



# INTERNATIONAL AUTHORS FORUM

## International Authors Forum (IAF) General Meeting 2021

14:30 (London) 14 May 2021, Video conference.

### AGM Draft Minutes

#### Attendees

John Degen, The Writers Union of Canada (TWUC), IAF Steering Committee Chair (*AGM Chair*)

Luke Alcott, IAF Secretariat

Barbara Hayes, IAF Secretariat

Thanasis Venitsanopolous, IAF Secretariat

Owen Atkinson, Authors' Licensing & Collecting Society (ALCS)

Maureen Duffy, Authors' Licensing & Collecting Society (ALCS)

Pierre Olivier-Lesburgueres, IFRRO/PLR International

Mary Rasenberger, The Authors Guild

Cheryl Davis, The Authors Guild

Nicola Solomon, Society of Authors

Carlos Wynter, Fundación para la Gestión del Arte (FUGA)

Katie Webb, Federazione Unitaria Italiana Scrittori (FUIS)

Samantha Holman, Irish Copyright Licensing Agency (ICLA)

Ndongolera Mwangupili, Malawi Union of Academic and Nonfiction Authors (MUANA)

Dr. Nasir Tamara, Indonesia Writers Guild (SATUPENA)

Reema Selhi, Design and Artists Copyright Society (DACS UK)

Florence-Marie Piriou, La Sofia

Anna Zaród, Association of Copyright Collective Administration for Authors of Scientific and Technical Works (KOPIPOL)

Barbara Józwiak, Copyright Polska

Estela Consigli, Asociación Argentina de Traductores e Intérpretes (AATI)

Francis Gbormittah, Ghana Association of Writers (GAW)

Hannele Mikaela Taivassalo, Society of Swedish Authors in Finland

Janet Hicks, Artists Rights Society (ARS)

Nadia Lafon, Union of Russian Writers

Nailoke Mhanda, Namibia National Writers Union (NANAWU)

Pia Cederholm, Swedish Association of Educational Writers (SLFF)

Rebecca Blake, Graphic Artists Guild

Ragnheiður Tryggvadóttir, The Writers Union of Iceland (RSI)

Karl Ágúst Úlfsson, The Writers Union of Iceland (RSI)

Monica Seeber, Academic and Non-fiction Authors' Association of South Africa (ANFASA)

Winston Mohapi, Academic and Non-fiction Authors' Association of South Africa (ANFASA)

Eliitha van der Sandt, Academic and Non-fiction Authors' Association of South Africa (ANFASA)

Sihawukele Ngubane, Academic and Non-fiction Authors' Association of South Africa (ANFASA)

Sanna Haanpää, The Association of Finnish Non-fiction Writers

Suzanne Aubry, Québec Union of Writers (UNEQ)

Wale Okediran, Pan African Writers' Association (PAWA)

James Silvberg, American Society For Collective Rights Licensing (ASCRL)

Edward Waddimba, Uganda Visual Artists and Designer's Association (UVADA)

Denja Abdullahi, Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA)

## Minutes

### 1. Welcome

John Degen welcomed and thanked the attendees for joining the IAF's AGM 2021 by teleconference. John Degen updated on the latest developments on the Access Copyright Case in the Supreme Court of Canada.

### 2. Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was approved with additional points under Any Other Business; IAF letter of support for UNEQ; and an update from ANFASA on the Copyright Amendment Bill. With Nicola Solomon and Katie Webb proposing and seconding, the agenda was approved.

### 3. Approval of minutes of meeting 15 May 2020

With Nicola Solomon and Owen Atkinson proposing and seconding, Approval of minutes of the previous AGM meeting: The Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting 15 May 2020 were approved.

### 4. Approval of new IAF membership applications

Thanasis Venitsanopoulos presented six new applications for membership received during the year. John Degen mentioned the applications were approved by the Steering Committee in advance. With Suzanne Aubry and Ragnheiður Tryggvadóttir proposing and seconding, the applications were approved.

