



International Panorama Council

General Assembly
30th International Panorama Council Conference
Meeting Minutes

Date: Saturday, September 18, 2021

Time: 17:20 – 18:20 GMT

Place: Online at the conclusion of the 30th International Panorama Council Conference

Attendees: Anja Coenen, Blagovesta Momchedjikova, Dominique Hanson, Douglas Gabriel, Éloïse Paquette, Gabriele Koller, Irina Gribova, Jean-Claude Brunner, Katarina Andjelkovic, Katie Trumpener, Jamie L. Jones, Leen Engelen, Liz Crooks, Melissa Wolfe, Molly Catherine Briggs, Nicholas Lowe, Patrick Deicher, Paula Bruno Garcén, Robin Skinner, Ruby Carlson, Salih Doğan, Sara Velas, Seth Thompson, Suzanne Wray, Thiago Leitão, Thorsten Logge.

Opening of the General Assembly by Secretary-General Thiago Leitão de Souza

Approval of the agenda, with no items to add:

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Approval of the 2020 General Assembly Meeting Minutes
4. President's Report
5. Annual Financial Statements: Treasurer Report and Auditors' Report
6. Fiscal Discharge of the Executive Board
7. Election of the Auditors
8. Executive Board Elections for Executive Board Members for 2021-2024 term nominations
 - 8.1. Gabriele Koller (Germany) for IPC Vice-president
 - 8.2. Irina Gribova (Russia) for IPC At-Large member
 - 8.3. Anja Coenen (Belgium) for IPC At-Large member
9. Advisory Board
10. Other Committees
11. Approval of Membership Fees for 2022
12. Information on Forthcoming Conferences
13. Any Other Business
14. Updates from IPC Members
15. Adjournment

1. Call to Order

General Assembly called to order at 17:20 by Secretary-General Thiago Leitão de Souza.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The Secretary-General Thiago Leitão de Souza presented the agenda. The General Assembly agrees and the minutes are approved by everyone.

3. Approval of the 2020 General Assembly Meeting Minutes

The Secretary-General Thiago Leitão de Souza presented the 2020 General Assembly Meeting Minutes of 29th IPC Conference realized online / Bursa. He mentions this document was sent to IPC Master List on August 19, 2021. The General Assembly agrees and the minutes are approved by everyone.

4. President's Report

Molly Briggs and Sara Velas present to the General Assembly an updated Strategic Plan for the IPC for the next years. A synthesis of their plan is presented below.

They believe the IPC should grow in breadth and depth. We should build on IPC's long history, capitalize on recent successes, increase breadth and diversity, and deepen our service to specialized stakeholders, and specially, different yet related services to constituents through our varied activities. These services would include: networking by all Executive Board members; expand our community; increase individual memberships; larger and increasingly diverse conference cohort; and new online Newsletter platform.

Molly Briggs and Sara Velas believe the IPC must Coordinate our services to diverse constituents and increase the value of institutional memberships, such as: more activity outside of the conference; develop the Cultural Routes program; activate Communications strategy; develop activate Technical Committee; and create an Interactive map; Other proposed actions are: Emphasize participation of Institutional Members; Advance our scholarly credibility, Journal indexing; and Advance our scholarly credibility, Journal indexing.

They continue: the IPC should maximize existing administrative capacity with its teamwork, increasing participation in existing committees, developing a mentorship and a streamlined infrastructure. We must coordinate our communications in IPC Website, in Social Media, in our email system, and in an online Newsletter.

For annual conferences, we should: administer existing partnerships; embrace diversity; cultivate heterogeneity. They present existing and new collaborators: 2021 - New Bedford Whaling Museum; 2022 - Luxembourg City Museum. They also inform Organizations & Locations expressing interest in future partnership and collaboration include: Iowa Museum of Natural History (USA); City of Güglingen (Germany); Borodino Panorama Moscow (Russia); Bourbaki Panorama (Switzerland); Luxun Academy (China).

