United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
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Item **7** of the provisional agenda

REPORTS BY THE GOVERNING BODIES OF UNESCO INTERGOVERNMENTAL PROGRAMMES AND CATEGORY 1 INSTITUTES
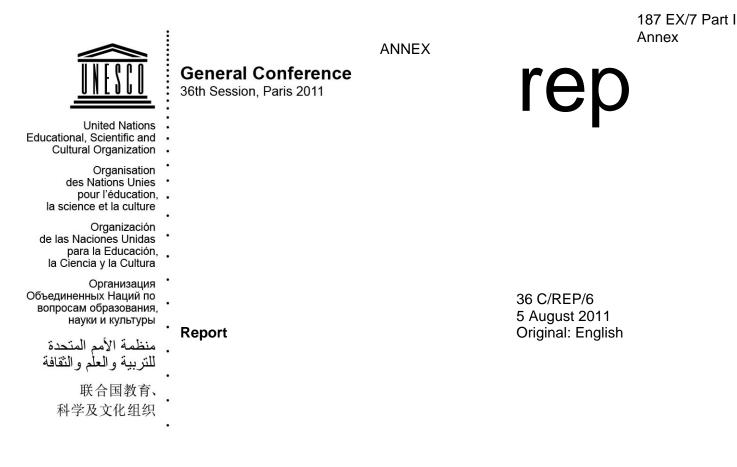
PART I

REPORT BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE UNESCO INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR CAPACITY-BUILDING IN AFRICA (IICBA) ON THE INSTITUTE'S ACTIVITIES FOR 2010-2011

SUMMARY

In accordance with Article IV (6) of its Statutes (30 C/Resolution 8), the Governing Board of the UNESCO International Institute for Capacity-Building in Africa (IICBA) submits to the Executive Board and the General Conference the report on the Institute's activities for 2010-2011 aimed at reinforcing national capacities within the framework of UNESCO's general policy and in particular in light of the Dakar Framework for Action.

Document 36 C/REP/6, which is annexed hereto, contains this report and is hereby submitted to the Executive Board for consideration.

No decision is proposed.

General Conference
36th Session, Paris 2011

ANNEX

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United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

Report

36 C/REP/6
5 August 2011
Original: English

REPORT BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE UNESCO INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR CAPACITY-BUILDING IN AFRICA ON THE INSTITUTE'S ACTIVITIES FOR 2010-2011

OUTLINE

Source: Article IV(6) of its Statutes of the UNESCO International Institute for Capacity-Building in Africa (IICBA) (30 C/Resolution 8).

Background: In accordance with this Article, the IICBA Governing Board submits the report on the Institute's activities to the General Conference.

Purpose: This report presents the Institute's activities for 2010-2011 aimed at reinforcing national capacities within the framework of UNESCO's general policy and in particular in light of the Dakar Framework for Action.

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1.   This report presents the programme activities of the UNESCO International Institute for Capacity-Building in Africa (IICBA) including those in collaboration with its partners for 2010-2011.

BACKGROUND

2.   The Governing Board of the UNESCO International Institute for Capacity-Building in Africa (IICBA) submits to the Executive Board and the General Conference the report on the Institute's activities for 2010-2011. The programmes were implemented in conformity with the Statutes of the Institute and with resolution 35 C/Resolution 8 for IICBA.

3.   IICBA contributes to the achievement of main line of action 1, the expected result relating to teachers; "national capacities strengthened to train and retain quality teachers, particularly in Africa through the Teacher Training Initiative in Sub-Saharan Africa (TTISSA)".

OUTPUTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

4.   The following outputs and achievement have contributed to the above expected result:

Capacities developed at regional, sub-regional and national levels through trainings

5.   IICBA has undertaken a number of training workshops on the management of teacher education institutions (TEIs) for the countries of the East African Community (EAC) and the Inter-governmental Authority for Development (IGAD) (Kenya, 28 March-1 April, 2011). A similar training was also organized for 142 senior education management staff in Ethiopia. These workshops are believed to have capacitated colleagues so that they manage their staff, finance, and space with better efficiency and effectiveness. Some of them have also conducted follow up trainings in order to cascade it among their colleagues in their respective countries and/or institutions.

