Bureau of the Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Programme
(Twenty-fifth Meeting)

26 February 2016
09:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. & 2:30 - 6:15 p.m. - Room VIII

Draft Final Report

This document is also available at:
http://www.unesco.org/webworld/ifap
Introduction

The twenty-fifth session of the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Programme (IFAP) was held in Room VIII, UNESCO House, Paris, Fontenoy Building, on 26 February 2016. The meeting was attended in person by Bureau Members or their representatives.

The following Bureau Members attended the meeting:

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<th>Chair</th>
<th>Ms. Chafica Haddad</th>
<th>Grenada</th>
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<td>Vice-Chairs</td>
<td>Mr. Omar Al-Shanfari</td>
<td>Oman</td>
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<td>Mr. Evgeny Kuzmin</td>
<td>Russian Federation</td>
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<td>Absent</td>
<td>Israel</td>
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<td>Members</td>
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<td>Mr. Jean Pierre Campos</td>
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<td>Absent</td>
<td>Indonesia</td>
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<td>Rapporteur</td>
<td>Mr. Dietrich Schüller</td>
<td>Austria</td>
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The Director-General of UNESCO was represented by Mr. Getachew Engida, Deputy Director General with managerial responsibility for the Communication and Information (CI) Sector. A number of observers (Argentina, Cambodia, China, Denmark, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Malaysia, Morocco, The Netherlands, Peru, Thailand, Turkey, Uruguay, and Zambia) representing Member States also attended the meeting.

Item 1 - Opening

On confirmation of the quorum (Austria, Grenada, Oman, Peru and the Russian Federation), the meeting was opened by the Representative of the Director-General who commended the Bureau for the organization and success of IFAP’s international conference “Youth and the Internet: Fighting Radicalization and Extremism” held at UNESCO on 16 and 17 June 2015. Furthermore, Mr. Engida praised the Bureau on the numerous successful international activities that had been organized since the 24th IFAP Bureau in the Russian Federation, France, India, Latin America, the Caribbean, Oman and Israel.

The DDG also highlighted the difficult financial situation of IFAP. At present the additional resources being received were for the most part earmarked for specific actions, while this was useful in raising the impact and visibility of the Programme, no resources were being directed to building the Programme’s infrastructure at the national level. Unless the National IFAP Committees and Focal Points were also strengthened, IFAP’s work would remain at the regional and international levels. Furthermore, to support this process it was also important to reinforce the capacity of the Secretariat. In light of this, the DDG encouraged the Council Members to invest in the Programme at the national level, contribute to the IFAP Special Account and to reinforcing the Secretariat.

Following the DDG’s presentation, the meeting began its work.
Item 2 - Adoption of the Agenda
The Chair indicated that items 8 (Financial Situation of IFAP) and 9 (Visibility of IFAP) would be discussed during the Afternoon Session at 2:30pm and invited further comments on the Provisional Agenda. The Agenda was unanimously adopted without further comments.

Item 3 – Adoption of the Report of the 24th meeting of the Bureau
The Chair invited comments on the Report of the 24th IFAP Bureau:

The Russian Federation requested that the Third International Conference on Linguistic and Cultural Diversity in Cyberspace in Yakutsk (Russian Federation) on 30 June – 3 July, 2014 be included in the report due to its importance. He also emphasized that the report should mention the significant financial contributions made by the Russian Federation for IFAP events and activities, particularly the above-mentioned Yakutsk conference and the International Expert Meeting on Improving Access to Multilingual Cyberspace (28-29 October 2014, UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France). The Bureau accepted to add these to the report. The Rapporteur reminded members to make modifications to the draft of the report in due course after circulation.

Item 4 – Review of the implementation of the Recommendations of the 8th IFAP Council and the 24th IFAP Bureau

Recommendations of the 8th IFAP Council
The Chair began by reviewing the implementation of the Council’s recommendations found in document IFAP-2016/Bureau.XXV/Inf.4. The recommendations were read aloud by the Rapporteur, the Secretariat gave a summary of the progress attained.

