

April 2026

Dear Colleagues,

### **A New Chapter for IFLA: Adoption of the Revised Constitution and Bylaws**

It is with great pleasure that I write to you following the conclusion of the 2026 IFLA Virtual World Council. I am delighted to confirm that the new IFLA Constitution and Bylaws, the product of more than three years of collaborative work by the Corporate Governance Review Working Group and extensive consultation with our global membership, have been adopted by the World Council.

This is a landmark moment for IFLA. The new governance structure is not a departure from what makes IFLA strong: the dedication of our delegates, the vitality of our regions, and the depth of our collective expertise. It is a framework designed to make those strengths work harder and reach further.

#### **What has been adopted**

The World Council has adopted a new Constitution and Bylaws that replace the previous Executive Committee model with a three-tier governance structure:

- A World Council that remains the supreme governing body, now meeting twice annually (one physical, one online session), with enhanced oversight powers.
- A Board of Directors of up to twelve members, replacing the current Executive Committee, is responsible for strategic oversight and accountable to the World Council.
- A lean Executive Committee of four officers (President, President-Elect, Immediate Past President, Treasurer) is responsible for day-to-day operations and reporting to the Board.
- A new Nominating Committee, chaired by the Immediate Past President, is responsible for identifying and vetting candidates for the Board through a skills-based, structured process.



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The full texts of the adopted Constitution and Bylaws are available on the IFLA website and have been circulated to all delegates. I encourage you to share them with your association's leadership and membership.

### **What happens next**

Implementation begins immediately. The transition to the new Board of Directors will be completed at the IFLA World Council in Hong Kong in October 2026. The key steps between now and then are:

- April 2026: the Secretariat will issue a Call for Nominations for the Nominating Committee, which is the first and most time-critical step. I urge all associations and regions to identify strong candidates and respond promptly.
- May 2026: the World Council will elect the Nominating Committee via secure electronic ballot.
- June–August 2026: the Nominating Committee will carry an open call for board members and conduct its work, compiling a slate of candidates for the new Board of Directors.
- September 2026: the Board of Directors slate will be presented to the World Council for endorsement via electronic ballot.
- October 2026: the new Board of Directors will be formally appointed and seated at the Hong Kong World Council.

A full implementation timeline and transition plan have been prepared by the CGRWG and are available from the Secretariat.

### **A note on the transition**

Throughout this entire transition period, the current Executive Committee remains fully responsible for the day-to-day operations and financial management of IFLA. There is no gap in governance. All existing committees and working programmes continue to function as normal.

I am also aware that the vote was not unanimous, and that some of our delegates had concerns about elements of the proposal. I want to be clear: those concerns have been heard, they are on the record, and the implementation process will be conducted in a spirit of openness and engagement. The new Ethics and Oversight Committee, once constituted, will provide a formal channel for any interpretive or procedural questions that arise.



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### **Acknowledgements**

This achievement would not have been possible without the extraordinary work of the Corporate Governance Review Working Group, whose members gave generously of their time and expertise over more than three years. I am also grateful to every delegate who engaged with the consultation process, attended the drop-in sessions, and participated in the vote. Rigorous debate is a sign of a healthy federation, and your engagement has made the final documents stronger.

I look forward to the next chapter of IFLA's story, and to working with all of you as we build the governance structures that will carry our profession forward.

Yours Sincerely

Dr Bruno Marques  
IFLA President

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