Molly Briggs and Sara Velas also point out that digital conferences offer new opportunities to be explored, but we like to think about the possibility to be in-person again in the future. A discussion will be done in the Executive Board and the Conference Planning Committee is to have a hybrid models: an in-person conference with a digital / remote conference. They

also inform the presentation submissions increase annually, from last year to this year we had more than 50% more proposals. How IPC can integrate more participation in the future? This is also a discussion that we should do with our community.

The co-presidents inform about the 31st IPC conference will be realized in Ville de Luxembourg, hosted by *Musée d'Histoire de la Ville de Luxembourg*, Luxembourg. The tentative dates are September 14th – 17th, 2022. The partnership will be developed with Dr. Guy Thewes, former IPC Vice-President. Additional details will be informed later.

For publications, we must continue to build. For the IPC Journal, we already have the structure of Editor-in-Chief and Associate Editors. For this year, we will have more IPC Members as Associate Editors thank to big a number of proposals. We should maintain current production timeline, size, and status and get indexed. For IPC books, we should: continue distributing *More than Meets the Eye – The Magic of the Panorama*.

For logistics and business operations, the IPC should: manage memberships; to have NGO filing requirements; develop a better email hosting making possible accessibility across continents; develop a cloud file hosting and its management; webmaster; budget growth; book sales; and committees' and board structures.

The existing committees are: Executive Committee: President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary-General; Executive Board and At-Large Members; Advisory Board; Conference Planning Committee; Conference Scientific Committee; Technical Committee; IPC Journal Committee; Auditing Committee; Ad Hoc Cultural Routes Program Liaison; and IPC Community Outreach Committee. Sara Velas and Molly Briggs highlight that any IPC member is welcome in any committee. If you interest in join any committee, please contact the Secretary-General Thiago Leitão or the IPC Co-presidents by email.

Molly Briggs and Sara Velas invited Anja Coenen to present the Outreach Report:

The ambition through the role of IPC Community Outreach Coordinator is to build a solid and experienced but friendly communication base for the organization of IPC and to publicize the Mysterious World for Non Initiated Panoramas & Dioramas. Beginning of the year, the Facebook page has been taken over and today we have 352 followers. A LinkedIn page has been created and counts 96 followers. Do not hesitate to follow, share, like or comment those posts.

Next steps would be Instagram and twitter. Maybe somebody has another idea of a social media on which IPC should be present?

I also wish to help and collaborate for giving a facelift to the structure of the website as well as to work within the Panoramas Routes Committee to see obtaining recognition from UNESCO for the preservation and promotion of Panoramas and Dioramas on a global level, because entering a file at UNESCO for 1 country will probably not be successful, whereas if the IPC enters a file with a global project.

Don't hesitate to share your news, events, exhibitions, webinars... with me on outreach@panoramacouncil.com or directly on our pages...

Report presented by Anja Coenen IPC Community Outreach Coordinator during the General Assembly.

5. Annual Financial Statements: Treasurer Report and Auditors' Report

The Secretary-General Thiago Leitão de Souza informed the Financial Year Report 2020, with all appropriate documents, was sent on was sent to IPC Master List on August 19, 2021. Secretary-General Thiago Leitão invited Dominique Hanson for his Treasurer Report:

This report has been closed for a long time, but I was hoping to announce that the issue "PayPal CHF" could be considered as closed. Unfortunately, this is not yet the case.

The "PayPal CHF" account experienced an "account alert" at the end of 2019 following the transfer to Gordon Jones, in a single sending, of fees related to the Atlanta conference. Following the variation of value exchange, the annual amount was exceeded, and the account blocked. I repeat we were in 2019!

Exchanges with PayPal employees are not easy in normal times. The arrival of the Covid, here also, has made the situation chaotic. It was no longer possible at one point to dialogue in another language than in German, and then it was an English supervisor who took over etc. Finally, PayPal decided, as I was Belgian and for security reasons, to close the "IPC PayPal CHF" account and release the amount on the account after a period of six months, so in June 2021. I took contact in June. Another written message with another employee, another employee on Phone call. Then 180 degrees change: I had 2 documents to deliver and I received the next following message: "now you need to do nothing and be so kind to be patient". Another message similar on 1st August 2021. Since complete silence. With our AG as a target, I phoned again on 12th September. A very polite employee consulted our issue during 17 minutes. When he came back he do apologize for the two delays (from the beginning and since August) he announced a phone call pm or in the following morning. Waiting since.... Conclusion there are no movements on the "PayPal CHF" account in 2020.