6.   In addition, a regional workshop on the Development of ICT-Enhanced Teacher Standards for Africa took place in October 2010 in the Republic of Congo for Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), East African Community (EAC) and IGAD. The workshop was attended by representatives of 8 countries in the region. As a follow up to this activity, IICBA is preparing a validation workshop that will come up with an ICT mediated Africa-wide teacher standards. Once this is finalized, the instrument shall be used to gauge teacher standards in Africa.

7.   As part of its mandate to assist Member States in Africa in teacher policy development and implementation, the Institute has worked with teacher policy personnel in the ECOWAS region. Fourteen of the fifteen countries in the region attended a workshop in Ghana in July 2011, and follow up action plans have been drafted by participants. IICBA is providing support in the articulation of the action plans.

8.   Teacher professional development, especially in Science, Mathematics and Technology Education (SMTE), and skills development for enhanced girls' participation in SMTE are areas that IICBA has assisted Member States in 2010. In this connection, a workshop was conducted for 96 teachers from 22 schools in the Mpumalanga Province, South Africa, in collaboration with the University of Pretoria. The feedback received from the teachers attests to the importance of the training in making their teaching of these subjects better. Similarly, a sub-regional workshop on skills development for enhanced girls' participation in SMTE was conducted in Swaziland in October 2010. This workshop has created heightened awareness on the need to encourage girls to join the fields that traditionally are considered to be only for boys.

9.   A policy dialogue on the analysis of teacher education curriculum in selected African countries in ECOWAS sub-region has also been carried out in partnership with the Education Research Network in West and Central Africa (ERNWACA). This activity aims at creating a synergy in the curriculum of the countries in the region as part of the integration effort being spearheaded by the African Union.

Knowledge generated and shared through research and publications

10.   One of IICBA's three main programme activities is conducting research on relevant issues and publishing the results thereof. Accordingly, the Institute has disseminated research findings on teacher issues and good practices in early childhood care and education (ECCE) to participants at regional and global forums (Russia 2010, Benin and USA 2011). It is also engaged in the preparation of the launch of a regional platform for capacity building and knowledge sharing on ECCE in collaboration with a regional initiative on the creation of a "Knowledge Hub" and "Centre

of Excellence" in Mauritius. In addition, the Institute has focused on gender issues as it commissioned a study on "Teacher Policy Development: A Gender Perspective" in three West African countries (Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal). As a follow up, IICBA is engaged in the development of training modules on developing gender sensitive teacher policy to be finalized by the end of 2011.

11. The Institute has also conducted a study on the integration of ICTs in teacher training in Africa. The results of the study are being processed for publication and wider dissemination among Member States for their use.

12. As part of its partnership building effort, IICBA co-hosted the Sixth Commonwealth Research Symposium on teacher mobility, recruitment and migration (8-9 June, Ethiopia) in collaboration with the Commonwealth Secretariat. In addition, it has strengthened: collaboration with UNESCO HQ, Commonwealth Secretariat and Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA) and is involved in a study on in-service teacher education in selected countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

13. The dissemination of research findings and other relevant publications has seen marked improvement within IICBA through the launch of the series, Fundamentals of Teacher Education Development, in English and French. The first issue has been published and three more are being finalized. The Institute's newsletter came out regularly and carried articles on the themes of teacher policy development, the capacity building of rural teachers in Africa, and teacher migration.

Technical Support for TTISSA Implementation

14. IICBA has provided support in the implementation of the TTISSA diagnostic toolkit through exploratory missions to three countries (Burundi, Lesotho, and Mali), and has been involved in the assessment of the capacity of the teacher education sub-sector in Sierra Leone in collaboration with UNESCO Accra and UNESCO HQ.

