

14 May 2026

Dear UN-LINKS Members,

We are pleased to invite you to the 2026 **UN Libraries: From Custodians to Catalysts: Inspiring Research and Engagement** UN-LINKS Annual Meeting, taking place in Rome, Italy at FAO, **November 16–20, 2026..**

As we continue to experience uncertainty, you've expressed how important it is for us to come together in person by preference, as budget allows, and virtually. Last year, we asserted and confirmed the vital role libraries play in supporting our institutions and aspiring to achieving the 2030 SDGs. We continue to experience financial constraints and shifting priorities. This year's meeting offers a timely opportunity to share insights, strategies, and innovations that can shape our collective future.

Location: Rome Italy & Online (MS Teams) Calculate your time. [World Clock](#) Friday, November 20th will be for local visits in person only. Dinner will be Thursday evening, November 19th.

Discussion Topics Per FAO Host and Members Survey:

- **KNOWLEDGE FOR IMPACT – EXPERTISE & EVIDENCE** - Guiding question: ***how would you translate complex data sets into practical resources, and what specific tools would you/do you offer to empower staff and global citizens to contribute to the SDGs or institutional priorities?***
- **INTERACTIVE KNOWLEDGE HUBS - SPACE & TECHNOLOGY** - Guiding question: ***which technology or architectural innovation would you/ do you use to turn a static collection into a living experience for your users or the general public?***
- **PATHWAYS FOR DIALOG – OUTREACH & ADVOCACY** - Guiding question: ***which platform or events would you/ do you support to ensure the library is a space for listening to your users?***
- **LIVING NARRATIVES – CURATION & STORYTELLING** - Guiding question: ***which hidden or technical item in your library's collection could be turned into a user learning journey?***

Per the member survey, your presentations are what make the meetings worthwhile. We encourage you to present and participate, especially in person—to foster open, honest dialogue and mutual support as we lead change and embrace innovation. We expect to include virtual breakout sessions and extended discussion time, based on member feedback. This year we are encouraging “spark talks” --- short presentations by many of you, allowing for discussion time.

Whether attending in person or online, come ready to share your experiences, raise questions, and propose ideas for action. Your voice is essential in shaping the future of our libraries.

We look forward to your participation!

Warm regards,

Eliza McLeod (Chair, IMF), Zuheir Bakleh (Co-chair, ESCWA), Mwangala Mboo (Secretary, World Bank Group), Ariel Lebowitz (UN DAG), Erica Saito (World Bank Group), Simone Charles (IAEA), and Veronique Montes-Baffier (FAO) with Sarah Dister (FAO)



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