Heritage for Climate Resilience: African Solutions from the Ground Up,”* spotlighted community-driven and heritage-based approaches to climate adaptation. It showcased African-led grassroots models, emphasized the importance of indigenous knowledge systems, and encouraged stronger collaboration between cultural heritage sectors, local governments, and libraries to drive sustainable, community-based climate solutions.



The Workshop

On 10th September, the collaboration culminated in a workshop titled *“From Insights to Action – Advancing Professional Networking for Advocacy and a Sustainable LIS Service in Sub-Saharan Africa.”* Co-organized by the IFLA Africa Office, SSA RDC, the University of South Africa, and hosted by Addis Ababa University, the workshop brought together LIS professionals from across the region. Participants explored the role of libraries in climate action, built professional networks, and developed advocacy skills to champion sustainability and resilience within their institutions and communities. Many participants expressed interest in joining IFLA and contributing to future regional initiatives.



Collectively, these events positioned libraries and information professionals at the heart of continental climate and cultural heritage conversations, created strong visibility for the SSA RDC as an active regional committee, and forged enduring partnerships with CHN, ICOMOS, ICLEI Africa, Unisa, and Addis Ababa University. This milestone collaboration reinforced the transformative potential of aligning climate, culture, and knowledge institutions, and affirmed the critical role of libraries in advancing climate education, heritage preservation, and community resilience in Africa. Initial blueprints and action steps were outlined during the discussions to guide the process of initiating and building the Ethiopia Library association. The SSA RDC team expressed readiness to provide technical guidance and mentorship support, including convening a follow-up meeting with the Ethiopian team to map out the way forward. It was also proposed that the emerging association could be paired with leaders of exemplary library associations within the Sub-Saharan Africa region to share best practices and mentorship for sustainable growth.

Conclusion

The joint engagement between the IFLA Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Division Committee (SSA RDC) and the Climate Heritage Network (CHN) at the African Climate Summit 2 and Addis Ababa University successfully achieved its core objective of raising awareness about the critical role libraries play in climate change discourse and action. The sessions underscored not only how libraries can serve as hubs for climate education and community resilience, but also how climate change directly affects libraries and their collections, threatening the preservation of cultural and documentary heritage. Importantly, the events highlighted the need to strengthen IFLA's footprint in Ethiopia, fostering a stronger national presence and supporting the development of professional structures and networks that can anchor sustained library advocacy and climate action efforts in the country. Furthermore, the team was able to initiate meaningful conversations that are expected to evolve into strategic partnerships and collaborations with key stakeholders across the heritage, cultural, and environmental sectors.

This marks a significant step toward embedding libraries more firmly in Africa's climate and cultural heritage agenda, while laying the foundation for future joint initiatives that will amplify the voice and impact of libraries across the region. The SSA RDC looks forward to building on this momentum through sustained collaboration and expanded partnerships in the years ahead.

Captured.....



Appreciation

We wish to express our deep appreciation to the IFLA Headquarters for facilitating this programme and for their unwavering support throughout the planning and implementation stages. The commitment and logistical assistance provided by the team at IFLA HQ were instrumental in ensuring that the SSA RDC delegation was able to travel to Ethiopia and effectively contribute to the success of the events. We also extend our sincere gratitude to the Climate Heritage Network (CHN)-Africa and Arab States Secretariat for their invaluable collaboration and shared vision, which made it possible to bring together diverse stakeholders to advance the role of libraries in climate action and cultural heritage preservation. Appreciation also goes to all the panelists and participants, both on-site and online, for their active engagement and contributions throughout the programme. We are equally grateful to Addis Ababa University, the University of South Africa (Unisa) Library, and the many library professionals who joined us at the workshop and enriched the discussions with their insights and experiences. Finally, heartfelt thanks go to the IFLA SSA RDC team for their dedication, teamwork, and exemplary representation of the region; their collective effort played a vital role in the overall success of this initiative.

SSA RDC at IFLA WLIC 2025 & IFLA WLIC 2026 Highlights (full report on Appendix 2)

The IFLA Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Division Committee (SSA RDC) held its crucial Business and Caucus Meetings during the IFLA WLIC 2025 in Astana, effectively concluding the 2023–2025 term. Chaired by Dr. Monica Mensah Danquah (Chair-Elect), the meetings highlighted significant achievements and set a clear strategic path forward, earning commendation from the IFLA leadership.

Key outcomes included:

Strategic Achievements: The term concluded with notable successes, including the development of a draft SSA RDC Mentorship Strategy, expanded partnerships, and strong contributions to global initiatives like the Green Library Guidelines.