We had to find a solution to allow our speakers to register for the virtual zoom session. In order to keep things, separate while remaining transparent, I preferred to ask the Executive Board for authorization to use the Belgian PayPal account of my partner, Anja Coenen. This was immediately accepted and operational. Since this decision, she no longer operated any personal operations with her PayPal account. Only operations related to the conference have been made, I report, except a test between her PayPal account and mine, to see the possibility and the number of charges. Asked by Jean Claude Brunner, Anja began to transfer the money towards IPClogistics2021 D. Hanson. It is only allowed by part of 1000 euros but with very heavy charges (1000 euro gives after transfer 965!). PayPal movements are very easy but very expensive.

If you have a change of currencies it is still more expensive (+6%).

The blocking of "PayPal CHF" also made it impossible for a lot of members to pay their memberships (2020), because they only pay by PayPal. Those memberships will be asked in 2021, one's more, with the PayPal account info of Anja Coenen and the conference fees on IPClogistic2021.

Talking about memberships, Asisi announced that they will put an end at the collaboration with IPC in 2021. We are increasing our efforts to maintain at least a presence of this important creator in the association at the level of a single membership for the amount but also for the symbol it represents. Sara Velas, for her

part, is tempting to ensure a new follow-up with the Chinese. They no longer respond to my emails, but the death of an important person has indeed occurred.

In addition to having been hospitalized three times for the corona and ten days for embolism my activities were much reduced. 2020 was therefore a good year from all points of view!

Nevertheless, we will have enough funds to cover the 2021 financial year, including the honorarium of the secretary general. On his request, we transfer the second part of his honorarium on last days of December 2020. In consequence, he received the funds in January for the taxes. I dare to think objectively that at the end of 2021 we will still have a provision to cover 2022. As I say every year, we are borderline but still alive! With new institutional member Bursa and we are looking for new.

Last detail! The sale of the book, beside the publisher, was very limited. The shipping costs are exorbitant. Expedition from Luzern to the USA, cost 30€ while the cost of the book has been set at 27€. Such a high amount of expedition fees was not announced at all in on the website. I preferred not to reduce to one euro as Patrick Deicher did a stock of more than 200 books printed in the year. Maybe you have a modification suggestion for the statement or the scale that I will be sure to follow!

Now due to the strong collaboration inside the executive committee, our outreach allowed an automatic system, reducing the number of step for the Conference fees, membership etc. and delivering an updated list with names and characteristics. The whole is available on a specific drive for each member of the executive board. Cross the fingers but up to now it works out without any cost. It is why I intended to suspend the contract "smart affairs" by Postfinance (+- 20 euro monthly) when they announced that this service was going to be suppressed. It is up now for the Website (DPRD...)

In my vision, at the end of 2021, IPC will have on its accounts at least, minimum minimorum, the first part of SG's Honorarium (2022) without no membership (individual and institutional 2022). If all the new (announced) institutional memberships become reality, the second part of SG's Honorarium will not be a problem! Let's not forget that the PayPal accounts can't pay SG's Honorarium up to now, so there will be some charges (more or less 6%).

Nevertheless, we must remain cautious: we will be more than borderline if we have a conference on site in Luxembourg. Travel and accommodation costs for SG & Presidency from Brazil & USA and the loss of the integral benefit of the zoom conferences are going to be very heavy in the final financial balance! I will try to send in mid-January 2022, the membership invoices.

In conclusion my suggestion: in the Executive Board, we should open our eyes, ears and minds to see if mixed conferences could emerge, involving one part on site and the other virtual. Do not forget that we are still in (after) pandemic times and not everybody raised up yet for this disaster (financially, job, home, health...).

Report presented by Dominique Hanson IPC Treasurer during the General Assembly.