1. Continue the efforts and initiatives undertaken in view of implementing the objectives contained in the IFAP Strategic Plan (2008 – 2013), with a view to updating this strategic plan to reflect changes within IFAP, as well as the ongoing discussions in relation to the Post-2015 Development and the WSIS + 10 Agendas. This effort will be conducted in close collaboration with all members of the Council, the members of the Bureau and the Secretariat;

Many areas under UNESCO’s mandate have been included in the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Moreover, the WSIS+10 Review Process sought to enhance its alignment with the SDGs and a matrix was produced by the Secretariat for all UNESCO WSIS Action Lines. The Secretariat assured that key areas of IFAP such as Media and Information Literacy, Access for persons with Disabilities, Multilingualism, were reflected.

2. Systematically intensify cooperation between the IFAP Council, Bureau, Working Groups, National IFAP Committees and the Secretariat. This cooperation should guide the planning and preparation of the Regular Programme and its execution;

The Secretariat pointed out that the list of IFAP related activities undertaken during the last biennium is one of the longest ever. The Secretariat expressed appreciation for the initiative of the Russian Federation and for consistently and systematically organizing conferences and meetings in the IFAP priority areas such as the Third International Conference on Linguistic and Cultural Diversity in Cyberspace (Yakutsk, 2014), the International Expert Meeting on Improving Access to Multilingual Cyberspace (28-29 October 2014, UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France) and the Ugra Global Expert Meeting on Multilingualism in Cyberspace (July 2015). The Connecting the Dots (March, 2015) as well as the Youth and
the Internet: Fighting Radicalization and Extremism (June 2015) conferences were identified as good examples of cross-cutting activities that provided opportunities for cooperation between IFAP and the Sectors, Divisions and Departments within UNESCO.

Bureau members were encouraged to propose new initiatives or contribute to those being planned by the Secretariat for the new Biennium. The Secretariat added that the second OER Congress, one of the major initiatives of UNESCO in the area of access to educational resources, will take place in Slovenia in Sept 2017.

3. Take concrete steps to enhance IFAPS’s visibility with key actors; especially amongst UNESCO bodies; at the international, regional and national level. Efforts to promote wider understanding of IFAP and its priority areas both within and outside the intergovernmental frameworks should be pursued. Tools such as social media should be used to enhance IFAP’s outreach particularly among youth. In addition, IFAP should work with media and specialized academic centers that could enhance its visibility;

The Secretariat publishes news items of its activities and disseminates them through UNESCO channels. Through collaboration with partners such as the UN University Special Operation Unit on Electronic Governance, opportunities to showcase IFAP events and raise the visibility of the IFAP logo were being seized. While acknowledging the Secretariat’s efforts, the delegates of the Russian Federation and Oman suggested to intensify substance and frequency of such information.

The importance of Working Groups and Bureau Members to also take advantage of the UNESCO communication channels was emphasized.

The Chair thanked Egypt, the Russian Federation and the UNESCO Office in Costa Rica (still in progress) for their funding and translation of the 2008-2013 IFAP Report and invited other Member States to consider making similar contributions to IFAP’s work. The observer from the Chinese delegation accepted to look into the possibility of finding funds to translate the IFAP reports in Chinese.

4. Take further steps to attract funding at national, regional, and international levels from governmental and intergovernmental sources as well as the private sector. Attention should be given to establishing mechanisms appropriate to funding sources and their purpose;

The Chair was commended for being extremely active in fund raising, noting that IFAP had raised around half a million dollars during the 2015-2016 biennium. It was mentioned that China’s first Regional meeting was made possible by extra budgetary funding and that Canada has pledged half a million Canadian dollars for the Radicalization event taking place later this year in Quebec. The Government of Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Area – Ugra (Russian Federation) spent around half a million dollars for two important IFAP international events in Russia – the Ugra Global Expert meeting on Multilingualism in Cyberspace (2015) and an upcoming new IFAP International conference “Media and Information Literacy for Building Culture of Open Government” (Khanty-Mansiysk, Russian Federation, 6-10 June 2016).

