



Latin America and the Caribbean Section Minutes of the Meeting of the Standing Committee

San Salvador, April 1, 2004

1. OPENING

President Roberto Servidio initiated the opening session welcoming all present and distributing the meeting's agenda.

He referred to how he was impressed by the Seminar "FIRST CENTRAL AMERICAN MEETING OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS – ENRICHMENT AND CREATION OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS IN CENTRAL AMERICA" which took place prior to the meeting of the Standing Committee, as this was the first time he had the opportunity to participate fully in an event prior to the Standing Committee's Meeting. He then thanked Victor Torres for his active contribution in working with the participation of representatives from all of the Spanish-speaking countries of Central America, and whose principal objective was the creation of a Federation of Library Associations of the Region.

Elizabet Carvalho in turn highlighted the importance of Victor's participation as a member of the Committee, and that the Regional Office of IFLA/LAC has also sourced more resources to support this Seminar, and counted on the presence of the Standing Committee members not only at the Committee Meeting but also in their participation as lecturers on the Seminar's Program.

2. ATTENDANCE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE AND OF THE REGIONAL OFFICE OF IFLAC/LAC

The following members of the Standing Committee were present:

Roberto Servidio (Argentina), President; María Isabel Cabral da Franca (Brazil), Secretary; Elizabet María Ramos de Carvalho (Brazil), IFLA/LAC Regional Office Manager; Stella Maris Fernández, Special Advisor for the IFLA/LAC Regional Office, Gloria María Rodríguez Santamaría (Colombia); Marcia Rosetto (Brazil), Sueli Angélica do Amaral (Brazil), Víctor Federico Torres (Puerto Rico), Alicia Ocaso (Uruguay), Elsa Ramírez Leyva (Mexico), Blanca Hodge (St. Maarten), Pamela Benson (Trinidad & Tobago), César Castro (Peru).

3. ATTENDANCE OF THE CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

Estela Morales (Mexico)

4. ATTENDANCE OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTORA OF THE ALP PROGRAM

Gunilla Natvig (Sweden) was also present at the Meeting.

5. JUSTIFIED ABSENTEES

The following Committee members sent regrets: Loly D' Elia (Venezuela), Claudia Rodríguez (Argentina), María da Conceição da Gama Santos (Brazil), Celia Ribeiro Zaher (Brazil), Ludmila Mayrink da Costa (Brazil), Ana Cecilia Torres (Costa Rica), Elizabeth Watson (Barbados), Marie-Françoise Bernabé (Martinique), Adolfo Rodríguez (Mexico), Clara Budnik (Chile) and Marta Terry (Cuba) who, on arrival at El Salvador was unable to enter the country due to a visa problem; and from the following corresponding members: María Elena Zapata (Venezuela) and Ivone Tálamo (Brazil).

6. OTHER ATTENDANTS

Olinda Estela Gómez Morán of the Association of Librarians of El Salvador, Coordinator of the Organizing Committee of the “FIRST CENTRAL AMERICAN MEETING OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS – ENRICHMENT AND CREATION OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS IN CENTRAL AMERICA” who was selected at the meeting as a corresponding member for the Standing Committee of IFLA/LAC.

7. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA and OF THE MINUTES FROM BERLIN

The agenda was approved with some additions and also the minutes from Berlin after some minor amendments.

8. PRESENTATION OF THE REPORTS FROM THE PRESIDENT and THE REGIONAL MANAGER and others

Roberto Servidio explained the absence of a detailed report of his activities since his return from Berlin to his duties as Vice President of the Organizing Committee for the Conference in Buenos Aires.

Elizabet Carvalho presented a detailed report of the activities carried out during the period September 2003 – March 2004, highlighting the achievements in Brazil with Library Institutions and Authorities of Government Organisms with the aim to coordinate actions relative to the Information Society and to the importance of the libraries in that context, in accordance with the recommendations of IFLA, about which some information was already published in the Report of the Sector (nº 43, Dec. 2003).