Jean-Claude Brunner asked the word. He presented and commented the Auditor's Report, developed by him and by Gordon L. Jones.

The Secretary-General Thiago Leitão de Souza informed the Auditor's Report was sent together with Financial Year Report 2020 to IPC Master List on August 19, 2021.

The General Assembly agrees and the Treasurer's report by Dominique Hanson and Auditor's Report by Jean-Claude Brunner and Gordon L. Jones are approved by everyone.

6. Fiscal Discharge of the Executive Board

The co-president Sara Velas makes a motion. The General Assembly agrees and the Fiscal discharge of the Executive Board is approved by everyone.

7. Election of the Auditors

The Secretary-General Thiago Leitão de Souza presents the following names:

- Gordon L. Jones (USA)
- Jean-Claude Brunner (Austria)

The General Assembly agrees and the auditor's names are approved by everyone.

8. Executive Board Elections for Executive Board Members for 2021-2024 term

The Secretary-General Thiago Leitão de Souza presents the candidates Gabriele Koller (Germany) for IPC Vice-president, Irina Gribova (Russia) for IPC At-Large member, and Anja Coenen (Belgium) for IPC At-Large member. Thiago Leitão presents a small biography / resume of each candidate:

8.1. Gabriele Koller (Germany) for IPC Vice-president

Gabriele Koller studied History of Art in Munich, Germany and London, UK. She is an exhibition curator, author and researcher with interests in media art history and cultural history. Her MA thesis was devoted to Gebhard Fugel, the artist responsible for the *Panorama of Jerusalem and the Crucifixion of Christ*, Altoetting which is the only panorama that survives from the classical period of panorama painting in Germany. Since then she has published on various aspects of panorama history. From 1992 to 1995 she served as jury member for the restoration of the Feszty Panorama in Szeged, Hungary. For the International Panorama Council of which she is a member since its foundation in 1992 she edited *The World of Panoramas: Ten Years of International Panorama Conferences* (2003), *The Panorama in the Old World and the New* (2010), and more recently, *More Than Meets the Eye: The Magic of the Panorama* (2019). Since 2011 she serves as Member of the Executive Board of the foundation which runs the Altoetting Panorama, and is the Panorama's Curator.

8.2. Irina Gribova (Russia) for IPC At-Large member

Irina Gribova is an academic secretary at the *Museum-panorama The Battle of Borodino* since 2016 and secretary of the Sector of the museums-custodians of panoramas and dioramas in Russian Museums' Union. She is graduated of the Faculty of Arts of the Russian State University for the Humanities (Moscow, Russia).

8.3. Anja Coenen (Belgium) for IPC At-Large member

Anja Coenen studied Modern Languages and Economics in Brussels. A 12 year experience in the tourism, culture, events and leisure sector (exhibitions, guided tours, festivals, heritage preservation), pursued various functions such as Management Assistant, Executive Assistant & Marketing Manager, Privacy Officer and Personal Assistant to VP EMEA of an American multinational group. Quadrilingual, armed with creativity, searching for improvement and surpassing herself, she became recently a Community Manager. Having worked since 2009 on the theme of Napoleon 1815 (battle reconstruction, bivouac and exhibitions), her first contact with the “our” world was the visit of the *Panorama of the Battle of Waterloo*. Afterwards, she was also the logistic support for the lectures of the last Director-General of MRA-KLM in Brussels, which led her to assist the organizers of the IPC Annual Conference 2015 in Belgium and Luxembourg. For a few months now she tries to animate and communicate more widely to the world of Panorama & Diorama as well as to non-members of IPC through new social media as Facebook and LinkedIn... She supported the EB, behind the scenes, with financial and administrative tasks.

The Secretary-General Thiago Leitão asked the approval of the General Assembly. Gabriele Koller, Irina Gribova, and Anja Coenen are applauded and congratulated. Their names are approved by everyone.

