



IFLA 47th World Council Meeting
Suzhou International Conference Centre
Suzhou, China
May 26-27, 2010

AGENDA ITEM

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Diane Menzies, President - James Taylor, Chair Education & Africa Committees
Desiree Martinez, Americas Regional Secretary, Nigel Thorne, VP European Region

Title: International Liaison: UIA, ISOCARP, IFPRA, ICOMOS, WFEO, UNESCO, WHC, UNEP, UN Habitat, IUCN.

Purpose of Report:

IFLA currently liaises with a number of professional associations, non government and international multi-state organizations. This report provides information for delegates and associations, so that they might coordinate their dialogue with these groups.

Associations are strongly encouraged to take up membership and activities with the various associations at the regional or country level. Many agencies are now devolving decision making to regional or sub regional levels of their organization so association members have a much greater ability to participate and influence those groups, and so promote our profession. The Memoranda, membership and activities are intended to open doors for members, not to function as the sole contacts.

Report:

The associations or agencies with which we have a Memorandum of Understanding are now listed and the correspondence or activities undertaken with them since November 2009 briefly outlined.

International Union of Architects (UIA)

Their President, Louise Cox has advised that UIA also renew their Memorandum with IFLA; they confirm interest in our proposed Global Landscape Convention and wish to know when there is an outcome; they have invited IFLA to participate in two working groups and to take part in a round table at the 5th World Urban Forum in Rio de Janeiro in March. Desiree Martinez has agreed to represent IFLA at both events. Ms Cox has been invited to our World Congress but has a competing event and has sent her apologies.

International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP)

IFLA and EFLA's joint office in Brussels is now shared with the local ISOCARP representative and they help pay the rent. This relationship will help improve communication. As an

example we have made immediate contact with the new ISOCARP President Ismael Fernández Mejía who has agreed to speak at our Council meeting and the Secretary General of ISOCARP are also looking to attend our World Congress in Suzhou, China.

International Federation of Parks Administration (IFPRA)

We have struggled in the last year to maintain contact with the IFPRA President as he has moved countries several times. However, the General Secretary Alan Smith maintains contact and has indicated his interest in taking part in the Climate Change Task Group.

International Committee on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)

The chair of the ICOMOS IFLA committee, Mónica Luengo has been invited, and hopes to attend the IFLA World Congress in Suzhou. She has indicated her support for the concept of a Global Landscape Convention. The joint committee is intending to undertake a project in conjunction with AEP, our Spanish member, after AEP represented IFLA at a cultural landscapes conference in November 2009. Patricia O'Donnell, the chair of the Cultural Landscapes Committee also works directly with and is a member of the ICOMOS IFLA committee. The President of ICOMOS, Gustavo Araoz has also been invited to the World Congress, but has not responded.

World Federation of Engineering Organisations (WFEO)

The Memorandum of Understanding with WFEO was signed with their outgoing President Barry Grear in February. At that meeting he suggested a joint project with IFLA that is taking part with WFEO in the May meeting of the UN Commission for Sustainable Development (UNCSD). The issue they are addressing for this two year period is Africa. The Commission meets in New York over a two week period and involves a large quantity of reading and negotiating. The EXCO will investigate this in conjunction with the Chair of Africa and colleagues in ASLA and I will report back to the World Council.

Advice was also given on participating in emergency response through volunteers. WFEO engineers have links to 'Red R' and 'Engineers without borders'. Both demand training in emergency response but if IFLA members or individuals would like to contribute through the Engineers without borders then we are encouraged to contact them. Information could assist the development of our 'Without borders' project. Finally, there is a WFEO World Congress in Spain in March and I will investigate the possibility of having a representative make contact with the WFEO President (who is Spanish) with view to a brief attendance at that meeting.

WFEO also supplied helpful information on their role with UNESCO (they have a Framework agreement and an office in the UNESCO building). Their closer role with UNESCO has taken considerable negotiation and IFLA needs to consider whether we should invest our currently very limited resources in this or focus attention mainly on education in UNESCO, and on the World Heritage Centre in the meantime, as well as developing contact with other agencies such as UNEP.

