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## **Ninth session**

### **Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Programme**

30-31 May 2016

UNESCO House, Paris (Fontenoy Building, Room XI)

9.30 a.m. -12.30 p.m. and 2.30 p.m.-5.30 p.m.

#### **Item 7 of the provisional agenda**

##### **Improving modalities of operation**

With a view to improving the modalities of operation of the Programme,  
this document recalls the roles and responsibilities established for IFAP bodies  
adopted by the Council and endorsed by the Executive Board.

## Outcomes of the 38th General Conference of UNESCO

### Discussion of the outcomes of the 38th General Conference of UNESCO

This document presents an overview of key policy-related documents in the IFAP priority areas adopted by the CI Commission during the 38<sup>th</sup> session of UNESCO's General Conference.

**Conclusions of the Youth Forum (Document 38 C/REP/19)** –The 9<sup>th</sup> Youth Forum was held from 26 to 28 October 2015 at UNESCO's Headquarters. The event brought together some 500 young women and men from 159 Member States. Their discussions over the course of the three-day Forum, held under the theme of "Young Global Citizens for a Sustainable Planet", yielded a number of cross-cutting recommendations for UNESCO's work. The following aspects are of particular relevance to the IFAP's priorities:

Supporting the involvement of young global citizens in the implementation of the 2030 SDG Agenda, particularly through the realization of rights, freedoms and responsibilities; supporting diversity and identity; and contributing to learning, personal development and sustainability; Supporting the involvement of young global citizens in efforts to ensure the planet's sustainability, particularly through promoting knowledge, awareness and media; support the capacity of local communities to share and receive information.

**The 8<sup>th</sup> IFAP Council** underscored the importance of involving young women and men in the activities of the IFAP Network and the need to address concerns of this demographic group. The June 2015 conference "Youth and the Internet: Fighting Radicalization and Extremism", as well as other youth-focused actions reflect a concerted response to this call. This outcome document highlights other avenues where the Programme may develop responses.

**The Reports on the implementation of the Information for All Programme (IFAP) (2014-2015) (Document 38 C/REP/24)** – This document provided an overview of the activities undertaken by the Director-General and the IFAP Council during the biennium. While not a policy document *per se*, the reports highlight a range of policy resources such as declarations, proceedings and guidelines, as well as policy relevant actions, such as conferences and capacity-building events and projects undertaken in the framework of the IFAP.

**Outcome document of the conference "CONNECTing the Dots: Options for Future Action" (Document 38 C/53)** –The outcome document of the aforementioned conference identifies some 38 areas for action based that could be undertaken by the Organization in response to the findings of the "Comprehensive Study on Internet-related Issues: Access, Free Expression, Privacy and Ethics". The outcome adopted by Member States included the Internet Universality concept and the ROAM principles. The Comprehensive study was extensively discussed during the CONNECTing the Dots conference which brought together around 400 participants from governments, civil society, private sector, academia and the technical community as well as intergovernmental organizations. IFAP contributed extensively to the study development process. Some examples of IFAP's interventions include the convening of a special session during the 8<sup>th</sup> IFAP Council to discuss this matter, providing responses to the study questionnaire, raising awareness of this initiative and participating in various expert panels as well as the drafting group convened during the CONNECTing the Dots conference. The 38 options adopted provide useful departure points for orienting IFAP's policy in the six priority areas.

## Outcomes of the 38th General Conference of UNESCO

**Proclamation of 28 September as the “International Day for the Universal Access to Information” (Document 38 C/70)** – Information plays a tremendous supporting role in good governance, ensuring the full participation and equality of citizens in society, freedom of expression and diverse aspects that contribute to human development and the full realization of human rights. Accordingly, Member States designated 28 September as the UNESCO International Day for the Universal Access to Information. While no specific financial resources have been provided to support the recognition of this day, it is expected that global events in concertation with a diverse range of partners will raise visibility and awareness of the day. Focusing attention on the critical role of information and supporting renewed commitments to improve access to information and the capacity of all stakeholders to effectively use information could serve to stimulate policy reforms and the sharing of good practices. Furthermore, the global nature of this day could be leveraged as a rallying point around which IFAP Network members could organize regional and national activities around the world.

**Draft recommendation on preservation and access to documentary heritage including digital heritage (Document 38 C/24)** - Documents, whether in analogue or digital form constitute the primary means of knowledge creation and expression. They therefore play a critical role and significantly impact all areas of humanity’s civilization and the ongoing efforts to enhance human development. Convinced of the need to develop policy responses at the international level, to protect documentary heritage, Member States have adopted this recommendation to support the preservation and access to documentary heritage. It is expected that Member States will develop and apply the necessary national legislative provisions within their territories to advance the objectives of this recommendation. IFAP actively contributed to the reflections and other preparations of this landmark policy document. This recommendation may also serve as an important reference for activities of the Programme and the Working Groups.

