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DRAFT RESOLUTION

submitted by DENMARK, RUSSIAN FEDERATION

**Amendments to the Statutes of the International Programme for the
Development of Communication (IPDC)**

The General Conference,

Recalling resolution 4/21 concerning the International Programme for the Development of Communication (with annexes) adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO at its twenty-first session in 1980;

Stressing the importance of the New Communication Strategy, unanimously adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO at its 25th session in 1989, which requested the Organization “to encourage the free flow of information, at international as well as national levels, to promote its wider and better balanced dissemination, without any obstacle to the freedom of expression, and to strengthen communication capacities in the developing countries in order to increase their participation in the communication process”,

Noting with satisfaction that the International Programme for the Development of Communication became the main operational instrument of the New Communication Strategy, funding hundreds of projects in developing countries with the main objective of developing communication capacities, both human (through training) and structural (through technology upgrades),

Taking into account resolution A/RES/51/172 on “Communication for development programmes in the United Nations system”, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1996, which, *inter alia*, “stresses the need to support two-way communication systems that enable dialogue and that allow communities to speak out, express their aspirations and concerns and participate in the decisions that relate to their development” and “recognizes the relevance for concerned actors, [...] policy-makers and decision-makers [...] to attribute increased importance to communication for development, and encourages them to include it [...] as an integral component in the development of projects and programmes”,

* This proposal was received by the Secretariat on 17 September 2003.

Recalling resolution 4.6 on “Promotion of independent and pluralist media” adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO at its 28th session in 1995, as well as resolutions 34 and 35 adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO at its 29th session in 1997 which “stressed the outstanding importance of and endorsed the declarations” of regional seminars to promote press freedom, and independent and pluralistic media (Windhoek, Almaty, Santiago, Sana’a and Sofia) and invited the members of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Programme for the Development of Communication to take the Declarations into account when selecting the projects that will be financed by this programme,

Mindful of the resolutions “Information in the Service of Humanity” (55/136, 56/64, 57/130) adopted by the United Nations General Assembly respectively at its fifty-fifth, fifty-sixth and fifty-seventh sessions in 2000, 2001 and 2002, which urge all countries, organizations of the United Nations system and all others concerned “to provide full support for the International Programme for the Development of Communication of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which should support both public and private media”,

Bearing in mind that traditional media, especially radio, reinforced by innovative applications of ICTs, is capable of reaching the entire populations with knowledge and information, contributing to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and therefore reiterates that media development continues to be of vital importance to many countries that have limited access to the advanced modes of news and information dissemination;

Stresses that the objective of the IPDC is to contribute to sustainable development, democracy and good governance by fostering universal access to and distribution of information and knowledge through strengthening the capacities of the developing countries and countries in transition in the field of electronic media and print press;

Notes with satisfaction that the IPDC ongoing reform process, launched in the framework of UNESCO’s comprehensive reforms, has already enabled the improvement of a number of important aspects of the IPDC functioning and recalls the decisions approved by the Council on new procedures related to preparation, selection, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of IPDC projects, promotion of the best practices and projects achievements, as well as on proactive fund-raising policy;

Expresses its gratitude to the donor countries, which have already supported the Programme through their contributions to the IPDC Special Account as well as through funds-in-trust and contributions-in-kind;

Recommends to further concentrate the Programme on a limited number of well-defined innovative and catalytic projects and welcomes that the highest priority is given to national, regional and interregional projects in the following areas:

- Promotion of freedom of expression and media pluralism;
- Development of community media;
- Human resource development;
- Promotion of international partnership;

Refers to the decision adopted by the Intergovernmental Council at its 22nd session stating that “the IPDC Council should proceed with a revision of the IPDC Statutory documents and updating the rules and regulations of the programme”;

Decides to amend the Statutes of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Programme for the Development of Communication as follows:

Article 2

1. The Council shall be composed of 39 Member States¹ of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, elected by the General Conference, taking into account the need to ensure equitable geographical distribution and appropriate rotation.
2. Unchanged.
3. Each retiring member shall be replaced by a member belonging to the same regional group.
4. Unchanged.
5. Unchanged.
6. The persons appointed by Member States as their representatives on the Council shall preferably be specialists in the fields covered by the International Programme for the Development of Communication.

Article 3

1. The Council shall normally meet in regular plenary session once in two years. Extraordinary session may be specified in the Council's Rules of Procedure.

Article 5

Within the framework of the decisions of the General Conference concerning the International Programme for the Development of Communication, the Council shall be responsible for:

- (a) Policy making, guiding the planning and implementation of the Programme;
- (b) Approving priorities of the Programme;
- (c) Reviewing and assessing achievements on the basis of implementation and evaluation reports on the projects and defining the basic areas requiring increased international cooperation;
- (d) Reviewing ways and means whereby Member States might participate more effectively in the International Programme for the Development of Communication;
- (e) Approving an appropriate system of financing for the Programme in order to secure the necessary resources for the benefit of those requesting assistance from the Programme;
- (f) Awarding of the IPDC-UNESCO Prize.

¹ See resolution 22 adopted by the General Conference at its 28th session.

Article 6

1. At the beginning of its first session, and subsequently whenever the membership of the Council is changed by the General Conference in accordance with Article 2 above, the Council shall elect a Chairperson, three Vice-Chairpersons, a Rapporteur and three other members; these shall form the Council's Bureau. The members of the Bureau who are representatives of Member States of UNESCO shall preferably be specialists in the fields covered by the International Programme for the Development of Communication. They shall remain in office until a new Bureau has been elected.
2. The Bureau shall discharge such duties as the Council may lay upon it. The Bureau shall assume full responsibility for project selection, approval and allocation of funds from the Special Account and plan the organization of work of the Council session. The Bureau shall act as jury for selecting the winner of the IPDC-UNESCO Prize for Rural Communication.
3. Unchanged.
4. Unchanged.

Article 7

1. Unchanged.
2. Unchanged.
3. The Council shall lay down the conditions under which other international governmental or non-governmental organizations, public and private foundations and other bodies concerned may be invited to participate in its proceedings without the right to vote. The Council shall also lay down the conditions under which certain particularly well-qualified persons may be consulted on matters within their competence.

Article 8

1. The Secretariat of the IPDC Intergovernmental Council shall be provided by the Director-General of UNESCO, who shall place at the Council's disposal the staff and other means required for its operation.
2. Unchanged.

Article 9

1. Unchanged.
2. Member States shall bear the expenses of the participation of their representatives in sessions of the Council, its Bureau and working groups.
3. Voluntary contributions to the International Programme for the Development of Communication shall be accepted to the established IPDC Special Account as well as funds-in-trust and contributions-in-kind for concrete projects and activities, in accordance with the Financial Regulations of UNESCO.