	Organisation Name	IAF Membership Type	Country	Region
1	American Society for Collective Rights Licensing Inc	Author Organisation	United States of America	North America
2	Asociación Colombiana de Traductores, Terminólogos e Intérpretes (ACTTI)	Author Organisation	Colombia	Mexico, Central and South America
3	Ghana Association of Writers (GAW)	Author Organisation	Ghana	Africa
4	Pan African Writers' Association (PAWA)	Author Organisation	Ghana	Africa
5	Society of Young Nigerian Writers	Author Organisation	Nigeria	Africa
6	Unión Argentina de Escritoras y Escritores	Author Organisation	Argentina	Mexico, Central and South America

### 5. Presentation of IAF activity over the last year

Luke Alcott presented a summary of IAF activity over the last year. John highlighted the significant success in terms of activities, given the unprecedented circumstances and remote working. He specifically mentioned the importance of the WIPO MoU with IAF and the recent ANFASA Symposium. With Anna Zaród and Owen Atkinson proposing and seconding, the presentation was approved.

### 6. Presentation of the accounts 2019-20

Presentation and update from Owen Atkinson. Treasurer Owen Atkinson presented the Accounts for 2019/20. Owen urged the IAF membership for donations if possible. Owen

mentioned that IAF made a small loss during the previous financial year. With Nicola Solomon and Barbara Jozwiak proposing and seconding, the accounts were approved.

#### **7. Draft business outline and budget for 2020-21**

Barbara Hayes presented the outline and budget for 2021-22. Barbara Hayes mentioned that the upcoming SCCR in June will be hybrid, highlighting substantive decisions won't probably be taking place as there is a preference for an in-person procedure.

Maria Fernanda Mendoza presented the progress being made in Latin America, including internal meetings and online events both industry and cultural related. With Mary Rasenberger and Florence-Marie Piriou proposing and seconding, the business outline and budget was approved.

#### **8. Statutes**

Barbara Hayes presented a proposal for a review and recommendations for amendments to accurately reflect how IAF operates. Proposed amendments will be presented during next year's AGM. With Mary Rasenberger and Nicola Solomon proposing and seconding, the proposal for a review of statutes was approved.

#### **9. Mentorship Project**

Luke Alcott presented the mentorship project to develop authors organisations in developing countries based on the discussion which took place during the 2020 AGM. Luke mentioned the two-approach, including a knowledge base of information and mentoring opportunities which will arise for IAF membership. Thanasis Venitsanopoulos urged IAF members to be as engaging as they can and offer their guidance to fellow organisations. With Katie Webb and Nicola Solomon proposing and seconding the mentorship project was approved.

#### **10. IFRRO Update**

Pierre-Olivier Lesburguères, IFRRO representative updated on the recent projects of IFRRO such as the PLR campaign for a study at WIPO level, the impact of Covid-19 to CMO's, and highlighted the need for collective work.

#### **11. Copyright Courts**

Luke Alcott opened the discussion about the establishment of small claims copyright courts in the United States and asked membership on their views on the issue. Mary Rasenberger spoke about the process until the legislation passed, mentioning the support from affiliated organisations and its grassroots procedure. Mary also spoke about the next steps of the process. Rebecca Blake spoke about the importance of the CASE Act. Nicola Solomon urged the membership to lobby for such copyright courts.

#### **12. Any Other Business**

Suzanne Aubry asked the membership to support UNEQ's activity to lobby the Quebec government to change the status of artists' law to enable creators negotiate with publishers. Mary Rasenberger said collective bargaining rights should be put forward to stop publishers from taking more rights from creators without paying for them. Monica Seeber thanked IAF, IFRRO and PLRI for participating in ANFASA's conference. Moreover, Monica informed the membership about stopping the amendments to the copyright bill in South Africa. Dr Nasir Tamara highlighted Jakarta's nomination for UNESCO World Book Capital and proposed to the IAF membership to hold a future IAF AGM in Jakarta.

With no further business, John Degen called the meeting to adjourn. Rebecca Blake proposed and the meeting closed.