Bureau Members were requested to submit information on their in-kind and indirect contribution to IFAP and to also urge Member States from their regions to do so. The Chair announced that
the President of the Association ADICR would provide information about the innovative fund-raising initiative during the Afternoon Session.

5. Continue the work by the Bureau on the draft text on proposed modifications to the Statutes of IFAP specifically to clarify the relation of IFAP to the Regular Programme;

The Secretariat presented the updated version of the Statutes consisting of the previous amendments by Austria and Brazil as well as a preamble explaining IFAP’s role and function as submitted in the Governance audit.

The Chair reminded the Bureau that this item was put on hold pending the results of the self-assessment questionnaire and the recommendations of the external auditors.

6. Encourage the voluntary participation of past-IFAP chairs and other experts in the ongoing activities of the Working Groups;

The Secretariat informed the Bureau that it periodically shares developments in IFAP with previous Bureau Members; it was also suggested to follow the same mentoring approach after the election of the next Bureau at the May meeting of the Council. This would ensure a successful succession process and a smooth transfer of information and responsibilities between outgoing and incoming Bureau Members.

This recommendation was also debated in more detail under Item 6 of the agenda.

7. Systematic attention should be given across all IFAP priority areas to better understanding the societal and other transformations resulting from the rapid evolution in the use and application of information and communication technologies. IFAP’s work in this area should serve to provide forward-looking advice to policy-makers;

The Secretariat presented several examples of the close collaboration between IFAP’s work in its Priority Areas and other intergovernmental bodies within UNESCO. There has been especially close collaboration with the Management of Social Transformation programme (MOST), particularly in the area of information ethics, and with the Culture Sector on a model code of ethics for intangible cultural heritage. Several meetings in South Africa were organized where members of both programmes worked together.

The Secretariat reminded the Bureau of the Chair’s initiative to work with the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC), which has led to collaboration between IFAP and IPDC on both the Youth and the Internet: Fighting Radicalization and Extremism and Connecting the Dots Conferences.

The Chair announced that she was invited to the forthcoming 60th session of the IPDC Bureau and to participate in a thematic debate on migration. Consideration is also being given to a joint follow-up meeting to advance the recommendations that may emerge from this event.

8. Requests the Bureau to follow-up with concrete steps on the discussions that have taken place concerning the governance review;
The Secretariat indicated that it had been contacted by the External Auditors who expressed their intent to attend forthcoming meetings of the IFAP Council and Bureau to better inform their ongoing review process.

The Chair mentioned that the recommendations of the auditors following the evaluation of the Governing Bodies were sent to the Executive Board, which accepted to apply 3 of these recommendations. The remaining recommendations were being reviewed by the Special Working Group on Governance established by the General Conference.

9. Requests the Bureau to ensure the effective implementation of the recommendations of the intergovernmental Council;

Members agreed that there was ample tangible evidence that this was being done.

10. Requests the Director-General to continue to support IFAP’s work in the developing countries and to implement IFAP-related events;

The Secretariat pointed to the active participation of the most senior managers of the Organization – the Director-General and the DDG – as a clear sign of the Organization’s commitment to the Programme. Furthermore, budgetary allocations to IFAP in the Regular Programme had been increased. Both of these were contributing to enhancing IFAP’s visibility and impact.

The Chair requested all Council members to provide proposals for reinforcing IFAP activities over the next 4 years.

11. Urges the Members of the Intergovernmental Council to take concrete steps to promote IFAP, including organizing IFAP-labeled events in their countries and regions.

The Secretariat explained that financing major international and national events is just one way members of the Council can contribute to IFAP, and that other types of contributions such as the translation of the IFAP Report by Russia and Egypt should be encouraged. China’s translation of IFAP’s report to Chinese would be a further significant contribution.

The Chair reminded the Bureau that non-Council members should also be encouraged to contribute. The recent contributions of non-council members such as Egypt, South Korea, the Dominican Republic and St. Kitts and Nevis through financial contributions and/or the organization of events were highlighted.

