

TO: ALA Executive Board

RE: Task Force on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

ACTION REQUESTED/INFORMATION/REPORT:

Creation of Task Force on the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals

ACTION REQUESTED BY:

Emily Drabinski, Chair, International Relations Committee
Julius Jefferson, ALA President-elect

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DRAFT OF MOTION:

The ALA Executive Board approves the creation of a *Task Force on the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals* with a charge, composition, and timeline outlined in the accompanying attachment.

DATE: January 24, 2020

BACKGROUND:

In September 2015 the United Nations adopted “Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” to stimulate action in the years to 2030 in areas of critical importance to humanity. Seventeen Development Goals were identified for all nations, including the United State to undertake action. The Goals (below) focus on people, the planet, prosperity, and peace. From ending poverty and hunger, to action on climate change, to gender equality, and reduced inequalities.

Libraries and librarians and library workers around the world can be key partners in their communities, societies, and countries in achieving the Goals.

The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) supported by ALA and other members successfully advocated for inclusion of ‘access to information’ into the Agenda (Goal 16- Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) IFLA is identified as a global partner by

the United Nations and is dedicated to 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 country and locally through library services and programs.

IFLA has created the [Library Map of the World](#) which provides a digital space to share stories that demonstrate library and librarian contribution to achieving the SDGs, and to help other libraries elsewhere in the world show the potential they have to decision-makers and win their support. IFLA would like many libraries in the United States, and other countries to contribute their stories, and make to their communities and governments aware of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Goals. Though a couple of stories from the U.S. are going through the review process none have been posted yet. IFLA would like to have hundreds of stories on how libraries are contributing to all 17 Goals.

ALA members, including Past President Loida Garcia-Febo have assisted with IFLA meetings and programs at the United Nations headquarters in New York that have discussed and highlighted the role libraries in SDG's. ALA has so far hosted a couple of webinars on the role of libraries and SDG's. In the fall of 2019, through a grant to ALA, a small group of U.S. and Russian librarians met to dialogue on creating awareness, as in both countries governments do not emphasize UN initiatives, and libraries and librarians are still not cognizant of how their current and future efforts can connect their local activities to this critical global initiative.

ALA added Sustainability as a Core Value of Librarianship in 2019. Within the statement, "Libraries play an important and unique role in promoting community awareness about resilience, climate change and a sustainable future. The SDG's also connect with ALA's Social Responsibility Core Value, "The broad social responsibilities of the American Library Association are defined in terms of the contribution that librarianship can make in ameliorating or solving the critical problems of society; support for efforts to help inform and educate the people of the United States on these problems..."

Engaging ALA members, both national and international, and others on the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Goals, how they can contribute to efforts of IFLA, and connect with their communities on global issues will add a new level to ALA's Sustainability efforts. It can bring together many groups such as the Sustainability Round Table, the IRRT International Sustainable Library Development Interest Group in and others, including other library associations, to raise awareness and encourage activity and action.

Charge:

The charge of the *Task Force on the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals* is to create and begin to implement a multi-year strategic plan to increase awareness among all ALA members of the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and how libraries and librarians and library workers around the world are key partners in their communities, societies, and countries in achieving the Goals. The Task Force will connect and collaborate with other U.S. library associations to expand awareness throughout the U.S. library community

The strategic plan will encourage story contributions and programming by ALA members to the global effort

Composition:

- Immediate Past-Past President of ALA (chair)
- IRC member (1)
- Sustainability Round Table (1 member)
- IRRT International Sustainable Library Development Interest Group (1 member)
- Academic librarian (1)
- Public librarian (1)
- School librarian (1)
- Staff liaison (1)

Timeline:

The Task Force will serve through ALA Annual Conference 2021 providing interim reports to the ALA Executive Board in June 2019, January 2021, and a final report to the ALA Executive Board in June 2021.

United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals

