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Ninth session

Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Programme

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30-31 May 2016

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

Item 4 of the provisional agenda

Reports of IFAP Activities

Recommendations of the 8th session of the Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Programme (IFAP) - 19-20 May 2014

The IFAP Council at its 8th session noted that several important issues had been discussed and adopted the following recommendations:

The IFAP Intergovernmental Council thanked the outgoing Chairperson and Bureau for the results achieved and congratulated them on their efforts to enhance the Programme.

The Council noted that several important issues have been discussed and adopted the following recommendations:

- 1. Continue the efforts and initiatives undertaken in view of implementing the objectives contained in the IFAP Strategic Plan (2008 – 2013), with a view to updating this strategic plan to reflect changes within IFAP, as well as the ongoing discussions in relation to the Post-2015 Development and the WSIS + 10 Agendas. This effort will be conducted in close collaboration with all members of the Council, the members of the Bureau and the Secretariat;*
- 2. Systematically intensify cooperation between the IFAP Council, Bureau, Working Groups, National IFAP Committees and the Secretariat. This cooperation should guide the planning and preparation of the Regular Programme and its execution;*
- 3. Take concrete steps to enhance IFAP's visibility with key actors; especially amongst UNESCO bodies; at the international, regional and national level. Efforts to promote wider understanding of IFAP and its priority areas both within and outside the intergovernmental frameworks should be pursued. Tools such as social media should be used to enhance IFAP's outreach particularly among youth. In addition, IFAP should work with media and specialized academic centers that could enhance its visibility;*
- 4. Take further steps to attract funding at national, regional, and international levels from governmental and intergovernmental sources as well as the private sector. Attention should be given to establishing mechanisms appropriate to funding sources and their purpose;*
- 5. Continue the work by the Bureau on the draft text on proposed modifications to the Statutes of IFAP specifically to clarify the relation of IFAP to the Regular Programme;*
- 6. Encourage the voluntary participation of past-IFAP chairs and other experts in the ongoing activities of the Working Groups;*
- 7. Systematic attention should be given across all IFAP priority areas to better understanding the societal and other transformations resulting from the rapid evolution in the use and application of information and communication technologies. IFAP's work in this area should serve to provide forward-looking advice to policy-makers;*
- 8. Requests the Bureau to follow-up with concrete steps on the discussions that have taken place concerning the governance review;*

9. *Requests the Bureau to ensure the effective implementation of the recommendations of the intergovernmental Council;*

10. *Requests the Director-General to continue to support IFAP's work in the developing countries and to implement IFAP-related events;*

11. *Urges the Members of the Intergovernmental Council to take concrete steps to promote IFAP, including organizing IFAP-labeled events in their countries and regions.*

Progress Made in Implementing the Recommendations of the 8th session of the IFAP Council

Recommendation 1: Continue the efforts and initiatives undertaken in view of implementing the objectives contained in the IFAP Strategic Plan (2008 – 2013), with a view to updating this strategic plan to reflect changes within IFAP, as well as the ongoing discussions in relation to the Post-2015 Development and the WSIS + 10 Agendas. This effort will be conducted in close collaboration with all members of the Council, the members of the Bureau and the Secretariat;

Status: *Since the 8th session of the Council, the Bureau and Secretariat have continued to implement activities in the IFAP priority areas and to carefully follow and contribute to the ongoing discussions related to the WSIS +10 and Post-2015 Agendas. The goals of these international frameworks are integrally aligned with IFAP's mandate .and this recognition has spurred efforts to strengthen and make more visible IFAP's contribution to their realization. As part of the WSIS Process, a matrix mapping the contribution made by each of the six WSIS Action Lines UNESCO coordinates to the goals and targets identified in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda was prepared. These have been collated with similar activities undertaken by other WSIS Action Line Facilitators and published as the WSIS – SDG Matrix¹. In December 2015, the IFAP Secretariat participated in an Expert Group Meeting organized by the United Nations University's Special Operating Unit on Policy-driven Electronic Governance (UNU-EGOV) in Guimarães, Portugal that focused on the role of Internet/digital governance processes and policies within the framework of the realization of the 2030 Agenda. These processes are continuing to inform the reflection and preparation of the revised IFAP strategy document that will guide the Council future work.*