Partnerships strengthened with relevant stakeholders

15. IICBA has collaborated with the African Union in the implementation of the Second Decade of Education in Africa through regular participation in the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) process and the Pan African Conference on Teachers (Togo, 13-15 April 2011). During the reporting period, IICBA consolidated ties with the UNESCO International Research and Training Centre for Rural Education (INRULED) within the framework of a project funded by China and implemented in partnership with the Centre.

16. Likewise, IICBA has worked for the development and strengthening of partnerships with international organizations, research institutions, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector.

17. As part of its effort to establish partnership with the private sector, IICBA has developed a strong relationship with the Global e-Schools and Communities Initiatives (GeSCI) in developing and implementing the African Leadership on Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) programme and initiated collaborative projects with Microsoft Ethiopia on training teachers on the pedagogical use of ICT, which will potentially be expanded to other African countries.

Positive developments and continuing challenges

18. The working condition in terms of office space has been improved as the Institute is now located within the office building of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). Furthermore, the Ethiopian Government has taken up the initiative to build a six-storey building for the Institute. The foundation stone has been laid by the Director-General of UNESCO, Ms Irina

Bokova, and the Minister of Education of Ethiopia, Mr Demeke Mekonnen in a ceremony held on 23 February 2010. The building is expected to be completed in two years.

19. Though an international Education Specialist at P4 level was posted to the Institute in 2010, the staffing situation in IICBA continued to be a challenge at the beginning of the biennium. The position of director was filled in November 2010, nearly two years after the transfer of the former director. The programme coordinator that was appointed in September 2008 and acted as Officer in Charge was transferred to BREDA in October 2010, creating a gap in the capacity for programme delivery. The recruitment of another programme coordinator is under way.

20. Although there was an increase in the allocation of the Regular Budget to IICBA, shortage of financial resources continues to be a challenge. The regular budget allocated to the Institute is still mostly used to cover staff cost, leaving limited resources for programme implementation. However, concerted effort is being made since the appointment of the new Director to secure extra-budgetary resources.

Concluding Observations

21. During the biennium, the Governing Board of IICBA met in Addis Ababa (3-4 December 2010) to approve, among other things, the Institute's new Strategic Plan (2011-2015). The elaboration of the new plan takes into account the new guidelines developed by UNESCO on matters relating to teacher development policy and implementation and the Second Decade of Education for Africa of the African Union. IICBA therefore hopes to consolidate its drive for extra-budgetary resources and consolidation of key partners for successful plan implementation.

22. A 2011 report from UNESCO's Internal Oversight to IICBA pointed out that all the recommendations emerging from the 2005 evaluation of IICBA were fully implemented.

23. IICBA is also preparing the ground for conducting training programmes in teacher development at all levels. This will create broader impact of its activities at the national, sub-regional and regional levels, through both ICT enhanced modalities and face-to-face learning. This vision will be further enhanced when IICBA's office building is completed and equipped with the required facilities.

Item **7** of the provisional agenda

REPORTS BY THE GOVERNING BODIES OF UNESCO INTERGOVERNMENTAL PROGRAMMES AND CATEGORY 1 INSTITUTES

PART II

REPORTS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INFORMATION FOR ALL PROGRAMME (IFAP)

(2010-2011)

SUMMARY

In accordance with Article 10 of the Statutes of the Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Programme, the Director-General shall submit to the General Conference, through the Executive Board, at each of its sessions, a report on the implementation of the Information for All Programme (paragraph 2) and the Council shall submit as well, through the Executive Board to the General Conference, at each of its sessions, a report on its activities (paragraph 3).

Document 36 C/REP/16 containing these two reports, which is annexed hereto, is hereby submitted to the Executive Board for its consideration.

No decision is proposed.

