



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

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IFAP-2015/Bureau.XXIV/6

Original: English

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

Virtual Meeting

5 March 2015

09:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. & 2:30 - 5:30 p.m. - Room VIII

Final Report

This document is also available at:

<http://www.unesco.org/webworld/ifap>

Introduction

The twenty-fourth 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 5 March 2015. Except for the Member from the Russian Federation, who participated virtually, the meeting was attended in person by Bureau Members or their representatives.

The following Bureau Members attended the meeting:

Chair	Ms Chafica Haddad	Grenada
Vice-Chair	Mr Omar Al-Shanfari represented by Ms Yara Al-Ghafri	Oman
	Mr Evgeny Kuzmin (virtually)	Russia Federation
	Mr Roni Aviram	Israel
Members	Mr Omponye C. Kereteletswe	Botswana
	Ms Leyla Bartet	Peru
	Mr Basuki Yusuf Iskandar	Indonesia
Rapporteur	Mr Dietrich Schüller	Austria

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, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Lithuania and Paraguay) representing Member States also attended the meeting.

Item 1 - Opening

On confirmation of the quorum (Austria, Botswana, Indonesia, Israel, Grenada, Oman, Peru and the Russian Federation), the meeting was opened by the Representative of the Director-General who commended the IFAP Bureau for the important contribution it had made to the organization and success of UNESCO's just concluded international conference CONNECTing the Dots: Options for Future Action. Furthermore, Mr Engida commended the Bureau on the numerous successful international activities that had been organized since the 23rd IFAP Bureau in the Russian Federation, France, India, Oman and Israel. IFAP was also congratulated on its success in securing \$100,000 in extra-budgetary resources from the Government of Bulgaria to organize in June 2015 an international conference on "Internet as a tool for development of youth against all forms of extremism and radicalism" that will be held at UNESCO's Headquarters. The Bureau was urged to continue its efforts to build partnerships, secure funding but also to redouble its efforts to effectively leverage the expertise within the IFAP Working Groups.

Following introductions by the newly appointed representatives of Botswana and Indonesia to the Bureau as well as Bureau members and Observers the meeting began its work.

Item 2 - Adoption of the Agenda

The Chair invited comments on the Provisional Agenda: as there were no amendments the Agenda was unanimously adopted.

Item 3 – Adoption of the Report of the 23rd meeting of the Bureau

The Chair invited comments on the Report of the 23rd IFAP Bureau: as there were no amendments the Report was unanimously adopted.

Item 4 – Review of the implementation of the Recommendations of the 8th IFAP Council and the 23rd IFAP Bureau

The Chair invited the Rapporteur to read aloud in turn each of the recommendations adopted by the Council and the Bureau. The meeting was then invited to discuss the current status and achievements to date as tabled in document IFAP-2015/Bureau.XXIV/2.

Recommendations of the 8th IFAP Council

The Bureau expressed satisfaction with the progress that had been made in implementing the recommendations adopted by the Council, Bureau members also seized the opportunity to highlight some activities that were not yet included in the comprehensive report.

The Russian Federation informed the Bureau that a Russian translation of the IFAP Report 2008 - 2013 was currently under preparation. They also used the opportunity to underscore IFAP's role in enhancing cooperation and the sharing of experiences between UNESCO's intergovernmental bodies citing the upcoming Expert Meeting on a Model Code of Ethics for Intangible Cultural Heritage, being held from 30 March to 1 April 2015 in Valencia, Spain. The Russian Federation would represent IFAP and share experiences based on the Programme's extensive normative work in the area of information ethics.

The IFAP Secretary highlighted the upcoming IFAP June conference to be held at UNESCO on 16 and 17 June, 2015 under the theme "Youth & Internet: Fighting Radicalization and Extremism", as a landmark event, as this represented the first time in the Programme's 15 year history that collaboration with the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) was being realized.

In this regard, the representative of Peru brought to the Bureau's attention a number of national initiatives which were serving to raise the visibility of IFAP in Latin America and which were serving to enhance the involvement of youth.

The Bureau agreed to establish a committee under the leadership of Israel that would spearhead national and regional fund-raising efforts. The Secretariat would contribute to these efforts by assisting in the identification of experts who could participate in capacity-building and other events and seek through twinning activities to mobilize seed funding through the Regular Programme. The Bureau agreed that increased efforts should be made to broaden the participation of experts from developing countries in IFAP events and activities.

