

IFLA General Assembly Briefing

14 June 2024



**International
Federation of
Library
Associations and Institutions**

SPEAKERS



Sharon Memis
IFLA Secretary-General



Vicki McDonald
IFLA President



Martyn Wade
IFLA Parliamentarian

How we'll work

- We'll maximise the time available to answer questions. Use the Q&A function to ask questions
- If your question has already been asked, we may need to prioritise those whose questions haven't been asked yet
- Please ask for clarifications – if it doesn't make sense to you, it may not to other people also!

On the agenda today



General
Assembly
Briefing

- **Why a briefing?**
- **On the General Assembly Agenda...**
- **Key issue: towards ANBI (charity) status for IFLA**
- **Other agenda items**
- **How the hybrid meeting will work**
- **Q&A**




General
Assembly
Briefing

WHY A BRIEFING?

The highlight of our membership year

8.1. The General Assembly is the highest governance level of the Federation and has the following key functions:

- a. to determine the purposes and values of the Federation;*
 - b. to amend the Statutes;*
 - c. to determine the conditions of membership;*
 - d. to receive and approve the annual financial report and accounts.*
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... And in plain English

Our opportunity to set out and celebrate all that we have achieved together as a Federation in 2023

A key accountability moment, with the presentation of the accounts endorsed by the Governing Board for adoption, as well as our Annual Report


A time to highlight particular contributions, and

A time to remember those who have passed on

The moment to make any necessary changes to our Statutes

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Why a briefing?

We want you to be able to make maximum use of your voting rights as Members by providing you with the information you need to make a decision

"Members" who can vote are associations and institutions in certain categories and honorary fellows

We want to provide a less formal opportunity to ask questions and seek clarifications

The General Assembly is short!



We will have succeeded if...

You have the information necessary to come to a decision on how you want to vote at the General Assembly

You have been able to ask the questions you have, and received clear and helpful answers

You can encourage and help others to do the same!






General
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ON THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AGENDA

Agenda

1. Opening by the Chair
2. Establishment of a Quorum
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Minutes of the previous meeting, held in Rotterdam, Netherlands and online 23-24 August 2023
5. In memoriam of those members who have died during the past year
6. Presentation of the Report of the President
7. Presentation of IFLA's Annual Report
8. Presentation of the Annual Accounts
9. Presentation of Awards
10. Motions and Resolutions
 - 10.1 Motion to approve the holding of the next General Assembly in August 2025
 - 10.2 Motions to amend the Statutes to enable IFLA to apply for ANBI status
11. Address by the President, Vicki McDonald
12. Close of the Assembly

Decision points: do IFLA's Members...

- Adopt the agenda
 - Adopt the minutes of the last meeting
 - Approve the holding of the next General Assembly in August 2025
 - Adopt the Annual Accounts
 - Approve the necessary changes to our Statutes to apply for ANBI (charity status)
- 



General
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TOWARDS ANBI (CHARITY) STATUS FOR IFLA

**A vibrant, inclusive
international library field,
long into the future**



To do this, we need to...


- Provide great opportunities for committed volunteers to network, share and grow
 - Provide a clear value-add, as the essential, trusted global membership body for libraries
 - Be a recognised stakeholder internationally and an effective delivery partner on relevant projects
- 

Algemeen **N**ut **B**eogende **I**nstelling


= Public Benefit Institution



What this means...

- Simpler to build partnerships which can bring new support for the benefit of libraries, create opportunities for Members and volunteers
 - Lock in higher requirements for reporting on activities and finance
 - Clarify that if IFLA were to close, remaining funding would support the library field
- 

... and what this does not mean

- No changes to our decision-making process (i.e. Members' voting rights)
 - No additional reporting requirements for committees
 - We're still your federation
- 

Changes...

Article 2.2 c.

to represent the interests of its Members, **and library and information organisations and the communities they serve** throughout the world.

ANBI status requires that 90% of IFLA's work and activity should be for public benefit. The amendment reflects this by stating that IFLA represents the interests of all library and information organisations and the communities they serve, in addition to those of its Members. The amendment also more accurately reflects the current work and role of IFLA.

Changes...

Article 14.5

The Governing Board may delegate some of its powers to several of its members or to the Secretary General. Such persons shall report to the Governing Board. The powers delegated remain vested in the Governing Board and the delegation may be revoked by it at any time.

A delegation of powers may not enable any single person to dispose of the institution's assets as if they were their own.

Under Dutch law no single person may be able to dispose of any institution's assets as if it were their own. The new wording makes it clear that this applies to any delegation of powers agreed by the Governing Board.

