

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON ARCHIVES

SECTION ON ARCHIVES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

7 January 2021, 16:00 Paris time

By video conference

Present: Antonio González Quintana (in the chair); Jens Boel; Perrine Canavaggio; Gustavo Castaner Marquardt; Adam Hidestål; Deborah Jenkins; Mariana Nazar; Trudy Peterson; David Sutton.

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Blanca Bazaco Palacios

2. Preparation of 26 January 2021 ICA SAHR General Assembly

The possible agenda for the SAHR General Assembly was discussed. It was AGREED that it should be kept down to 4 substantive items, and should contain the following items:

- a) *Reports on projects since SAHR became a Section (previously it was a working group)*
- b) *Programme for the next years*
- c) *Publications*
- d) *Working teams for specific projects*
- e) *Participation of SAHR at the 2020 ICA Abu Dhabi Congress*
- f) *Elections process for SAHR Executive Committee*

Deb was tasked with drafting an agenda for circulation by Friday.

3. 2021 Sectional elections

Antonio reminded everyone that, since the approval of the Sectional Constitution in Adelaide in 2019, the Section was committed to running full elections to replace the current interim SAHR executive committee with a fully elected one. The intention had been to run these elections in 2020, but, because of the pandemic, these were delayed by one year, along with all other ICA elections. The details of the election process were discussed. Deb would circulate proposals for the election procedure before the 26th January, so that the proposals could be put to the whole SAHR membership at their forthcoming meeting. As a general proposition, it was suggested that the elections might take place in May/June and that the new Executive Committee should take over at the Congress in Abu Dhabi. This was AGREED.

4. Basic Principles – Translation into Arabic

Adam reported on the successful first pass translation of the Basic Principles into Arabic. The text was now being checked by a professional archivist for quality and consistency. If the quality was adequate, we would be able to use this translator on a fairly regular basis. Antonio would be reporting back on the final check as soon as possible.

The ICA Secretariat had been informed of the cost of the translation before the end of the financial year, so the expenditure should count against the 2020 sectional budget. In addition, Antonio reported that all the other Section Chairs had agreed to transfer their unspent budget to ICA SAHR for this translation. Emilie Leumas, Chair of the Section Chairs, had written to the ICA Secretary-General before Christmas to explain that this was their intention. *[NB: since the meeting, the ICA Secretary-General has confirmed that this promise will be honoured]*

Antonio reported that he was completing the governance budget form, to be returned to Emilie Leumas. Overall, the budget allocated to sections had been reduced, which meant that each section had a broad allocation of approximately 1000 Euros. It was AGREED that Antonio should bid for 800 Euros for travel costs to Abu Dhabi and 200 Euros for translation costs. *[NB: since the meeting, Antonio had submitted the completed form to Emilie]*

There followed a discussion about how difficult it had been to obtain answers to simple questions (like what the VAT number for ICA was) from the Secretariat through the month of December in the Secretary General's absence. It was felt that there should be a designated contact at the Paris office at all times.

5. Training course on Archives and Human Rights

The early draft of possible modules for the training course on Archives and Human Rights prepared by Trudy had been circulated. It was AGREED that it should go forward to the General Assembly for discussion. A working group needed to be set up to take the proposal forward and to liaise with ICA over the possibility of the course becoming part of the ICA Distance Training programme. Volunteers were needed for the working group.

Jens suggested that the course might additionally include a communications/outreach component. How should archivists deal with controversial questions? How might the material be used?

6. Completion of special edition of COMMA on Archives and Human Rights

In Blanca's absence, Deb reported on the excellent progress which Blanca had made with the preparation of the Special Edition of COMMA on Archives and Human Rights. All the articles had now been written, and Blanca was sending them in batches of 3 to the editor, Margaret Procter, at Liverpool University. Margaret reported that she was confident that the edition would be ready by June 2021. This meant that the publication would be ready for circulation more generally by the Abu Dhabi congress. The committee expressed warm thanks to Blanca for undertaking this job, which had proved to be difficult as not all the authors had been able to meet the deadlines due to the pandemic.

7. Promotion of the Routledge book on Archives and Human Rights in Abu Dhabi; other activities in Abu Dhabi

Jens reported on the progress made with the English version of the book. Proofs had now been circulated and the three editors were working on these. Launches in Geneva, Abu Dhabi and Brisbane were being planned.

The distribution of review copies of the book was being arranged. The 6 main archival journals were being contacted. Some ideas for reviews in international legal journals were being considered. The social media network in Spain, such as EIDiario.com, was also considered.

There followed a discussion about the next part of the project, which was the production of the French and Spanish versions of the book. It was AGREED that only one version could be addressed at any given time, as the production created a significant amount of work for the editors. It was also AGREED that the French edition would be dealt with next, partly because a number of the articles had originally been submitted in French, and English and French were the two official languages of ICA. Jens commented that some funds for translation into French might be available.

8. Pilot project on Climate Change and Archives and Human Rights

Gustavo reported that he had found it difficult to get answers from international organisations about the provision of overlay maps for the Climate Change project. He intended to try again, and try different organisations this time round.

There were a number of fall-back positions:

- a. Approaching universities which ran similar programmes
- b. Working on a country by country basis, which would not be as consistent as an international approach, but might achieve results more quickly

In the short-term, we would await the result of Gustavo's enquiries

9. ICA SAHR Programme for 2021 – priorities for the coming year

There followed a discussion about the SAHR programme for 2021 more generally. Were the issues which we were currently addressing the most pressing? Did we need to consider other activities? It was AGREED that Jens would draft a paper on 'Looking towards the Future' for discussion at forthcoming EB and GA meetings, possibly in June 2021. The need for an information sharing system about initiatives taken around the world was discussed. Jens gave the example of a project which involved the digitisation of records abandoned by ISIS when they left Mosul. It was suggested that this could be done through the [Newsletter](#).

10. Any other business

There was no other business

11. Date of next meeting(s)

To be confirmed nearer the time.

[NB: since the meeting the ICA Secretariat had confirmed that it was possible for the ZOOM software to run hybrid meetings, with part of the membership attending in person and part of the membership participating remotely.]