



**IPA**

international  
publishers  
association

# ANNUAL REPORT **2023-24**

**[www.internationalpublishers.org](http://www.internationalpublishers.org)**

Promoting copyright and the freedom to publish globally

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# PRESIDENT'S EDITORIAL

**Karine Pansa**

*Much happened during 2024 and I was delighted to be able to meet many IPA members and partners at international book fairs and other events. 2024 was an important year for our pillars of copyright and the freedom to publish and more broadly in terms of demonstrating the importance and vibrancy of our sector.*

*At the beginning of the year we published our public position on Copyright and Generative AI – every member I visited was asking about this and I have to commend our copyright committee for this clear statement – transparency and remuneration are essential.*

*We have also supported members with consultations but also a major case that was fought by publishers in the USA against the Internet Archive which we supported with Amicus Briefs. The success of that case is a great result. When it comes to the freedom to publish, our committee has continued to raise awareness of the challenges faced in different regions at different book fairs. They also worked with our international partners from across the book*

*sector to produce a common statement on the trinity of freedoms that binds us – the freedom of expression, the freedom to read, the freedom to publish. These freedoms are under threat in many countries and we stand strong together to protect them.*

*Our Prix Voltaire shortlist and laureates are again a testament to why we need to stand together; why we need to support those publishers who risk their own freedom and their lives to keep people reading.*

*In terms of membership applications, the IPA family continues to grow with four new members and I would like to thank the Membership Committee for its diligent work in evaluating the candidates and helping our membership decide on future members of the international publishing family.*

*Our Educational Publishers Forum continues to be an invaluable forum for the specific challenges of the educational publishing sector and it is great to see the development of regional forums for Latin America, Africa and ASEAN plus.*



**President of  
the International  
Publishers  
Association**

## Karine Pansa

*Our year closed with the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, Melissa Fleming, addressing our Congress and it has been great to demonstrate the commitment of publishers to being more sustainable through our 1000 Actions Campaign. Accessibility has remained important particularly as the application of the European Accessibility Act approaches. We are also making the case for policies that encourage literacy and reading in a way that will help our societies fight misinformation and disinformation.*

*Finally, our work on data last year built on the two reports we published alongside WIPO and Nielsen that together provided the most comprehensive overview of international publishing available to date. That process also showed us where the data black holes are and the challenge that we must overcome to shine light on those areas.*

*Our engagement with international organisations continues. At WIPO we continue to bring delegations to the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights, and we are a member of the Accessible Books Consortium Board and it was fitting that the closing keynote of our Congress came from the Deputy Director General of WIPO, Sylvie Forbin.*

*At UNESCO we work with the World Book Capital City advisory Committee and the Dynamic Coalition for OERs.*

*Finally at the UN, we continue to engage on the SDGs, launching the 1000 Actions campaign mentioned above as well as a new Mexican SDG Book Club and the ever growing SDG Publishers Compact. This Annual Report is my last as President of the IPA and I wish Gvantsa Jobava and Giovanni Hoepli every success as IPA's next President and Vice President respectively.*

*We all know that what publishers do for our societies, for our economies, for our cultures, is so important, but we have to work harder at communicating that importance to policy makers at national and international level.*

*We need more data on our sector. We need to strengthen our members in developing markets – in our internationally connected world we only need poor copyright legislation in one market for all of us to be weakened. We need to be careful about that.*

*Publishers around the world look up to us – our position on Generative Artificial Intelligence and the joint statement on the trinity of freedoms – drive positions in many of our member countries. Everything that IPA has achieved is thanks to the teamwork of many people - our team in Geneva, those members who volunteer their time to join our committees and chair them, my own support team of Luiz and Ana Claudia and the generous support of CBL ■*

Thank you all

# **COMMITTEE UPDATES**

# COPYRIGHT

**Jessica Sanger**

The IPA represented the international publishing industry at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) at the 45<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR). The main priorities of IPA's advocacy remain maintaining the integrity of the copyright system and opposing progress on exceptions & limitations, as well as the emergence of e-lending, exhaustion of rights or compulsory licensing as policy areas that can strategically harm publishers' interests. IPA continues to participate in other consultative processes and capacity building programs organized by WIPO.

Further to the publication of the IPA's public position statement on copyright & generative AI early in 2024, IPA continued to monitor policy and regulatory developments and to promote strategic discussions within the Copyright Policy Working Group

(CPWG) and the Copyright Committee. IPA has been monitoring, advocating for, and assisting members in: Brazil, the European Union, Japan, Korea, Singapore, and Hong Kong. IPA also made policy submissions on AI to the UN Advisory Board on AI and to the African Union. Additionally, in 2024 IPA held 4 webinars about copyright and AI with industry expert speakers.

