



International Fiscal Association

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Dear IFA Branch Presidents & Chairs,

I would like to ask for your assistance with a new initiative to encourage women more actively to participate in IFA's activities, and to make it easier for that participation to be and be seen to be more welcome.

We already have established within IFA the somewhat informal Women's IFA Network (WIN). You can read some details on the website at www.ifa.nl/organisation/win, including names of certain country representatives. I would like us to use WIN as a platform for enhancing IFA for our women members.

Following numerous conversations, and having regard also to post-Congress feedback, it is now plain to me that there is a significant demand among IFA women, especially our younger professionals, for a more focused approach still though within the larger IFA community. I am convinced, for example, that many women see a proper role for some form of targeted particular shared experiences including networking. We continue to be conscious of, and we try to encourage the participation of IFA women in, our association's structures and proceedings. By being more aware, I am sure that we can improve the actual results of that awareness and be enriched generally as an association by what IFA has to offer women and through the particular perspectives they have to offer to IFA.

Ideally, we will continue and redouble our efforts to:

- Improve the ways in which women may be, and feel that they are, engaged in IFA activities generally and through networking activities including via enhancements to the WIN Congress event and perhaps at the Congress Gala Dinner – but also within the Branches;
- Increase the involvement of women in IFA's governance, in particular the Executive Committee and the Permanent Scientific Committee, and again at Branch level;
- Increase the participation of women in our many scientific activities, especially as chairs and panelists of the plenary and seminar sessions at our annual Congresses and Regional Conferences, and once more at Branch meetings; I am delighted to say that Professor Miranda Stewart (our Australia PSC member) has kindly agreed to lead a global exercise in

collating details of potential women speakers for events so that candidates will be more obviously available when panel etc composition is debated.

I would therefore like to ask you to take this project up actively with your local committees and see what can be done to generate some momentum in each of IFA's Branches. You may for example feel able to provide some suggestions for future panelists: please communicate this to the General Secretariat at cr.gensecr@ifa.nl, perhaps providing names, contact details and some information about specialist expertise of possible candidate speakers.

You might also wish to consider appointing a Branch WIN representative - where you do not have one already. Again, do please let us know, so that centrally coordinated actions can be shared across Branches. That person might be encouraged to take a more proactive approach to women's Branch involvement, or regarding social/networking activities. Any other ideas you may have will be valued and welcomed.

I hope that together we can, in this important and modern context, begin to make a difference. And that ultimately this may draw in more members to our association, and improve the quality of our work, to the benefit of all. By the way, today is International Women's Day 2018: www.internationalwomensday.com ! Thank you.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Murray Clayson'.

Murray Clayson
President IFA