She informed about her participation as representative of IFLA/LAC at various events in Brazil (Dec. 2003 and March 2004). She also pointed out an important event which took place in Brazil (Dec. 2003) in a ceremony whereby, together with Unesco and with the presence of Aziz Abid, Coordinator of the Memory of the World Program, it was agreed to include in this important world register the Collection of Photographs of the Emperor D. Pedro II, belonging to the National Library Foundation of Brazil.

She also informed about the distribution of news about IFLA and of interest from the Region via the LAC listing. She reminded the Committee members of the importance of using the “Power Point informative about IFLA” made by the LAC Section in 2003, to disseminate it throughout the Region wherever its presentation is possible. She also stated that it is important that the websites of Library Institutions have a link to IFLANET with a prior presentation about IFLA. Estela Morales emphasized the importance of members positioning themselves in their countries in order to publicize the activities of IFLA.

Elizabeth pointed out the importance of the LAC Section and of the Regional Office for the Administration: because one cannot exist without the other and both are mutually reinforced, likewise by keeping abreast with the activities of the other Divisions and Sectors of IFLA.

She ended her report stating that the Clearinghouse as always attends to requests for publications, especially about Public and School Libraries, Digital Libraries, Conservation and Preservation of Collections and Project Presentations. She thanked the Brazilian Librarians, principally Elisete and Marly for their voluntary help at the Regional Office owing to the great number of activities, reports and correspondence needing attention, and to Stella Maris Fernández (Argentina) for the translation to Spanish of the Newsletter and documents of interest for the Office. She also mentioned the effort expended to administrate the funds sent by IFLA/HQ to cover the expenses of travel, studies, etc.

Elsa referred to the importance of accurate and shared communications to strengthen the Sector. Roberto informed that he has received a request directly from the President, Kay Raseroka, to increase relations with similar institutions in the Region like ABINIA (Association of National Libraries of Ibero America).

With relation with the topic of Communications, Elizabeth asked the members of the Standing Committee who belong to other sections of IFLA, to try to communicate with the LAC Sector to find out the position of its members before making a decision on the name of the Region. Roberto Servidio asked Alicia Ocaso to explain about the letters sent to the Section of Management of the Librarians Associations (MLAS) and to the Executive of IFLA about an upcoming parallel event in Buenos Aires in the same week as IFLA 2004. Alicia explained that she had sent that letter to all members listed in the Administrative Section Management of the Librarians Associations to inform them, concerned about the parallel event that would take place in Buenos Aires, since it was being referred to in various discussion lists. Roberto Servidio expressed that this concern was also felt by the chief members of the Executive of IFLA as well as by the Organizers of IFLA 2004, causing some expectations. Estela Morales concluded that this matter was brought up precisely because of the lack of appropriate communication, and that matters such as these, should be sorted out among members of the Region so as to be treated adequately. She explained also that in this case of the parallel event “Social Forum: Information, Documentation, Libraries” taking place in Buenos Aires from August 26 to 28, their organizers are professionals from Mexico and from Argentina who have always had a political posture of opposition to the activities of IFLA in their countries and should not be regarded as a threat against the realization of IFLA 2004.

9. REPORT FROM ALP

Gunilla presented first a Briefing from IFLA/HQ of Feb. 2004 sent by Koopman that was copied for all the members present. The relevant points in it are:

- The composition of all the Committees of the Government Board is being changed. At present the most important are: Professional Committee, Membership Development Committee, Conference Planning Committee and Publications Committee.
- A new Section was recently approved: Knowledge Management Section. Another Section changed the approved name: Serial Publications and other Continuing Resources.
- During the Dec. 2003 meeting, the Professional Committee approved the majority of the Strategic Planning projects presented by the Sections and by the Core Activities of IFLA. These are in the process of editing and preparation to be divulged in IFLANET, which continues to be the most important platform of communication for the world library community.
- IFLA intervened in the preparation (2002-2003) of the WSIS (World Summit on the Information Society) that was held in Dec. 2003. www.ifla.org/III/wsis.html It is important that the Associations of Librarians in all countries know the commitment documents of the Governments of their countries, like the Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action for the Information Society, accompany their actions and can inform IFLA. The next phase of WSIS will be in November 2005, in Tunisia.
- IFLA expects to receive replies from the Associations regarding the value of the annual fees established for 2004 by the study group of the Administrative Section of Associations. It was decided that the Associations from Latin America and the Caribbean could become affiliates this year with the new yearly fee established at EUR 200, according to the growth index of the United Nations for the Region. Contact must be made with Kelly Moore: kelly.moore@ifla.org
- The Regional Sections of Division VIII can present requests for financing of new projects through the **IFLA's Professional Programme** and should not be limited only to financing of Projects through ALP. This source of financing does not have many resources, and also the projects become more visible and that is a form of improved integration of the Div. VIII with the other Divisions I – VII.
- Koopman informed about the facilities of IFLA-L, and the possibility of being widely used in the Region. The address is: www.ifla.org/II/iflalists.html#IFLA-L.