In 2024 the IPA coordinated an amicus brief to the successful AAP-led Internet Archive appeal, gathering endorsements by IPA members and by organizations representing authors, the music sector and the film sector. The IPA led several advocacy interventions to assist the Publishers Association of South Africa (PASA) in pushing back the copyright amendment bill there. IPA coordinated with its African members participation in consultations by the AfCFTA's Secretariat on a binding regional legal instrument that might



**Chair of  
the Copyright  
Committee**

## Jessica Sanger

erode copyright protection in the region. IPA filed an amicus brief to a court case where the Mexican Human Rights Commission seeks to get online enforcement provisions deleted from Mexican law. The IPA also worked in opposing adverse bills in Kenya and supporting a review of the fair dealing exception in Canada.

The IPA held 2 online and 2 in person meetings of the Copyright Committee, an in-person panel on copyright & AI in Frankfurt as well as co-organizing the Charles Clark Memorial Lecture in London ■

# IPA Position on Generative Artificial Intelligence and Copyright

Generative AI companies depend on creative works of authorship to fuel and train their tools and products. Some of these companies claim that they do not have to seek permission or pay for the works they are so freely usurping for their advantage, but this is false.

Works of authorship—which include scores of fiction and nonfiction such as award-winning novels, renowned children’s books, ground-breaking scholarship, biographies, scientific publications, political memoirs, and more—are not free for the taking. Rather, these works are economically incentivized and legally protected by both national copyright laws and international treaties and have been for centuries. This legal protection is neither debatable nor dispensable and there is no good public policy reason to weaken it for the convenience and

objectives of technology companies, some of which are the most dominant corporations the world has ever known.

It has become commonplace for some generative AI companies to highlight their innovation and investments as a reason for governments to give them broad copyright exceptions or regulatory loopholes when it comes to existing copyright requirements. But these companies, some of which are valued at more than 80 billion US dollars, owe their considerable success to the prior innovations and investments of others—the intellectual and creative investments of authors and the financial investments of publishers.

Publishers have always embraced technology and technology partners. They are early adopters of many AI tools and believe fundamentally that human expression and technological

innovation are symbiotic. However, the legal framework is clear. Collecting, handling, storing, and copying works of authorship to train AI models implicates the exclusive rights of authors, which cannot be ignored. Generative AI companies must license works of authorship that they do not own—and seek to use for their gain—in the manner directed by the rightsholder.

Basic copyright principles also align with broader ethical considerations for society. They will facilitate transparency for the public, reduce misinformation, and most importantly, ensure that the world will continue to have authors, publishers, and a thriving creative community. Transparency as to which works have been used to train AI models is critical: it protects the public from harm and ensures that authors will not be stripped of attribution for their works.



Licensing is simple in the digital age, and there is no excuse to ignore it. Direct and voluntary collective licensing models are ubiquitous, flexible, efficient, and continue to evolve. Technology companies can respect copyright and avoid liability. There is no need to except them from the well-established rules of copyright. It should also go without saying that pirate sites are a scourge on society and must remain off limits as a basis of AI training and profits, not only because the content is illegally appropriated from rightsholders, but also because it is untrustworthy.

Copyright is essential to reading, learning, and independent thought, and to the survival of the global publishing industry. Yet these issues are ultimately about the public interest itself. Because democracies depend on authors and publishers, we call on governments to

stand up for copyright and resist the calls to give technology companies more power over the public.

Stand up for society by putting authors, publishers, and readers first ■

# IPA Webinar Series

In 2024 IPA held three very well attended copyright webinars, two around artificial intelligence (AI) and one on enforcement and have an exciting new webinar to announce: an exclusive conversation between IPA President Karine Pansa and WIPO Director General, Daren Tang.

The first webinar of the year looked at the EU's AI Act. The session was held on 21 February in partnership with our members the Federation of European Publishers (FEP), Syndicat National de l'Édition (SNE), and International Association of Scientific, Technical and Medical Publishers (STM). Jessica Sängler, Chair of IPA's Copyright Committee, moderated a conversation with Quentin Deschandelliers (FEP), Catherine Blache (SNE) and Claudia Russo (STM), following the EU Council's vote in favour of the agreed text of the EU Artificial Intelligence (AI) Act on 2nd February.

The vote marked an important step towards the adoption of the world's first comprehensive framework to regulate AI, aiming at ensuring ethical and human-centric development of AI systems and preventing abusive practices.

Collective Licensing of AI (23 October 2024), looked at how publishers have been alerting regulators that licensing required for AI purposes is feasible under the existing legal framework and is widely available. The session demonstrated that, in addition to direct or individual licenses, voluntary collective licenses can be a useful tool for publishers to consider as a free choice under their contractual freedom.

Jessica Sängler spoke to James Bennett, Rightsholder Relations, Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA), Catherine Zaller Rowland, Vice

President, General Counsel, Copyright Clearance Center (CCC) and Robert Staats, CEO, VG WORT about the voluntary collective licenses for AI-related uses that their organisations offer and how these organizations are managing publishers' mandates to supplement direct licensing where required.

