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Report

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REPORT BY THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL OF THE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNICATION (IPDC) ON ITS ACTIVITIES (2010-2011)

OUTLINE

Source: Article 11 of the Statutes of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC).

Background: The Intergovernmental Council of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) submits this report to the General Conference of UNESCO in accordance with 21 C/Resolution 4/21 and in pursuance of Article 11 of its Statutes adopted at the 21st session, which stipulates that the Council shall submit reports on its activities to the General Conference of UNESCO at each of its ordinary sessions..

Purpose: The present report covers IPDC's activities during the current biennium (2010-2011). It provides an overview of important decisions and initiatives of the Council, IPDC projects and the financial situation of the Programme.

Decision required: No decision is required on this document.

INTRODUCTION

1. The International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC), which was created in 1980, is the only intergovernmental programme in the UN system mandated to mobilize international support in order to contribute to sustainable development, democracy and good governance by strengthening the capacities of developing countries and countries in transition in the field of electronic and print media. Since its creation, IPDC has channelled more than US \$100 million to over 1,500 media development projects in some 140 countries.

2. Its unique role has been continuously reaffirmed through resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, including the most recent one *Resolution A/RES/65/107, "Information in the service of humanity"*, adopted on 10 December 2010 at the 65th session of the General Assembly, which urges all countries, organizations of the United Nations system and all other stakeholders 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."

27TH SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL OF THE IPDC

3. The overall responsibility for the Programme lies with **the Intergovernmental Council of the IPDC**, which meets every two years to assess the work carried out by the Programme. It consists of representatives from 39 countries elected by the General Conference of UNESCO. The twenty-seventh session of the Intergovernmental Council of the IPDC was held at UNESCO Headquarters, Paris from 24 to 26 March 2010.

(Final Report available at: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0018/001896/189697m.pdf>).

4. In accordance with the Council's rules of procedure, the **Bureau of the IPDC Intergovernmental Council** was elected as follows:

Chairperson:	Mr Raghu Menon (India)	Vice-Chairpersons:	Egypt / Yemen Thailand Venezuela
Members:	Namibia Russian Federation United States of America	Rapporteur:	Mr Mamadou Koumé (Senegal)

5. Following the report submitted by the Director-General on the condemnations by the Director-General of the assassinations of journalists in 2008-2009 the Council adopted the **Decision on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity**. In this regard, the Director-General decided to organize a UN Inter-Agency Meeting on this issue at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on 13 and 14 September 2011. This Decision also requested the General Conference of UNESCO to encourage news rooms around the world to observe one minute's silence every year on World Press Freedom Day (3 May). Echoing this request, the UNESCO Director-General has, on several occasions, personally invited all those commemorating World Press Freedom Day on 3 May to observe a minute's silence in memory of journalists who have lost their lives.

6. **A thematic debate on "Free, independent and pluralistic media: the enabling role of the State"** was organized, in which three examples of good practices in this area were presented: the Media Development and Diversity Agency in South Africa, the new Uruguayan Law on Community Broadcasting and the Indonesian Press Council. This debate afforded the opportunity for Member States to share information about their respective national media environments and

ways in which positive State intervention has helped to foster media pluralism and freedom of expression.

7. IPDC has contributed to application of the **Media Development Indicators (MDIs)** endorsed by the IPDC Intergovernmental Council in 2008 as an “important diagnostic tool” for assessing media landscapes, identifying gaps and providing evidence-based recommendations on how to address them. MDI-based assessments have now been completed in Bhutan, Croatia, East Timor, Ecuador, Jordan, the Maldives, Mauritania and Mozambique, while others are still ongoing in 10 Member States, including Egypt and Tunisia. In March 2011 the IPDC Bureau decided to set aside an additional US \$100,000 to be used for future projects aimed at assessing national media landscapes.

8. The projects submitted to IPDC are considered to be a part of the long-term programme implemented by IPDC in each country. Every two years, the IPDC Bureau makes a selection of implemented projects to undergo an **external evaluation**. The reports on seven IPDC projects to support community media in Jamaica, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan and the United Republic of Tanzania were presented and discussed during the session. At its 55th meeting, the Bureau decided to increase the funds allocated from the IPDC Special Account for evaluation activities in order to reinforce both the evaluation and the follow up of IPDC projects.

54TH AND 55TH MEETINGS OF THE BUREAU OF THE IPDC INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL

9. Two annual meetings of the IPDC Bureau were organized at UNESCO Headquarters from 24 to 26 February 2010 and from 22 to 24 March 2011. The main purpose of the meetings was to select the media development projects to be financed by IPDC. A total of **214 project proposals were submitted for the Bureau’s consideration** by media organizations worldwide. Proposals were developed on the basis of Media Development Indicators (MDIs) and the IPDC guidelines for project preparation with expert assistance from UNESCO professionals based in 33 field offices and at Headquarters.

10. **The IPDC Bureau decided to approve 176 projects for a total amount of US \$4,430,410:**

176 MEDIA DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS APPROVED BY THE BUREAU				
Regions	Number of projects approved	IPDC Special Account	IPDC Funds-in-Trust	Total Funds (in US \$)
Africa	72	1,691,250	–	1,691,250
Asia and the Pacific	39	984,665	–	984,665
Latin America and the Caribbean	41	1,107,305	–	1,107,305
Arab region	18	344,960	176,280	521,240
Europe	6	125,950	–	125,950
GRAND TOTAL:	176	4,254,130	176,280	4,430,410

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE IPDC

11. The financing of the 176 projects approved in 2010-2011 by the IPDC Bureau was made possible thanks to the voluntary contributions of the following donor countries:

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE IPDC (in US dollars)		
Country	54th Bureau (February, 2010)	55th Bureau (March, 2011)
Andorra	37,000	52,344
Belgium		176,280 (FIT)
Denmark	100,299	275,000
Finland	559,362	267,738
France	–	28,000
India	30,000	530,000
Israel		15,052
Norway	152,206	166,945
Russian Federation	100,000	
Spain	259,068	443,787
Sweden		36,737
Switzerland	476,420	482,456
United States of America	357,833	200,000
Total:	1,935,188	2,674,339

SPECIAL INITIATIVE: Building centres of excellence in journalism education in Africa

12. Having recognized journalism education as a major issue to be addressed in Africa, UNESCO identified twenty institutions that have the potential to become centres of excellence and of reference in this area. In 2010-2011, within the framework of the IPDC initiative, US \$570,000 was allocated to purchase equipment, textbooks and organise training-of-trainers workshops for the centres. Another project coordinated by Deutsche Welle – Akademie in cooperation with UNESCO will provide US \$430,000 to train trainers in journalism education pedagogical methodologies.

UNESCO-IPDC PRIZE FOR RURAL COMMUNICATION

13. The Mexican community radio station *La voz de los campesinos* and the Egyptian journalist Amr Mamdou Ellisy shared the UNESCO-IPDC Prize for Rural Communication (US \$20,000) which recognizes meritorious and innovative efforts to improve communication for rural communities in developing countries. The awards ceremony took place during the 27th session of the IPDC Council. The Prize is awarded every two years following a recommendation by the Bureau of UNESCO's International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC), which acts as prize jury.