Gunilla presented the list with the projects already executed and those presently in execution, distributing copies of the new projects presented and the ALP 2003 report. She informed that the Governing Board the week before at its meeting in the Hague had decided that the name Advancement of Librarianship Programme should be changed to "Action for development through Libraries Programme", which means that we can keep the acronym ALP. It is meant that the new name better describes the programme - more action oriented and emphasizing 'development'.

She also talked about the finances of ALP. According to their contract with Sida, ALP was granted 260.000 USD for 2004. In February they were informed by Sida that the contract must emergency relief to Iraque and Iran. ALP has received half the sum, but how much more they will get they still don't know.

She began her report expressing that the **Project 351** “Interactive didactic unit about processes of documental information on electronic media” from Costa Rica must receive information about the creation of the new Federation of Associations of Librarians of Central America, in order to publicize it to the entire Region as a form of sharing.

Project 353 “Read to live” informed that it remains pending due to the political situation of the country, but must conclude in May 2004, according to the report by María Elena Zapata for Elizabet and Gloria.

Project 354 “Infobila: Digital Library for Latin America and the Caribbean” from Mexico, Elsa presented a brief report on behalf of Filiberto Martínez, Director of CUIB. He explained that Infobila already contains 16,108 entries and the possibility to fully access the documents and also contains a Thesaurus in 3 languages. Filiberto Martínez, personally, is determined to develop the Project, because he received the financing from ALP since 2003. The new cooperation that he receives from other Institutions in the Region has contributed to enrich the Project. Elizabet asked Elsa to promote Infobila even more and also to send information for the Newsletter, and suggested that a Seminar be held in Mexico for this purpose. Roberto Servidio suggested the exhibition of the material promoting Infobila at Buenos Aires 2004. Elizabet added that it would be interesting to designate a space in the Section of Posters. Pamela reported that there is a Digital Library Project by “Unesco/Infolac” with this same name and that it would be important for Infobila to include in the title of its Project the word “Infobila” before Digital Libraries.

Project 357 “Caribbean Seminar on IFLA/UNESCO’s Public and School Library Manifestos” held in 2003 in Trinidad & Tobago, Pamela Benson informed that the Final Report will only be published after the next meeting of ACURIL in May 2004.

Project 361 “Strengthening and creation of library associations in Central America”. The Seminar was held successfully the days prior to the meeting of the Permanent Committee in San Salvador, from March 28th to 31st, 2004, under the responsibility of Mrs. Olinda Estela Gómez Morán. It was agreed that Víctor Torres continue his orientation about how to make the presentation of the Final Report of this Seminar for its elevation to ALP and its publication. Elizabet also informed that the results of the Seminar would be made known during the IFLA Congress in Buenos Aires / 2004, and published in the Newsletter.

Project 363 “Network of Quichua Rural Libraries: Access to Information Services”, César Castro commented that the activities are in progress and they are already working with two indigenous tribes.

Project 364 “Book-lending points at local fairs and in markets in Latin America” under the responsibility of Gonzalo Oyarzún of the DIBAM of Chile, ALP will request more detailed information about the financial role that corresponds to each country involved in the Project.

Project 365 “Program for the formation of library personnel for the attention of indigenous communities in the Latin American Region”, Elizabet communicated that Filiberto Martínez has already initiated the Project promoting the training for the librarians. César added information about the progress of the Project referring not only to the introduction of an adequate methodology but also about the content for the creation of a Distance-Learning Course. Its continuity would be very important throughout all the communities that were present at the Meeting in Puerto Vayarda, Mexico. The CUIB has already developed the digital platform including a wealth of material in indigenous languages. This includes books in 33 indigenous languages. Víctor expressed interest because this Project could also extend to the indigenous communities of Central America.