The Secretary-General Thiago Leitão presents the Executive Board new composition:

- **Co-Presidents:** Molly Catherine Briggs (EUA)(2020-2023) & Sara Velas (EUA)(2020-2023)
- **Vice-president:** Gabriele Koller (Germany) (2021-2024)
- **Treasurer:** Dominique Hanson (Belgium) (2020-2023)
- **At-Large Member:** Irina Gribova (Russia) (2021-2024)
- **At-Large Member:** Anja Coenen (Belgium) (2021-2024)
- **Secretary-General:** Thiago Leitão de Souza (Brazil)

9. Advisory Board

The Secretary-General Thiago Leitão de Souza informed that after two terms, Blagovesta Momchedjikova decided to step down the Executive Board. The co-president Molly Briggs and Sara Velas thanked Blagovesta for all these years working in the Executive Board and indicated her name to be added in the Advisory Board.

Thiago Leitão de Souza asked the approval of the General Assembly. Blagovesta Momchedjikova is applauded and congratulated. Her name is approved by everyone. Thiago Leitão presents the Advisory Board new composition:

- Sylvia Alting van Geusau (The Netherlands)
- Seth Thompson (USA/UAE)
- Ruby Carlson (USA)
- Gábor Turda (Hungary)
- Salih Doğan (Turkey)
- Ji Yunhui (China)
- Patrick Deicher (Switzerland)
- Yit Chandaroat (Cambodia)
- Blagovesta Momchedjikova (USA)

10. Other Committees

The Secretary-General Thiago Leitão de Souza presented a current list of IPC members on the existent committees:

Conference Planning Committee

- Molly Catherine Briggs (USA) (Chair)
- Sara Velas (USA) (Chair)
- Guy Thewes (Luxemburg)
- Dominique Hanson (Belgium)
- Thiago Leitão (Brazil)
- Anja Coenen (Belgium)

Conference Scientific Committee

- Melissa Wolfe (USA) (Chair)
- Guy Thewes (Luxemburg) (Host Partner)
- 1-2 additional members TBA

Advocacy + Outreach Committee

- Anja Coenen (Belgium) (Chair)

Auditing Committee

- Jean-Claude Brunner (Austria)
- Gordon L. Jones (USA)

IPC Journal Committee

- Seth Thompson (USA/UAE) (Chair)
- Sylvia Alting van Geusau (The Netherlands)
- Molly Catherine Briggs (USA)
- Thorsten Logge
- Nicholas Lowe (USA)
- Blagovesta Momchedjikova (USA)
- Robin Skinner (New Zealand)
- Thiago Leitao (Brazil)
- Suzanne Wray (USA)

Cultural Routes Program Committee

- Guy Thewes (Luxemburg) (Chair)

Technical Committee

- Sara Velas (USA) (Chair)
- Dominique Hanson (Belgium)
- Irina Gribova (Russia)
- Chandaroat Yit (Cambodia)

11. Approval of Membership Fees for 2022

The Secretary-General Thiago Leitão de Souza presented the membership fees for 2021:

- Individual members EUR 50
- Student members EUR 25
- Institutional members EUR 1'000
- Supporting members EUR 2'000

The General Assembly agrees and the membership fees are approved by everyone.

12. Information on Forthcoming Conferences

The Secretary-General Thiago Leitão de Souza informed the 31st IPC conference will be realized in Ville de Luxembourg, hosted by *Musée d'Histoire de la Ville de Luxembourg*,

Luxembourg. The conference will follow the preliminary program:

- Conference opening: Wednesday September 14th, 2022
- Conference Presentations days: Thursday September 15th & Friday 16th September, 2022
- Post-conference tour: Saturday September 17th, 2022

The Secretary-General Thiago Leitão de Souza also presented Partners / Institutions Locations Expressing interest in collaborating on future conferences:

- Iowa Museum of Natural History/Laysan Island Cyclorama (USA)
- City of Güglingen (Germany)
- Borodino Panorama Moscow (Russia)
- Bourbaki Panorama (Switzerland)
- Luxun Academy (China)

13. Any Other Business

No additional items were discussed.

14. Updates from IPC Members

No additional items were presented.

15. Adjournment

No adjournments.

The General Assembly is closed at 18:10pm.

The next General Assembly will be on September 16, 2022.

The General Assembly Minutes were taken by the General-Secretary Thiago Leitão.