ANNEX

General Conference
36th Session, Paris 2011

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Report

36 C/REP/16
21 July 2011
Original: English

REPORTS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INFORMATION FOR ALL PROGRAMME (IFAP) (2010-2011)

OUTLINE

Source: In accordance with Article 10 of the Statutes of the Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Programme, the Director-General shall submit to the General Conference, through the Executive Board, at each of its sessions, a report on the implementation of the Information for All Programme (paragraph 2) and the Council shall submit through the Executive Board to the General Conference, at each of its sessions, a report on its activities (paragraph 3).

The present document includes these two reports.

Should examination of these reports by the Executive Board give rise to any comments or recommendations, these will be communicated to the General Conference in the form of an Addendum to the present document.

PART I – REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INFORMATION FOR ALL PROGRAMME

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 2010-2011 biennium the Secretariat has continued its work of implementing the Strategic Plan for the Information for All Programme approved by the Executive Board at its 180th session (180 EX/15).

2.   Key achievements of the Programme during the past biennium include the successful ongoing implementation of the activities envisaged in the Strategic Plan (2008-2013) for reinvigorating the programme. These activities included projects funded both by the regular programme and by the IFAP Special Fund, and were complemented by an increase in the Secretariat's staff support for IFAP, an improvement of IFAP's visibility, support for the establishment of new National IFAP Committees and the organization of IFAP-related regional and international meetings and events.

Implementing projects and events in the priority areas

3.   <u>Information accessibility and information for development</u>: With the financial support of the Government of Spain, UNESCO supported the establishment of the "Biblioteca Virtual", an on-line compilation of texts on youth policies in Latin America covering the countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Columbia, Chile, Cuba, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela. In creating this important policy tool, specific attention was given to ensuring the inclusion of resources dedicated to the empowerment of women. A CD-ROM version has also been created and disseminated to permit off-line access.

4.   A second project, "Access to Information, Accountability and Transparency in the Andean Region", also benefited from Spain's support. This project is focused on building the capacity of citizens especially women, civil servants and governmental officials to use ICTs, developing strategies to facilitate the creation, collection and disclosure of public domain information, and supported transparency and citizen participation by strengthening the right to information. The total contribution by Spain for these two activities was of $204,106.57 and €21,310.

5.   <u>Information literacy</u>: UNESCO, in collaboration with the Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication (AIJC) supported the holding of the 5th Asia Pacific Information Network (APIN) Meeting and ICT Literacy Workshop in Manila, Philippines, from 23 to 26 November 2010. The assembly brought together information policy makers and executives representing APIN member-countries. The meeting improved alignment of the APIN Constitution with the IFAP priorities and created an action plan for the development of information tools and sharing of experiences among APIN member-countries. A one-day training workshop on competencies for developing ICT literacy was organized by the Communication Research Department of the University of the Philippines immediately after the APIN meeting.

6.   <u>Increasing global awareness on information ethics</u>: In September 2010, UNESCO, together with the University of Botswana, organized (in Gaborone) the Third International Conference on Information Ethics, "Teaching Information Ethics in Africa: Current Status, Opportunities and Challenges". The event supported research and the development of African information ethics curricula and attracted some 60 experts from Africa, North America and Europe. Presentations by academic institutions from the Central African Republic, Ghana, Kenya, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe provided a coherent perspective on the state of the art in the field of information ethics in Africa. The main meeting

outcome was a roadmap and action plan for developing information ethics curricula in African universities.

7.   UNESCO also organized the WSIS C10 (Ethical Dimensions of the Information Society) Action Line Meeting under the theme "Cyber and Information Ethics: Freedom and Security, Privacy, Malice and Harm, Property" at the 2011 WSIS Forum (16-20 May) in Geneva, Switzerland. The event attracted governments, IGOs, NGOs and academic institutions in Geneva as well as remote participants from Brazil, Canada, France, Mexico and Portugal who participated and contributed to the event via the simultaneous webcast.

Improving visibility and supporting fund raising

8.   In late 2010, the IFAP websites was restructured and redesigned to improve access and the organization of information on the programme and its achievements. Through ongoing development it is anticipated that the IFAP website will support better targeted content delivery and support the collection of relevant data.