Future Planning: Discussions focused on preparation for SCECSAL 2026 in Zambia and strengthening regional participation in global advocacy, such as Voluntary National Review (VNR) processes.

Call for Unity: The Caucus meeting strongly emphasized the need for enhanced communication and greater inclusivity to ensure all diverse regional voices (Anglophone, Francophone, Lusophone) are reflected in the committee's work.

Focus on WLIC 2026: Members were strongly urged to begin early preparation for the next Congress in Busan, South Korea, including proposing themes for the SSA RDC's Open Session to maximize Africa's impact on the global LIS stage.

Captured...





Activities/programs of Commitee 2025-2027

1.SSA RDC Bi- Monthly Webinar Series: Maiden Session. Theme: *Libraries at the Frontlines of Climate Action*

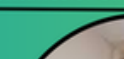
SUB SAHARAN AFRICA REGIONAL DIVISION COMMITTEE: BI-MONTHLY WEBINAR SERIES: MAIDEN SESSION

Libraries at the frontlines of Climate Change





Moderator: Mr. Richard Seglo
IFLA Information Coordinator SSA RDC



Speaker: Dr. Buhle Mbambo-Thata
University Librarian National University of Lesotho

 **13th November 2025**

 **15:00 Nairobi Time**

 <https://us06web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/OK832BxcTryYWlyAcZNaA>

Inviting all Librarians and Information professionals, Researchers, University students, University leaders & Policy makers, Publishers & Stakeholders

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2. The next SSA RDC Newsletter is scheduled for publication at the end of November 2025
3. Additional details on upcoming activities will be shared shortly

Information Coordination Subcommittee

2025 - 2027



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Editorial team



Connect with us via:



Appendix 1: Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Division Committee Handover Report 2023-2025

1. Introduction

This document serves as the official handover report for the IFLA Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Division Committee (SSA RDC) for the 2023–2025 term. It presents a comprehensive account of the committee’s strategic priorities, activities, collaborations, achievements, challenges, and ongoing initiatives. It also provides recommendations for the incoming Chair and members to ensure continuity and sustained progress.

2. Overview of the Term

The 2023–2025 term was marked by a strong focus on advancing IFLA’s global vision within the African context, aligning efforts with the United Nations 2030 Agenda and the African Union’s Agenda 2063. Under the leadership of Chair Ayanda A. Lebele, the committee prioritised advocacy, professional capacity building, sustainable development, and enhanced regional cooperation among library and information science (LIS) stakeholders.

3. Key Strategic Priorities

The committee’s work was guided by the following strategic objectives:

- 1.Strengthening capacity building and professional development for LIS professionals in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- 2.Fostering partnerships with regional library associations, IFLA sections, and global bodies.
- 3.Promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion within the LIS sector.
- 4.Supporting the contribution of libraries to the UN 2030 Agenda and African Union’s Agenda 2063.
- 5.Advocating for improved access to information, literacy, and digital skills across the region.

4. Meetings and Deliberations

The SSA RDC convened regular business meetings and ad-hoc planning sessions to monitor progress, plan events, and respond to emerging opportunities. Meetings were primarily conducted virtually via Zoom or MS Teams, with decisions and action points documented in official minutes. Discussions covered programme implementation, collaboration proposals, advocacy campaigns, and ongoing projects.

5. Collaborations and Partnerships

Collaboration has been central to the success of the SSA RDC during the 2023–2025 term. Recognizing that the advancement of library and information services in Sub-Saharan Africa requires collective action, the committee actively sought partnerships with IFLA professional units, regional library associations, academic institutions, and international organizations. These collaborations enabled the sharing of expertise, pooling of resources, and joint delivery of impactful programmes across the region. Through strategic engagements, the SSA RDC strengthened its role as a regional hub for capacity building, advocacy, and professional networking. Partnerships facilitated the organization of webinars, skills-development workshops, and joint research initiatives, while also ensuring that the voices of African LIS professionals were represented in global discussions. Importantly, these collaborations supported the committee’s commitment to the UN 2030 Agenda, the African Union’s Agenda 2063, and IFLA’s strategic objectives, aligning regional actions with broader development goals.....

The following subsections highlight key collaborations undertaken during the term, outlining their objectives, activities, and contributions to the growth and visibility of the LIS profession in Sub-Saharan Africa.

