



# IFLA Section Library and Research Services for Parliaments

IFLAPARL SC June meeting 2020

Held by videoconference

- June 28<sup>th</sup> at 17:30 Eastern
  - o Present: I. Watt; S. Bebbington; E. Valentine; J. Anderson; J. Anderson; J. Silveira; J. Taylor
- June 29<sup>th</sup> at 08:30 Eastern
  - o Present: I. Watt; S. Bebbington; E. Valentine; K. Finer; Chifuyu Hiyama; C. Wellems; C. Mpundu Mfula; M. Hardi Nyagsi

Proposed agenda was accepted although it was anticipated by the Chair that the item on the Action Plan will essentially cover all other items; minutes reflect that.

- 1) Welcome (Chair)  
Acknowledged the difficult times all jurisdictions are in due to the global health crisis and thanked attendees for being present
- 2) Action plan: update
  - a. Developing ties with like organizations  
Letter of introduction and info packet to regional associations and parliamentary strengthening organizations  
  
Chair sent two draft letters to the SC for comments – one for each type of Letter/packet sent to some regional associations  
No formal responses yet though one has responded informally, and positively.  
Members suggested other organizations to try; members were asked to contact the Chair directly with these contact suggestions.  
Canada will translate the letter for the Association Interparlementaire de la Francophonie.
  - b. Contributing to professional practice  
Update to the Guidelines for Legislative Libraries  
  
After some discussion on Basecamp about the best next steps for the Guidelines, the Chair acknowledged the dedication shown by Lillian and E and presented three options for continuing the work.
    - Option 1: send to IPU as-is (without review by SC) and wait until we receive their feedback before initiating our own revision or review
    - Option 2: review (not revision) by SC members with the intention of pushing ahead with the publishing via IFLA. Completion of review assumes approval of the text.

- Option 3: review (not revision) by SC members with the intention of sharing next with IPU for their feedback and a joint publication process. Completion of the review assumes approval of the text.

The SC members discussed the merits of each option, and determined to review the text now, so that publication options remain open. The two meetings diverged on whether we needed to wait for IPU or not. The idea of a more flexible format such as a wiki was also discussed, with the completed text forming the 3<sup>rd</sup> ed., and wiki iterations being versions 3.x. This option, while attractive, still requires work to determine who will host and moderate the wiki. As demonstrated by the COVID-19 forum on Basecamp, the Section is not as active as we might hope, so we may face a challenge in to identify moderators from among the SC. IFLA has already said they will not have WIKI functionality in the new website (in development).

c. Connecting the profession

IFLA WLIC 2020 and IFLAPARL Pre-Conference 2020

Following the cancellation of IFLA WLIC 2020, the Chair presented the option to the members of determining a new theme and call for papers for 2021 or rolling forward the same theme and call, noting that rolling the work forward seems to be the option used by IFLA HQ for the main conference plan. The Chair noted that even with a roll-over plan from HQ, he will approach HQ to reconsider aligning our session with that of Govt Libraries, also on evidence for policy.

Members agreed that the theme of evidence with links to the UNSDGs would still have relevance in 2021 and supported the idea of repeating the same theme and call for papers.

It was confirmed that the pre-conference theme and programme may change somewhat based on the preferences of the host, but that some of the programming could remain the same.

It was confirmed that since no proposals were formally accepted for either conference, there would be new calls: previous proposals could be resubmitted and adjudicated alongside new proposals.

World Directory of Libraries and Research Services for Parliaments

Julie briefed the members on her work to simplify the questions in the directory and will share these with SC members for approval. Following approval, she will confer with our colleagues in Chile to determine the simplest way to populate the directory.

3) Other business/Roundtable

The Chair raised items from IFLA HQ:

- IFLA HQ have requested that SCs host meetings in August as they would during the conference: Chair proposes to indicate that this meeting will substitute for the August meeting as this meeting covers the same business, and availability of SC members in August may be challenging.
- We may try to do an event in the autumn- a very simple lightning talk series – updates from the field.

- Megan Price of IFLA HQ has requested access to our SC Basecamp site. SC members discussed, and while there were differences of opinion, members ultimately determined to accept the request
- IFLA HQ has sent out a governance survey based on the proposals for a restructuring at the Division level, providing more regional representation and aiming for better balance among Divisions. It was noted that the governance at the Division level has not prevented us from working with Sections in other Divisions. There were concerns expressed regarding the potential merging of Sections in order to meet the proposed balance of Sections per Division.
- SC members will be more interested in the changes brought to that level of governance and expressed serious concerns about any merger of our Section.
- The Secretary reminded members to make contributions to the Newsletter

Meeting on June 28<sup>th</sup> adjourned at 18:47 Eastern

Meeting on June 29<sup>th</sup> adjourned at 09:40 Eastern