The second webinar, Practical Approaches to Online Piracy – Focus on Notice and Takedown (25 October) saw Jessica Sängler speak to Mo Ali, Founder, Web Capio and Jack Newton, Head of Content Protection and Enforcement, Publishers Association about how piracy is the biggest threat for publishers across the world and giving practical approaches on how to fight online piracy. They focused on preliminary investigative work and on the first steps for copyright owners to enforce their rights before

delving into how to prioritize, serve and track notices to platforms and ISPs for takedown of unauthorized content.

The final webinar came back to AI. Under the title AI Licensing & Fairly Trained (18 November), it featured Maria Pallante, President and CEO, Association of American Publishers (AAP) in conversation with Ed Newton Rex, the founder of Fairly Trained and also the person behind the Statement on AI training which has gathered over 36000 signatories to date.

Pallante and Newton-Rex discussed how licensing is and will continue to address the needs of responsible AI developers and how Fairly Trained is making sure that creators and copyright owners are treated fairly and get a say in whether or not their work is trained on by Generative AI.

The final webinar of the year featured IPA President Karine Pansa, talking to WIPO Director General Daren Tang. They discussed the historic relationship between the IPA and WIPO as well as looking to the future of copyright, multilateralism and artificial intelligence.

Pansa was able to ask Daren Tang about his experience and why the work of WIPO is so important to publishers. They then looked at areas where IPA's engagement at WIPO had been successful before moving on to discuss other areas where cooperation could help in the future including around data, accessible books and artificial intelligence.

IPA members, and their members, can watch any of the above webinars. If you are interested, please contact us at [secretariat@internationalpublishers.org](mailto:secretariat@internationalpublishers.org) confirming your IPA membership affiliation ■

# FREEDOM TO PUBLISH

**Kristenn Einarsson**

The IPA's work in 2024 focused on three areas: the Prix Voltaire, a joint statement on the trinity of freedoms, and the project *Democracies Depend on Reading*.

## **PRIX VOLTAIRE**

The 2024 IPA Prix Voltaire was awarded to Palestinian publisher Samir Mansour at the ceremony during the 34<sup>th</sup> International Publishers Congress.

Murdered Ukrainian author, Victoria Amelina, was also recognised with a Prix Voltaire Special Award.

IPA had received 12 nominations including many exceptional publishers. The shortlist was announced by IPA President, Karine Pansa, at the World Expression Forum, WEXFO, at its Gala Dinner on Monday 27 April.



**Chair of  
the Freedom  
to Publish  
Committee**



The shortlist was:

- Osman Kavala, Turkey
- Dušan Gojkov, Serbia
- Aslambek Ezhaev, Russia
- Andrej Januskevic, Belarus
- Samir Mansour, Palestine

The IPA Prix Voltaire, a cash prize of 10,000 CHF, is possible thanks to our generous sponsors. The Freedom to Publish Committee is grateful to our sponsors and invites more publishers to support the prize.

### **AN INTERNATIONAL STATEMENT ON FREEDOM TO READ, PUBLISH, AND OF EXPRESSION – THE ‘TRINITY OF FREEDOMS’**

At London Book Fair the IPA, alongside EIBF, IAF, IFLA and PEN International, launched an international statement supporting the freedoms to read, publish and express. The statement has so far secured 395 signatures from across the book sector. **You can sign up on IPA’s website.**

IPA, and the other partners have continued to promote the statement in panels and workshops at events in Italy, Norway, Germany and Mexico.

### **DEMOCRACIES DEPEND ON READING**

Finally, we have closely followed the work being done on a project called “Democracies depend on Reading”, which is a follow-up on the Ljubljana Reading Manifesto, launched at the 2023 Frankfurt Book Fair. We were able to organize and participate in two sessions on this theme at Frankfurt Book Fair in 2024.

The 34<sup>th</sup> International Publishers Congress also included four sessions on the freedom to publish focusing on reading, the Americas, the trinity of freedoms and education publishing, as well as a presentation by the V-DEM Institute’s Staffan Lindberg on their latest data on democracy and freedom of expression.

I would like to thank our Committee members for all of their work and support this year ■

# IPA Prix Voltaire 2024

The 2024 sponsors of the IPA Prix Voltaire were, in alphabetical order:

- Albert Bonniers Förlag (Sweden)
- Holtzbrinck (Germany)
- Penguin Random House
- C.H.Beck (Germany)



Previous laureates of the Prix Voltaire are:

Year	Laureate	Special Award
2024	Samir Mansour (Palestine)	Victoria Amelina (Ukraine)
2023	Mazin Lateef Ali (Iraq)	Volodymyr Vakulenko (Ukraine)
2022	Same Sky Books (Thailand)	
2021	Dar Al Jadeed (Lebanon)	Li Liqun (China)
2020	Liberal Publishing House (Vietnam)	
2019	Khaled Lotfy (Egypt)	
2018	Gui Minhai (Sweden / Hong Kong)	Faisal Arefin Dipan (Bangladesh) and Liu Xiaobo (China)
2017	Turhan Günay and publishing house Evrensel (Türkiye)	
2016	Raif Badawi (Saudi Arabia)	
2014	Ihar Lohvinau (Belarus)	
2012	“Zapiro” (South Africa)	
2011	Bui Chat (Vietnam)	
2010	I. Shovkhalov & V. Kogan-Yasni of DOSH (Chechnya-Russia)	Irfan Sancı (Türkiye)
2009	S Bensedrine, N. Rijba, M. Talbi, Founders of OLPEC (Tunisia)	
2008	Ragip Zarakolu (Türkiye)	
2007	Trevor Ncube (Zimbabwe)	Anna Politkovskaya (Russia) and Hrant Dink (Türkiye)
2006	Shalah Lahiji (Iran)	

# Joint statement on the Trinity of Freedoms

The international organisations launching this statement are:

- International Authors Forum
- PEN International
- International Publishers Association
- European and International Booksellers Federation
- International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions

You can read the statement in English below (French, Russian, Chinese, Spanish, and Arabic [here](#)). You can sign the statement [here](#).

## **INTERNATIONAL STATEMENT ON THE FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, AND THE FREEDOMS TO PUBLISH AND READ**

With the core purpose of providing access to a wide variety of written works for all, we have come together to support the freedoms to express, publish and read. It is our belief that society needs enlightened citizens who, based on accurate knowledge and information, make choices and participate in democratic progress. Authors, publishers, booksellers and libraries have a role to play in this which should be recognized, valued, and enabled.

True **FREEDOM TO READ** means being able to choose from the broadest range of books sharing the widest range of ideas. Unrestrained communication is essential to a free society and a creative culture but carries with it the responsibility to resist hate speech,

deliberate falsehoods and distortion of facts. Authors, publishers, booksellers and libraries make an essential contribution to guaranteeing this freedom.

Subject to the limits set by international human rights law and standards, authors must have guaranteed **FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION**. Through their work we understand our societies, build empathy, overcome our prejudices and reflect on provocative ideas.

Equally, booksellers and librarians must be free to present the full range of works, across the ideological spectrum, to all. They should not have that freedom constrained by governments or local authorities, individuals or groups seeking to impose their own standards or tastes upon the community at large, even when this is done in the name of the 'community' or of its majority.

For booksellers and librarians to present the broadest range of written works, there must be the **FREEDOM TO PUBLISH**. Publishers must be free to publish those works which they believe important, including those that are unorthodox, unpopular, or might even be considered offensive by some in particular groups.

It is the responsibility and mission of publishers, booksellers and librarians, through their professional judgement, to give full meaning to the freedom to read by providing everyone with access to authors' works. Publishers, librarians, and booksellers do not necessarily endorse every work they make available. While individual publishers and booksellers make their own editorial decisions and selections, access to writings should not be limited on the basis of the personal history or political affiliations of the author.

The risk of self-censorship due to social, political or economic pressures remains high, affecting every part of the chain from writer to reader. Society must create the environment for authors, publishers, booksellers and librarians to fulfil their missions freely.

We therefore call on governments and all other stakeholders to help protect, uphold and promote the three above freedoms – of expression, and to publish and read – in law and in practice ■



# INCLUSIVE PUBLISHING AND LITERACY

**Michiel Kolman**

Our committee comprises over 80 IPA members from 41 countries. 2024 has been pivotal as we continue our commitment to making the publishing world more diverse, inclusive, sustainable and accessible to all.

**DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION** (D&I) has been at the heart of our initiatives for several years. We've been working closely with IPA members worldwide to better understand the complex dynamics underpinning efforts to foster diversity within the publishing ecosystem. We have been encouraged to see many IPA members deploying D&I surveys and collecting data to inform dedicated D&I action plans. Our goal remains clear: to build a publishing ecosystem where everyone feels included, valued and a sense of belonging. This has been well represented by the support of the

PublisHer initiative, focused on fostering women leadership in publishing - their events, outreach and toolkits have been a vital resource for IPA members.

On **SUSTAINABILITY**, our efforts have intensified in response to the growing environmental and societal challenges we face. Our Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Publishers Compact launched in collaboration with the UN Publications team has now grown to over 300 signatories. But our focus is not just on prioritising sustainability, it is on turning our words into actions. In September 2024 we issued a challenge to the publishing industry to generate 1000 actions in support of the Sustainable Development Goals. I invite you all to showcase, share and inspire each other by submitting your SDG related projects on the **IPA SDG dashboard**.



**Chair of  
the Inclusive  
Publishing and  
Literacy  
Committee**

## Michiel Kolman

The year closed with us welcoming the UN Under-Secretary-General for Communication, Melissa Flemming, delivering a keynote at the IPA congress and being present at the launch of the latest SDG Book Club chapter in Mexico.

