MINUTES

Present:

Vitor Fonseca (in the chair); Blanca Bazaco Palacios; Jens Boel; Lizbeth Barrientos; Perrine Canavaggio; Gustavo Castaner-Marquardt; Antonio González Quintana; Deborah Jenkins (secretary); Romain Ledauphin; Andreas Nef; Trudy Peterson (vice chair); David Sutton

1. Apologies:

Kate Blalack; Bryony Hooper; Christine Martinez; Mariana Nazar

2. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved unaltered

3. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising from these minutes

The minutes were approved, with the following clarifications:

- There was no news about the elections for VP finance
- Deb would re-circulate the minutes of the previous meeting (SAHR 14), with amendments and corrections

4. Chair’s report

Vitor reported on various ICA meetings which he had attended. Salient points included:

- At a meeting of Section Chairs, attended by Meg Phillips and Normand Charbonneau, it was confirmed that
  - October would be the month when projects should be submitted to PCOM, for 2023 onwards. There was no information about the outcome for the 2022 submissions
  - The meeting included a report on FIDA projects, which were also managed by PCOM
  - The Rome conference timetable would include slots for Sectional meetings
  - Joint meetings between sections, sections and branches and sections, branches and expert groups were encouraged. However, no financial
incentive was provided to do this. The SPO/SAHR seminar in Girona was mentioned in this context. David mentioned that in the post conference discussion between SAHR and SPO officers in Girona, the possibility of a further seminar between SAHR and SPO was raised by SPO members. The spell binding performance of Dr Harry Edwards, one of the SAHR sponsored speakers at the Girona was mentioned and Trudy was thanked for suggesting his name.

- The ICA position on the Ukraine war and sanctions in the field of archives was raised. A text was being prepared by the ICA President, David Fricker. The ICA position was to work in step with UNESCO and to mirror that position.

- There followed a discussion about the creation of the Finance subcommittee of the ICA EB. No member of the ICA EB had volunteered for that role, and it was proposed that, instead of limiting nominations to that subcommittee to members of the ICA EB, membership might be extended to include any member of ICA with special expertise in the field. Vitor mentioned that an EB meeting was going to take place on the ensuing Monday, and that the issue could be raised then. The proposal might be that, in the event of there not being sufficient volunteers from the EB, volunteers from the wider membership might be sought.

Vitor raised a second issue under his chair’s report: the SAHR participation in the UN ECOSOC forum on Business and Human Rights. SAHR had been represented as observers at previous meetings but had hoped to become a full member. One of the requirements for a formal role in ECOSOC was that joining bodies should be NGOs, and not primarily funded by governments. While ICA viewed itself as an NGO, much of its funding did come from governments, through the funding of National Archives around the world. SAHR needed to establish what its status was before undertaking the laborious task of filling in the necessary forms. It was AGREED that SAHR would write a formal email to the relevant officer. Jens would identify the office to which this email should be sent.

5. Financial matters:

- **Governance Budget 2022: allocation of Sections’ budget**

  It was reported that the section chairs’ decisions in respect of the allocation of the Sections Budget had been AGREED. It was not yet clear whether this allocation had been approved by the EB and elected officers. Vitor would ask Caroline Brown (Chair of Section Chairs) whether she had received any further confirmation on this issue.

  As far as SAHR was concerned, the SAHR 2022 Governance allocation covered travel costs to Rome, the cost of the SAHR flyer, our participation on the joint Seminar with SPO and the costs of Zotero subscription.

- **Project Budget 2021: reports on PCOM projects**

  SAHR had submitted the required reports on the 2021 PCOM funded projects as follows:
  - Translation costs of various chapters of the Archives and Human Rights book, for both the French and Spanish editions
Translation costs of the commentary on the Universal Declaration on Archives

These budgets had not covered the whole cost of the various translations, and the section was very grateful to Perrine and Christine for assisting with the French translation work. Vitor was working on the translation into Portuguese of the commentary on the Universal Declaration on Archives, which he hoped to produce in time for the Rome conference. Antonio reported that good progress had been made with the Spanish edition of the book on Archives and Human Rights. A first draft had been sent to the publisher, and a second draft, incorporating various amendments was in preparation.