5.1.CPDWL Collaboration:

A series of webinars were arranged in collaboration with the Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning (CPDWL) Section. Regional Division Chairs served as speakers, sharing experiences from their respective regions. This strengthened the SSA RDC's work on capacity building, particularly the development of emerging leadership. The most notable was the "Mentorship and Collaboration for Professional Development" webinar held on April 4th, 2025, featuring Francis Ssekitto (Uganda) and Buhle Mbambo-Thata (Lesotho). Insights from these engagements informed the development of the draft SSA-RDC Mentorship Strategy, which remains in progress for the incoming committee to operationalize.

5.2. Bicentennial Celebrations of the Kingdom of Lesotho (20–24 August 2024):

The SSA RDC collaborated with the National University of Lesotho Library, Endangered Archives Programme Africa Hub, University of the Free State Library, Moshoeshoe Institute of Peace and Leadership, and the British Library. Activities included a conference on preserving national heritage and a pre-conference skills development workshop. Follow-up efforts supported the revitalization of the Lesotho National Library Association and strengthened professional networking in Botswana.

5.. Other Notable Collaborations:

Contributed to the first edition of the IFLA Guidelines for Green Libraries (ENSULIB).

Coordinated with MLAS and AVMS to develop upcoming joint webinars.

Presentation of a collaborative paper for the Regional Council Open Session at WLIC 2025 titled "Strengthening Information Integrity in Sub-Saharan Africa: The Role of Libraries and Information Professionals in Combating Mis/Disinformation."

6. Key Achievements:

- 1.Delivery of targeted webinars addressing mentorship, professional growth, and advocacy.
- 2.Development of the draft SSA-RDC Mentorship Strategy.
- 3.Increased visibility of SSA RDC through participation in global and regional LIS events.
- 4.Strengthened collaboration with professional associations and international partners.
- 5.Contributions to global IFLA guidelines and thematic initiatives.
- 6.Publication of newsletters showcasing the work of LIS professionals and students in the region.

7. Challenges

- 1.Limited funding to support large-scale regional initiatives.
 - 2.Connectivity and technological barriers affecting participation in virtual events.
- Resource constraints impacting project timelines and implementation

8. Ongoing Projects and Recommendations

Finalize and operationalize the SSA-RDC Mentorship Strategy.

Continue advocacy for strong library associations across the region.

Expand collaborations with global and regional partners, especially in capacity building, research, and digital inclusion.

Enhance communication and outreach to ensure wider participation in SSA RDC programmes.

Conclusion

The 2023–2025 term has been productive and impactful, marked by strengthened regional collaboration, targeted professional development, and active contributions to global LIS discourse. The incoming committee is encouraged to build upon these achievements, sustain the momentum, and continue positioning the SSA RDC as a key driver of library development in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Appendix 2: SSA RDC at IFLA WLIC 2025 & IFLA WLIC 2026 Highlights

Key Highlights	Key Highlights
Business Meeting 17 August 2025, 08:45–10:45 (Altay, Congress Center)	* Meeting chaired by Dr. Monica Mensah Danquah (Chair-Elect) on behalf of outgoing Chair, Dr. Ayanda Lebele. * Adoption of agenda; adoption of minutes adjourned due to limited attendance. * Matters arising included: SCECSAL 2026 prep, advocacy participation, VNR engagement, mentorship strategy, and strengthening library networks. * Chair’s report (via Chair-Elect) highlighted achievements: partnerships, webinars, draft mentorship strategy, contributions to Green Library Guidelines, but also funding and connectivity challenges. * Regional Office Rep reported on advocacy work, VNRs, and upcoming AI conference.
Caucus Meeting 17 August 2025, 18:00–19:00 (Hilton, Conf. Hall 3)	* Chaired by Dr. Monica Mensah Danquah (Chair-Elect). * Open introductions and free discussion set the tone. * Members emphasized improving communication of committee activities and listening to regional needs. * Strong call for inclusivity across regional membership. * Discussions on strategy and leadership. * Encouragement for broader African participation in IFLA committees and elections. * IFLA President, President-Elect, and Secretary General passed through, applauded SSA RDC, and encouraged continued advocacy.

Report of the IFLA Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Division Committee (SSA RDC)

Business Meeting – Sunday, 17th August 2025

Venue: Altay, Congress Center, Astana

Time: 08:45 – 10:45 (Astana Time)

The SSA RDC held its Business Meeting on Sunday, 17th August 2025 during the IFLA WLIC in Astana. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Monica Mensah Danquah (Chair-Elect, 2025–2027 term), who stood in on behalf of Dr. Ayanda Lebele, Chair of the 2023–2025 term. The meeting was attended by members of the Committee, observers, and guests.