Recommendations of the Twenty-third IFAP Bureau

The Bureau also expressed its overall satisfaction with the substantial progress made since its last meeting and turned its attention to exploring how to further accelerate progress and to share recent developments taking place at the national level. In this regard, the efforts underway to support the establishment of National IFAP Committees in Botswana, El Salvador, Gabon and Lebanon were highlighted. The Secretariat also underlined its approach to increasing the number of National IFAP Committees while reducing the administrative burden that countries were facing in establishing these committees. This could be achieved through the

co-branding of Memory of the World and National IFAP Committees. The upcoming regional meeting of Memory of the World Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (MOWLAC) to be held in Uruguay in October 2015 and which federates 18 national committees was agreed to be a useful platform for launching this strategy. The IFAP Secretariat in concert with the relevant regional focal points will pursue this pilot effort.

To ensure greater coherence in the scope and content of the terms of reference adopted by the various Working Groups, it was agreed that the Secretariat would prepare and circulate a template to the Bureau for its review and possible adoption.

The Bureau agreed to establish a calendar of activities organized within the framework of IFAP to contribute to the six priority areas and which would be regularly updated. Bureau members were therefore invited to provide information on their national and regional activities so that this calendar could be compiled. In addition to enhancing visibility of these activities the calendar is also expected to facilitate the development of synergies between National IFAP Committees with UNESCO Field Offices and other partners.

Item 5 – Review of the major activities Undertaken by the Bureau and Secretariat since the 23rd IFAP Bureau (IFAP 2015/Bureau.XXIV/3).

The Bureau expressed satisfaction with the progress made in implementing 14 major regional and international events covering Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe as well as Latin America and the Caribbean since the last Bureau meeting. Attention was also drawn to the extensive cooperation being developed with academic, civil society, governmental and private sector actors in the IFAP priority areas. Special mention was made of the outstanding contributions by academic partners in Israel – Ben Gurion University, the Interdisciplinary Center (IDC) Herzliya and the Open University of Israel” - and in the Russian Federation – North Eastern Federal University – for their contributions to the “Well Being in Digital Media” and the “Third International Conference on Linguistic and Cultural Diversity in Cyberspace”, respectively.

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

Information Preservation

The Information Preservation working group informed on the critical situation of availability of replay equipment for magnetic tape based audio and video documents. A project to assess the quantitative dimension on the problem and to alert governments, in cooperation with UNESCO field offices is under preparation. It was also reminded that, so far, the working group has submitted four projects already to the 36C/5 and hopes to see at least part of their submissions implemented.

A major forthcoming event is “JTS 2016” to be held in Singapore (7-9 March 2016). Joint Technical Symposia, arranged every three to four years under the auspices of UNESCO by CAAA (Coordinating Council of the Audiovisual Archives Associations), are top experts meetings in the field of audiovisual preservation, which also has a pioneering role in digital long-term preservation. The Working Group is requesting support to participate in that event

The Programme Specialist for Memory of the World (MOW) then provided an overview of the work being carried out under the purview and set frameworks of the MOW. It was noted that the Persist Project is strongly supported by all members of the working group, as it partly reflects one of the working group’s earlier submissions.

The Working Group Chair underlined the close relation between IFAP Information Preservation and Memory of the World and informed that Austria has already established a “co-branded” MoW/IFAP Committee, as discussed already under ITEM 4.

Information for Development

The Information for Development Working Group expressed its sincere appreciation for the support received from the IFAP Bureau during the planning and staging of its conference on Well-Being. It was discussed that “well-being”, as an overarching goal of development projects and initiatives, is supported by economists, psychologists, academics and development professionals alike, and is the central motivating force behind the social, economic and moral development of societies.

The subsequent discussion on well-being revealed the importance of the concept and the role that technology can play in its advancement. From this and previous discussions, the Working Group has and will continue to develop guidelines for development professionals in this regard. The objective is to craft more effective and context-specific approaches for policymakers, planners, researchers and educators.

There was also mention of a future conference/ forum to be held in San Diego, California. At the end of said conference, the Working Group plans to create a consortium of online resources – a smart repository – that will make the conference proceedings and knowledge available to the public.