Changes...

Article 15.3

In the event of the prevention or permanent absence of one or more members of the Governing Board the remaining member(s) of the Governing Board shall be in charge of the entire management of the Federation; in the event of the prevention or permanent absence of all the members of the Governing Board the General Assembly shall appoint **at least three individuals to be** temporarily in charge of the management of the Association.

Such appointment may not enable any single person to dispose of the institution's assets as if they were their own.

Under Dutch law no single person may be able to dispose of any institution's assets as if it were their own. This change also makes clear that there need to be at least three – rather than just one – person in charge in a situation where the GB as a whole is absent

Changes...

Article 23.2

A positive liquidation balance must be spent on behalf of a public benefit organisation (“*algemeen nut beogende instelling*”) with a similar purpose or a foreign institution that is at least ninety percent (90%) focused on the public benefit and that has a similar purpose.

On being wound up or dissolved, IFLA must transfer any remaining assets to another organisation which has a similar purpose, and is either:

- a. a Dutch organisation with ANBI status, or
- b. a foreign institution whose work and activity is at least 90% focused on public benefit (as ANBI organisations are required to do).

Changes...

Article 15.14

The General Assembly may suspend or dismiss a member of the Governing Board if that member has acted contrary to the Statutes or purposes of the Federation.


The Governing Board members appointed as Chair of the Professional Council, Chair of the Regional Council, or Chair of the professional unit representing the interests of National Association Members will cease to be members of the Governing Board if they cease to hold that role for any reason. Suspension or dismissal from that role by the body that elected them shall also constitute suspension or dismissal of these chairs as members of the Governing Board.

This amendment is required to ensure that the Statutes conform with the Dutch Civil Code.

All Governing Board members must act in line with the Statutes and purposes of the Federation as approved by Members at a General Assembly. If they do not, they may be suspended or dismissed from being a Governing Board member at a General Assembly. In addition, the Dutch Civil Code also allows for the electors of the Chairs of the Professional Council, Regional Council and MLAS to suspend or dismiss the post holder from the role of Chair. Should this happen, the post holder also ceases to be a Governing Board member. When a new Chair is elected, that individual is also appointed as a Governing Board member in line with Art 15.9.

Convening Notice & Documentation

All changes are noted in the revised versions of the Statutes provided with the Convening Notice

- ✓ In Dutch with track changes
 - ✓ In a clean Dutch copy
 - ✓ In English with track changes
 - ✓ In a clean English copy
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And the motions?

- 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;**
- 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.**

Motion 1 approves the revised versions of the Statutes in Dutch and English


Motion 2 approves of the process to submit the revised Statutes to the Dutch legal authorities




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ALSO ON THE AGENDA

Annual Report and Annual Accounts

- Higher level of detail than in previous years, in line with good practice and our commitment to transparency
 - Endorsed by the Governing Board at meeting in May
 - Key headlines
 - Unqualified audit report (i.e. without any cause for concern)
 - Healthy reserves and financial situation...
 - ... But a call to intensify our efforts to build long-term sustainability
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Approving holding of the 2025 General Assembly in August

- Legally, we need agreement to hold the GA after 30 June of each year
 - This agreement means we can hold the GA during WLIC if it is held in August
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HOW TO PARTICIPATE


In Person

- You are welcome to come to the National Library of the Netherlands (KB): Prins Willem-Alexanderhof 5, 2595BE, The Hague
- Room: Auditorium
- Time: 13:00-15:00 CEST
- Voting in-person or through the online platform

Photo: KB, CC-BY-SA 2.0,
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Koninklijke_Bibliotheek_%287985199057%29.jpg



Online

- Members will be invited to follow via the online Lumi platform. This includes possibilities to vote and ask questions which will be read out in the room.
 - Others can follow using the live-stream on our YouTube channel
 - There are possibilities to vote via proxy if the timing does not work for you!
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QUESTIONS?

ROADMAP



5 June

Registrations for
General Assembly
open



10 – 14 June

General Assembly
briefings



18 June

Registrations close.
Voting credentials
sent to Members



20 June

General Assembly



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**SEE YOU ON
20 JUNE!**

**LOOKING
FORWARD TO THE
INFORMATION
FUTURES SUMMIT**

30 SEPTEMBER - 3 OCTOBER 2024
BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA

Early Bird Deadline
extended to 24 June!

OPEN TO ALL!

IFLA INFORMATION FUTURES SUMMIT

STRONGER TOGETHER

[REGISTER NOW!](#)

HOSTED BY THE IFLA
PRESIDENT





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THANK YOU