Recommendation 2: Systematically intensify cooperation between the IFAP Council, Bureau, Working Groups, National IFAP Committees and the Secretariat. This cooperation should guide the planning and preparation of the Regular Programme and its execution;

Status: *Effective and consistent progress continues to be made to implement this recommendation. Members of the IFAP Council as well as other IFAP Network Members participated in the 38th session of UNESCO's General Conference held in November 2015. Through their interventions and active role in the debates of the CI Commission, discussions*

¹ http://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/sdg/Content/wsis-sdg_matrix_document.pdf

The mapping creates a direct link and an explicit connection between the harnessing of information and knowledge to promote and realize the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda

on the Programme and Budget and other issues related to IFAP's mandate they contributed to enhancing and shaping the Organization's programme of work for the 2016 - 2017 period. A number of the substantive policy documents presented and adopted by the General Conference benefitted from contributions made by the IFAP Network during its expert group meetings, surveys, roundtables and conferences. Examples of such documents include: The New Delhi Declaration on Inclusive ICTs for Persons with Disabilities: Making Empowerment a Reality (38 C/48); the Draft recommendation on Preservation and Access to Documentary Heritage including Digital Heritage (38 C/24); and the Outcome document of the "CONNECTing the Dots: Options for Future Action" Conference (38 C/53). The Proclamation of 28 September as the "International Day for the Universal Access to Information" (38 C/70) by the General Conference also attracted the support of the IFAP Network. The IFAP network along with other parts of the Secretariat such as the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) are already examining events to commemorate this newly adopted UNESCO international day.

The IFAP initiated global conference "Youth and the Internet: Fighting Radicalization and Extremism", held in June 2015, involved a broad range of internal and external stakeholders. The conference also served to stimulate the development and launch of a New UNESCO Framework entitled "Empowering Youth to Build Peace: Youth 2.0 – Building skills, Bolstering Peace" for guiding UNESCO efforts to engage youth in development. This conference was singled out by UN Secretary-General Ban-Ki Moon for its importance. The Document 197 EX 46 "UNESCO's role in promoting education as a tool to prevent violent extremism" adopted by UNESCO's Executive Board to shape the Organization's transversal actions, was also informed by this landmark conference.

In Southern Africa, UNESCO's Harare Field Office has worked closely with existing National IFAP Committees to organize 4 national events to build the capacity of policy makers in the information ethics priority area. The Nairobi Regional Office has played a lead role in advancing IFAP-related collaboration in Eastern Africa including capacity-building while the Libreville Office has stimulated the formation of new IFAP Committees. In a similar manner UNESCO's Beijing, Cairo, Tehran and San Jose Offices have been strengthening existing National IFAP Committees and working with UNESCO National Commissions to support the establishment of new ones.

A 2-Day Workshop and Consultation on the Ethical Dimensions of the Information Society and Privacy for Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) was held in St Kitts and Nevis from 23 – 24 September, 2015. The event served to identify challenges faced by Small Island developing States (SIDS), to develop a common vision amongst Government actors in the sub-region and to identify areas for collaboration on these issues. A similar IFAP regional event for Latin America and the Caribbean brought together eminent experts, legislators and civil society representatives in Santo Domingo on 26th and 27th November 2015 to share experiences and explore common regional approaches to Internet Governance and Info-Ethics in building open and inclusive Knowledge and Information Societies.

In concert with the IFAP Chair, the Chair of the Working Group on Multilingualism and the Chair of the Working Group on Information for Development, international conferences and expert meetings have been organized in concert with the Secretariat in India, Israel, the Russian Federation and at UNESCO's Headquarters. The recommendations, action plans and networks established as a result of these events are contributing to the implementation of

actions in the priority areas and to enhancing IFAP's visibility. In concert with the IFAP Chair and the Chair of the Information Ethics Working Group a number of meetings have been convened with UNESCO Permanent Delegation from the GRULAC to plan the organization of regional information ethics events in 2015. In concert with the IFAP Chair and the African Center for Excellence in Information Ethics, the Secretariat organized an information ethics themed knowledge café which was attended by the UNESCO Secretariat and several Permanent Delegations. Several follow-up meetings aimed at strengthening IFAP's work were organized.