The Rapporteur stressed that IFAP should be promoted through regular reports to all Member States as well as through social media.

**Recommendations of the Twenty-fourth IFAP Bureau**

*Made under item 4 – Review of the implementation of the recommendations of the 8th IFAP Council and the 23rd IFAP Bureau:*

a) Establish a committee under the leadership of Israel to spearhead national and regional fundraising efforts.*
The Secretariat indicated that it did not yet have information on the plans that Israel was developing. In the meantime, however the Secretariat had been consulting with the Secretariat of the 2005 Culture Convention to gain insights into the fundraising appraisals. A presentation by the 2005 Convention was planned under Items 8 and 9 of this meeting.

b) *Broaden the participation of experts from developing countries in IFAP events and activities.*

The Secretariat was continuing to support capacity building in developing countries through the provision of policy resources and the organizing of capacity-building activities such as international Forums and regional workshops. A new fellowship programme for policy-makers from developing countries was also established in partnership with UNU-EGOV at the University of Minho in Portugal.

c) *Enhance coherence in the scope and content of the activities of the Working Groups by harmonizing their terms of reference.*

The new terms of reference developed had already been submitted to Chairs of Working Groups for their approval. The Secretariat looked forward to receiving their written comments.

*Made under item 6 – Reports by the IFAP Bureau Chair and Members of the IFAP Working Groups (written) on their respective activities:*

*Develop more contacts and activities in Lusophone and Francophone African countries as well as in Arabic-speaking countries.*

The Secretariat informed the Bureau of ongoing actions aimed at involving African Lusophone and Francophone countries in IFAP’s work. The Korean Funds in Trust (KFIT) Project, entitled “ICT Transforming Education in Africa” had been launched in Rwanda, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe. Moreover, the involvement of African Lusophone countries in the Mozambique component of the project is being pursued.

The Secretariat underlined the extensive cooperation, particularly in youth focused projects, with countries such as Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger. In addition, Rwanda and Djibouti have benefitted from support in the use of IFAP’s National Information Society Template. Many West African countries were also involved in the regional Info-ethics Conference organized in South Africa.

*Made under item 11 b) - Modification of the IFAP Statutes:*

*Develop a preamble to the current IFAP Statutes based on elements from the IFAP Self-Assessment Questionnaire.*

The Secretariat pointed out that that updated version of the Statutes is included as a document of this Bureau and will be debated later under Item 11 of this meeting

**Item 5 – Review of the major activities Undertaken by the Bureau and Secretariat since the 24th IFAP Bureau (IFAP-2016/Bureau.XXV/Inf.5).**
The Russian Federation proposed an improvement in the methodology used for creating the list of activities, as some activities were not clearly described. The Malaysian delegation also requested to have a more detailed summary of activities.

The Secretariat agreed that the presentation of the document could be improved and proposed to sit with the Russian Federation to work on the matter. The Chair reminded Working Group Chairs to send on time the activities they would like to have included by the Secretariat in the final document.

Oman announced that as a follow-up to the second FOSS meeting in Oman, his delegation prepared a publication on the application of FOSS and promised to share this document with Bureau members so it could be disseminated to other countries.

The Secretariat provided an overview of the Guidelines for Accessible Information. This policy resource was intended to support development of school children including those with learning disabilities. The Document is available in 26 languages at http://www.ict4ial.eu/download-guidelines. The Secretariat also informed the Bureau about several other events such the expert meeting “Towards a Revised UNESCO’s Language Vitality Index” in London on November 11th 2015.

In addition, the document “Roadmap Towards UNESCO’s World Atlas of Languages” found at http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002438/243852e.pdf, will be submitted to the 199th session of the Executive Board.

The Chair proposed to consider presenting the roadmap on the World Atlas of Languages to the Executive Board as a working document rather than as an information document. The Russian Federation commended the Secretariat for the activities undertaken in the area of multilingualism.

