

International Relations Committee Report to Council
February 2, 2015
Submitted by Loida Gracia-Febo, Chair

Committee Members: Loida Garcia-Febo, Chair; Mustafa Abdelwahid, Yolanda Cuesta, John DeSantis, Lesley Farmer, Luis Herrera, Lisa Janicke Hinchliffe, Katherina Lee, Mimi Lee, Alexandra Rivera, Joan Weeks, Jennifer Younger, Laura DeLancey (Intern), Brian Hart (Intern), Michael Dowling (Staff Liaison)

IFLA Report

IRC welcomed IFLA President-elect Donna Scheeder, who provided the Committee with an update on IFLA activities.

IFLA unveiled the [Lyon Declaration On Access to Information and Development](#) at its Congress last August. The Declaration positions libraries and information as foundations to success across the United Nations Post 2015 Development Goals. ALA Council approved ALA becoming a signatory to the Declaration at the Annual Conference in Las Vegas. There

International interest in

Resolution Denouncing the Recent Attack on *Charlie Hebdo* and Other Attacks on the Freedom of Expression

The IRC was pleased to work jointly with the IFC on the Charlie Hebdo Resolution, which the IFC is bringing to Council.

Resolution on ALA Divestment from Caterpillar, Hewlett-Packard, and Motorola Solutions

The IRC discussed the resolution and decided not to endorse.

Resolution on the Destruction of Libraries and Schools in Gaza in 2014

The IRC discussed the resolution but did not take action to endorse.

UNESCO 70th Anniversary Recognition

ALA is a member of the U.S. National Commission of UNESCO. Fred Stielow is serving as the ALA Commissioner. UNESCO was founded in 1945. For 70 years it has helped to foster collaboration among the nations through education, science, and culture to further universal respect for justice, for the rule of law and for the human rights and fundamental freedoms for the peoples of the world, without distinction of race, sex, language or religion.

A key focus of UNESCO now is the advancement of education around the world, freedom of expression, including a free and open internet and media sector, the sharing of scientific knowledge, and cultural understanding through the preservation of world heritage, and intercultural dialogue.

The IRC would like to ask Council to recognize UNESCO on its 70th Anniversary by recognizing UNESCO's 70 years of achievement and urging Congress to approve the national interest waiver so the United States can again pay its dues, and become a fully functioning member of UNESCO. With this resolution, we urge the continued efforts Council approved in 2013 to get the United States to again pay its dues to UNESCO to help strengthen

This resolution was adopted by the ALA Council on Tuesday, February 3, 2015

**Resolution Recognizing and Supporting United Nations, Educational, Scientific,
and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on Its 70th Anniversary**

Whereas the United Nations, Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) was founded amidst devastation in 1945 with the purpose to contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among the nations through education, science and culture in order to further universal