Multilingualism

The UNESCO/IFAP International Expert Meeting on Improving Access to Multilingual Cyberspace at UNESCO Headquarters (28 -29 October 2014), was also discussed as a means of generating a comprehensive analysis of the global language scene and for the identification of key challenges. It was noted that arrangements for this Expert Meeting were made to also include Portuguese-speaking representatives and participants.

From the conference, four key areas for action were identified:

- I. Marginalized Languages,
- II. Marginalized Great European Languages,
- III. Language Support in Rural Areas; and
- IV. Maintaining languages as part of Intangible Heritage

Several of the conferences publications and speaking points on Multilingualism and Media Information Literacy can also be found in the 2008-2013 IFAP Report.

Information Ethics

The Information Ethics Working Group discussed the CONNECTing the Dots Conference and the importance of ethics as an overarching theme that relates to the digital environment and the creation of more inclusive and communicative knowledge societies. Over the course of the two day conference, specialists, experts and participants had discussed the transnational and multi-dimensional nature of Cyberspace and how its growing importance presents new frontiers with unparalleled opportunities and challenges for access to information and knowledge, freedom of expression, privacy and ethics. The Working Group also reported that a change of government has led to the postponement of the meeting on information ethics that was scheduled to take place in Uruguay.

In terms of planned future activities, the group discussed having begun preparations for a conference on information ethics in the Dominican Republic. Another was also forecasted to take place in St. Kitts & Nevis.

As it concerns updates and action items, the Group acknowledged that much work has been done in English-speaking countries but not in Lusophone and French-speaking countries of Africa. There needs to be a more concerted effort to develop contacts and initiate activities in Arabic-speaking countries.

Information Accessibility

The Information Accessibility Working Group discussed the Global Media Forum, a conference aimed at addressing the role of the media in realizing the “Future We Want For All” to be held in Bali, Indonesia, from 26 to 28 August 2014. The overall objective of the event was to contribute to the ongoing international debate about the importance of media and information and communication technologies for peace and sustainable development and to work for the inclusion of a goal acknowledging this in the post-2015 development agenda. More than 300 media practitioners, academics, government officials, civil society organizations and media owners participated.

The key themes addressed at the forum that will continue to receive attention from the working group are as follows:

- The role of media and the relevance of freedom of expression in human and social development,
- Empowering people, including marginalized groups, through media and information literacy and access to information,
- Facilitating good and effective governance through media,
- The role of media in promoting peace, tolerance, and the dialogue among civilizations, cultures, people and religions,
- Social media to enhance youth participation and civic engagement,
- Gender Equality and media,
- Safety of journalists as a precondition for freedom of speech and good governance; and
- Ethics and professional standards in media in the era of internet and social media

Information Literacy

Since the last Bureau Meeting the Information Literacy Working Group had developed little activity. The group is under way to intensify its work in coordination with the IFAP Chair.

IFAP Chair

The IFAP Chair, Ms. Chafica Haddad, disclosed that during her meeting with the Director-General she explored the possibility of increased extra-budgetary funding, secondments and associate experts. There will be an update on the outcome soon. She then discussed the presentation of IFAP’s work at the International Bioethics Committee (IBC) and Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC) meetings.

It was also announced that during the conference organized by UNESCO and the Government of India “From Exclusion to Empowerment: Role of ICT for Persons with Disabilities” (New Delhi, 24 to 26 November 2014), a special IFAP session was organized on the Inclusive Learning Lab (I2L) concept. The First Lady of Belize and an expert from the Dominican Republic had already been contacted for possible implementation of the concept in their respective countries.

Ms. Haddad mentioned that preparations for the “Youth and the Internet: Fighting Radicalization and Extremism” conference had begun. Meetings with various delegations had already been set and she invited Bureau members to send proposals and to suggest expert panelists. The

conference, initiated by the IFAP, will be organized and executed with the support of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC).

The Chairperson informed that the Permanent Delegation of El Salvador has prepared a Spanish version of the "Guidelines for the Creation and Operation of National IFAP Committees" as a contribution to the Programme.