Third consolidated report on the implementation by Member States of the **2003 Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace (Documents 38 C/28 and 38 C/LEG/3)** – In line with the stipulated statutory reporting guidelines, Member States are to submit every four years a report on the status of their national actions that give effect to implementation of the Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace. This recommendation was adopted by Member States in 2003 at the 32nd session of UNESCO’s General Conference. There has been a continued decline in the number of Member States reporting, from 32 in 2007 to 22 in 2015. The majority of reporting Member States, point to important progress in the adoption of legislation and improvements in areas such as education as a result of policies. Identified challenges were primarily related to sociological, organizational and financial aspects. This recommendation has played an important role in the life of IFAP and has informed various aspects of the Programme and its initiatives including the IFAP Code of Ethics. The Bureau may wish to consider how they could support Member States in meeting their reporting obligations.

**Establishment of the Category 2 institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO: The establishment in Kuwait City, Kuwait, of a global centre for excellence for the empowerment of persons with disabilities through information and communication technologies (ICT) (Document 38 C/18 Part XXII )** – Following the favorable results of a feasibility study, Member States approved the establishment of a Global Centre for Excellence (GCE) for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities through Information and Communication Technologies as a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO. The principle objective of this center, established by the Government of Kuwait, is to support the empowerment of persons with

## Outcomes of the 38th General Conference of UNESCO

disabilities through their full inclusion in knowledge societies. To achieve this goal, the Centre will adopt strategies aimed at ensuring universal access to information and knowledge delivered by Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs). The center's interventions are expected to support the advancement of the post-2015 sustainable development agenda. As a global Centre it will attract the participation of the Member States of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), other UNESCO's Member States, the disability community, as well as other relevant stakeholders from around the world. The relevant Working Groups may wish to consider how they could engage with this Centre. Potentially they may also be invited to collaborate on the I2L Project and related initiatives.

**The New Delhi Declaration on Inclusive ICTs for Persons with Disabilities: Making Empowerment a Reality (Document 38 C/48)** – This declaration adopted by Member States is the outcome document of the landmark UNESCO conference and film festival, bearing this name, organized in New Delhi in November 2014. The event attracted some 700 participants from over 80 countries. The open-ended, multi-stakeholder, high-level drafting group which prepared the draft document was led by Mr. Lenin Moreno, the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Disability and Accessibility. Other members of the UNCRDP committee, prominent actors in this field and session participants contributed to shaping the outcome document. The declaration acknowledges the rights and freedoms of persons with disabilities to access information and knowledge through the use of open, inclusive and affordable technological and scientific solutions in all spheres of life. Today, around 15% of global populations have a disability and less than 2% of children with disabilities attend school. The declaration seeks to leverage ICT to ensure the full participation in social life of persons with disabilities and to enable them to reach their full potential. Realizing the aspirations of the declaration will significantly contribute to the post-2015 sustainable development goals. The current declaration is also the first document endorsed by UNESCO's Governing Bodies on the issue of disability since the 1994 Salamanca Statement.



## **Terms of Reference for the IFAP Working Group on Information Accessibility**

### **Overview of the Information Accessibility Working Group**

This Working Group addresses a range of issues linked to ensuring the availability, accessibility and affordability of information, as well as addressing the specific needs of people with disabilities so as to facilitate their participation in the knowledge societies. The Working Group's interventions include contributing to policy resources and guidelines, working with various stakeholders to support and promote open standards, conducting capacity building and raising awareness amongst key stakeholders.

The Working Group will devote attention to identifying emerging challenges and opportunities in its specific priority areas, supporting reflection, research and debate on these issues and providing recommendations that inform IFAP's responses and contributions to UNESCO and its Member States. Given the complexity of the issues being addressed and the interconnected of the IFAP strategic priorities collaboration with other Working Groups will be pursued. Recognizing the ever-changing environment in which IFAP is called upon to provide responses, the Working Group will play a key role to play in supporting the ongoing capacity-building of its members and raising awareness of new methods, tools, events and other resources, particularly those developed within the IFAP network.

### **Membership**

Members of the Working Group provide their technical expertise in one or more of the IFAP strategic priorities, on a voluntary basis, to support the achievement of the Programme's overarching goals.

The Bureau will appoint a Chairperson of the Working Group during its first meeting following the election of the new Bureau. The Chairperson of each Working Group in concert with its members will elect a Vice-Chairperson and a Rapporteur who will support the Chairperson in his activities.

Each Chairperson is responsible for:

- a) Reporting to the Bureau and Council on the activities of their Working Group;
- b) Developing the workplan of their Working Group and supporting its realization;
- c) Maintaining regular contact with members of their Working Group to ensure their ongoing engagement and participation in the implementation of the workplan;
- d) Supporting collaboration and exchange with other Working Group Chairs.

