LIBRARIES AND THE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

LIASA
Leadership and Representative Council

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OUTLINE

- Development Agenda defined
- Purpose of the SDGs
- Why should we care?
- The LIS sector response
  - International Level
  - Continental Level
  - National and local Levels
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- A set of 17 global goals and 169 targets to advance the world’s nations, were adopted by the United Nations (UN) in September 2015.

- SDGs cover a variety of spheres aimed at providing educational opportunities and skills, ending poverty, protecting the environment and ensuring prosperity.

- SDGs are set to be achieved by 2030
Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (UN 2030 Agenda)
What problems are we addressing through the SDGs?

- According to the 2016 UN Least Developed Countries Report:
- 48 countries are designated as LDCs. 33 of these are African countries
- Criteria

  Per-capita income (GNI of an average of R4 830 pa)
  Human assets (Nutrition, health, school enrolment, literacy)
  Economic and political vulnerability (natural shocks, physical and economic exposure to shocks, smallness and remoteness of population)
IFLA COMMITMENT TO SDGs: reaching the next billion

• IFLA will work with its members, including library associations and institutions in 150 countries to ensure their readiness to support implementation of the SDGs in their countries and locally through library services and programmes including public access to ICT.

• IFLA is committed to work with 320,000 public libraries worldwide and more than 1 million parliamentary, national, university, science and research, school and special libraries to ensure that information and the skills to use it are available to all by 2030 (SDG 4, 16, 17)
African Union Agenda 2063

The Africa we want……

It is a strategic framework for the socio-economic transformation of the continent over the next 50 years. It builds on, and seeks to accelerate the implementation of past and existing continental initiatives for growth and sustainable development.
The Cape Town Declaration

Recognising the role of libraries in development, Ministers and country representatives from Angola, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Cote D’Ivoire, Lesotho, Guinea, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa, South Sudan, and Swaziland signed a declaration in support of providing the resources and enabling environment necessary to support the contribution of libraries in meeting the SDGs in support of the Africa we want

The Cape Town Declaration of Ministers 2015
Cape Town Declaration on Libraries 2015

Key deliverables include:

- **Provide** the necessary resources for the development of African libraries to respond to modern day challenges and provide access to emerging technologies.
- **Fast-track** the implementation of continental innovative strategies to improve ICT and knowledge management.
- **Promote** library policies on access to information as part of a universal human rights approach as well as the rights of people to knowledge.
- **Encourage** the establishment of institutional partnerships between libraries in the continent for the exchange of knowledge and experiences.
- **Support** the work of AFLIA, National Libraries, National Library Services, National Library Associations and Councils.
SA National Development Plan: A Vision for 2030

The NDP is a plan to unite South Africans, unleash the energies of its citizens, grow an inclusive economy, build capabilities, and enhance the capability of the state and leaders working together to solve complex problems.

The Plan aims to ensure that all South Africans attain a decent standard of living through the elimination of poverty and reduction of inequality.
NDP = Nation Building By Fostering Social Cohesion

Target - A society where opportunity is not determined by race or birthright; where citizens accept that they have both rights and responsibilities. Most critically we seek a united, prosperous, non-racial, non-sexist and democratic South Africa.

Outcome 14
1. Increase of foot traffic to libraries through creative programming
2. A READING NATION
3. Leveraging of the Bridging of the digital divide programmes

- Provision of access to the nation’s documentary heritage
- Collection of comprehensive materials created in, or relating to South Africa
- Bridging The Digital Divide through access to information and ICTs
- The doors of learning are open to all
- Ensures equitable access to information resources within SA, SADC and RoA
Role of Libraries and Partners

- Alignment of LIS with government priorities
- Work with IFLA, AfLIA and others to strengthen LIS associations in the region.
- Get involved and be active in continental LIS activities
- Increase collaborations with strategic partners everywhere
- IFLA Advocacy Programme (IAP)
  - A new capacity building programme to support the inclusion of libraries in national development plans and demonstrate the contribution of libraries to the UN 2030 Agenda
Critical role of LIASA

- Work to improve the state of professional qualifications of LIS workers and students
- Develop a Competency Index for the LIS field
- Improve remuneration levels of the sector
- Support and participate in the IAP
- Increase and sustain membership base
- Forge relationships and partnerships with other organisations that work to support LIS
- Market the profession to a wider audience
- Ensure that universal access to information and ICTs is a reality for all South Africans
Lili Boshevska, Director of the University St. Kliment Ohridski Library in Bitola, one of five national libraries in Macedonia:

The majority of the UN goals are already mirrored in national policy. “Sustainability is possible,” she said, “but there is still much to be done by 2030.”

Combating poverty by eradicating illiteracy is one of Macedonia’s main priorities especially for disenfranchised groups.
SDGs and Korea

Sook Won Shin, chair of the Presidential Committee on Library and Information Policy of the Republic of Korea:

Libraries are “trying to bring about a change in people’s perception; libraries are an essential place for happiness in our life, as well as spaces for learning, creating, and sharing as a community centre.”

The committee, established in 2007, is responsible for developing the country’s library and information policies.
SDGs and Africa

Botswana Public Libraries
- Taken large strides in supporting government objectives under its National Vision 2016
- Introduced ICT access, improved computer skills of library users enabling users to be successful in business, education and employment

Librarian’s Registration Council of Nigeria
- Pledged commitment to making SDGs a reality
- Translated the 2030 Agenda into Igbo
- Set up channels to accept contributions on how libraries can contribute to achieving SDGs
- Collaborations between libraries, government and non-governmental institutions are in place to ensure synergy
SDGs and Africa

NLSA Strategic Projects to support SDGs

Mzansi Libraries On-Line (MLO) Project

Based on the reality that libraries have the potential to serve and engage the entire community through targeted outreach programmes aimed at improving the lives of information-deprived communities who currently lack adequate access to information needed to live healthy and productive lives” GL
SDGs and Africa

- Mzansi Libraries On-Line seeks to empower South African communities to improve their lives through the provision of free access to vibrant library spaces, technologies and services, sustained through strategic, collaborative partnerships and facilitated by skilled, dynamic librarians, who understand and proactively respond to the evolving needs of their users.

- MLO Vision:

  We envision a literate and technologically advanced community of young and old citizens making use of technology at public libraries to improve their lives.
SDGs and Africa

ICT Coverage

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SDGs and Africa

Conditional Grant projects

- Promotion of the culture of reading: R7 400 000
- Libraries marketing and promotion: R2 700 000
- Library disaster management training: R700 000
- Resource description access training (RDA): R500 000
- Legal deposit co-ordination and official publications repositories: R1 500 000
- Provision of ICT in public libraries: R400 000
- National LIS Policy Framework: R700 000

Total budget for 2016/17 = R17 000 000
SDGs and Africa

NLSA Strategic Projects to address SDGs

Free Internet access

- Pretoria and Cape Town campuses offer free access to the Internet
- Public computers are provided or users can access the Internet on their own devices
- The number of users visiting the Library to access the Internet has grown significantly:
  
  2014:  65 117 users
  2015:  130 254 users
The Department of Arts and Culture (DAC) through NCLIS commissioned the National Library of South Africa to develop a National Library Policy Framework for the country.

The National Library Policy Framework Technical Team is chaired by Prof. Muxe Nkondo.
Thank You.