But it is not just about the SDGs. We have collaborated with key stakeholders to promote eco-friendly practices within the industry. IPA members in France, Australia, Germany, and the Netherlands have launched sustainability workgroups, climate pledges and surveys to understand progress on climate action.

**ACCESSIBILITY** remains a cornerstone of our work and includes collaborations with partners such as WIPO. The work of the Accessible Books Consortium (ABC) to promote accessible publishing continues and we are proud to report a growing number of publishers embracing new accessibility standards

and working towards compliance with emerging regulation such as the European Accessibility Act.

Finally, on the front of **LITERACY**, we've continued to see IPA members develop inspiring initiatives that include examples such as cultural vouchers, dedicated events and outreach to push literacy rates, for instance at Book 2.0 in Portugal and finally our groundbreaking MoU with the Latin American Development Bank to support Literacy in the region alongside other regional partners. We also continue to host our database for literacy organizations as a resource for all members.

Our journey in 2024 reflects a deep commitment to creating a publishing industry that is inclusive, sustainable, accessible, and supportive of literacy for all. We look forward to continuing this essential work and making a lasting impact in the years to come.

I would like to express my thanks to our working group chairs, Hugo Setzer and Laura Brady for accessibility, Kathy Bail and Kristina Kramer for sustainability and Ana Maria Cabanellas and Gvantsa Jobava for Literacy, as well as Olivier Borie for his work on the World Book Capital Cities programme ■

# IPA 4<sup>th</sup> Sustainability Summit at Frankfurt Book Fair

Frankfurt Book Fair 2024 hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> Sustainability Summit which brought together associations, publishers, printers, and booksellers to take stock of what had been achieved since the first summit and to focus on the types of actions that can be taken.

Dr Christian Ebert, the new Director of Strategic Marketing and Sales at the Frankfurt Book Fair, got proceedings underway with a quick-fire tour of the different initiatives taken by the fair to be more sustainable and how this was a key value the fair wanted to communicate.

Initiatives like reduced carpet, and free drinking water introduced this year were highlights.

Mary Glenn, Head of UN Publications then presented the progress made so far towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as the provisional results of the latest survey of SDG Publishers Compact signatories which demonstrated progress across the board in terms of communication of engagement both internally and externally.

General speaks at the 34<sup>th</sup> international Publishers Congress in Guadalajara on 5 December. There are currently just under 200 actions on the dashboard.

Participants at the summit shared their initiatives. Examples included association led initiatives in Brazil and Australia around the compact, accessibility, and surveys on diversity and inclusion and sustainability practices. The European and International Booksellers Federation mentioned their first study on sustainability in bookselling as well as a study on consumer habits which includes information on second hand books. A project in Canada covered life-cycle analysis, and Hachette in France presented its Ecodesign week.

The summit continued to gather book sector actors from around the world and closed with the now traditional group photo ■

The session then focused on the **1000 Actions Campaign** launched in September whereby actors in the book sector are invited to add their sustainability actions, big and small, to the IPA SDG Dashboard. The target is 1000 Actions before the United Nations Under-Secretary-



# DATA & STATISTICS

**Pranav Gupta**

In our last Annual Report we were able to announce the successful publication of two reports covering international publishing, one with WIPO and one with Nielsen BookData. I thank again all those who participated in creating them.

This year the Data and Statistics Committee has been looking at how to build on the experience of developing those reports and how to best serve the needs of IPA and its members. There are still many markets where no data is available at all. How can we support our members in those markets and provide authoritative, comparable statistics for global publishing on the data points that matter most? ■



**Chair of  
the Data and  
Statistics  
Committee**

# EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHERS FORUM

**Brian Gilsean**

I was honoured to be appointed the new Chair of the Educational Publishers Forum at our meeting in London in March. Thanks to all our EPF members for your support and thanks to Stephan de Valk and Ilas Körner Wllershaus for their work as Chair and Vice Chair respectively.

In 2024 the EPF held 4 meetings, 1 virtual and 3 in person – London, Gdansk and Frankfurt. We had high-level speakers from institutions like the OECD, the European Commission and the French Ministry of Education, as well hearing from national experts on the situations in France, Flanders, the UK and Poland covering topics as broad as artificial intelligence, accessibility and open educational resources.

Alongside the EPF are our regional forums for Latin America, ASEAN plus and

Africa which have also held productive meetings and sessions and which enable us to build a truly international vision of educational publishing.

Our open meeting in Frankfurt gave us the opportunity to look at artificial intelligence in educational publishing, the text and data mining (TDM) opt out in Europe and Government interference in education around the world – a subject we were also able to revisit at the 34<sup>th</sup> International Publishers Congress in Guadalajara.

My thanks go to all of those organisations who hosted EPF meetings, and, of course, the IPA secretariat and Graham Taylor for all of their support in keeping the EPF moving ■



**Chair of  
the Educational  
Publishers  
Forum**

# MEMBERSHIP

**Giovanni Hoepli**

It has been an honor and a great responsibility to take over the chairmanship of this committee from Joachim Kaufmann.