Experts may be nominated to the Working Groups by Members of the Council or Bureau, as well as through Member State Representatives, including but not limited, to UNESCO Permanent Delegations and UNESCO National Commissions.

The Bureau may at its initiative invite experts to participate in the activities of the Working Groups.

At a minimum, nominations to the Working Group will be accompanied by a letter of motivation and the CV of the nominated expert, sufficiently detailed to enable the Bureau to assess the likely contribution that the expert may bring to the Working Group. Inactive members may be removed.

All nominations should be submitted to the IFAP Secretary. Once informed by the Bureau of their decision, the Secretariat will inform the nominating Member State representative of the Bureau's decision with copy to the IFAP Chair and concerned Bureau members.

### **Reporting**

Working Group Chair will submit written reports of their activities to each session of the Council and Bureau.

### **Methods of Working**

Given the international scope of their membership, Working Groups are expected to organize their activities primarily through online collaboration. They are however encouraged to take advantage of seminars, conferences, training events and other opportunities for face-to-face collaboration both amongst themselves and with other members of the IFAP network.



## **Terms of Reference for the IFAP Working Group on Information for Development**

### **Overview of the Information for Development Working Group**

Information has an important role to play in addressing development issues, but this requires access to information as well as the availability of relevant and useful information. This Working Group has an important role to play in collecting case studies and supporting research on information development, promoting freedom of information and access to public information. In addition, the Working Group should strengthen and build awareness of the links between information and development policy.

The Working Group will devote attention to identifying emerging challenges and opportunities in its specific priority areas, supporting reflection, research and debate on these issues and providing recommendations that inform IFAP's responses and contributions to UNESCO and its Member States. Given the complexity of the issues being addressed and the interconnected of the IFAP strategic priorities collaboration with other Working Groups will be pursued. Recognizing the ever-changing environment in which IFAP is called upon to provide responses, the Working Group will play a key role to play in supporting the ongoing capacity-building of its members and raising awareness of new methods, tools, events and other resources, particularly those developed within the IFAP network.

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## **Terms of Reference for the IFAP Working Group on Information Ethics**

### **Overview of the Information Ethics Working Group**

Information Ethics covers the ethical, legal and societal aspects of the applications of ICT and derive from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Working Group seeks to better understand and raise awareness of the impacts of emerging technologies, contribute to enlarging the international debate on information ethics and support the development of guidelines in this field. By identifying emerging trends, the Working Group seeks to assist policy-makers in developing appropriate responses.

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## **Terms of Reference for the IFAP Working Group on Information Literacy**

### **Overview of the Information Literacy Working Group**

Information literacy provides the competencies, skills and attitudes that enable persons to seek, evaluate, use and create information, thereby empowering them to effectively participate in the knowledge societies. This Working Group has an important role in supporting capacity-building, the development of tools, resources and indicators for information literacy as well as promoting the incorporation of information literacy in education curricula and national information policies.

The Working Group will devote attention to identifying emerging challenges and opportunities in its specific priority areas, supporting reflection, research and debate on these issues and providing recommendations that inform IFAP's responses and contributions to UNESCO and its Member States. Given the complexity of the issues being addressed and the interconnected of the IFAP strategic priorities collaboration with other Working Groups will be pursued. Recognizing the ever-changing environment in which IFAP is called upon to provide responses, the Working Group will play a key role to play in supporting the ongoing capacity-building of its members and raising awareness of new methods, tools, events and other resources, particularly those developed within the IFAP network.

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## **Terms of Reference for the IFAP Working Group on Information Preservation**

### **Overview of the Information Preservation Working Group**

The increasing rate of information production coupled with changes in technologies, formats as well as the fragility of new data storage media is putting at risk our future ability to access digital knowledge. This Working Group interacts closely with the Memory of the World Programme to build the capacity of information professionals to develop and implement digital preservation standards and techniques as well as to support the exchange of best practices. Other roles include working with professional communities and policy-makers to raise awareness of this threat.

The Working Group will devote attention to identifying emerging challenges and opportunities in its specific priority areas, supporting reflection, research and debate on these issues and providing recommendations that inform IFAP's responses and contributions to UNESCO and its Member States. Given the complexity of the issues being addressed and the interconnected of the IFAP strategic priorities collaboration with other Working Groups will be pursued. Recognizing the ever-changing environment in which IFAP is called upon to provide responses, the Working Group will play a key role to play in supporting the ongoing capacity-building of its members and raising awareness of new methods, tools, events and other resources, particularly those developed within the IFAP network.