Item 6 – Reports by the IFAP Bureau Chair and Members of the IFAP Working Groups (written) on their respective activities

The Chair provided an overview of IFAP’s major activities. In addition to her written report on the activities of the Intergovernmental Council for the period 2014 to February 2016, she highlighted some of the activities undertaken since the 24th meeting of the Bureau.

Concerning the UNESCO conference initiated by IFAP on “Youth and the Internet: Fighting Radicalization and Extremism” she mentioned that, at the General Assembly High-Level Forum on Culture of Peace in New York, on 9 September 2015, the UN Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki Moon, has stated in his remarks "I applaud UNESCO for having organized a conference on “Youth and the Internet: Fighting Radicalization and Violent Extremism” in June. I support the call made there by Director General Irina Bokova of UNESCO to mobilize the full power of the Internet for peace”. She noted that this statement is a remarkable recognition of the work of IFAP and of the CI Sector of UNESCO.

She informed that the “Conference and Consultation on the Ethical Dimensions of the Information Society and Internet Privacy” for OECS countries was organized in St. Kitts-Nevis on
23 and 24 September 2015, and that the First regional meeting to discuss Internet Governance and Info-Ethics was held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic on 26 - 27 November 2015.

She added that two important meetings will take place next week in Montevideo Uruguay to which IFAP is closely associated: the Expert Group Meeting on "Knowledge Societies and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda" on 29 February 2016, co-organized with UNU-EGOV in collaboration with AGESIC (the Agency for Electronic Government and Information Society) to update the IFAP Template for Knowledge Societies, and the 9th Edition of the International Conference on Theory and Practice of Electronic Governance, ICEGOV2016, from 1 to 3 March 2016, co-organized under the patronage of the Presidency of Uruguay by AGESIC and UNU-EGOV in collaboration with UNESCO.

In addition, she has participated as IFAP Chair in several meetings such as: The Consultative meeting of experts on the UNESCO PERSIST project (UNESCO, 20-21 April 2015); the International expert meeting "Language tools for promotion of Arabic language on the Internet and in multi-stakeholder processes" (UNESCO, 22 April 2015); The International Conference on ICT and Post-2015 Education organized on 23 to 25 May 2015 in Qingdao, China; the ICT4IAL – ICT for Information Accessibility in Learning -Dissemination Conference in Latvia, Riga, on 27 - 28 May 2015, and the Ugra Global Expert Meeting on Multilingualism in Cyberspace, in Khanty-Mansiysk, Russian Federation, in July 2015, organized by the Government of Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug – Ugra, the Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO, the Russian Committee of IFAP, and the Moscow based NGO Interregional Library Cooperation Centre.

She added that IFAP has also initiated several activities that are promising perspectives among which the IFAP contribution to the project “ICT Transforming Education in Africa”, funded by the Government of the Republic of Korea that will bring IFAP work in Africa to a new dimension; the two IFAP project proposals “Empowering Girls and Women through Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)” and "Supporting the Reinvigoration of the Ghanaian National IFAP Committee", which were presented to the Presidential Delegation during the visit of H. E. Mr. John Dramani Mahama President of the Republic of Ghana to UNESCO on 5 October 2015; and the “ICT Caravan Project & Conference” developed in concert with the Association for Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue (ADICR) in accordance with the IFAP Council’s 8th session Recommendation 4, which will be presented to the Bureau under items 8 and 9.

Other projects have been initiated and will be implemented in the current biennium: Two meetings with Ms. Christine St-Pierre, minister of International Relations and Francophonie of the Government of Quebec were held in Paris concerning the organization by UNESCO in cooperation with IFAP of a high-level international expert meeting on youth radicalization in cyberspace in Quebec (Canada); an international IFAP Conference on “Youth and Social Media: Fight against Violence and Extremism” to be organized in Lebanon, is under preparation by the Lebanese National Commission in cooperation with the UNESCO Regional Office in Beirut; an Asia-Pacific IFAP Regional Conference will also be organized in China on IFAP national committees, in collaboration with the UNESCO Beijing Office, the Chinese National Commission and the Institute of Scientific and Technical Information of China (ISTIC). In Latin America and the Caribbean region, a Conference on the Ethical Aspects of Information Society is also under
preparation in cooperation with the Government of Uruguay, and a Conference is foreseen in Paraguay on Multilingualism in Cyberspace and the Indigenous Languages.

