

Engaging libraries to accelerate inclusive recovery from multiple crises towards Agendas 2030 and 2063

By Sarah Kaddu; e: sarkaddu2@gmail.com

The International Federation of Library Associations & Institutions (IFLA) works to bring about a united global library field powering literate, informed and participatory societies. It focuses strongly on the SDGs as a framework for structuring and maximising the positive impact of libraries on societies, and building awareness and partnerships.

In Sub Saharan Africa, the IFLA Regional Division Committee (IFLA SSA RDC) plays a vital role in building capacity for learning and defining regional action plans and local advocacy priorities that respond to Africa's needs, with reference both to the 2030 and 2063 Agendas. It emphasizes the transformational role that information and informed societies can play in accelerating achievement of the SDGs in Africa. Libraries are trusted information conduits for all stakeholders contributing to progress across the SDGs.

IFLA has successfully hosted similar events, in partnership with Library Aid Africa, at the 2020 and 2021 African Regional Fora on Sustainable Development. In 2022, IFLA also partnered with the Rwanda government, libraries and other stakeholders towards demonstrating the role of libraries in the development agenda.

The proposed event (90min): IFLA SSA RDC and Association des Specialistes Nigériens des l'information Documentaire (ASNID), propose a hybrid side event in the form of a dynamic Panel Discussion under the title: [Engaging libraries to Accelerate inclusive recovery from multiple crises towards Agendas 2030 and 2063](#).

In this, speakers from inside and outside of the library field, across Africa, will identify development challenges created or intensified by the emerging multiple crises, and explore how partnerships involving libraries (SDG17) can provide innovative and effective responses, in particular as regards the SDGs in focus in 2023 (notably SDGs 9 and 11).

Responding to a series of questions, panelists will share lessons and insights about the unique potential of partnering with libraries, and what is needed to unlock this. The floor will be open to participants to contribute their insights and ask questions.

Speakers will include:

- Ms Jamila Amadou President, Niger Library Association
 - Dr. Bonny Matshiso- Mining sector, Botswana
 - Prof. Eugene Ndabaga, University of Kigali, Rwanda
 - Ministère de la Communication et des Relations avec les institutions, Niger
 - Ms. Abdia Abdulrahman - Pastrol Community Initiative of Kenya
- Moderator: Elizabeth Matheus (Namibia) and Ayanda Lebele (Botswana)

Desired outcomes:

- Unpack the multiple crises and explain what libraries have been doing and what they can do better with several partners
- Create awareness among governments and others of the potential of working with libraries
- Contribute to global reflection on innovative partnerships for the goals involving libraries

Conclusion: Efforts have been made to support the broader agendas, however, this has caused inevitable multiple crises that have forced nations to consider alternative routes towards achieving agendas 2030 and 2063. The proposed side event is to demonstrate how libraries as conduits of information can add value to the efforts of others partners to the realization of the agenda 2030 and 2063.