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**REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ON THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE INFORMATION FOR ALL PROGRAMME (IFAP)**

1. The Information for All Programme (IFAP) was established in 2001 to provide a platform for international policy discussions and guidelines for action in the area of access to information and knowledge for the participation of all in the knowledge societies. In the 2008-2009 biennium the Secretariat has focused on reinvigorating the programme taking into account the findings and conclusions contained in the report of the external evaluation of IFAP (177 EX/26).
2. In light of the findings of the external evaluation, the Executive Board requested the Director-General to present to it at its 179th session a results-based Strategic Plan for the Information for All Programme (177 EX/Decision 26). A draft was prepared by the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Programme (IFAP) and was presented to the fifth session of the IFAP Council that was held in Paris from 2 to 4 April 2008. At the 179th session of the Executive Board, the Director-General presented a report on the preparation of the Strategic Plan and the draft Strategic Plan itself (179 EX/14 and Add.). The Board Members took note of the results of the fifth session of the IFAP Council contained in document 179 EX/14 Add. and invited the Director-General to submit to the Executive Board for its consideration at the 180th session, a draft Strategic Plan, as revised and proposed by the IFAP Council.
3. In accordance with 179 EX/Decision 14, the revised Strategic Plan was submitted to the Executive Board for comments and endorsement at its 180th session (180 EX/15). The Board confirmed its strong commitment to the global goal of Information for All and endorsed the Strategic Plan for IFAP with the proposed objectives, priorities and expected outcomes for the 2008-2013 period. The Board also recalled 33 C/Resolution 57, adopted by the General Conference at its 33rd session, on strengthening of the Special Fund for the Information for All Programme and urged again Member States to continue to contribute to the IFAP Special Fund.
4. Key achievements of the Programme during the past biennium include successful implementation of activities envisaged in Part I of the Strategic Plan (2008-2009), the implementation of several projects funded by the IFAP Special Fund for a total of US \$210,000, the improvement of IFAP visibility through regular communication with Member States, the support for the creation of new IFAP National Committees and the organization of IFAP-related meetings and regional and subregional events (e.g. Russian Federation and Philippines).

Implementing projects in the priority areas

5. Information Literacy: Training The Trainers project. Training has been carried out in 2008 in all regions, including Jamaica, Canada, Malaysia, Estonia, Turkey, South Africa, China, Spain,

Egypt, India and Peru. A cumulative list of countries that have either sent a trainee-participant, an expert presenter, a special guest speaker, or an organizer/co-sponsor to the workshop series, shows that more than 500 beneficiaries from some 100 countries have been reached by this project.

6. Establishment of Open Source Archival Repository and Preservation System. At the request of the IFAP Bureau, the Subcommittee on Technology of the Memory of the World Programme was tasked to investigate the costs of preservation in the digital era. Its findings were published as Towards an Open Source Repository and Preservation System. The report contended that a practical, open-source system for digital preservation could be constructed and would be of enormous benefit to those interested in preserving their digital heritage. It further recommended that UNESCO support the aggregation and development of an open-source archival system, building on, and drawing together existing open source programmes. IFAP subsequently approved a grant of \$80,000 as seed money to implement that project.

7. Increasing Global Awareness on Information Ethics and e-Government. In the framework of IFAP, UNESCO, in cooperation with the Government of the Republic of South Africa and the International Centre for Information Ethics, organized an Information Ethics and e-Government High Level Executive Seminar followed by a training workshop. The two events were held in South Africa from 23 to 26 February 2009. This initiative was a direct response to the outcome of the African Information Ethics Conference that took place in Tshwane, South Africa, in February 2007. It was also part of the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) decisions, where information ethics was identified as a critical component in building a people-centred, development-focused, inclusive information society. The training workshop was attended by about 50 participants from 13 African countries: Botswana, Burundi, Chad, Eritrea, Ghana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Senegal, Republic of South Africa, Swaziland, Union of the Comoros and Zambia.

