

**Draft minutes of the IFLA General Assembly held on
Thursday 20 June 2024,
at the National Library of the Netherlands,
The Hague, Netherlands and online**

1. Opening by the Chair

President Vicki McDonald opened the meeting at 13:00 CEST on Thursday, 20 June 2024 and welcomed the members present in the Auditorium of the National Library of the Netherlands in The Hague and following virtually via the Lumi platform or the YouTube livestream. She introduced those supporting her: Secretary General Sharon Memis, Treasurer Jaap Naber, IFLA Parliamentarian Martyn Wade, and Stephen Wyber, IFLA Director of External Affairs. Members from over 96 countries registered for the meeting.

Information on voting and counting of votes

Details of registered voting members, their proxies and their weighted votes were provided to the meeting platform company engaged to assist with the General Assembly. All voting took place online in a secure and accurate manner with results automatically calculated and provided to the meeting.

There were no apologies.

2. Establishment of a Quorum

At the beginning of the meeting there were 145 national and international association members who have paid their fees for 2024 and were not in arrears.

For a quorum, 50 % of this number plus one is required, namely 73. With 84 members registered, a quorum was established.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

There were no additions to the agenda.

Voting Results

For	850	100%
Against	0	0%
Abstain	0	0%

The agenda was adopted.

4. Minutes of the IFLA General Assembly held in Rotterdam, Netherlands and online on 23-24 August 2023

There were no corrections to the minutes.

Voting Results

For	909	100%
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Against 0 0%
Abstain 18

The minutes of the IFLA General Assembly held in Rotterdam, Netherlands and online on 23-24 August 2023 were adopted.

5. In memoriam of those members who have died during the past year

The President invited members to remember in silence Hans-Peter Geh, Istvan Papp, Lucia Rather, Tomonori Shibata, Amy Joseph, Nancy E Gwinn, Simon Jules Koudjam Yameni, and other colleagues who have died during the past year.

She particularly acknowledged the passing of Hans-Peter Geh, IFLA President from 1985 to 1991, who was active within IFLA for over 25 years.

6. Presentation of the report of the President

The President shared some highlights of 2023 including the many visits and events she had been able to attend, being deeply inspired by the way libraries overcome challenges, reflect and innovate.

She noted the energy and warmth she felt when she participated in the regional workshop held in Nairobi in October.

She thanked colleagues in the United Arab Emirates for their welcome when she and the Secretary General participated in the International Council on Archives' congress and held meetings with ELIA (Emirates Library and Information Association).

She is looking forward to participating at the American Library Association Annual Conference next week.

The President highlighted the next IFLA Strategy 2024-2029, and expressed her gratitude to everyone who responded to the pulse surveys – IFLA had received over a thousand responses in total. She encouraged everyone to look at the results, which are all up on the IFLA website, as they offer some fascinating insights into what matters for different parts of our field.

She also highlighted the upcoming Trend Report 2024, the first major new edition in over ten years. This is intended to provide a resource and tools to help libraries around the world build preparedness and resilience in a fast-moving environment.

She expressed her gratitude to President-elect, Leslie Weir, for leading the review of the Congress model, which will have some major implications for the future of the Federation.

The President also recognised the energy and effort that her predecessor, Barbara Lison, brought to the role.

The President acknowledged IFLA's donors, sponsors and supporting organisations who in a variety of ways generously support the activities that are undertaken throughout the year.

7. Presentation of IFLA's Annual Report

The Secretary General presented IFLA's Annual Report. The report followed the IFLA Strategy and its four key directions.

Key highlights and impacts in 2023 include:

Regional Workshops in Europe and Sub-Saharan Africa which led to intensified work on partner outreach, support for emerging leaders, and a greater focus on sustainability in planning

Over 200 people applied for our train-the-trainers course on impact evaluation, and a core team of 12 were trained to share key lessons with libraries globally

IFLA renewed and expanded its network of Regional Offices

IFLA's first hybrid WLIC took an innovative approach to expanding the congress's reach transcending geographical boundaries and promoting inclusivity within the global library and information community

IFLA continued to deliver successfully on projects, demonstrating our strengths as a partner.

Membership continued to grow, alongside a robust pool of candidates in committee elections, as well as further progress in the regional diversity of our volunteer base.

The Secretary General highlighted the importance and generosity of our funding partners and particularly, Stichting IFLA Global Libraries, Arcadia Foundation, and the European Commission.

She also acknowledged the Dutch National Committee and our major sponsors who played such a large part in the success of the World Library and Information Congress.

IFLA's [2023 Annual Report](#) is available on the IFLA website:

8. Presentation of the annual accounts by the Treasurer

Jaap Naber, IFLA Treasurer presented the 2023 annual report noting the positive financial position of the Federation. He highlighted the following:

The auditors have given IFLA an unqualified audit, meaning that the financial statements present a true and fair view of IFLA's 2023 financial position.

