

Distribution limited

**(Twenty-fourth meeting)
Meeting of the Bureau of the
Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Programme
(IFAP)**

5 March 2015
UNESCO House, Paris (Fontenoy Building, Room VIII)
9.30 a.m. -12.30 p.m. and 2.30 p.m.-5.30 p.m.

Item 4 of the provisional agenda

Review of the implementation of the recommendations of the 8th session of the IFAP Council
and the 23rd meeting of the IFAP Bureau

Adoption of the recommendations of the report of the 8th session of the Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Programme (IFAP) - 19-20 May 2014

The IFAP Council at its 8th session noted that several important issues had been discussed and adopted the following recommendations:

The IFAP Intergovernmental Council thanked the outgoing Chairperson and Bureau for the results achieved and congratulated them on their efforts to enhance the Programme.

The Council noted that several important issues have been discussed and adopted the following recommendations:

- 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;*
- 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;*
- 3. Take concrete steps to enhance IFAP'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;*
- 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;*
- 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;*
- 6. Encourage the voluntary participation of past-IFAP chairs and other experts in the ongoing activities of the Working Groups;*
- 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;*
- 8. Requests the Bureau to follow-up with concrete steps on the discussions that have taken place concerning the governance review;*
- 9. Requests the Bureau to ensure the effective implementation of the recommendations of the intergovernmental Council;*
- 10. Requests the Director-General to continue to support IFAP's work in the developing countries and to implement IFAP-related events;*
- 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.*

Progress Made in Implementing the Recommendations of the eight session of the IFAP Council

Recommendation 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;

Status: *Since the 8th session of the Council, the Bureau and Secretariat have continued to implement activities in the IFAP priority areas. Negotiations on the text of the WSIS +10 and Post-2015 Agendas, which are central to IFAP's priority areas, are still underway. Finalization of these key international development frameworks is now foreseen for the end of 2015. The IFAP strategy document presented to the 9th IFAP Council will align the Council's future actions with the agreed international frameworks.*

Recommendation 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;

Status: *Effective and consistent progress is being made to implement this recommendation. IFAP is a key partner in the preparation of the forthcoming conference "CONNECTing the Dots: Options for Future Action". This conference will discuss the comprehensive Internet study mandated by Member States at UNESCO's 37th General Conference. All IFAP network members have been invited to participate in this process and comments on the questionnaire were received from the South African National IFAP Committee.*

In Southern Africa, UNESCO's Harare Field Office has worked closely with existing National IFAP Committees to organize 4 national events to build the capacity of policy makers in the information ethics priority area. In a similar manner UNESCO's Beijing, Cairo, Tehran and San Jose Offices have been strengthening existing National IFAP Committees and working with UNESCO National Commissions to support the establishment of new ones.

In concert with the IFAP Chair, the Chair of the Working Group on Multilingualism and the Chair of the Working Group on Information for Development, international conferences and expert meetings have been organized in concert with the Secretariat in India, Israel, the Russian Federation and at UNESCO's Headquarters. The recommendations, action plans and networks established as a result of these events are contributing to the implementation of actions in the priority areas and to enhancing IFAP's visibility. In concert with the IFAP Chair and the Chair of the Information Ethics Working Group a number of meetings have been convened with UNESCO Permanent Delegation from the GRULAC to plan the organization of regional information ethics events in 2015. In concert with the IFAP Chair and the African Center for Excellence in Information Ethics, the Secretariat organized an information ethics themed knowledge café which was attended by the UNESCO

Secretariat and several Permanent Delegations. Several follow-up meetings aimed at strengthening IFAP's work were organized.

Recommendation 3: Take concrete steps to enhance IFAP'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;

Status: *News items on activities in the IFAP priority areas are regularly disseminated through UNESCO's media channels and IFAP was featured in UNESCO's 2014 Annual Report.*

A French version of the IFAP Brochure covering the period Report 2008 – 2013 was published in late 2014 and along with the English version is now available for download from the IFAP homepage. Both publications have been distributed at key international events and to prospective partners. Preparations of Arabic and Spanish versions of the report are underway. Arabic translation was funded by the Egyptian government while the Spanish version is being supported through UNESCO's San Jose Office. A number of IFAP promotional videos in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish are being progressively released on UNESCO's Youtube Channel. The IFAP logo has been featured prominently in various international, regional and national events organized in the framework of the Programme.

In partnership with the United Nation University's (UNU) Operating Unit for Electronic Governance the IFAP Secretariat co-organized the conference track on "Ethics, Accountability and Transparency", as well as two UNESCO-sponsored sessions during the 8th International Conference on Theory and Practice of Electronic Governance in Portugal. This event supported outreach to policy-makers from developing and emerging regions.