Recommendation 3: Take concrete steps to enhance IFAP's visibility with key actors; especially amongst UNESCO bodies; at the international, regional and national level. Efforts to promote wider understanding of IFAP and its priority areas both within and outside the intergovernmental frameworks should be pursued. Tools such as social media should be used to enhance IFAP's outreach particularly among youth. In addition, IFAP should work with media and specialized academic centers that could enhance its visibility;

Status: *News items on activities in the IFAP priority areas continue to be regularly disseminated through UNESCO's media channels. IFAP's activities have been highlighted in UNESCO's color Annual Reports. IFAP's activities have also received coverage in national, regional and international press coverage as well as through social media such as Twitter.*

The IFAP quarterly publication "Information Society Observatory Newsletter" and the "Annual World Report: Information Society Policies", produced by the IFAP Information Society Observatory in Budapest are distributed to almost 8000 subscribers consisting mainly of institutions and researchers

The IFAP Brochure covering the period Report 2008 – 2013 published in late 2014 is available for download from the IFAP homepage. The report is now available in four languages namely, Arabic, English, French and Russian. The Arabic version was produced with the support of the Government of Egypt. The Russian translation benefitted from the support of the Government of the Russian Federation and the Russian National IFAP Committee. A Spanish version is being supported by the UNESCO San Jose Office The publications have been distributed at key international events and to prospective partners. A number of IFAP promotional videos in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish have been released on UNESCO's Youtube Channel.

The IFAP logo has been featured prominently in various international, regional and national events organized in the framework of the Programme in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean as well as in Europe. Examples of events that have brought international visibility include: the international conference "Youth and the Internet: Fighting Radicalization and Extremism" held at UNESCO's Headquarters, the annual international meetings on Multilingualism in Cyberspace organized in the Russian Federation and the International Conference on Theory and Practice of Electronic Governance organized by the United Nations University's Special Operating Unit on Policy-driven Electronic Governance (UNU-EGOV) and the WSIS Forum.

Recommendation 4: Take further steps to attract funding at national, regional, and international levels from governmental and intergovernmental sources as well as the private

sector. Attention should be given to establishing mechanisms appropriate to funding sources and their purpose;

Status: *The development and submission of proposals for the organization of IFAP activities continues to be undertaken through active collaboration between the IFAP Chair and the Secretariat. The international conference “Youth and the Internet: Fighting Radicalization and Extremism” benefitted from the generous support of the Governments of Bulgaria, China and Egypt. Through the Korean Funds in Trust (KFIT), Extra-budgetary resources to support capacity building of policy-makers in Mozambique, Rwanda and Zimbabwe as well as to promote international policy dialogue has been received.*

In concert with the various UNESCO Departments, Offices and Sectors IFAP launched an innovative fund-raising strategy. This approach involves the contracting of a professional fundraiser who would work closely with IFAP to mobilize resources from identified individuals and institutional entities. During the 2015 to 2016 period, over US\$500,000 in extra-budgetary resources have been mobilized. A number of efforts aimed at attracting extra-budgetary resources to support the implementation of action plans, declarations and other forms of follow-up and research studies to implement the outcomes of major international and regional conferences are also underway.

IFAP continues to benefit from various forms of in-kind resources such as the funding of delegates’ travel, hosting of various IFAP activities by Member States within their territories, translation of IFAP documents, amongst others. However, the lack of information enumerating the value of these inputs makes it difficult to quantify this important contribution to the Programme’s success.

Recommendation 5: Continue the work by the Bureau on the draft text on proposed modifications to the Statutes of IFAP specifically to clarify the relation of IFAP to the Regular Programme;

Status: *In January 2015 the IFAP Secretariat has circulated the draft text developed earlier by Austria and Brazil to all Bureau members for their inputs. It was agreed that in order to provide greater clarity concerning the role and status of IFAP, a preamble that draws on the submission to the Governance Audit would be incorporated into the statutes. The Bureau’s proposal will be forwarded to the Council for its consideration.*

Recommendation 6: Encourage the voluntary participation of past-IFAP chairs and other experts in the ongoing activities of the Working Groups;

Status: *The Secretariat has extended invitations to past IFAP members to continue to participate in Working Groups. On various occasion, past IFAP members have been nominated to participate as panelists or attendees at events in their fields of expertise convened by the IFAP Secretariat and its partners. Experts currently unaffiliated with IFAP have also been informed of its goals and objectives and encouraged to seek nomination through their national channels to the IFAP Working Groups.*