10. DEVELOPMENT OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE SECTOR 2004-2005

In accordance with the joint revision performed, the necessary modifications made are stated in the new version of the plan that is attached.

In the Planning Strategy there will be an increase in the promotion of actions, together with the Governments of the countries of the Region, aiming to sensitize them about the importance of the Libraries in the Information Society, in order to achieve the presence of the Librarians in the government delegations for the WSIS meeting in Tunisia in 2005.

11. IFLA-LAC ACTIVITIES PROGRAMMED FOR BUENOS AIRES / 2004

11.1 GRANTS FOR BUENOS AIRES

Gunilla informed that for the Travel Grants for DANIDA, 467 participants applied for selection for 20 Grants from all the Sections of the Div. VIII, communicating that the possibility still exists for 37 additional Grants to cover the registration that will be awarded to participants from the Region, especially from Mercosur and for the Telecenters. In addition, there are 9 Grants for Lecturers, 3 for each Section, that will be awarded to those who present papers and to participants of the workshops, for Latin-American professionals under 45 years of age, designated by the Section. Elizabet commented that the Grants are being awarded taking into account those who need the most help financially.

11.1.2 Roberto Servidio informed that UNESCO offered 12 Grants to cover the registration in Buenos Aires, but that 6 of them will be given to persons involved with UNESCO programs, the other 6 will be given to professionals from countries of the Mercosur.

11.1.3 In relation to the Grants from ALA, 40 individual Grants were distributed among all the countries of the Region.

Elizabet and Roberto commented that for Buenos Aires 2004 they received a significant number of Grants, never before obtained, signifying a great achievement because it allows a larger number of colleagues from the Region to participate in the Conference, the grand event of IFLA.

11.2 WORKSHOP OF THE DIVISION VIII

Roberto Servidio informed about the organization of the Workshop programmed together with the Social Sciences Section. They are expecting Lecturers from the 3 Regional Sections. The LAC Section will have 2 Lecturers: Norma Palomino from Argentina and Lynne Rudasill from the University of Illinois.

11.3 OPEN FORUM OF THE LAC SECTOR

The central topic will be “Libraries improving the quality of life?” and in Spanish “Las bibliotecas mejoran la calidad de vida?”

They are expecting the following Lecturers: Adolfo Rodríguez Gallardo (member of the Standing Committee – Mexico) and a representative of the Book Bank who will speak about the program “Read to Live”, winner of the Von Wesemael prize from IFLA in 2003. There is also a dissertation from Mr. Cláudio Menezes, coordinator of the Regional Office of UNESCO of Science for Latin America and the Caribbean, who will speak about “The contribution of UNESCO to the access of information in the countries of the Mercosur”.

Elizabeth Watson (member of the Standing Committee – Barbados) requested of Víctor Torres the presentation of 2 topics that she wishes to include in the Open Forum Program at the SC’s election. They are: “Developing video collections – an Anglophone Caribbean experience” and “Popular music collections in an academic setting – a Bajan perspective”. It was asked to Victor to talk to Elizabeth in order to adjust her paper “Popular music collections in an academic setting – a Bajan perspective” to the LAC Open Forum central topic.

6

The report from the “FIRST CENTRAL AMERICAN ENCOUNTER OF ASSOCIATIONS OF LIBRARIANS” held in El Salvador should be presented in the meeting of the Standing Committee as part of the Agenda, so as to save time during the LAC Open Forum.

Elizabet Carvalho, owing to the number of participants, withdrew her presentation in order to meet the program’s time limit.

11.4 MEETINGS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

Roberto informed that in Buenos Aires the meetings of the Committee would be held on two days. It will be more convenient that the first one is open and the second closed, with participation for members only.

Gloria proposed that the first meeting be planned with information to the LAC participants about the actions of IFLA/LAC, in order to inform them about the activities, actions, projects approved and developed that are happening in the Region. Elizabet will present the Section and other members will speak about their Projects.