Recommendation 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;

Status: *The development and submission of proposals for the organization of IFAP activities continues to be undertaken through active collaboration between the IFAP Chair and the Secretariat. A proposal developed to address the role that could be played by the Internet in combatting youth radicalism and extremism benefitted from a contribution of US\$100,000 from the Government of Bulgaria. These resources will support the organization of an international conference under the theme "INTERNET as a tool for development of youth against all forms of extremism and radicalism" to be held at UNESCO's Headquarters on 16 and 17 June, 2015. Efforts aimed at attracting resources to support a number of follow-up projects and research studies are also continuing.*

Recommendation 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;

Status: *In January 2015 the IFAP Secretariat has circulated the draft text developed earlier by Austria and Brazil to all Bureau members for their inputs. The Bureau's proposal will in due course be forwarded to the Council for its review.*

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

Status: *The Secretariat has extended invitations to past IFAP members to continue to participate in Working Groups. On various occasions, past IFAP members have been nominated to participate as panelists or attendees at events in their fields of expertise convened by the IFAP Secretariat and its partners. Experts currently unaffiliated with IFAP have also been informed of its goals and objectives and encouraged to seek nomination through their national channels to the IFAP Working Groups.*

Recommendation 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, ***in particular through its information for development priority***, should serve to provide forward-looking advice to policy-makers;

Status: *Linkages between IFAP and other UNESCO intergovernmental bodies namely, the International Programme for the Development of Communication, the Management of Social Transformation (MOST) and the Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC) continue to be strengthened at the level of the Secretariat and the Bureau. Similar actions have also been taken with UNESCO's expert bodies, particularly the International Bioethics Committee of UNESCO (IBC) and the Committee on the Ethics of Science, Technology and Knowledge (COMEST). In September 2014, the IFAP Chair presented the Programme's activities during the 21st session of the International Bioethics Committee of UNESCO (IBC) and the joint session of the IBC and the Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC). This event provided an opportunity to explore collaboration. The outcomes of these discussions were subsequently shared with the Bureau for its action.*

During the 29th session of the IPDC Council, the IFAP Chair initiated contact with the newly elected IPDC Chair subsequently several working meetings to identify joint project activities have been held. One outcome of this renewed engagement is the request from IPDC to participate in IFAP's youth-focused June conference. The MOST Secretariat has also confirmed their participation in the preparation of this event.

Under the leadership of the Chair of the Information for Development Working Group an international conference in Well Being in Digital Media was organized in Israel to deepen understanding of how the long-term interactions between digital media on one hand and individuals and society affect well-being and how these can be impacted and can be assessed. An on-line Forum to support follow-up research and policy work was also launched.

Recommendation 8: Requests the Bureau to follow-up with concrete steps on the discussions that have taken place concerning the governance review;

Status: *Following the review by the Council, the completed self-assessment questionnaire was submitted by the IFAP Chair to the External Auditors. The IFAP Chair and Secretariat have also had related follow-up exchanges with the External Auditor.*

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

Status: *This matter has been included in the Agenda of the 24th session of the IFAP Bureau.*

Recommendation 10: Requests the Director-General to continue to support IFAP's work, *in particular* in the developing countries and to implement IFAP-related events;

Status: *A 17-Country readiness study on FOSS and Open Solutions for the Caribbean was published in June 2014. The study findings have enable State to identify gaps and to reflect on changes to their national strategies and frameworks. The study has been shared with other regions and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Other events in the LAC region and Southern Africa are described under items 2 and 3.*

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

Status: *IFAP-themed International conferences have been organized in Israel, Oman and the Russian Federation.*

Recommendations of the Twenty-third IFAP Bureau

Item 3 - IFAP Working Groups

The Working Group Chairs are to submit, Terms of Reference and work plans for the biennium including plans for visibility and fundraising activities to the IFAP Chair. New Working Group Chairs were requested to consult with past Chairs, current Council members and the Secretariat. The Secretariat **Response** : The Secretariat has sent the related documents and/or websites links to the Bureau.

Item 4 - Discussion of the recommendations of the 8th IFAP Council session, and the strategic orientations of IFAP during the 2014 - 2017 period

Secretariat to update the IFAP Strategic Plan 2008 – 2013 to reflect the Post-2015 international Development Agenda as well as the WSIS + 10 Process and submit a first draft to the Bureau for its consideration in July 2014. Bureau members are to submit written inputs to the new strategic plan by 15 September 2014. Bureau members should use the self-assessment exercise to further reflect on and address the modifications of the IFAP Statutes.

Response: Please see Status of 8th Council Recommendations 1, 5 and 8.