Recommendation 7: Systematic attention should be given across all IFAP priority areas to better understanding the societal and other transformations resulting from the rapid evolution in the use and application of information and communication technologies. IFAP’s work in this

area, ***in particular through its information for development priority***, should serve to provide forward- looking advice to policymakers;

Status: *Linkages between IFAP and other UNESCO intergovernmental bodies namely, the International Programme for the Development of Communication, the Management of Social Transformation (MOST) and the Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC) continue to be strengthened at the level of the Secretariat and the Bureau. Similar actions have also been taken with UNESCO's expert bodies, particularly the International Bioethics Committee of UNESCO (IBC) and the Committee on the Ethics of Science, Technology and Knowledge (COMEST). In September 2014 and also in 2015, the IFAP Chair presented the Programme's activities during the sessions of the International Bioethics Committee of UNESCO (IBC) and the joint sessions of the IBC and the Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC). These event provided an opportunity to explore collaboration and synergies. The outcomes of these discussions were subsequently shared with the Bureau and Working Group Chairs for action.*

During the 29th session of the IPDC Council, the IFAP Chair initiated contact with the newly elected IPDC Chair, subsequently several working meetings to identify joint project activities have been held. Building on this spirit of cooperation IPDC requested to participate in IFAP's youth-focused June conference. Accordingly, in a spirit of cooperation the international event "Youth and the Internet: Fighting Radicalization and Extremism" was held under the joint patronage of both intergovernmental bodies. The participation of a range of internal partners such as UNESCO Sectors, the Africa Department, the Office of the Director-General, intergovernmental bodies such as MOST, UNESCO Chairs and National Commissions as well as external partners - United Nations Secretary-General's Special envoy on Youth, the European Union, the Anna Lindh Foundation, the Council of Europe and a range of other stakeholders from civil society and the private sector provided a range of sectoral and regional perspectives which informed courses of action on this rapidly evolving area.

Under the leadership of the Chair of the Information for Development Working Group an international conference in Well Being in Digital Media was organized in Israel to deepen understanding of how the long-term interactions between digital media on one hand and individuals and society affect well-being and how these can be impacts and can be assessed. An on-line Forum to support follow-up research and policy work was also launched.

With MOST, UNU-EGOV and partners from academia, partnerships are being developed to conduct research on technology-induced social transformations.

Recommendation 8: Requests the Bureau to follow-up with concrete steps on the discussions that have taken place concerning the governance review;

Status: *Following the review by the Council, the completed self-assessment questionnaire was submitted by the IFAP Chair to the External Auditors. The IFAP Chair and Secretariat have also had related follow-up exchanges with the External Auditor. The IFAP Chair as well as other IFAP network Members participated in the debate on this matter during UNESCO's 38th General Conference.*

Recommendation 9: Requests the Bureau to ensure the effective implementation of the recommendations of the intergovernmental Council;

Status: *The Recommendations of the 8th Council continue to serve as an important set of directives for orienting and prioritizing the work of the IFAP Bureau. The inclusion of this matter as an Agenda item signifies the importance the Bureau has accorded to this.*

Recommendation 10: Requests the Director-General to continue to support IFAP's work, *in particular* in the developing countries and to implement IFAP-related events;

Status: *The high-level of technical support and commitment by the UNESCO Secretariat working in the CI Sector both at Headquarters and in the Field Offices, the participation of UNESCO's most senior officials in IFAP events as well as according priority to IFAP in the allocation of financial resources is an ongoing reflection of the Director-General's support for IFAP. The events and projects organized in developing countries, including Small Island Developing States (SIDS) as well as UNESCO's efforts to ensure the equitable participation of developing country representatives at international fora reflect the Organization's active response to this commitment. A 17-Country readiness study on FOSS and Open Solutions for the Caribbean was published in June 2014. The study findings have enable State to identify gaps and to reflect on changes to their national strategies and frameworks. The study has been shared with other regions and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Other events in the LAC region and Southern Africa are described under items 2 and 3.*

Recommendation 11: Urges the Members of the Intergovernmental Council to take concrete steps to promote IFAP, including organizing IFAP-labeled events *and activities* in their countries and regions.

