

CDNL Meeting 26 August 2009 – Milan

Address by Prof. Dr. Claudia Lux (President of IFLA 2007-2009)

Dear Chair, dear colleagues of the national libraries,

I want to thank you personally for your activities to put libraries on the Agenda. From the beginning of my Presidential theme I noticed that the support of the National Libraries in each country to advocate for libraries is crucial to the success of library associations and libraries in a country. For a nation's government, the way you (National Libraries) conduct your activities is an example which influences governments' understanding of the library sector as a whole. This is a great responsibility, and in my visits all around the world I could recognise how successfully you put libraries on the agenda and make your government more aware of the role of libraries. Thank you very much for your support. I am extremely grateful for this and I want to thank all of you for the exemplary way in which you have supported my presidential theme "libraries on the agenda."

Thank you so much for again inviting an IFLA representation at the Annual Conference of Directors of National Libraries, and to have some time reserved in the quite busy agenda of today for current IFLA matters.

IFLA greatly appreciates the fact that CDNL continues to have its annual meetings in connection with IFLA's World Library and Information Congress, since this simultaneous timing attracts active participation in both events.

Traditionally the National Libraries have been considered valued and important IFLA members. The value of the National Libraries is reflected of course in the many activities of the National Libraries Section, but also through their involvement in the various IFLA Core Activities, through hosting or sponsorship.

In December 2008 we renewed the agreement with the Bibliothèque Nationale de France on hosting the offices of the IFLA Preservation and Conservation Core Activity (PAC). The British Library is generously providing the secretariat for ICADS; the National Library of Portugal is taking care of the UNIMARC Core Activity. The National Library of the Netherlands has been a host for IFLA Headquarters now for more than 25 years. I wish to express my special thanks to those National Libraries for their kind and very much appreciated support and to all other national librarians for their active participation in the work of the IFLA Core Activities. It is also with great pleasure that we welcome Kai Ekholm, the national librarian of Finland, as the new chair for the core activity on Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (FAIFE) as of August 2009.

Another form of involvement of the National Libraries is in providing financial sponsorship of the IFLA Core Activities. With this financial contribution IFLA can be active and advocate for libraries on the international level in the areas of free access to information and freedom of expression (FAIFE); the development of the library profession in emerging economies (ALP); the maintenance of the Universal MARC format (UNIMARC); preservation and conservation

(PAC); digital standards (ICADS) and copyright and other legal matters (CLM). For detailed information on the latest developments and achievements of the core activities, I refer you to the annual report on the core activities for the year 2008, which was published by IFLA Headquarters a month ago.

Currently IFLA is focusing on strengthening and formalizing its strategic partnerships, such as with WIPO, UNESCO, the International Publishers Association, the International Federation of Reproduction Rights Organisations (IFFRO) and the Internet Governance Forum (IGF). New alliances are being forged within our sector to strengthen its advocacy on copyright. Winston Tabb, the CLM chair will brief you on recent CLM developments shortly.

In 2010 the ALP office will be integrated into IFLA Headquarters. IFLA is now working on developing a special advocacy programme through ALP with training facilities aiming at Building Strong Library Associations. The purpose of this programme is to strengthen the link between policy, development and training. Since in many emerging economies the library associations are closely connected to the National Libraries, or in some cases even represented by the National Library, we hope to intensify the contact with the National Libraries through this new advocacy training programme.

In December 2008 the first meeting of international NGOs on 'Convergence' took place. This new alliance was initiated by IFLA and aims at intensifying cooperation with the international cultural associations for museums, archives and monuments and sites, around issues concerning WIPO, Blue Shield, lobbying UNESCO, digitisation and digital libraries, and training in preservation and emergency planning. CDNL is part of this international group as a permanent observer. At the last meeting in April this year it was decided that the international convergence group will adopt and promote the CDNL Vision for the Global Digital Library. Together with the British Library we are currently working on preparing an adjusted version to be on the agenda of the November meeting of this international group.

I do hope that in the coming year the good cooperation with CDNL and its members will continue, and even better: that more of you will join IFLA as members. One of the advantages of being an IFLA member is the opportunity IFLA offers in building partnerships, especially through its role and status vis à vis international organisations such as WIPO and in the area of convergence.

IFLA has taken good notice of the recommendations of the Report of CDNL's "Futures" survey 2007, which refers to collaboration of CDNL Members with IFLA through relevant Sections and Core Activities, to develop and implement projects connected to digital collections of national libraries and to strengthen its strategic collaboration with organisations in the wider information sector, the cultural sector and the publishing sector. IFLA provides a good platform for that and in 2010 we are planning to develop a strategic plan on how to intensify cooperation with CDNL and individual national libraries within IFLA. In that way we will be able to continue to bring libraries onto the agenda in a strong and positive way.

Thank you for your attention.