9.   To increase IFAP's visibility and improve its impacts for fund-raising, the Secretariat has regularly disseminated information on IFAP. News items on IFAP and its activities have appeared on-line and in major policy publications such as the report of the Broadband Commission for Digital Development. An updated IFAP brochure is under preparation.

10.   In response to a request from the Bureau, the Secretariat is engaged in efforts to identify, in cooperation with field offices, IFAP-labelled projects that can be presented by the IFAP Chair to donor countries for possible funding. The Secretariat is also preparing at the Bureau's request a mechanism for selecting and recognizing projects of excellence by National IFAP Committees.

Fostering National IFAP Committees and reinforcing regional cooperation

11.   Together with the Government of Grenada, UNESCO co-organized in June 2011 the first Regional IFAP Conference for English and Dutch-speaking Caribbean Countries held under the theme of "Building Caribbean Knowledge Societies". This event initiated the establishment of National IFAP Committees, produced a regional action plan and a political declaration, committing the Member States who attended the meeting, to supporting the creation of development-oriented Knowledge Societies that enable peoples to achieve their full potential, promote sustainable development and improve their quality of life. The Declaration encouraged UNESCO to continue to support regional cooperation and development, namely in the framework of the Information for All Programme.

12.   At present, contacts and regular exchanges are maintained with the National IFAP Committees from the following countries: Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, France, Grenada, Indonesia, Israel, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Madagascar, Mali, Nigeria, People's Democratic Republic of Korea, Philippines, Russian Federation, Thailand, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela and Viet Nam. New National IFAP Committees have been or are being established in Azerbaijan, Tunisia and Zambia.

Organizing statutory meetings of the Council and its Bureau

13.   During the present biennium, the Secretariat organized one session of the Council in March 2010 and two meetings of the Bureau (March 2010 and February 2011). The total budget for the organization of these meetings was covered by the regular budget of the Organization, with no contribution by Member States.

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

Cooperating with the IFAP Bureau

15.   The Secretariat has continued to develop a constructive and fruitful cooperation with the Bureau over the biennium covered by the present report. The Secretariat has continuously obtained the guidance and advice of the IFAP Council and Bureau for the implementation of all IFAP-related activities and provided technical and financial support for their activities.

16.   At the 18th session of the IFAP Bureau, the Secretariat presented its activities in Media and Information Literacy Indicators, Free and Open Source Software and the Open Suite Platform. This increased awareness of these activities and provided opportunities to further enhance collaboration between IFAP's activities and those undertaken by the Secretariat. Discussions initiated by these presentations led to the identification and preparation of activities that are expected to be realized in 2012/2013.

17.   The mainstreaming of IFAP's priority areas has guided the preparation of the Communication and Information Sector's input to the draft document 36 C/5.

Remarks by the Director-General on the implementation of IFAP

18.   The Director-General is actively supporting the ongoing implementation of the Strategic Plan for IFAP. Within the envelope of resources available to the Organization, additional staff support has been provided to bolster the efforts being undertaken to reinvigorate the Programme.

19.   The Director-General underlines, however, that additional human and financial resources for IFAP are needed to effectively respond to, and deliver on, the priorities that Member States have entrusted it to perform. While appreciative of the renewed interest and more positive outlook amongst Member States, there remains an urgent need for an increase in fundraising and voluntary contributions by Member States to support and strengthen these positive developments at both international and national levels. The strategic orientations of this programme were fully endorsed by the Executive Board in 2008. Therefore the Director-General once again invites Member States to increase their extrabudgetary contributions to IFAP and also urges IFAP Bureau and Council members to more actively and effectively engage in fund-raising activities in order to increase the number of realizations under this programme and improve the geographical diversity and scope of its action.