Status: *IFAP-themed International conferences have been organized in the Dominican Republic, Israel, Oman, Mozambique, South Africa, St. Kitts & Nevis, the Russian Federation. Arabic and Russian language versions of the IFAP Report have been produced and disseminated with the support of the Governments of Egypt and the Russian Federation respectively.*

**Ninth Session of the Intergovernmental Council
for the Information for All Programme
30-31 May 2016**

**REPORT OF THE CHAIR ON THE ACTIVITIES OF
INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL FOR THE INFORMATION FOR ALL
PROGRAMME
From 2014 to May 2016**

I- Introduction

The Information for All Programme (IFAP) has the mandate to "... be a key participant in the fulfillment of UNESCO's mandate to contribute to "education for all", to the "free exchange of ideas and knowledge" and to "increase the means of communication between ...peoples". For more than 10 years now, it provides a recognized platform for international policy discussions, cooperation and the development of guidelines for action in the area of access to information and knowledge.

II- Self-assessment process

At its 37th session UNESCO's General Conference decided (37 C/Resolution 96) to conduct a self-assessment of Intergovernmental programmes and subsidiary bodies with a view to harnessing their potential for greater synergy, harmonization, efficiency and impact. During the 8th session of the IFAP Intergovernmental Council held at UNESCO Headquarters on 19 to 20 May 2014, the External Auditor provided an overview of the self-assessment process. Council members recognized the importance of this exercise as well as its potential to improve IFAP's efficiency, effectiveness, impact and visibility. It was therefore agreed that the Bureau would lead the self-assessment process and regularly update the IFAP Council on the process being followed. Accordingly, all members of the IFAP Council, but also Member States non-members of the Council, were invited to actively participate in this process.

III- Contribution to the organization of international and regional conferences

IFAP contributed to the organization of international and regional conferences, the meeting's recommendations and action plan will be integrated into UNESCO's Regular Programme activities both at Headquarters and in Field Offices.

- In concert with the Secretariat, IFAP supported the organization of the International Conference held under the theme "From Exclusion to Empowerment: Role of ICTs for Persons with Disabilities" (24-26 November 2014 in New Delhi, India). The IFAP expert panel session, moderated by the Chair of the IFAP Council, helped to identify partners who could be involved in building a working prototype based on the concept of the interactive Inclusive Learning Lab (i2Lab).
- IFAP contributed to the conference: CONNECTing the Dots: Options for Future Action, (UNESCO, 3-4 March, 2015). IFAP Council members contributed to the UNESCO survey on Internet-related Issues and discussed it during the 8th session of the IFAP Council. Given IFAP's role within UNESCO, its priorities and involvement in the consultations on

the concept note on Internet-related issues, IFAP was associated to the conference as one of the partners. Accordingly, IFAP Council Chair participated in the High-Level governmental dialogue that took place during the conference. Council members were also actively involved in the conference works as panelists, discussants or rapporteurs and supported the drafting of the outcome document adopted by the conference.

- The International Conference on “Youth and the Internet: Fighting Radicalization and Extremism” (16 – 17 June 2015 - UNESCO Headquarters, Paris) was initiated by IFAP following the Eighth session of its intergovernmental Council which underlined the need to work more actively with and for young people.
The conference helped understanding more clearly the role of the Internet as a recruitment tool for extremism and radicalization and trying to craft effective tools in response and to explore options in moving forward. The new integrated Framework of Action - Empowering Youth to Build Peace that will guide and support UNESCO’s action in addressing the challenges of radicalization and extremism amongst youth was launched in the framework of the Conference. At the General Assembly High-Level Forum on Culture of Peace in New York, on 9 September 2015, the UN Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki Moon, has stated in his remarks: *"I applaud UNESCO for having organized a conference on “Youth and the Internet: Fighting Radicalization and Violent Extremism” in June. I support the call made there by Director General Irina Bokova of UNESCO to mobilize the full power of the Internet for peace."* This statement could be considered as a remarkable recognition of the work of IFAP and of the Communication and Information (CI) Sector of UNESCO.
- Infoethics Conference for Eastern Caribbean States (Basseterre, St. Kitts – Nevis, 23 – 24 September 2015).
The first-ever “Conference and Consultation on the Ethical Dimensions of the Information Society and Internet Privacy” for Member States of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) was organized together with the Government of St. Kitts-Nevis in the framework of UNESCO’s Intergovernmental Information for All Programme (IFAP). The meeting examined the current information ethics challenges and opportunities particularly those facing Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The St. Kitts-Nevis Declaration on “The Ethical Dimensions of the Information Society and Internet Privacy” provides a number of strategic recommendations for shaping national and regional information and knowledge societies programmes and policies, thus enabling SIDS to develop a range of proactive responses.
- First regional meeting held in the Dominican Republic to discuss Internet Governance and Info-Ethics (Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic – 26 - 27 November 2015)
This Conference, held under the theme, “The challenges of the Internet, governance and ethical dimensions of the information society: Towards an integrated agenda of Latin America and the Caribbean”, was organized by UNESCO and the Authorities of the Dominican Republic in the framework of the Information for All Programme (IFAP) on the occasion of national celebrations commemorating UNESCO’s 70th Anniversary. Experts, legislators and civil society actors shared experiences and explored common regional approaches to Internet Governance and Info-Ethics in building open and inclusive Knowledge and Information Societies. The Declaration of Santo Domingo was adopted by the participants in order to formalize the agreed areas for future regional and international cooperation and action.

- Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on "Knowledge Societies and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda" in Montevideo on 29 February 2016, co-organized by the UNESCO Information for All Programme (IFAP) and UNU-EGOV (United Nations University - Operating Unit on Policy-Driven Electronic Governance) in collaboration with AGESIC (Agency for Electronic Government and Information Society - Uruguay), to discuss and validate the Knowledge Societies Policy (KSP) Handbook and Platform being developed by UNESCO/IFAP and UNU-EGOV as an update of the IFAP Template for Knowledge Societies.
- Participation in the 9th Edition of the International Conference on Theory and Practice of Electronic Governance, ICEGOV 2016, that took place in Montevideo, Uruguay from 1 to 3 March 2016, co-organized under the patronage of the Presidency of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay by the Agency for Electronic Government and Information Society (AGESIC) and UNU-EGOV in collaboration with UNESCO. In addition, Brazil and Colombia committed to support the Knowledge Societies Policy Handbook notably by translating it to Portuguese and Spanish respectively, and some 50 researchers/institutions have registered to join the on-line platform.

IV- Participation in international meetings and conferences

IFAP Council and Bureau were represented in several meetings, which have provided an opportunity to make a presentation of IFAP priority areas and activities as well as to network with the participants and explore possible areas and options for cooperation, thus helping to raise IFAP's visibility, in particular in the following events:

- UNESCO's International Bio-ethics Committee (IBC) meeting which was held at UNESCO on 9 and 10 September. Like IBC, IFAP's work is concerned with the impact of progress on the global societal fabric and shaping appropriate responses. IFAP Working Groups on Information ethics and Information for development were subsequently invited to explore possible joint actions that could be developed in cooperation with the IBC.
- IFAP was represented at the conference on Information Ethics in Africa under the theme Information Ethics and Digital Opportunities (South Africa, 26 - 27 March 2015). The IFAP message to the participants underscored that such events create forums for discussions and reflections with policy makers thus serving not only to raise awareness but also to shape national strategies that enable African nations to harness the opportunities of Knowledge Societies, and that these platforms for discussion are the spirit of IFAP.
- Consultative meeting of experts on the UNESCO PERSIST project (UNESCO, 20-21 April 2015) jointly organized with the International Council on Archives (ICA) and the Netherlands National Commission for UNESCO, which was seeking to explore the establishment of a multi-stakeholder platform for the discussion of digitization practices, digital heritage selection policies, standardization and digital heritage preservation involving all relevant stakeholders.
- International expert meeting "Language tools for promotion of Arabic language on the Internet and in multi-stakeholder processes" (UNESCO, 22 April 2015) aiming to develop language tools and build institutional capacities with respect to the promotion of Arabic language on the Internet.

- International Conference on ICT and Post-2015 Education (23 to 25 May 2015 in Qingdao, China). The Conference gathered Ministers of Education, ICT industry leaders, experts, policy makers and practitioners as well as representatives of other UN agencies, intergovernmental organizations, ICT companies, and NGOs. The Conference goals were to seek creating an interface between education and ICT sectors to debate on how ICT can be leveraged at scale to support the achievement of post-2015 education targets. IFAP Chair's intervention was presented in the Breakout session on Advancing equity in education and was marking the constructive cooperation established by IFAP with the Education Sector.
- ICT4IAL – ICT for Information Accessibility in Learning -Dissemination Conference (Latvia, Riga, 27 - 28 May 2015). The aim of the event was to introduce Guidelines as a tool to support practitioners and organizations involved in providing information for learning and to create accessible materials. During the workshop the participants shared information on easy steps to creating accessible materials as well as sharing these in different media formats in addition to information on where in their work accessibility issues may be relevant or need consideration.

V- Overview of some of the main activities and projects of IFAP Working Groups and National Committees:

The **Information for Development** Working Group has been focused on two main activities: Under the leadership of the IFAP Vice-Chair and Chair of the Information for Development Working Group, an international conference on “Well Being in Digital Media” was organized in Israel on 17-19 February 2015. This event, held under UNESCO's patronage, served to deepen understanding of how the long-term interactions between digital media on one hand and individuals and society affect well-being and how these can be impacts and can be assessed. An on-line Forum to support follow-up research and policy work has also been launched.

The **Information Preservation** Working Group's members have been constantly engaged in initiatives focused on supporting information preservation; through global conferences and workshops they support exchanges of experience and expertise which lead to greater recognition of the related challenges and spur action. In monitoring the situation of information preservation world-wide, the Working Group has identified strategic areas where urgent problems must be addressed. Consequently it has provided project proposals in these areas for possible inclusion in UNESCO's Programme. The 23rd IFAP Bureau Meeting has approved and funded, in the framework of the project “Magnetic Tape Alert”, the translation of a questionnaire to assess the dimension of audiovisual documents.

The Working Group on **Information Ethics'** actions and activities were mainly intended to discuss and present an overview of IFAP priority area in this field and to increase the visibility of the issues related to the ethics of information and their transversal character. In this regard, the organization of several regional meetings, mainly on Internet governance, was promoted. The Chair of the Working Group has also participated in the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) (Geneva, 25 to 29 May 2015), in Action Line meetings organized by UNESCO in particular on the Ethical dimensions of the information society and sustainable development, to bring into the debates on MLA C10 IFAP's contribution in the preparation of the development agenda post 2015. Planned future activities include the preparation for conferences on information ethics in the Dominican Republic, in Uruguay and in Saint Kitts & Nevis.

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". 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.

The activities of the Working Group on **Multilingualism in Cyberspace** included the organization of several international meetings, such as the Third international Conference Linguistic and Cultural Diversity in Cyberspace (Yakutsk, Russia, July 2014), the international Expert Meeting on Multilingualism in Cyberspace (UNESCO, October 2014), and the Ugra Global Expert Meeting on Multilingualism in Cyberspace, (Khanty-Mansiysk, Russian Federation, July 2015) organized by the Government of Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug – Ugra, the Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO, the Russian Committee of IFAP and the Interregional Library Cooperation Centre in cooperation with UNESCO and MAAYA World Network for Linguistic Diversity.

Both 2014 meetings adopted landmark conceptual final documents: the Yakutsk declaration on Linguistic and Cultural Diversity in Cyberspace and the Final Recommendations for the Action Plan of UNESCO's World Atlas of Languages. The event in 2015 was a new step towards promoting linguistic diversity and presence of all world languages in cyberspace by using modern ICTs and developing necessary policy frameworks, standards and tools.

The Russian IFAP Committee, has also prepared the organization of an International Conference on "Media and Information Literacy for Building Culture of Open Government" to be held in Khanty-Mansiysk (Russian Federation) on 6-10 June 2016.

Additional detailed information on the activities of IFAP Working Groups and National Committees and their outcomes are included in the Working Groups' reports submitted to the 9th session of the IFAP Intergovernmental Council.

VI- Fund raising efforts

The transparent and cooperative self-assessment process and the increased visibility due to the active participation of the Bureau and Council members to International and Regional conferences, in addition to the numerous meetings with representatives of Member States and Regional Groups have led to a better understanding of the Programme thus facilitating more contributions from members and non-members of the Council to the Programme:

- The generous support of the Republic of Korea for the development of the capacities of policy-makers to utilize the IFAP National Information Society Policy Template, for supporting the assessment of country readiness to participate in and contribute to 21st century societies and economies through the application of the Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Assessment Framework and for enhancing access to inclusive ICT environments in both formal and non-formal settings with an emphasis on the integration of persons with disabilities and lifelong learning.

