

Informed to deliver on the 2030 and 2063 Agendas: Libraires as pillars of a healthy, informed and effective information environment

(Pre event 17-22 April 2024 proposal)

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.

The IFLA Regional Division Committees for Sub Saharan Africa and the Middle East & North Africa the (IFLA SSA RDC & MENA RDC) play a vital role in building capacity for learning, defining regional action plans and responding to local advocacy priorities linked to regional needs with reference both to the 2030 and 2063 Agendas. The committees emphasize the transformational role that information and informed societies can play in accelerating achievement of the SDGs in especially less developed countries. Libraries are trusted providers of information, and spaces for research, skills formation and community development, helping to contribute to progress across the SDGs, as highlighted by the recent UN Public Service Award to the Ghana Library Service. They bring unique contributions to partnerships.

IFLA has successfully hosted similar events, in partnership with Library Aid Africa and Kigali Public Library at the 2022 and the Niger Library Association in 2023 African Regional Fora on Sustainable Development. These have helped raise awareness and mobilization among Africa's librarians, as well as build new partnerships to help deliver the SDGs.

The proposed event (90min): IFLA SSA RDC in partnership with the Egyptian National Library Association plan to host a workshop on the theme: **Informed to deliver on the 2030 and 2063 Agendas: Libraires as pillars of a healthy, informed and effective information environment** that will form a basis for libraries in reviewing SDGs progress in form of a Summit of the Future, therefore propose a side event in the form of a dynamic Panel Discussion.

Speakers from inside and outside of the library field, across Africa, will first identify development challenges related to the multiple crises and explore how partnerships involving libraries have helped provide innovative and effective responses.

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.

The workshop will draw in particular on the assertion, in the second paragraph of the draft Pact for the Future that advances in knowledge, if properly managed can bring major development benefits. It will look in more depth at what this means, and how we can realise this potential for all, at all levels, through systemic approaches, drawing in particular on networks of libraries of all types. In particular, panelists will look at how libraries sit at the cross-roads of work on the Global Digital Compact, Code of Conduct on Information Integrity, the SDGs, the 2063 Agenda and more.

Speakers will include:

- Prof. Sherif Shaheen, President, Egyptian Library Association
- Heba Mohamed Ismail, Ph.D, Egypt's Society for Culture & Development
- Ms Letsebenj Selawe, Lucara Botswana Diamond Mine
- Dr. Albert Byamugisha, Senior Technical Advisor-SDGs, Head, SDG Secretariat, Office of the Prime Minister, Kampala, Uganda
- Moderator: Heba Ahmad MENA Egypt; Back up Moderator: –Sarah Kaddu, Uganda

Desired outcomes:

- Renewed energy in the library field to act and form partnerships for SDG delivery
- An understanding among participants of how libraries can be part of strategies to enhance information integrity and promote a positive information environment
- Provide concrete inputs for the Summit of the Future
- Identify concrete steps to be taken to facilitate partnerships and realise their potential
- Contribute to global reflection on innovative partnerships for the goals involving libraries

Conclusion: The proposed Egypt event builds on the set foundation to create visibility on the role of libraries towards the attainment of Agendas 2030 and 2063. It presents another opportunity to strengthen synergies between Africa's library community and the SDG committees.