PART II – REPORT OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL FOR THE INFORMATION FOR ALL PROGRAMME ON ITS ACTIVITIES

Activities of the Council and its Bureau

20.   The Intergovernmental Council of the Information For All Programme held its sixth session on 29 and 30 March 2010 and will meet next in April 2012. The reinvigorated Bureau continues to play an active role in the life of the programme through its meetings, the activity of the Chair and online consultations.

21.   Specific activities undertaken by the Council included:

Helping Member States develop and implement national information policies and knowledge strategies

22.   The main activities in this area have been: (a) the finalization and publication of the report "National Information Society Policy: A Template", in January 2010 and its dissemination in physical and electronic formats to Member States, and its consequent translation by China and Russia into their national languages; (b) creation and maintenance of an online Information Society Observatory and publication of bi-monthly newsletters on new developments; and (c) publication of

information society policies annual report 2010. The most notable contribution to these important projects was made by Argentina, Poland and Hungary.

23.   IFAP has also been supporting the organization of key national, regional and international events aimed at strengthening IFAP's relevance at national level, contributing to the international policy debate and the elaboration of policy frameworks. These interventions are described in greater detail under the relevant sections.

IFAP Council contribution to the preparation of the draft Programme and Budget 2010-2011 (36 C/5)

24.   IFAP contributed actively to the preparation of the draft UNESCO Programme and Budget for 2012-2013 (36 C/5). A number of proposals elaborated by IFAP'S Working Groups were officially submitted by the Council in July 2010.

Establishment of multi-stakeholder Working Groups to deal with the five IFAP priorities

25.   The IFAP Working Groups in the five priority areas have designated Chairpersons to lead the reporting on each of these areas, the revising and harmonizing of work and updating lists of international experts in each of these areas. The Working Groups have also been seeking to strengthen their links with the activities of the Secretariat.

26.   The Working Group on Information Ethics, co-led by Latvia and Venezuela, submitted a Draft Code of Ethics for the Information Society which was approved by the IFAP Council for submission to the 36th session of UNESCO's General Conference for endorsement. The draft code, currently in its third version, has benefitted greatly from an extensive collaborative process dating back to 2006 which has involved the inputs of international experts, IGOs as well as regional consultations in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe and Latin America.

27.   At the request of the Working Group on Information Preservation, the IFAP Bureau and Council has adopted the "IFLA Manifesto for Digital Libraries" and approved its submission to the 36th session General Conference of UNESCO for endorsement.

28.   The Working Group on Information Literacy is currently engaged in developing various national and regional strategies to adapt and implement information literacy concepts, develop curricula and use indicators for assessing information skills.

IFAP's contribution to the international information society debate and to the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines

29.   The IFAP Bureau together with the UNESCO Secretariat and National IFAP Committees organized various regional and international forums for debate, information exchange and to inform policy-making processes within IFAP's priority areas. These events included the 5th Asia-Pacific Information Network Meeting on "Information Policy: Accessibility and Media and Information Literacy" (Manila, Philippines, 20-23 November 2010); the regional conference on "Building Caribbean Knowledge Societies" (St George's, Grenada, 15-17 June 2011).

30.   A number of IFAP special events on information preservation, information accessibility and information literacy took place: a) The annual ADIT International Conference for museum workers (Krasnodar, Russia, 8-10 June 2010 and Minsk, Belarus, 11-14 May 2011); and b) The Annual International Crimea Conference (Sudak, Ukraine, June 2010 and June 2011), which brought together around 1,500 participants from 40 countries. At the 2011 Conference a special seminar on Open Access was organized in the presence of Ms Ellen Tise, IFLA President.

31.   At the invitation of IFLA, Mr Evgeny Kuzmin, IFAP Chair, participated in the sixty-second Annual IFLA General Conference in Geteborg, Sweden (August 2010). The Chair's participation provided an opportunity to present IFAP's work, and together with the IFLA Information Literacy

Section Standing Committee, to identify specific steps to implement the IFAP-IFLA Joint Action Plan for promoting information literacy.