The Russian Federation requested that financial contributions made by the Russian Federation be included in the report. The Secretariat indicated that as the information on in-kind and indirect contributions were still being reviewed by the internal services these were not included in the current report however, they would be included in the document of the 9th IFAP Council.

**Information Preservation**

Dietrich Schüller, Chair of the Working Group, highlighted once more the critical situation concerning replay equipment for magnetic tape recordings made over the past 50 years. These documents, representing the linguistic and cultural diversity of human kind, are of central importance in support of UNESCO’s work. The project *Magnetic Tape Alert*, already agreed upon by Bureau, including a survey aimed at alerting governments, is underway. Cooperation with the International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives IASA including the financial framework is under preparation and will be forwarded for approval by the Bureau.

The Working Group announced that The Joint Technical Symposium organized by CCAAA, the Coordinating Committee of the Audiovisual Archive Associations, would take place in Singapore 7-9 March 2016, where 32 top papers would be presented on the subject.

The Russian Federation informed the Bureau about its own ongoing initiatives in Information Preservation. A textbook was published on the different processes that cause degradation of library and archive material; A Russian-English bilingual Atlas of paper book and binding library and archival material was also published that shows photographs of different types of degradation these materials can suffer.

**Information for Development**

In the absence of a representative and a contribution by this Working Group, the Secretariat made reference to the participation of Israel in the WSIS+10 review process in Geneva and the landmark conference “Well Being in Digital Media” organized in Israel in 2015.

There was no discussion on this item.

**Multilingualism**

Evgeny Kuzmin, Chair of the Working Group, mentioned the Ugra Global Expert Meeting on Multilingualism in Cyberspace that took place in Khanty-Mansiysk on 4-9 July 2015 where 34 countries participated and 42 papers were presented. The July 2015 meeting was part of the series of five international events organized by the Russian IFAP committee within the IFAP framework since 2008. Final documents of all these events were published as a brochure in 2015. The Proceedings of the Third International Conference on Linguistic and Cultural Diversity in Cyberspace in Yakutsk (Russian Federation) on 30 June - 3 July, 2014, including the Yakutsk Declaration, have been published as a book. All these editions are available in English and Russian. The Proceedings of the Ugra Global Expert Meeting are under preparation.
The Working Group will participate in the Linguistic for All conference on 2-4 March, 2016 organized by the Moscow State Pedagogical University, where it will present the results of the IFAP programme. The Working Group added that IFAP has organized 5 out of 8 major world events on multilingualism in cyberspace.

**Information Ethics**

The Peruvian Delegate informed the Bureau that his report was still under preparation and would be submitted shortly.

The Secretariat indicated that the Working Group had showed excellent collaboration with Israel in the preparation of the conference on Well-being in Digital Media and had participated in several of the recent WSIS+10 review sessions in Geneva.

**Information Accessibility**

The Chair informed that the Indonesian delegation was absent but had submitted information on its in-kind contributions. The Secretariat informed the meeting that initiatives carried out by this Working Group included an education programme for persons with disabilities, a project addressing literacy for youths and housewives, and an ICT competition for persons with disabilities.

**Information Literacy**

In the absence of a representative and a contribution from this Working Group the Secretariat highlighted some ongoing Media and Information literacy activities being conducted by the Secretariat.

**Operation and Management of Working Groups**

The Chair mentioned the Working Group Chairs were having difficulty to contact experts participating in the groups. She also underlined that responsibility for their effective functioning lies with the designated Working Group Chairs.