I want to thank my fellow committee members for their hard work and the IPA secretariat for supporting this year's membership application process.

The secretariat's excellent coordination of documents and interactions with applicants has made our work much easier.

We received 5 complete applications in 2024, which were all successfully approved by the IPA's General Assembly. Our new members in 2025 are:

## **PROVISIONAL MEMBERS:**

**Croatia:** Association of Publishers and Booksellers of the Croatia Chamber of the Economy.

**Dominican Republic:** Asociación de Industrias Editoriales de la Republica Dominicana (ADIERD).

**Poland:** Polish Chamber of Books (PIK).

## **ASSOCIATE MEMBER:**

**Latin America:** Asociación de Editoriales Universitarias de América Latina y el Caribe (EULAC).

## **TRANSITION TO FULL MEMBERSHIP:**

**Guatemala:** La Asociación Gremial de Editores de Guatemala (AGEG).

My congratulations to all of them.

It has been a pleasure working with the Committee to review these applications, interview the applicants, and gather feedback from the Executive Committee, Freedom to Publish Committee, and Copyright Committee.

It's rewarding to see such enthusiasm from this year's applicants, and I'm confident we can continue to attract new members in 2025 ■



**Chair of the  
Membership  
Committee**

# ACTIVITY UPDATES

# 34<sup>TH</sup> IPA INTERNATIONAL PUBLISHERS CONGRESS

The 34<sup>th</sup> International Publishers Congress, which ran from 3-6 December 2024, featured an inspiring mix of keynotes, panels, breakouts and networking opportunities bringing together over 250 delegates from the world of publishing.

With the Guadalajara International Book Fair having opened on Saturday 29 November and well under way, Congress delegates were able to have a view over the city at the Congress opening reception on 3rd December from the roof top of the Gran Fiesta Americana hotel.

The next morning, the Congress programme proper began at the Conjunto Santander with a compelling keynote from Mexican author Enrique Krauze before the first session saw an

all-star panel look at how IPA's pillars of copyright and freedom to publish drive publishing.

The day's discussions shifted from reading to publishers as sources of trusted research, and then from the regulation of artificial intelligence to the worrying challenges to the freedom to publish in the educational sector.

The day closed with a stunning gala dinner in the wonderful municipal palace of Zapopan. This was the perfect setting to celebrate the Accessible Books Consortium's Excellence Award laureates as well as the IPA Champion and IPA Innovation in Publishing Awards. The evening took a more subdued turn as the final awards of the evening were announced. An IPA Prix Voltaire Special Award was announced for murdered



Ukrainian author, Victoria Amelina, who had been on stage at the IPA Prix Voltaire ceremony in 2023. The IPA Prix Voltaire was awarded to Palestinian publisher and bookseller, Samir Mansour.



Day two of the Congress opened with a captivating keynote from United Nations Under-Secretary-General, Melissa Fleming who picked up on the question from trust on day one, and focused on misinformation and disinformation and the role of publishers in combating these threats to our democracies and our societies. She also underlined their support for publishers in the age of AI: 'We at the UN will continue to demand that AI actors respect copyright'.

Fleming was followed by 3 quick-fire sessions around the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) looking at what future generations expect from publishing, how we communicate about the climate crisis and how we engage with diversity. These sessions were followed by deep dives into copyright enforcement and the trinity of freedoms – the freedom of expression, the freedom to publish and the freedom to read.

The morning was closed with an emotional reminder of the impact of war on creativity, with Oleksandra Matviichuk demonstrating the situation in Ukraine.

The afternoon's discussions continued to engage and demonstrate the broad range of issues that publishers will have to navigate in the years ahead, from copyright exceptions and limitations to accessibility as well as how to communicate the value of publishing.

The day closed with WIPO Deputy Director General, Sylvie Forbin, giving a clear-eyed view of how the Congresses discussions so far underlined the value of publishing and copyright and how the publishing sector needs to continue to engage on policy making in the age of artificial intelligence.

The closing ceremony included the launch of the Guadalajara Declaration

and the announcement of the Kuala Lumpur as the host of the next Congress in 2026.

The cultural visit of the final day of the Congress gave delegates the opportunity to network while discovering a little more about the local culture in the Jalisco region of Mexico.

Photos and speeches available at [www.publisherscongress.com](http://www.publisherscongress.com) ■

# THE GUADALAJARA DECLARATION: TURNING THE PAGE TO DRIVE PROGRESS

During the 34<sup>th</sup> International Publishers Congress, Guadalajara became the centre of the global publishing industry. Our discussions recognized how the knowledge and information environment is evolving, and reinforced the important work publishers do to safeguard our democratic values.

To drive meaningful progress on our shared global challenges, we need to work together with key players across the book chain. As an outcome of the Congress, the Guadalajara Declaration outlines a shared agenda to ensure the sustainability of knowledge, culture, and education in an increasingly digital and interconnected world.

