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منظمة الأمم المتحدة
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联合国教育、
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37 C/51

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REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL INFORMATION FOR ALL PROGRAMME STRATEGIC PLAN (2008-2013)

OUTLINE

Source: This document reports on the review of the implementation of the Strategic Plan proposed by the Council of the Intergovernmental Information for All Programme (IFAP) and endorsed by the Executive Board at its 180th session.

This review was debated by the members of the Executive Board at its 191st session, who recommended its submission, together with the Executive Board's observations made during the debate on this item and any comments that the Director-General may wish to make, to the General Conference for consideration at its 37th session.

Purpose: This item, included in the agenda of the General Conference in accordance with the decision by the Executive Board, presents the results of the IFAP review and seeks the endorsement of its findings and conclusions by the General Conference.

Decision required: paragraph 8.

Background

1. UNESCO's intergovernmental Information for All Programme (IFAP) provides a framework for international cooperation, partnerships, resource mobilization and common action in the development of policies, strategies, methods and tools for building knowledge societies for all. An Intergovernmental Council comprising 26 Member States is elected to guide the Programme in its planning and implementation.

2. The IFAP Strategic Plan (2008-2013) was submitted for approval by the Executive Board at its 180th session (180 EX/Decision 15). At its twentieth meeting, the IFAP Bureau elaborated the modalities for conducting the review of the implementation of this Plan. The findings of this review were consequently submitted to the Executive Board for consideration at its 191st session (191 EX/41 and Add.)

Observations by the Executive Board

3. Board Members thanked the Secretariat for this review, and, in their large majority, underlined its usefulness in drawing conclusions that will help to ensure that IFAP is adequately supported and funded in the future. Several Delegations underlined the importance of IFAP in the implementation of the Organization's mandate and strategic goals and that the Programme should be an amplifier of projects carried out in the framework of UNESCO's regular programme work, including in support of media and information literacy, Memory of the World, accessibility and information preservation, information ethics, and multilingualism in cyberspace. It was also underlined that 71% of Member States in their responses positively evaluated the IFAP and its results for UNESCO.

4. Some Members of the Board raised the issue of a possible duplication between IFAP and CI's regular programme. It was also pointed out by some Delegations that according to the responses to the survey, 14% felt that IFAP had not fully achieved its 2008-2013 goals. While acknowledging its universal utility and important interdisciplinary nature, several Member States expressed particular concern regarding the visibility and viability of the Programme due to the fact that it had not drawn significant extrabudgetary funds. Despite the underfunding, IFAP was cited as a useful programme particularly in developing countries and the Caribbean, mainly as concerns capacity-building for National IFAP Committees and national experts.

5. Several Board Members underlined that only UNESCO, through its unique mandate, is capable of running a Programme of this nature. IFAP's contribution in its priority areas was also particularly appreciated during the WSIS+10 Review Event organized by UNESCO in February 2013. Furthermore, it was also emphasized that IFAP should not be weakened on the pretext of removing duplication and overlaps, but should rather be considered as having as a main objective to reinforce existing activities under the CI's regular programme that requires additional both extrabudgetary and regular programme funding.

Comments by the Director-General

6. In his response to the debate, the representative of the Director-General stressed that there is no duplication or overlap between IFAP and other parts of the CI programme but rather a complementarity, due to the fact that the CI regular programme is shaped partially on the advice of the IFAP Council. ADG/CI also admitted that the limited support in extrabudgetary funding secured during that period for the programme was one of the main factors fragilizing the operationalization of its global goals and priorities. The regular budget support, provided mainly for statutory obligations and selected activities, was complemented by substantial in-kind contributions from various Member States.

7. The representative of the Director-General further underlined that the Programme was particularly successful and visible in the Caribbean due to Emergency Fund resources approved by

the Director-General to that end, which proved the natural link between the Programme's successful visibility and the provided financial support. Furthermore, he recalled that the role of IFAP as an intergovernmental programme was geared to giving policy advice and input to national information policies, and regretted the reluctance of donors to contribute to the IFAP Special Account despite the systematic requests. Finally, ADG/CI confirmed that all additional information regarding the conducted review was contained in the annexes to the report available online (191 EX/41 and Add.).

8. Having examined the present document, the General Conference may wish to adopt the following resolution:

The General Conference,

1. Having examined document 37 C/51 "Report of the review of the implementation of the Intergovernmental Information for All Programme Strategic Plan (2008-2013)",
2. Commends the IFAP Bureau and Council for their contribution to the preparation of this review;
3. Takes note that 52 Member States have provided their substantive inputs to the review process;
4. Confirms its commitment to the global goal of universal access to information and knowledge for all, and to the priorities of IFAP;
5. Takes note of the opinions expressed by Member States and endorses the findings and the conclusions of the review process;
6. Invites Member States and all concerned stakeholders to take into consideration the findings of the IFAP Review in the process of elaboration and implementation of their respective national policies, programmes and strategies for building equitable and inclusive knowledge societies;
7. Urges Member States to strengthen their participation in, and contribution to IFAP.