8. IFAP also encouraged communities using information for development to share their success stories. By way of an incentive, the Bureau of IFAP has agreed to provide project funding support of \$5,000 for five of the most innovative success stories, one in each region. In 2008, the Bureau selected: (a) Where there's a FLAME, there's a fire – Namibia; (b) Open Source Software brings a new lease of life to libraries in Palestine – Palestinian Authority; (c) Team Teaching English with International English-Speaking Volunteers at Watphrathatwittaya School – Thailand; (d) Our City, Our Voices: Immigrant Newscasts in the Digital Age – United States of America; and (e) It's DEAF WAY! – Deaf community in the north-east of Brazil creating the tool of their own for development – Brazil.

Improving visibility and supporting fundraising

9. To increase IFAP visibility and improve its impacts for fundraising, the Secretariat further implemented the visibility plan that was approved by the Council at its fourth session and contributed to the preparation and dissemination of various publications and activity reports.

10. The Secretariat also reallocated unspent funds under IFAP activities over the last several years and thus made available for activities a total amount of \$62,594, part of which was earmarked for initiatives that would encourage future voluntary contributions by Member States to the IFAP Special Fund.

11. As a follow-up to a request by the Bureau, the Secretariat also actively engaged in efforts to identify, in cooperation with field offices, additional IFAP labelled projects that were subsequently presented by the IFAP Chair to donor countries for possible funding.

Fostering IFAP National Committees

12. A survey was conducted in 2008 by the IFAP Chair and the Secretariat. Some Committees did not respond, even in Member States where, as the Secretariat had been previously informed, such Committees had been created and were operating.

13. At present, contacts and regular exchanges are maintained with the IFAP National Committees from the following countries: Austria, Canada, China, Cuba, Denmark, Egypt, France, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Lithuania, Netherlands, Nigeria, Philippines, Poland, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Slovakia and United Republic of Tanzania. New National IFAP Committees have been or are being established in Brazil, Chile and Togo.

14. In agreement with the decision of the fifteenth Bureau meeting held in Paris (10-11 February 2009), the Secretariat further invited those National Commissions for UNESCO which have already established a National Committee for the Information for All Programme to strengthen their activities and improve their efficiency, and also expressed hope that more National Committees will be established by those National Commissions for UNESCO that have not done it so far.

Organizing statutory meetings of the Council and its Bureau

15. During the present biennium, the Secretariat organized one session of the Council (April 2008) and three meetings of the Bureau (April 2008, February 2009 and January 2010). The total budget for the organization of these meetings came entirely from the regular budget of the Organization, with no additional contribution by Member States.

16. The Secretariat has continuously kept NGOs such as the Coordinating Council of Audiovisual Archives Associations (CCAAA), International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) and the International Council on Archives (ICA) informed on IFAP activities by inviting them as observers to those meetings.

Cooperating with the IFAP Bureau

17. The Secretariat has developed a constructive and fruitful cooperation with the Bureau over the biennium covered by the present report. The Secretariat has continuously obtained guidance and advice from the IFAP Council and Bureau for the implementation of all IFAP-related activities.

Remarks by the Director-General on the implementation of IFAP

18. The Director-General supports the objectives and priorities adopted in the Strategic Plan for IFAP. The orientations included in the Plan correspond to the priorities of document 34 C/4 and reflect several aspects contained in document 34 C/5 Approved. These objectives and priorities are therefore well reflected in draft document 35 C/5.

19. The Director-General underlines, however, that further efforts are to be made for clarifying comprehensively the respective roles and responsibilities of IFAP bodies. He considers that the expected increase in human and financial resources for IFAP by Member States would have to be achieved through fundraising and voluntary contributions by Member States to the IFAP Special Fund and by building partnerships with the private sector. Since the strategic orientations of this programme were fully endorsed by the Executive Board in 2008, the Director-General invites Member States to increase their extrabudgetary contributions to IFAP and also invites the IFAP Bureau and Council members to engage more actively and effectively in fundraising activities.