Estela Morales suggested that the Agenda of the first Meeting be very objective and rigorous, to give the opportunity to all of the members involved in Projects to present their proposals and that they could do so in a minimum amount of time.

11.5 OPEN FORUM IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SECTIONS OF INFORMATION LITERACY AND MULTICULTURAL POPULATIONS

Roberto Servidio informed that six (6) hours would be allowed for the presentation of these Forums.

The President informed that Portuguese would be included for the first time in the simultaneous translation.

The meeting concluded at 5.00 pm.

**Latin America and the Caribbean Sector
Minutes of the Meeting of the Standing Committee
San Salvador, 2nd April 2004**

1 OPENING

The meeting began with the continuation of the topics of the Agenda that had been interrupted in the **ACTIVITIES OF IFLA-LAC PROGRAMMED FOR BUENOS AIRES / 2004**

2 ATTENDANCE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

The following members of the Standing Committee were present:

Roberto Servidio (Argentina), President; María Isabel Cabral da Franca (Brazil), Secretary; Elizabet María Ramos de Carvalho (Brazil), Manager of the Regional Office of IFLA-LAC; Stella Maris Fernández, Special Adviser of the Regional Office of IFLA-LAC; Gloria María Rodríguez Santamaría (Colombia); Marcia Rosetto (Brazil), Sueli Angélica do Amaral (Brazil), Víctor Federico Torres (Puerto Rico), Alicia Ocaso (Uruguay), Elsa Ramírez Leyva (Mexico), Blanca Hodge (St. Maarten), Pamela Benson (Trinidad & Tobago), César Castro (Peru).

3. ATTENDANCE OF THE CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

Estela Morales (Mexico).

4. ATTENDANCE OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE ALP PROGRAM

Gunilla Natvig (Sweden).

5. JUSTIFIED ABSENTEES

The following members of the Committee sent regrets: Loly D'Elia (Venezuela), Claudia Rodríguez (Argentina), María da Conceição da Gama Santos (Brazil), Celia Ribeiro Zaher (Brazil), Ludmila Mayrink da Costa (Brazil), Ana Cecilia Torres (Costa Rica), Elizabeth Watson (Barbados), Marie-Françoise Bernabé (Martinique), Adolfo Rodríguez (Mexico), Clara Budnik (Chile) and Marta Terry (Cuba) and from the corresponding members: María Elena Zapata (Venezuela) and Ivone Tálamo (Brazil).

6. OTHER ATTENDANTS

Mrs. Carmen Salinas, President of the Association of Librarians of El Salvador, to present the Final Report of the “FIRST CENTRAL AMERICAN MEETING OF ASSOCIATIONS OF LIBRARY – ENRICHMENT AND CREATION OF THE ASSOCIATIONS OF LIBRARY IN CENTRAL AMERICA”.

7. IFLA-LAC ACTIVITIES PROGRAMMED FOR BUENOS AIRES / 2004

7.1 CAUCUS

Roberto informed that the Organizing Committee for Buenos Aires 2004 has not yet defined how they will organize the meetings in different languages, as in the case of the Div. VIII. The Spanish language Caucus Meeting is coordinated in Spain; it would be interesting to contact them to prepare the agenda. Alicia, who participated in the meeting of this Caucus in Berlin, commented that the translation of technical works in IFLA could be better defined if these meetings included this topic in its agenda.

Marcia Rosetto coordinated the Portuguese language Caucus Meeting in Berlin and she informed that she is in contact with the Portuguese colleagues in order to better define the meeting in Buenos Aires.

The LAC Section will request that IFLA/HQ consider the possibility that the Division VIII Caucus Meeting be held at a different time from the rest. Blanca reminded us that in case this was not possible, we should do what was done the year before, when the members of the Standing Committee were divided throughout all the Caucus Meetings so that the Section could participate in all of the Caucuses.

7.2 SECTION FOR POSTERS

Elizabet informed that, once again, this year each Section of the Division VIII will have its own space and asked the members of the Standing Committee to supply material to exhibit in this space.