We, the IPA, declare our intention to:

## **1. REINFORCE COPYRIGHT:**

The United Nations (UN) Pact for the Future emphasizes the importance of protecting knowledge and fostering a sustainable future. Publishers must continue to safeguard and reinforce copyright as the foundation that ensures a thriving ecosystem of knowledge and culture.

## **2. PROMOTE THE FREEDOM TO PUBLISH:**

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights enshrines everybody's basic right to express their opinion and access information. Publishers have a duty to protect the freedom to publish as a cornerstone of democracy, intellectual freedom and cultural exchange, as well as support others who protect the freedom to read and the freedom

of expression. We must stand for freedom to publish especially when it is threatened by government interference in education.

## **3. EMBRACE TECHNOLOGY RESPONSIBLY:**

We have witnessed the transformative power that digital technology has had on information sharing practices. As publishers, we embrace the progress that technology brings but also recognize the challenges. In order to build the trust in knowledge that is essential for the future, publishers must promote the responsible use of AI — advocating for transparent, accountable digital practices that protect the creative process and intellectual property — as well as supporting the UN Global Principles for Information Integrity.

#### **4. DRIVE SUSTAINABILITY:**

We are facing complex challenges, from climate change to social inequalities, and war. The Sustainable Development Goals outline a blueprint for action and publishers have a unique role in both advocating for and acting to progress the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Publishers must drive sustainability, and we commit ourselves to a sustainable and inclusive publishing environment.

#### **5. STRENGTHEN OUR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIPS:**

In an increasingly complex and fractured world, we recognise the need to strengthen partnerships and cooperation across regions and internationally. The IPA recognises our role in helping strengthen the resilience and agility of the industry, particularly in regions such as Latin America, Africa and the Middle East.

#### **6. PLEDGE TO ACT:**

This declaration summarises a shared agenda, but importantly we must also hold ourselves accountable for our actions. Publishers must develop systems and an infrastructure to monitor our markets and report on progress in the areas outlined in the above declaration ■

# IPA AT INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIRS

IPA was present at book fairs all around the world as the publishing industry continued to thrive in 2024.

In the first half of 2024, IPA Vice President, Gvantsa Jobava, attended the second edition of the Chennai International Book Fair while IPA Secretary General, José Borghino attended the Cairo International Book Fair. It was then the turn of IPA President, Karine Pansa to head to India for the New Delhi World Book Fair where she paid tribute to long-time IPA supporter Asoke Ghosh.

London Book Fair saw a strong delegation of IPA office holders speaking on a number of panels and also saw the launch of the joint statement on the trinity of freedoms (see Freedom to Publish Committee update above). April saw IPA participating at the Bologna Children's Book Fair before a packed May saw IPA

attending Thessaloniki, Rabat and Abu Dhabi International Book Fairs.

The first half of the year closed with visits to the Beijing International Book Fair, the Black Sea Literary Festival in Sofia, Bulgaria and the African Publishers Conference in Harare, Zimbabwe.

The second half of the year started with the Sao Paulo International Book Fair where IPA signed a groundbreaking Memorandum of Understanding with the Latin American and Caribbean Development Bank. IPA's Secretary General also attended the Arab Book Fair in Berlin, Germany.

October saw IPA at Frankfurt Book Fair with a full programme of committee meetings, receptions and panel discussions before heading into November with participation at the Sharjah International Book Fair and then the Shanghai Children's Book Fair.

The year of course closed with IPA's involvement in the Guadalajara International Book Fair ahead of the 34<sup>th</sup> International Publishers Congress.

Attending all of these fairs was an excellent way of strengthening contacts with IPA members and promoting IPA's policy positions ■



IPA Presidents Cabanellas Pansa Jobava

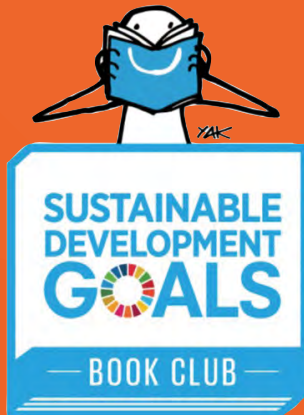


**IPA AND INTERNATIONAL  
GOVERNMENTAL  
ORGANISATIONS**

# UNITED NATIONS

## Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Book Club

The UN Publications team has now published a wonderful catalogue of the 17 reading lists from the SDG Book Club. One reading list for each of the Global Goals in all six official UN languages! You can browse the full catalogue of inspiring reads [here](#). The year closed with another new chapter being launched, this time in Mexico. This brings the total number of chapters to eight.