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair-Elect warmly welcomed members, observers, and friends of the region, expressing delight at the strong representation from across Sub-Saharan Africa. She emphasized the shared commitment to advancing libraries and information services in the region and highlighted the meeting as both an administrative and strategic platform to reflect, plan, and strengthen collaboration.

2. Adoption of Agenda and Minutes

The agenda for the meeting was adopted without amendments. However, the adoption of the minutes of the Mid-Term Business Meeting of 8th April 2022 was adjourned, as several members were not present at the time. It was agreed that the minutes would be formally adopted at a later meeting once quorum was assured.

3. Matters Arising

The Chair-Elect guided members through outstanding issues, including:

SCECSAL Engagement: Follow-up on regional engagement, with the next SCECSAL scheduled for 2026 in Zambia.

Voluntary National Review (VNR) Participation: Members noted limited participation due to funding constraints but were encouraged to remain proactive in national SDG processes.

Advocacy: Acknowledgement of advocacy tools developed by Damilare’s team and concerns about participation levels.

Library Networks: Survey results showed 80% of countries have active associations, but challenges remain with funding and engagement.

Capacity Building & Mentorship: A draft SSA RDC Mentorship Strategy was submitted in September 2024; members were encouraged to review and operationalize it.

Strengthening Footprint in Member Countries: A hybrid workshop in Namibia for LIS students and early-career professionals was highlighted as a success.

WLIC 2025 Paper: Members noted the acceptance and presentation of the paper “Strengthening Information Integrity in Sub-Saharan Africa: The Role of Libraries and Information Professionals in Combating Mis/Disinformation” presented during the Congress.

4. Report from the Chair (Delivered by the Chair-Elect)

On behalf of Dr. Ayanda Lebele, the Chair-Elect Dr. Monica Mensah Danquah presented a report on the 2023–2025 term, noting key achievements:

Expanded partnerships with IFLA professional units, AflIA, SCECSAL, and the Climate Heritage Network (CHN).

Targeted webinars on mentorship and professional growth, e.g., the April 2025 session featuring speakers from Uganda and Lesotho.

Development of a draft SSA RDC Mentorship Strategy.

Stronger African presence at regional/global events (e.g., SCECSAL 2024, AflIA 2025).

Contributions to IFLA Green Library Guidelines and other global initiatives.

Challenges included limited funding, digital connectivity issues, and the need to better engage Francophone members.

5. Report from the Regional Office

The Regional Office (delivered by Lindi) updated members on:

South Africa’s VNR planned for 2026.

LIASA’s SDG-related advocacy work.....

The importance of national librarians as government liaisons.
Participation in G20 initiatives and an upcoming AI conference with IFLA and the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

6. Key Meetings and Programmes at WLIC 2025

The Chair-Elect Dr. Monica Mensah Danquah drew attention to sessions relevant to the SSA RDC, including the Regional Council Meeting, the SSA RDC Business and Caucus Meetings, and the joint Regional Divisions’ Open Session on advocacy and collaboration. Members were urged to attend plenaries featuring the IFLA President and President-Elect to stay aligned with IFLA’s strategic direction.

7. IFLA WLIC 2026 – Busan, South Korea

Members were briefed on the next Congress to be held in Busan, South Korea. The Chair-Elect encouraged early preparation, collaboration across countries, and submission of papers reflecting African priorities. She also informed members of the new WLIC model for 2026/2027, and opened the floor for theme proposals for the SSA RDC’s Open Session.

8. Brief Reports from Member Countries

Representatives from different countries shared concise updates on developments and challenges within their national library sectors, including innovations in advocacy, professional development, and network strengthening. Reports received were mainly from Ghana, South Africa and Nigeria

9. Special Remarks by IFLA Leadership

The meeting was honored by the presence of the IFLA President, the President-Elect, and the Secretary General, who welcomed the committee, commended the SSA RDC for its excellent work over the past two years, and encouraged continued advocacy and visibility for Africa within IFLA.

10. Any Other Business

Members discussed the need to strengthen communication channels, enhance mentorship activities, and sustain collaboration with IFLA professional sections and regional partners.

11. Closing Remarks

The Chair-Elect thanked members for their active participation, emphasized the importance of proactiveness, collaboration, and early planning, and reaffirmed the committee’s commitment to advancing the IFLA Strategy and amplifying Africa’s voice globally.