7.3 TELECENTRES – WORKSHOP

Elizabet stated that this topic was included in the Program of Buenos Aires 2004 at the request of IFLA's President, Kay Raseroka, who is placing great emphasis on the Telecenters that offer remote access to the Library Services worldwide, seeking to emphasize the importance of the Libraries in the Information Society. Elizabet contacted all of the members of the Standing Committee to find out if this type of service existed in their Regions and she obtained excellent

replies of services functioning in Peru, Mexico, Uruguay and Brazil. Five participants will be selected for this workshop with Grants for their registration.

7.4 IFLA PRE-CONFERENCE OF THE MANAGEMENT AND MARKETING SECTION IN SAN PABLO, FROM AUGUST 18th TO 20th, 2004

Theme “The Virtual Client: a new paradigm to improve the relationship between Clients, Information Services and the Library”.

Marcia Rosetto informed about this event to be held at the University of San Pablo, a promotion of the Library Management Department of ECA and SIBI/USP, Management and Marketing Section / IFLA and the University of Montreal.

Over 70 works have already been received. Sueli Amaral is part of the group selecting the works presented by the Brazilian professionals. Marcia informed that they are organizing three-day tourist packages for those interested in participating.

8. REPORT FROM THE STUDY GROUP EVALUATING THE ANNUAL FEES OF THE ASSOCIATIONS THROUGH THE MANAGEMENT OF LIBRARIES ASSOCIATIONS SECTION (MLAS)

Alicia reported on the formation of this work group, of which she forms part since Berlin as President of the National Association of Uruguay, with the objective of reaching a consensus about the annual fees paid to IFLA by the Association of Professional Librarians and commented that it is a lengthy endeavor. The world’s most important Associations form part of the Standing Committee of the Management Libraries Associations Section – MLAS. The major aspect of the decisions of this group was to have decided to calculate the annual rates of each country, using as a reference the growth indexes established by the UNO, in order to find the fairest value for their contributions. Alicia distributed copies of a document about the work performed. She stated it was difficult to reach a consensus because the strongest National Associations have greater interests and voting rights in IFLA. She added that in some countries there are even Associations that can be considered National even though they are only groups of specialized Librarians. She reported that in order to be affiliated to IFLA they could do so in conjunction with another Association that can facilitate a new affiliation of new Associations.

Elizabet commented that the LAC Section and the Regional Office always try to intermediate in the contacts with Regional Associations interested in affiliation with IFLA. The realization of the IFLA Conference in Buenos Aires constitutes a special occasion for the Regional Associations to receive a differential attention.

Elizabet thanked Alicia for her work in this MLAS group.

9. WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

Alicia and María Isabel reported on their participation in IFLA’s Conference en Geneva, November 3rd and 4th, 2003, which was already well publicized via the notices on the list of discussions, on the websites and in the Newsletter. They emphasized the importance of sensitizing the Governments of each country to integrate the Librarians into the delegations in the WSIS Conference in Tunisia in 2005.

10. EVALUATION OF NEW PROJECTS

Two (2) new project proposals were evaluated, having been previously distributed among those present, in order to obtain, even more rapidly, the following results:

Number	Project Name	Observations	Decision
360	Expand the range of literacy in an informative and bibliographic procedure for the Information Network of Guatemala.	The objectives and goals require major precision. Elizabet will guide proposal	Elizabet will discuss it with Guatemalan representatives. new proposal for 2005
366	Regional policies of development of library and information services in Latin America: "Carte Blanche" for development in the new Information Society.	César will oversee.	Accepted for 2005.

Elizabet asked César Castro to be IFLA-LAC's intermediary in the development of Project 366, for which María Lohman is responsible, having gained vast experience in this subject. Estela Morales pointed out that this Project involves 3 countries working with indigenous tribes.

Marcia Rosetto will present a Project for School and Public Libraries in Latin America with a Seminar on IFLA/UNESCO Manifestos and Outlines for School and Public Libraries, similar to the one held in Trinidad & Tobago for the Caribbean in 2003.

Gunilla suggested the elaboration of an ALP-funded Project for Central America with professionals of diverse levels from countries with more developed Library services, with Programs to Promote Reading, like the one in Medellin, Colombia, and the one used in Asia, since ten years .