32. The IFAP Council has undertaken exploratory steps for the preparation of a "World Report on Information Preservation". Preservation of information is an emerging challenge of the information society, the acuteness, profundity, sophistication and scope of preservation problems are all but unnoticed by most people. The exponential growth of digital networks makes this a pressing issue. This World Report will provide the basis for elaborating more specific recommendations for national information preservation policy development.

33. To support this effort and to establish a platform for determining and discussing problems and solutions for long-term preservation of information (such as digital information preservation concepts, methods, policies, laws and activities at the international, regional and national levels), an international conference, "Preservation of Digital Information in the Information society", will be held in Moscow, Russian Federation (2-5 October 2011). This event is expected to attract around 100 experts from the library, archive, museum, educational and scientific communities, government and non-governmental institutions, as well as the private sector, representing some 50 Member States worldwide. The conference is a part of the preparation of the international conference on Digital Preservation which will be organized by UNESCO in autumn 2012.

34. A number of other project proposals were drafted by the IFAP Information Preservation Working Group led by Austria and these include, among others: (a) safeguarding the Hidden Documents of Linguistic and Cultural Diversity; (b) open source software for digital preservation and data management; and (c) promoting international cooperation in format registries.

35. Multilingualism is a cross-cutting issue in the information society and IFAP is taking active measures to foster advances in this field. A competence centre for multilingualism in cyberspace was established in 2010 at the North Eastern Federal University in Yakutsk, Russian Federation in response to the Lena Resolution adopted at the First International conference on Linguistic and Cultural Diversity in Cyberspace supported by IFAP in 2008. The second edition of this conference was held in Yakutsk from 12 to14 July 2011 with prominent experts from 33 countries of all continents and top-ranking UNESCO and ITU officials, highlighting the importance of preserving multilingualism and of promoting linguistic and cultural diversity in cyberspace, especially in view of the Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace, adopted by UNESCO in 2003.

Improving the efficiency of IFAP and its Council

36. The Council has been constantly informed about all the activities and consulted or requested to decide on major issues of the Bureau. Permanent Delegations of Member States represented on the Intergovernmental Council of IFAP are also regularly informed of major developments concerning IFAP.

37. The first-ever meeting of National IFAP Committees was held in Moscow on 7 and _ December 2009. The meeting was organized by the Intergovernmental Council for IFAP, the UNESCO Secretariat, the Russian IFAP Committee and its working body – the Interregional Library Cooperation Centre. The meeting gathered Chairs and representatives of 17 national IFAP committees – from Austria, Chile, China, Cuba, France, Germany, Israel, Ivory Coast, Jordan, Lithuania, Nigeria, Philippines, Poland, Russia, Slovakia and Thailand, and also Moldova, where an IFAP Committee was being established. Assistance was provided for the creation of new National IFAP Committees in 2009-2011 in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean and in Europe.

38. The Government of the Russian Federation allocated (through the Ministry of Culture and the Federal Agency for Print and Mass Communications) about $400,000, in 2011, to the Russian National IFAP Committee and its working body – the Interregional Library Cooperation Centre – to

hold IFAP–related international events and implement other projects in the framework of Russia's chairmanship of IFAP. The IFAP Special Account also received $40,000 in 2010/2011 from the Government of China.

39.   A revision of the Guidelines for creation and operation of national committees of the Information for All Programme has been initiated to take into account the experiences, best practices and diversity in existing National IFAP Committees. It was resolved that a National IFAP Committee should exist in each Member State elected to the IFAP Council and where this is not feasible, a minimum requirement of a list of national experts in IFAP's priorities is to be met.

40.   A special Working Group co-led by Austria and Brazil has been undertaking a further review of a draft proposal for changes to the Statutes of IFAP with a view to proposing amendments that could further contribute to improving IFAP's efficiency and effectiveness. The findings of this study are to be presented at the sixth session of the IFAP Council in April 2012.