- **Project Budget 2022: various issues**
  - It was not clear when the award of project funding for 2022 would be made by PCOM.
  - SAHR needed to develop a clearer process to identify project priorities. The discussion should start before the Autumn of 2022, when PCOM would be making decisions for the 2023 budget. There followed a discussion about funding for existing projects, not least funding for a course on Archives and Human Rights, to be promoted through the ICA training programme. Trudy reported that a small group of people would be discussing the issue in Rome.

6. **Calls for comment/ consultations – process to be followed by SAHR**

Vitor explained that, while commenting on various documents issued by UN ECOSOC and other bodies was an important and valuable activity for the section, there was a need to streamline the process. The main problems were (a) identifying the consultation process early enough for SAHR to have time to comment (b) identifying the members willing to contribute to and draft the sectional response (c) submitting responses in a timely way, which enabled the ICA secretariat and President to approve the comment. Hitherto, the task had fallen on a small number of people. There was a need for a more clearly understood process within SAHR.

Romain reminded the EB that a number of useful collaborative tools, including Zotero, existed already to assist with such processes.

Vitor summarised the various objectives of the review as follows:

- SAHR needed to prioritise which calls it would comment on. There was a specific interest in consultation processes initiated by the Officer of the High Commissioner on Human Rights
- The EB needed to share the activity with all SAHR members and encourage them to comment
- There needed to be an EB lead for each consultation, to help draft the submission
- The draft needed to be ready at least 2 days before the submission date, to enable the ICA Secretariat and President to be consulted

While the discussion was taking place, Andreas established that it was possible to keep abreast of consultations/calls for comment by the OHCHR by using the following link:

Following a further discussion, it was AGREED that Vitor, Trudy and Deb would finalise the process and circulate it at a later date.

7. SAHR Membership review

Deb reported that, following a review by the ICA secretariat in Paris, SAHR membership had fallen from 110 to 48. Since then, in negotiation with the Secretariat, the membership levels had increased up to 74. It was reported that a similar movement had happened with ICA/SPO – where numbers had dropped from over 70 to under 30. All sections were likely to have experienced the same changes. Some of these were due to ICA members not renewing their membership during the pandemic; others were due to the fact that category D members were only entitled to join 2 sections. The ICA Secretariat had not explained how it determined which sections should be retained as part of the membership benefit. Deb had written to a number of former SAHR members to explain the situation, which had led to an improvement in numbers.

8. Questions on SAHR projects and work programme

- The part 2 minutes, with recent updates on the various SAHR projects, were noted
- The submissions for the Rome conference would be confirmed by PCOM on 23rd May. Vitor reported that, while the ICA EB date had been set for 20th September, the rest of the timetable was yet to be published
- It was AGREED that Deb would circulate the interim report on the Extractive Industries and Human Rights to all members of the EB for initial reactions and comments

9. Date of next meeting(s)

It was AGREED that the next meeting would be a joint EB-General Assembly of SAHR, to be held during the Rome conference in September. The meeting would be a hybrid, (zoom and in person), to enable all members to participate. The agenda would focus on SAHR projects

10. Any other business

Christine, who had not been able to attend, sent the following comments following the meeting:

- Translations issues
  (a) Not easy to find volunteers
  (b) The translation into French of Trudy's commentary on the Universal Declaration on Archives is almost complete. We will have to talk about the work already done by the professional translators
  (c) 5 of the articles of the book on Archives and Human Rights have now been completed
International adoption

ASF-France is developing a "programme" on the archives of international adoption, including work on Ethiopia and Senegal. It might be interesting to report on the situation, and to explain the relationship between this project and the process of search for origins. So far ASF-France has got in touch with the International Social Service (SSI). The AsF-SSI project could be a case study, to be used as a starting point for a wider reflection on this topic.