Blanca informed the meeting about the progress of CARIBAL EDIST, and gave the web address <http://malavoi.martinique.univ-ag.fr/caribal-edist/> she also made mention that for the time being the home page is only in French, but in the not too distant future it will also be available in the other regional languages.

With respect to the Inter-Regional Project 401, Elizabet pointed out that it is a joint Project of the offices of LAC and Africa, made possible by the attribution of FEBAB, BAD and other Associations in the Portuguese-speaking countries of Africa. Marcia informed that this Meeting could be held in Brazil, which has recently inaugurated a Portuguese Language Center in San Pablo.

11. PAC. CREATION OF NEW REGIONAL CENTERS

Elizabet and Pamela reported that the contracts have already been officially signed with the National Institutes of those countries in which the new PAC Regional Centers have been installed: Trinidad & Tobago, Chile and Brazil. Pamela commented that Workshops are being held with orientation from PAC.

12. OTHER TOPICS

Elizabet informed about the correspondence remitted by Virginia Bettencourt in relation to the chaotic situation in the bibliographic archives of Venezuela, accompanied by a postdated letter signed by Venezuelan librarians, informing about the lack of criteria in occupying technical posts in the Institutions responsible for Libraries and Archives in that country.

Roberto read the letter from the President of the Association of Librarians of Colombia, Carlos Alberto Zapata, informing about the bomb that was placed in the Medellin Public Library on March 17th, 2004. Gloria pointed out that the probable motive for the attack was that there were 10 persons, former guerrilla fighters, working as volunteers in that Library.

It was decided that the Standing Committee would send letters of solidarity to the Medellin Library, to FAIFE and to the Association of Librarians in Colombia.

Victor informed about the edition of the IFLA JOURNAL, which will be dedicated to Latin America, and explained how the works will be selected. Elizabet commented that she was invited to present an article with the history of the Section.

Elsa Ramírez informed that the Director of the CUIB has made an offer to host the first meeting of the Standing Committee in 2005, in Mexico, which was approved by the presented Members in this meeting .

Gunilla reported that for the IFLA Conference in Norway in 2005, NORAD will give 50 Grants to the two countries who receive cooperation from them: Guatemala and Nicaragua.

Doris Ivon Samanez Alzamora (samanezalzamora@hotmail.com) from Bolivia, was selected in the meeting as a corresponding member of the Standing Committee of IFLA/LAC.

13. FINAL REPORT OF THE “FIRST CENTRAL-AMERICAN ENCOUNTER OF ASSOCIATIONS OF LIBRARIANS”

The President of the Association of Librarians of El Salvador, Mrs. Carmen Salinas, presented the final report of the “FIRST CENTRAL-AMERICAN ENCOUNTER OF ASSOCIATIONS OF LIBRARIANS – ENRICHMENT AND CREATION OF ASSOCIATIONS OF LIBRARIANS IN CENTRAL- AMERICA” with the participation of 45 professionals from countries of the Region. Two important conclusions arose from this Encounter:

1. The creation of the Central-American Federation of Associations of Librarians, FECEALB;
2. The constitution of the Secretariat, which was created to coordinate the Federation, formed by representatives from different countries in Central America.

Other decisions:

- Inquire if the country of Belize also wishes to join the new Federation.
- Devise a Plan to improve awareness of the training of the Librarian, to attract a greater number of persons interested in the profession.
- Develop a better level of investigation in the Information Science in all of the countries involved.
- Create a specialized publication.

All of the countries that sent participants have already delivered messages of gratitude for the opportunity to participate in this Event and for the important standard that it represented for their professions.

14. CONCLUSION

Roberto Servidio gave Thanks to the exposition by Carmen Salinas, expressing the enormous satisfaction felt by all of the members of the Standing Committee of IFLA/LAC to have contributed to the development of the Library-Culture in Central America. Elizabet completed this expression saying that the members of the new Federation are already being their orientation regarding the presentation of Project proposals for the Region.

The Meeting ended with the dispatch of a letter of Thanks to Ross Shimon, who is leaving the post of Secretary General and a Welcome to Mr. Ramachadan, who assumes the position of the new Secretary General of IFLA.

The Meeting concluded at 5.00 pm.