Item 5 - Improvement of the financial situation of IFAP

- a) Revive the “IFAP label” to recognize noteworthy activities in the IFAP priority areas. No progress
- b) Pursue greater cooperation with academic institutions:
- c) Enhance cooperation between IFAP’s bodies – Council, Bureau, Working Group Chairs and UNESCO Field Offices and the IFAP Secretariat –
- d) Support the translation of the survey developed by the Information Preservation Working Group on the status of magnetic tape collections in Member States. Bureau to decide on request for US\$8,000 to assist with capacity-building and dissemination of related research.
- e) IFAP Secretariat to renegotiate support for the activities of the IFAP Observatory to below 2015 period to a maximum of US\$15,000 and inform the Bureau of the outcome

Response:

- a) For the moment efforts have been focused on attracting funding for projects proposals developed by IFAP.
- b) The University of Pennsylvania funded an intern who worked on the IFAP programme during Summer 2014’. With the United Nations University (UNU) a number of activities specifically related to IFAP, including the updating of the IFAP National Information Society Policy Template and its conversion to an online database with case studies are being explored within the framework of an updated UNU-UNESCO cooperation agreement.
- c) Please see status of Council Recommendation for items 2, 4, 6, 7 & 10
- d) No progress
- e) The restructuring of the Budapest University’s Institute for Technology where the Observatory was hosted has led to delays. The Bureau has approved the continuation of the Observatory and approved a total of just under \$14,000 for the contract to be established.

Item 6 - Improvement of the visibility of IFAP

- a) Enhance the coordination of IFAP's communication efforts.
- b) Organize activities to raise awareness, more effectively communicate and develop understanding amongst Delegations at Headquarters of IFAP's work
- c) Bureau members to raise the visibility of IFAP and its work amongst their national and regional governmental ministries and related actors.
- d) Bureau member should join the on-line communities on UNESCO WSIS Knowledge Communities platform to identify other specialists who could support the various IFAP actions; they should also subscribe to the CI News mailing list

Response

- a) Bureau members have been regularly informed of IFAP's achievements and related developments so that this information could be circulated to their respective regional networks and Working Groups. Collaboration with Field Offices and with Bureau members organizing events has also helped to ensure broader visibility of these IFAP activities;
- b) The IFAP Chair has been convening various information meetings with both regional groups and permanent delegations to raise awareness of the programme. A Knowledge Cafe organized in concert with the Secretariat enabled greater awareness of IFAP's work and reach across Africa in the area of Information Ethics. The resulting interest led to a subsequent meeting attended by representatives from Africa, Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean to deepen their understanding and explore potential areas for future action.
- c) Various events have been organized by Bureau members in Israel, Oman and the Russian Federation in concert with their governments and various national and international partners.
- d) The subscription feature of the CI News mailing list has been deactivated following the migration of content to a new web platform.

Item 7 - Strengthening National IFAP Committees

- a) The Secretariat should undertake a survey of the achievements, needs and challenges facing National IFAP Committees and Bureau members would encourage their regions to inform this process.
- b) The Bureau will seek to revive dormant National IFAP Committees and each Council member should establish an IFAP body.

Response

- a) A total of 17 countries have responded to the IFAP survey, a few countries – New Zealand, Hungary, Russian Federation and Poland indicated significant activities.
- b) Amongst countries elected to the Bureau, National IFAP structures are currently known to exist in Israel and the Russian Federation.

Item 8 - Project and event proposals

- a) The Bureau will support coordination and strengthen coordination of the IFAP Information Society Observatory;

- b) Russia will organize the 3rd International Conference on Linguistic and Cultural Diversity in Cyberspace Formation for Development Working Group, to ensure coordinated action.
- c) Secretariat to organize the distribution of IFAP-related materials during the 7th Internet Governance Forum to be held in Istanbul.

Response

- a) The manager of the IFAP Observatory is a national expert nominated to the Information for Development Working Group. Through the Bureau member responsible for this Working Group the Bureau's oversight is being enhanced;

- b) The conference was organized as planned with a follow-up expert group held at UNESCO in October 2014. Copies of the IFAP Report 2008 – 2013 were strategically distributed to prospective institutional partners and individual experts attending the event

Item 9 - IFAP Self-assessment exercise - Within the framework of the Audit of the Governance of UNESCO and dependent entities, funds, and programme

Response

Please see Item 8 of the recommendations of the 8th IFAP Council

Item 10 – Cooperation with other intergovernmental and professional bodies

- a) Systematically and strategically cooperate with existing and new partners.

Response

Please see Item 3 of the recommendations of the 8th IFAP Council

Item 11 – Miscellaneous

- a) Strategically organize future Bureau meeting around forthcoming IFAP-related events and make greater use of electronic decision-making.

Response

- a) The 24th IFAP Bureau will be held immediately following UNESCO's conference on the Internet-related study, CONNECTing the Dots: Options for Future Action. The meeting will take the format of a virtual meeting thereby taking advantage of the presence of members attending this conference while facilitating the full involvement of others unable to travel to Paris. The Bureau continues to make extensive use of electronic tools to support decision-making and information exchange.