## SDG Publishers Compact

The SDG Publishers Compact continued growing throughout 2024. The IPA and the UN also launched the 1000 Actions Campaign to encourage publishers to share their SDG-related initiatives on IPA's SDG Dashboard ([www.sdg.internationalpublishers.org](http://www.sdg.internationalpublishers.org)) ahead of the United Nations Under-Secretary-General, Melissa Fleming, speaking at the 34<sup>th</sup> International Publishers Congress ■



# UNESCO

## World Book Capital City

IPA is part of the Advisory Committee for UNESCO's World Book Capital Cities alongside UNESCO, the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, and the International Authors Forum. The year 2024 saw Strasbourg, France become World Book Capital City, succeeding Accra, Ghana. Rio de Janeiro will become the World Book Capital City in 2025 and 2024 also saw the announcement of Rabat as the 2026 host city ■



# WIPO

## Accessible Books Consortium

IPA Past President Hugo Setzer, IPA Secretary General José Borghino, and Laura Brady continue to serve as publisher representatives on the board of the ABC. At the 34<sup>th</sup> International Publishers Congress in December 2024, the ABC announced Gerbera Ediciones (Argentina), the Round Table on Information Access for People with Print Disabilities (Australia and New Zealand), as the **winners** of its International Excellence Awards for accessibility. Our congratulations to the winners in what was, again, a competitive **shortlist** ■



Accessible  
Books  
Consortium

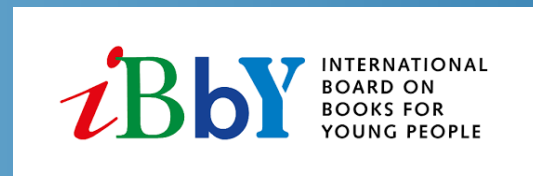


# ABOUT IPA

# OUR PARTNERS

The IPA is proud to work with a number of partners around shared goals. If you or your organisation want to talk to the IPA about partnerships, let us know by writing to [secretariat@internationalpublishers.org](mailto:secretariat@internationalpublishers.org).

You can see the full list of IPA partners on our [website](#) ■



# OUR MEMBERS

- Full members
- Provisional Members

## **New Provisional Members**

Association of Publishers and Booksellers  
of the Croatian Chamber of the Economy  
Asociación de Industrias Editoriales de  
la Republica Dominicana (ADIERD)  
Polish Chamber of Books (PIK)

## **Associate Members**

African Publishers Network (APNET)  
Afrilivres  
Arab Publishers Association (APA)  
Association of University Presses (AU Presses)  
European Educational Publishers Group (EEPG)  
Federation of European Publishers (FEP)  
Grupo Ibero-Americano de Editores (GIE)  
International Association of Scientific, Technical and Medical  
Publishers (STM)

## **New Associate Member**

Asociación de Editoriales Universitarias de América Latina  
y el Caribe (EULAC)

## **Patron Members**

The Motovun Group of International Publishers  
North Korean Writers in Exile PEN Center  
Bologna Children's Book Fair



# OUR STAFF

*José Borghino*



Secretary General

[borghino@internationalpublishers.org](mailto:borghino@internationalpublishers.org)

José was appointed Secretary General in September 2015, having joined IPA as Policy Director in March 2013. He came to the IPA from the Australian Publishers Association where he served as Manager of Industry Representation. His previous professional roles include lecturer in journalism and creative industries at the University of Sydney, editor of the online news magazine NewMatilda.com, executive director of the Australian Society of Authors, and senior positions at the Literature Board of the Australia Council.

*James Taylor*



Director of Communications and Freedom to Publish

[taylor@internationalpublishers.org](mailto:taylor@internationalpublishers.org)

James joined the IPA in January 2018, moving to Geneva from Brussels. James's career in Brussels was focused on communications for membership-based organisations at the junction between the creative industries and policymakers: IMPALA, the independent music companies' association, and then SAA, the grouping of collective management organisations for screenwriters and directors.

*Vera Castanheira*



Counsellor for International Copyright Policy and Programs

[castanheira@internationalpublishers.org](mailto:castanheira@internationalpublishers.org)

Vera joined IPA in June 2018. As international legal advisor & IP specialist, she worked with multiple creative industry companies and international organizations. Vera's previous roles include legal deputy to the Portuguese Secretary of State for Culture, General Counsel for AGICOA (film producers' international licensing organisation), Board Member of an anti-piracy coalition, Executive Director of Portuguese collective management organisation, AGE COP.

*Olivier Borie*



Office and Program Manager

[borie@internationalpublishers.org](mailto:borie@internationalpublishers.org)

Olivier joined the IPA in September 2019. He has a background in international relations and technological innovation. Olivier previously worked for various institutions, including the Geneva Book Fair and member-based industry associations such as the World Economic Forum and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development.



**IPA** international  
publishers  
association

## **INTERNATIONAL PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION**

Promoting copyright and the freedom  
to publish globally

International Publishers Association  
Avenue de France 23,  
1202 Geneva, Switzerland  
[www.internationalpublishers.org](http://www.internationalpublishers.org)  
[secretariat@internationalpublishers.org](mailto:secretariat@internationalpublishers.org)

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