INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON ARCHIVES
SECTION ON ARCHIVES AND HUMAN RIGHTS
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
30 June 2021, 16:00 Paris time, by video conference

Present
Antonio González Quintana (in the chair);
Tom Adami; Lizbeth Barrientos; Blanca Bazaco Palacios; Jens Boel; Gustau Castañer Marquardt; Vitor Fonseca; Neftali Haro; Adam Hidestål; Deborah Jenkins; Christine Martinez; Andreas Nef; Trudy Peterson; Elena Rivas; Rodrigo Sandoval; David Sutton; Proscovia Svärd; Maria José Vanni

1. Apologies
Apologies had been received from Kate Blalack, Bryony Hooper, Romain Ledauphin, Rachel Mihalko, Mariana Nazar and Perrine Canavaggio

2. Approval of the Agenda
The agenda was approved, with no amendment

3. Minutes of previous meeting (26 January 2021)
The minutes of the GA of 26th January 2021, which had been circulated previously, were approved

4. Sectional elections, April 2021
- The outcome of the election process had been reported to every member of the section by email. A full list of members of the SAHR Executive Committee had been circulated. The section expressed its thanks to Giulia Barrera, who had acted as scrutineer for the whole process
- There followed a discussion on inviting the participation of sectional members in the various working groups. It was AGREED that Deb would write to all members explaining what the groups covered and asking for volunteers
- It had been agreed that the handover date from the interim committee to the new committee would be 1 September 2021. Vitor thanked everyone for the trust that was being placed in him and explained that he would have more time to dedicate to the section from September

5. Report on SAHR achievements from 2019 to 2021
Antonio reported on the work of the Section between 2019 and 2021. He summarised:
• The road the section had followed from the last meeting of the Human Rights Working Group in Yaoundé in 2018, when the possibility of transforming the WG into an ICA section was first discussed. The growing number of participants in the WG, and the platform which a section would give were two of the arguments in favour of the change
• A meeting in Brussels in 2019, facilitated by Gustau, at which Antonio was mandated to seek support for the change of status from WG to provisional section
• The submission of the sectional constitution which was approved by the ICA Executive Board at its meeting in Adelaide in November 2019
• The number of WG members had grown from 6 at the Cape Town meeting in 2003 to over 100 in 2021. Membership included participation from all the continents.
• The work of the section in the period 2019 to 2021 had included publications, declarations, seminars, amendments to international statements, translations and special projects

Antonio thanked all SAHR members for their help and commitment. The future looked solid, and a strategic document for the next three years had been prepared and would be circulated for discussion at the next SAHR General Assembly.

On behalf of the whole section, Jens thanked Antonio warmly for his leadership, his immense knowledge, his intellectual generosity and his kindness as chair of the interim section.

6. Finance update
Adam reported on the financial position of the section for the current year. A significant proportion of the budget for the year had originally been set aside for the Congress at Abu Dhabi. However, since this meeting had been delayed until October 2023, the budget was repurposed to be used for travel costs associated with the recent launch of the book on Archives and Human Rights in Madrid. The greater part of the budget had therefore already been used up

There then followed a discussion about other governance activities which might be usefully developed in the second half of 2021. These included:
• Translations for the First Tuesday Talks
• Translation of the book into French and Spanish. It was noted, with grateful thanks, that Christine had offered to do this. Antonio reminded the section that some of the articles had been written in French originally, so only part of the book needed translation. It was suggested that Christine and Perrine should discuss the extent of the work involved.

[Post meeting update: The editors, Jens Boel, Perrine Canavaggio and Antonio González, have now got an agreement with the Spanish publisher TREA to produce the book in Spanish once we provide Trea with a manuscript in Spanish language]
Antonio reported that some of this expenditure might be borne by the ICA Programme Commission, but that we should only approach PCOM once we had agreed our priorities.

7. **Vision/Strategic programme for the section 2021/2024**
   Jens reported that the document on the strategic programme for the section was being translated into French and Spanish, and would be circulated ahead of the next meeting, for a full discussion. In this first draft, three main headings had been identified -- Advocacy, Archives at Risk and Education. The document had taken the UN 2030 Agenda (STD 16 – conditions for just and peaceful communities) as a general framework.

8. **Update on current programme activities**

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<td>a</td>
<td>Climate Change and Archives at Risk Pilot – develop the methodology: Vitor</td>
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  - The pilot project is ongoing and colleagues from Chile are working on this, using maps and other materials. The result will be less a toolkit and more a methodology
  - It was AGREED that SAHR should approach other bodies, including Blue Shield to find out what their thinking on the issue might be

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<td>Book on Archives and Human Rights to be published by Routledge – start work on the French version of the book: Jens</td>
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  - See points 6 above and (h) below

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<td>Directory of human rights archives and of archives holding human rights collections</td>
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  - The pilot project on a directory of the Extractive Industries had demonstrated the difficulties in identifying relevant archives. The proposal was now to record this experience and knowledge into a report
  - The Truth Commissions directory planning group had met twice. 40-50 national level truth commissions had been identified. It had been agreed that, while active commissions would be monitored, the directory would focus on the archives of the commissions which had completed their work. There was a need to appeal for volunteers who had specific knowledge of the archives of individual national commissions
  - The ALA directory planning group had also met twice. The finding aid developed in this case might be a hybrid – sometimes a guide, sometimes a directory
  - It was AGREED that SAHR should ask the ICA Secretariat whether they would wish to provide a platform for this work

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<td>e</td>
<td>Developing teaching materials on archives and human rights – including bibliography on archives and human rights (see attached paper)</td>
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  - Lead and working group to be identified – to be considered at the next SAHR EC meeting

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<td>f</td>
<td>Seminars on Archives and Human Rights – The First Tuesday Talks</td>
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  - The first of the FTT had been very successful. Over 78 participants had registered for the meeting.
Trudy

Speakers had been identified and approached up to December 2021. The template for the flyers had been agreed, and Kate would lead on the delivery of the programme. It might be possible to embed recordings of the talks for more general dissemination on the ICA YouTube channel which had been developed for International Archives Week, but this would require re-branding work.

Businesses and archives and Human Rights – appointment of SAHR representative to UN forum? Blanca and Antonio

This issue would be considered at the next SAHR EC meeting.

Translation work for the section

A lead for this programme remained to be appointed. Various priorities were considered including:
- Translation of articles of the Routledge book into French or Spanish, in preparation for the publication of the book in those languages – see item 6 above

Seminars with other ICA sections, including conference with ICA SPO: David

The proposal for a joint seminar on Sport archives and human rights was being pursued.

[NS since the meeting, SPO had been in touch, and had identified SAHR as a joint partner in the project]

Preparations for ICA conference and congresses: David

The section was reminded of the change of dates, as follows:
- Rome (September 2022)
- Abu Dhabi (October 2023)
- Barcelona (either 2024 or 2025)

[We were informed, after the meeting, that SAHR’s proposal to present our ICA-SAHR publications to the Abu Dhabi virtual Conference next October]

9. Any other business

It was suggested that the Section might look at nominating archivists with a track record in human rights for some of the ICA honours. Awards were usually granted at the Congress or Conference meetings, but as these meetings had been cancelled this year, it might be possible to do so by email. It was AGREED that the SAHR executive would consider the issue at its next meeting.

10. Date of next meeting(s)

It was AGREED that the Secretary would circulate possible dates to the SAHR EC and establish a timetable for both the EC and GA meetings in the Autumn.