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### **Methods of Working**

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## **Terms of Reference for the IFAP Working Group on Multilingualism in Cyberspace**

### **Overview of the Multilingualism in Cyberspace Working Group**

Language is a primary means for communicating information and knowledge, thus the ability to access content on the Internet in a language which one can use is a key determinant for the extent to which one can participate in the knowledge societies. Through its work with various international partners this Working Group is promoting international exchanges, research, the development of tools and resources that contribute to realizing multilingualism on-line, capacity-building and raising awareness of policy-makers and key stakeholders.

The Working Group will devote attention to identifying emerging challenges and opportunities in its specific priority areas, supporting reflection, research and debate on these issues and providing recommendations that inform IFAP's responses and contributions to UNESCO and its Member States. Given the complexity of the issues being addressed and the interconnected of the IFAP strategic priorities collaboration with other Working Groups will be pursued. Recognizing the ever-changing environment in which IFAP is called upon to provide responses, the Working Group will play a key role to play in supporting the ongoing capacity-building of its members and raising awareness of new methods, tools, events and other resources, particularly those developed within the IFAP network.

### **Membership**

Members of the Working Group provide their technical expertise in one or more of the IFAP strategic priorities, on a voluntary basis, to support the achievement of the Programme's overarching goals.

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## ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF IFAP'S BODIES<sup>1</sup>

### (i) IFAP COUNCIL AND BUREAU

Given that the goal of IFAP is to provide standard-setting policy advice and guidance to UNESCO Member States, there is need for a specialized intergovernmental body, representing a broad cross-section of Member States able to bring diversified experience and approaches to bear on IFAP's activities, to assume responsibility for the results of this work. The Council, supported by the Bureau, will do so by:

- approving the terms of reference for the development of policy templates;
- reviewing, verifying and validating (or correcting) proposals or conclusions coming from consultants or other sources;
- approving terms of reference for working groups; selecting experts for the "expert pool".

The Council also performs a standard-setting role by endorsing guidelines, recommendations, and other instruments, including those developed by partners (e.g. *Library Manifestos* developed by UNESCO and IFLA), and submitting them to the General Conference for consideration. The Council and its members will seek to play a more active role in **UNESCO planning** (C/4 and C/5) to recommend future strategies and programmes in order to prioritize information-related issues that UNESCO could address.

Council members maintain constant dialogue with the Bureau and among themselves and, together with Bureau members, should:

- contribute to all IFAP activities by **supporting all fundraising efforts** for the implementation of the Information for All Programme;<sup>4</sup>
- actively promote the establishment or development of IFAP National Committees in their countries and participate in their activities;
- provide a **regional focal point** for IFAP National Committees, including consultation and communications;  
joining IFAP Working Groups or identifying **country experts** to participate in them;
- **actively participate** in international, regional and national information society events, especially those organized by UNESCO.

The core function of the Bureau is to support the work of the Council, including planning meetings and following up on decisions. The Bureau will continue to publish an online report, **IFAP Agenda** and special **IFAP Briefs** to advise and sensitize Member States, the Executive Board and the Director-General on matters of importance to the Programme. Bureau member responsibilities include involvement in, or liaising with, a Working Group, to ensure successful operation and delivery of results; liaising with IFAP Committees in their regions to promote their growth and successful operation.

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<sup>1</sup> This document is based on the strategy document adopted by UNESCO's Executive Board for guiding IFAP in (180 EX/15).

## **(ii) IFAP WORKING GROUPS**

At its fifth session, the IFAP Council decided to set up Working Groups to deal with each of its priorities: to undertake activities in each of those fields, and to supplement information policy templates with specific policy orientations in the particular field. IFAP Council members will be invited to join these groups, or to designate experts to them.

## **(iii) IFAP NATIONAL COMMITTEES**

Activities that National Committees should undertake include:

- contribution to the implementation of IFAP's information policy templates, adjusted to the needs and circumstances of their countries;
  - creating multistakeholder forums (with the involvement of government officials, private sector, NGOs and academia) for an ongoing debate on national information and knowledge policies and strategies, their development and implementation;
  - convening multistakeholder thematic discussions on IFAP priority areas, e.g. information literacy, information ethics, etc. (using IFAP reports as discussion starters);
  - engaging in a constant dialogue with government agencies and other stakeholders on the development and implementation of information and knowledge policies and strategies;
  - facilitating (or just engaging in) high-level collaboration among government agencies to help develop national information policies;
  - participating in the IFAP Working Groups;
  - securing funding support for IFAP projects;
  - helping establish partnerships with civil society and private sector organizations
- providing information and data for inclusion in the online Information Society Observatory;
  - maintain relations and cooperation with UNESCO field offices.

## **(iv) MODALITIES OF COOPERATION WITH KEY PARTNERS**

One of the most significant outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society was the recognition that the path towards information and knowledge societies can only be shaped in a **multistakeholder collaborative environment**. For the Information for All Programme in particular, strenuous efforts were made from the very beginning to integrate relevant stakeholder groups into IFAP meetings and other activities. This will continue.