She also transmitted to the Bureau the candidature, submitted by the Permanent Delegation of the Dominican Republic. Following the Bureau's review of the nominee's file and curriculum vitae, Ms Mencia Ripley's participation in the activities of the Working Groups was approved.

ITEM 7 – IFAP activities planned for 2015

IFAP activities planned for 2015 are listed in Document IFAP-2015/Bureau.XXIV/4. Several of the 2015 and future activities have already been discussed under ITEM 6 of the Agenda. The Working Group Chairs were asked to submit additional activities and tentative dates to the Bureau. The Chairperson also reminded Bureau Members to establish National IFAP Committees.

ITEM 8 – Financial situation of IFAP

The financial report was examined by the Bureau. The Chair wanted to see the expenditures be specified and reminded Bureau Members that authorization had already been given to support the international conference on Well Being in Digital Media, as well as for the further operation of the IFAP Information Society Observatory.

The overheads charged by UNESCO for expenditures paid from the IFAP account were questioned both on the merits and their extent. The Secretariat explained that, the charges for cost recovery were made in accordance with the "Guidelines on the Cost Recovery Policy and Budgetary Aspects of Extrabudgetary Projects" published in Administrative Circular no. 2318 on 12 September 2008. These Guidelines resulted from in-depth work within the Organization, including consultations with Member States, National Commissions for UNESCO and UNESCO's staff members. Furthermore, these Guidelines integrate the results of a joint coordination and harmonization effort led by UNESCO's Bureau of the Budget among UN Organizations within the framework of the High Level Committee on Management. The decision to implement programme support costs was adopted by UNESCO's Executive Board (175 EX/Decision 36.8).

Fundraising for future events and programming was also discussed. The Chair reminded Bureau Members to try their best to campaign for the acquisition of extra-budgetary funds and thanked Israel for the initiative taken as discussed under Item 4 of the agenda.

ITEM 9 – Visibility of IFAP

It was noted with satisfaction that specifically the Working Group on Ethics had received considerable interest from Member States. The contribution of IFAP to the CONNECTing the Dots conference was highlighted by the Chair of the Executive Board. It was also noted that an Arab language version of the IFAP 2008-2013 Report was about to be released thanks to the generous contribution of Egypt for its translation, and that a number of promotional videos have been uploaded to UNESCO's YouTube channel.

ITEM 10- Cooperation with National IFAP Committees

Cooperation with National IFAP Committees was already discussed under Item 4.

ITEM 11 – Discussion of Preparations for the 38th General Conference of UNESCO

a) IFAP Statutory Report to the General Conference

It was decided that the draft will be circulated. Deadline to be sent to the Secretariat is mid-July.

b) Modification of the IFAP Statutes

The proposed Draft, prepared by Austria and Brazil regarding the revision of the IFAP Statutes was discussed in relation to the role of IFAP as expressed in the Governance Self Assessment Audit. It was decided that elements from the IFAP Self-Assessment Questionnaire general introductions will be taken and added as a preamble to the current statutes.

c) Election of the IFAP Council for the period 2015-2019

In accordance with the provisions of Article 2, paragraph 3, of the Statutes of the Council, the term of office of the 14 members elected at the 36th session of UNESCO's General Conference will expire at the end of the 38th session of the General Conference. Members whose terms were expiring were eligible to seek re-election during the elections that would be held during the 38th General Conference. However, members with expiring terms elected to the Bureau would continue to exercise their duties until a new Bureau was elected at the 9th session of the IFAP Council.

d) Governance Self-Assessment Audit

The Chairperson recalled that the self-assessment process on the governance of Intergovernmental programmes and other subsidiary bodies was decided during the 37th session of UNESCO's General Conference (37 C/Resolution 96). According to the 23rd session the IFAP Bureau decision, the IFAP Secretariat provided the factual information required in Questionnaire 1 while the Self-Assessment Questionnaire 2 has been prepared in close cooperation with the IFAP Bureau Members, in consultation with the IFAP Council Members as well as with the States non-members of the Council which have a strong and continued interest in IFAP. In addition, further to the some IFAP members' request, a short General Introduction was also introduced in the Questionnaire.

ITEM 12 - Miscellaneous

There was no business under this agenda item.

ITEM 13 - Closure

The Chair thanked the Bureau for their active participation and closed the meeting at 5:30 pm.