United Nations (UNESCO)

The Director General of UNESCO changed in November and is now Irina Bokova (a diplomat from Bulgaria). She has commenced her role with vigor. The change however also involves Managers changing and there has been staff turmoil at UNESCO. The IFLA President visited UNESCO in November and was advised afterwards that IFLA had had a Memorandum of Understanding with UNESCO which expired in 2005. This was a surprise and the President has written to the Director General to investigate. There has been no reply to that letter. Enquiries were also made about the likely support which might be given to a Global Landscape Convention by UNESCO but the response was that UNESCO were finding conventions a burden and they recommended seeking an alternative route for our project.

IFLA has also been invited to an administrative meeting for the Nubian Museum project and Nigel Thorne, Europe Vice President, will attend that meeting and can provide any feedback sought at the World Council meeting.

World Heritage Centre

The World Heritage Centre is a part of UNESCO and based in Paris with the UNESCO headquarters. The President also met with a representative of WHC in November to discuss IFLA contribution to the Historic Urban Landscapes (HUL) project and other activities. We subsequently expressed our concern to the Director of the Centre that IFLA had not been invited to participate in the drafting of proposal documents for the project and have since learnt that Patricia O'Donnell has been invited to the drafting meeting in February. She will be able to update the World Council on the outcome of that meeting.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and UN Habitat

The UN Habitat programme is run by UNEP. Robert Kariuki was approved as our contact for UN Habitat and UNEP in Nairobi by the World Council in 2009. Unfortunately communications have been poor and I have had no feedback from Robert yet.

UN Habitat take a lead role in the World Urban Forums (which are an initiative of UNEP) IFLA will be taking part in the World Urban Forum in March and particularly in the UN Habitat professionals Roundtable to which we have been invited. Desiree Martinez will coordinate a team which includes representatives from ABAP including Saide Kahtouni their president, and our regional Treasurer Paulo Pellegrino. This will be the first time that IFLA has had more than a single person attending a World Urban Forum and I thank ABAP for committing their time to participation. I am sure it will help raise our visibility and profile at this major event. Desiree will be able to report on the UN Habitat professionals forum at the World Council meeting.

International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

IUCN has more than 1,000 government and NGO organization members, and almost 11,000 volunteer scientists in more than 160 countries. IUCN's work is supported by more than 1,000 professional staff in 60 offices and hundreds of partners in public, NGO and private sectors around the world. The Union's headquarters are located in Gland, near Geneva, Switzerland.

IFLA has been a member of IUCN for three years, although it was also a member a number of years ago. IUCN operates at a country level and through our international membership IFLA members could participate in local activities of IUCN. Members and local landscape architects are urged to make contact with their local IUCN offices and so extend the visibility and understanding of the profession. IUCN have a number of international commissions and our Executive Secretary takes relevant material from their circulars for IFLA members. A number of our members contribute to commissions particularly the World Commission on Protected Areas. The IFLA President has been attending regular IUCN meetings in New Zealand (one in December) and circulating relevant information to AILA and NZILA. We registered Antonio Sopesens as IFLA IUCN representative after he so helpfully represented IFLA at the last IUCN World Congress two years ago. After having some difficulty in changing lines of communication to him, I have discovered that IUCN have understood him to be our Spanish representative. I will leave further contact changes to the new EXCO, as they will wish to reorganize lines of communication with all international contacts.

Julia Marton-Lefèvre the Director General of IUCN was invited to the World Congress but has a clashing event. She offered to send a video message and acknowledged our intended contribution to the International UN Year of Biodiversity.

Recommendations:

That the new IFLA EXCO review links to UNESCO and consider committing greater volunteer personnel and resources to achieve clear participation goals and outcomes, especially in Education.

That the new IFLA EXCO investigate possibilities of learning from WFEO and Engineers without Borders

That the report be received.