Table 1: Attendance List

Name	Country/Institution	Role/Notes
Monica Mensah Danquah	Ghana	Chair-Elect; Acting Chair/Ghana
Victoria Okojie	Nigeria	Member
Lindi Nhlapo	South Africa	Member
May Chang	USA (IT Sector)	Observer
Stephen Wyber	IFLA HQ	Observer
Julia Zygan	Lesotho/Botswana	Member/Observer
Margaret Templer	US/Botswana	Observer
Charlie Molepo	South Africa	Member
Aba Amankwah-Arman	Ghana	Member
Nthabiseng Kotsokoane	South Africa	Member
Dudu Nkosi	University of South Africa (UNISA)	Member
B.B. Conto Moleme	National Library of South Africa	Member
Khomotso Marumo	South Africa	Member
Nontuthula Musa	National Library of South Africa	Member
Ellen Tise	Stellenbosch University, South Africa	Past IFLA President

Report of the IFLA Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Division Committee (SSA RDC)

Caucus Meeting – Sunday, 17th August 2025

Venue: Conference Hall 3, Hilton, Astana

Time: 18:00 – 19:00 (Astana Time)

The Sub-Saharan Africa Caucus was convened on Sunday, 17th August 2025 during the IFLA WLIC in Astana. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Monica Mensah Danquah (Chair-Elect, 2025–2027 term) and brought together members, friends of the region, and observers for an open dialogue on strengthening the role and visibility of Sub-Saharan Africa within IFLA. An unofficial agenda was used to guide the session, but the format was kept flexible to allow for open discussions.

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

The Chair-Elect welcomed participants and noted that the caucus provides an informal but important platform to exchange ideas, reflect on progress, and set future priorities for the SSA RDC.

2. Introductions and Open Floor

The session began with self-introductions from members and observers, followed by an open floor for comments. Participants highlighted their diverse backgrounds and reaffirmed their commitment to advancing libraries and information services across the region.

3. Key Issues Discussed

Communication:

Members expressed the need for more consistent communication of information from the committee to members across the region. It was emphasized that two-way communication should be strengthened – not only sharing updates from IFLA but also listening to the needs and expectations of librarians and information professionals in different countries.

Regional Voices:

Participants stressed the importance of ensuring that all sub-regions of Africa are heard, and that committee activities should reflect the diverse priorities and realities of LIS professionals across Anglophone, Francophone, and Lusophone Africa.

Strategy and Strong Leadership:

There was consensus on the need for a clear caucus strategy to consolidate regional solidarity and ensure strong leadership and active membership within the committee. This, members noted, would position Sub-Saharan Africa more effectively within IFLA’s global governance structures.

Future Priorities:

Discussions also touched on succession planning, outreach for elections, and the need to mentor younger professionals to sustain strong representation in the years ahead.

4. Special Remarks from IFLA Leadership

The caucus was honored by the presence of the IFLA President, the President-Elect, and the Secretary General, who joined briefly to welcome participants. They applauded the excellent work of the Sub-Saharan Africa Region over the past two years and encouraged members to continue building on this momentum. Their visit underscored IFLA’s recognition of the region’s contributions and its importance to the global library field.

5. Closing Remarks

In closing, the Chair-Elect thanked participants for their candid contributions and reaffirmed the commitment of the SSA RDC leadership team to strengthening communication, inclusivity, and collective advocacy. She encouraged members to remain proactive, engaged, and united as Sub-Saharan Africa works together to amplify its voice within IFLA and the global LIS community.....

Table 2: Attendance list - Sub-Saharan Africa Caucus Meeting (17 August 2025, Astana)

Name	Country / Institution
1. Monica Mensah Danquah	Ghana
2. Victoria Okojie	Nigeria
3. Lindi Nhlapo	South Africa
4. Stephen Wyber	IFLA HQ
5. Aba A. Amanan	Ghana
6. Rihandzy S. Mhing	South Africa
7. Abraham Rack	Ghana
8. Judy Akins	Ghana
9. Abdulai Issahaku	Ghana
10. Sandra Awuah	Ghana
11. Jessica Mensah	Ghana
12. Park Timmeyera	Uganda
13. Boangwe Amogocha	Botswana
14. Kepi Madumo	South Africa
15. Blessing Mawire	South Africa
16. Ify Evangel Obim	Nigeria
17. Sarah Kagoda	Uganda
18. Achatosh Sonia	Cameroon
19. Havshan Naicker	South Africa
20. Margaret Tarpley	Botswana / USA
21. Pamizane Oyedele	Nigeria
22. Nana Tuhufo Quagraine	Ghana
23. Emmanuel Nkansah Sefa	Ghana