Both the Russian Federation and Austrian delegations expressed problems to obtain inputs from all nominated experts involved in the Working Groups. Expertise is not necessarily evenly spread across the Council member states. Nominated experts, however, should help with dissemination of expertise. Both the Secretariat and Oman proposed to establish a mechanism to better select the Group Chairs so that their participation and engagement to the programme is guaranteed. The Chair asked to better inform Council Members of the responsibilities of Working Group Chairs before they nominate candidates to the Bureau.

The Secretariat proposed that Bureau members submit written proposals for amendments to the new terms of reference so that the Secretariat could make any necessary changes. Both the Russian Federation and Austrian delegations agreed that, while Bureau members should maintain coordinating responsibilities, group members, nor even Chairs, do not need to be from any particular country or even a member of the Council.
ITEM 7 – IFAP activities planned for 2015

The Working Group Chairs were asked to submit their lists of additional activities to be organized in 2016 along with a brief description and their tentative dates for inclusion in the list of activities. Denmark observed that the list contains a range of very different events, some of them directly linked to IFAP, others rather loosely, and recommended to distinguishing between activities that are organized by IFAP activities from other actors falling into IFAP’s mandate, in order to avoid misunderstandings.

The Secretariat reminded the Bureau of the intention to commemorate the 15th anniversary of IFAP, invited all members to submit proposals for celebrating this milestone and to consider organizing events under the “IFAP 15th birthday”-logo or putting events already planned under the logo.

ITEMS 8 and 9 – Financial situation of IFAP and Visibility of IFAP

The Chair welcomed the participation of members of the Secretariat as well as external partners involved to contribute to the discussions on items 8 and 9 of the Agenda. These persons were Ms. Samar Sassine, the representative of the Association for Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue (ADICR); from the Secretariat Ms. Elvira Goetz from the Section for Mobilizing Resources from Multilateral and Private Partners (CFS), Ms. Sotheary Lim from the CI sector’s Administrative Office (CIAO), and Ms. Danielle Cliche, Secretary of UNESCO’s 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

The Chair reminded the Bureau that €25,000 had been approved to support fund raising for the IFAP Special Account with ADICR. These funds would be used to develop projects and activities that will enhance the Programme’s visibility and impact.

The Chair again urged all Member States to submit information on their in-kind and indirect contributions to IFAP.

The Chair invited the ADICR to describe the fund-raising strategy. The Representative explained that her organization works on a youth-focus programme which provides, among other things, capacity building in the use and application of ICT and creates opportunities for cultural exchanges and the empowerment of youth through field projects. The Representative explained how their programme was contributing to efforts to fight radicalization among young women and men.

The representative of ADICR said the project consisted on an ICT Caravan Project and Conference that will take place in November 2016 and which will bring together different stakeholders including young people to discuss and learn about Access to Information, fighting radicalization, living in harmony with one-another, and citizenship. The objective is to give visibility to the project as many stakeholders will be present, including ministers, senators and other politicians, as well as representatives of civil society and the media. The financing of this event would come from the European Union, the ministry of foreign affairs, several Member States and private companies.

Upon Oman’s request for clarification on the funding modalities, the Chair explained that this is an innovative initiative that consists on obtaining funding by cooperating with a partner and creating a specific event or conference, where potential donors will be encouraged to contribute to the IFAP Special Account.
The representative of the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions outlined the development and implementation of their visibility strategy. The Representative explained that a private company was engaged to create a 5-year fund raising plan divided into three phases. The first phase consisted of consolidating the current donor base, composed of government officials; the second phase, now underway and which which lasts 24 months, aims at securing 6 private sectors partnerships; and the third phase is expected to start at the end of 2017, consists of establishing a partnership with a private company so that the fund would gain a percentage of its products’ sales. During this last phase a partnership with a global media company is also envisaged to improve the communication tools and messaging at the Funds disposal. The goal is to triple the amount of funding received.

The representative from the CFS sector was then asked to provide insight on fund-raising in the private sector. She explained that both public and private fund raising is becoming more and more decentralized, taking place in the field. The representative also said that in CFS they work with around a hundred private sector companies, and that the sector has had to adapt to these new changes in private-sector fundraising as there was a need for UNESCO to increasingly rely on extra-budgetary funding in order to fulfil its mission.