The Governing Board is committed to increasing transparency and, following last year's decision to publish the full version of our audited financial statements, the full 2023 accounts were presented with more detailed notes, providing a clearer picture of IFLA's finances compared to previous years.

IFLA ended the year with a positive result of € 204,322, primarily as a result of a successful WLIC in 2023 in Rotterdam. The reserves remain healthy at € 1,970,428.

The focus of the Governing Board is on long-term financial sustainability, and impact in the field. IFLA's decision to apply for the Dutch ANBI (or charity) status, is an important step in this process. It will make IFLA a more attractive partner for funders as it will mean that every Euro we receive from a partner can be used to benefit the global library field and the communities we serve.

A motion for the approval of the 2023 Annual Accounts was moved and seconded.

Voting Results

For	937	99.89%
Against	1	0.11%
Abstain	29	

The meeting approved the 2023 Annual Accounts.

The full text of the [Treasurer's report](#) is available on the IFLA website.

9. Presentation of IFLA Awards

Professional Council Awards:

Te Paea Paringatai, Chair of the Professional Council presented the following Professional Council Awards:

The Dynamic Unit and Impact Award for Member Engagement & Leadership Development was awarded to the Academic & Research Libraries (ARL) Section.

The Dynamic Unit and Impact Award for Quality and Impact of the Work was awarded to the IFLA Information and Technology (IT) Section.

The Dynamic Unit and Impact Award for Overall Achievement – for a Unit that has excelled in all award categories was awarded to the IFLA Libraries for Children and Young Adults (C&YA) Section.

The President thanked the Chair of the Professional Council and congratulated all the committee members of the units that won awards.

IFLA's Honours and Awards:

The IFLA Scroll of Appreciation is awarded to members who have given distinguished service to IFLA.

A scroll of appreciation was awarded to Renate Behrens, Germany, for her distinguished contribution to IFLA, for her extensive achievements, expertise, dedication and service, substantially impacting the area of international standards for cataloguing including resource description and access. Renate's work makes the world of information more accessible to all.

10. Motions and Resolutions

10.1 Motion to approve the holding of the next General Assembly in August 2025

The Governing Board called upon the General Assembly to vote on the following motion regarding the next General Assembly in August 2025:

“To authorise the Governing Board to convene the General Assembly to coincide with the next IFLA World Library and Information Congress normally held in August 2025. In the case of an unavoidable delay the General Assembly may be convened at a later date, but no later than 31 October 2025.”

Voting Results

For	968	98.89%
Against	10	1.02%
Abstain	4	

The motion was approved and the President asked the Secretary General to execute the motion in 2025.

10.2 Motions to amend the Statutes to enable IFLA to apply for ANBI status (Algemeen Nut Beogende Instelling - the Dutch acronym for an Institution for Public Benefit and is the Dutch equivalent of charitable status)

As part of enhancing IFLA's financial sustainability, the Governing Board decided to move to applying for ANBI or Dutch charity status. Having this status would make IFLA a more attractive partner for future funders. Institutions with this status must put 90% of their efforts into activities for the public benefit and legal and tax advice is that this is already the case and that IFLA would meet the conditions for this status. IFLA has held

open briefings about the changes to the Statutes and provided detailed explanations.

The President reminded the General Assembly that a two thirds majority was required to change the statutes.

Motion 1:

“To amend the Articles of Association of The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) in conformity with the draft deed of amendment, prepared by Van der Stap Notarissen B.V., indicated with file number 24147.01”

Voting Results

For	948	100%
Against	0	0%
Abstain	5	

With a two thirds majority of votes, the motion was approved.

Motion 2:

“To appoint each member of the Governing Board, each candidate civil law notary, paralegal and secretary, employed at the offices of Van der Stap Notarissen B.V. or its legal successors, to have the notarial deed of amendment to the Articles of Association executed.”

Voting Results

For	886	100%
Against	0	0%
Abstain	14	

With a two thirds majority of votes, the motion was approved.

The President thanked the General Assembly for their support and noted that this was an important moment for the Federation.

11. Address by the President

In her closing address, the President looked forward, and highlighted the Strategy and the Trend Report, which will be launched at the Information Futures Summit.

She noted the importance of the review of the Congress model, and of efforts to enhance governance and communication, and build sustainability. She stressed that sustainability was about seizing opportunities to connect with partners and realise the potential of libraries to make a positive difference.

She noted that the upcoming centenary of our Federation in 2027 provides a great anchor, a focus for our work, as to how we can make sure that we send IFLA into its second century best able to fulfil its missions, to achieve its goals.

We will also be working hard to bring together the work we are already doing – to understand opportunities, to build partnerships, to mobilise the field to ensure that we're ready to partner with others.

12. Close of the Assembly

The President thanked everyone who made the General Assembly possible – The Secretary General and her team at IFLA Headquarters, Treasurer Jaap Naber, Martyn Wade, IFLA Parliamentarian, and all those who joined the meeting in person and online. She then closed the meeting at 14:40 CEST.