The Chinese delegation requested information on how their substantial contributions have been spent and the results obtained by the different activities for which it contributed. The Secretariat said that a more detailed annual report could be made available to the Chinese delegation.

Oman underscored the importance of a clear fund raising strategy for the future, and urged the Bureau to keep working on this critical issue. The Chair also proposed to keep alive the idea of creating a special committee to continue supporting, reflecting and monitoring the IFAP fund raising strategy.

[The Rapporteur excused himself for having to leave the meeting and reminded the Bureau that this, after having served as IFAP Bureau member for 12 years, was his last Bureau meeting. He expressed his gratitude for the challenging and rewarding time he had spent with IFAP and the personalities engaged in this Programme.

The Russian Federation proposed that the Council formally recognize Mr. Schüller’s contribution to the work and impact of the IFAP Programme. The Bureau agreed that this should be done during the 9th IFAP Council.]

ITEM 10- Cooperation with National IFAP Committees

The Secretariat suggested that Working Groups consider associating newly formed National IFAP Committees to their activities so as to help them maintain momentum. The Secretariat also recommended having a second International meeting of National IFAP Committees where solutions to problems, experiences and best practices could be shared.

The Chair pointed out that an upcoming regional conference in Asia Pacific may consider the discussion of the issue about National IFAP Committees. She also mentioned that the Ghana project is considering how to reactivate their National Committee.

ITEM 11 – Discussion of Preparations for the 38th General Conference of UNESCO
The Bureau reviewed with satisfaction a number of resolutions adopted by the 38th session of UNESCO’s General Conference concerning policy documents for which IFAP contributed and would serve to inform policy-making in Member States and shape IFAP’s future work.

a) Governance Self-Assessment Audit.

The Chair indicated that while 3 of the recommendations proposed by the External Auditor had been taken onboard by the General Conference questions regarding their scope and interpretation as well as the fate of the other recommendations were being deliberated on by an Open Ended Working Group on Governance. The Chair drew the attention of the Bureau to the recommendations – included in the meeting documents - that specifically addressed IFAP. This included the taking of concrete measures to improve governance as well as reporting to the Open Ended Working Group. This aspect should be discussed in May during the Council.

b) Preparation of the 9th IFAP Council (30-31 May 2016)

The Secretariat reminded the Bureau of Austria’s proposal to invite other intergovernmental Bodies, Sectors and Departments of UNESCO to the Council to share experience. In line with the recommendations of the External Auditor on governance, the revisions to the Statutes as well as the terms of reference of the Working Groups and their functioning will be discussed, accordingly the related documents will be included.

The Russian Federation cautioned that care be taken to avoid focusing the Council’s work on bureaucratic issues but rather that more time and attention be devoted to substantive aspects such as the development and implementation of projects in the IFAP priority area and responding to the needs of Member States. Austria recommended that a thematic debate be held at the end of the Council. The Bureau agreed that such a session be organized where IFAP could share its achievements and reflect on topics such as fighting radicalization on the Internet.

To maintain the current momentum and ensure adequate transfer of knowledge to the incoming Bureau members, it was proposed that all Chairs of Electoral Groups be informed of the responsibilities of their nominees to the Bureau so as to enhance the effective operation of Working Groups and the conduct of IFAP’s outreach. The Chair also invited observers to discuss with their regional groups about nominations for the upcoming Council elections.

ITEM 12 - Miscellaneous

Three project proposals were presented to the Bureau by the Secretariat. While it was considered important to develop a portfolio of projects and to lend IFAP’s support to projects in its priority areas, the Bureau considered that a clearer strategy on fund raising was needed. Accordingly, the Chair therefore invited all members to submit their own proposals for fund raising before the coming Council meeting.

ITEM 13 - Closure

The Chair thanked the Bureau for their active participation and closed the meeting at 6:15 pm.