- The generous support of the Republic of Bulgaria, the People's Republic of China and the Arab Republic of Egypt to the organization of the Conference on Youth and the Internet: Fighting Radicalization and Extremism.

- The increased contribution of the People's Republic of China to the IFAP Special account.
- The generous in-kind contribution of Member States for translating documents, hosting of conferences and workshops, participating in meetings, implementing projects, and establishing or strengthening National IFAP Committees and Focal Points notably by: Austria, People's Republic of China, Dominican Republic, Arab Republic of Egypt, El Salvador, Gabon, Grenada, Indonesia, Israel Kenya, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Oman, Russian Federation, South Africa, South Sudan, St. Kitts and Nevis, Swaziland, Thailand and Uganda.
- In addition, significant in-kind contributions were received from partner organizations such as the: African Center of Excellence in Information Ethics (ACEIE), Association for Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue (ADICR), Interactive Education and Resource Network (IMOR), International Centre for Terminology (INFOTERM), Global Foundation for Democracy and Development (FUNGLODE), ICT for Information Accessibility in Learning (ICT4IAL) and the United Nations University Operating Unit on Policy-Driven Electronic Governance (UNU-EGOV).

VII- Additional Fund raising initiatives

- During the visit of H. E. Mr. John Dramani Mahama President of the Republic of Ghana to UNESCO on Monday 5 October 2015, two IFAP project proposals "Empowering Girls and Women through Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)" and "Supporting the Reinvigoration of the Ghanaian National IFAP Committee", were presented to the Presidential Delegation in an Inter-sectoral Technical Meeting between UNESCO and the Ghanaian Delegation headed by the Minister of Communication, and including officials, representatives of the private sector and of the academia. In cooperation with the Permanent Delegation of Ghana to UNESCO, two contributions from the private sector were received to date for the "Empowering Girls and Women through ICT" project: DreamOval (Ghana) has pledged a contribution of \$10,000 and will dedicate a programme officer for IFAP to liaise with UNESCO for the implementation of IFAP activities in Ghana and beyond, and a €10,000 Euro donation was secured from Filhet-Allard (France). The project will also benefit from the cooperation of the Ghana – India Kofi Annan Centre of Excellence in ICT.
- In accordance with the IFAP Council's 8th session Recommendation 4 calling specifically to "Take further steps to attract funding at national, regional and international levels from governmental and intergovernmental sources as well as the private sector" and with the approval of IFAP Bureau, in concert with the Association for Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue (ADICR), IFAP is developing and executing a fund-raising plan that seeks to mobilize resources for the IFAP Special Account for the project entitled "ICT Caravan Project & Conference". The resources mobilized would be directed towards the organization of an international conference, as the first step of the project, and subsequently to implement concrete projects in the field within the IFAP priority areas.

VIII- Forthcoming initiatives

Other projects have been initiated and will be implemented in the future:

- Discussions with the Government of Quebec were held for the follow-up of the international conference "Youth and the Internet: Fighting Radicalization and Extremism," (June 2015), and the organization by UNESCO in cooperation with IFAP of a high-level international expert meeting on "Internet and the radicalization of youth: preventing, acting and living together" in Quebec (Canada). Mr Philippe Couillard, Premier Ministre of Quebec, announced, in the framework of the official visit to Canada by the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, on 12 February 2016, that half a million Canadian dollars would be allocated to holding of this international conference, which will take place on 31 October and 1 November 2016.
- An international IFAP Conference on "Youth and Social Media: Fight against Violence and Extremism" to be organized in Lebanon, is under preparation by the Lebanese National Commission in cooperation with the UNESCO Regional Office in Beirut, and will take place on 21-22 September 2016.
- An Asia-Pacific IFAP Regional Conference of IFAP National Committees in Asia and the Pacific is planned in China in collaboration with the UNESCO Beijing Office, the Chinese National Commission and the Institute of Scientific and Technical Information of China (ISTIC).
- In Latin America and the Caribbean region, a Conference on the Ethical Aspects of Information Society is under preparation with the Government of Uruguay, and will take place during the Open Forum of Science of Latin America and the Caribbean (CILAC) in September 2016. A Conference is foreseen in Paraguay, on Multilingualism in Cyberspace and the Indigenous Languages for Empowerment, as a follow up to the International Conference held in Costa Rica, San José from 27 to 28 November 2015 on this topic.
- The first celebration of the Universal Day for Access to Information on 28 September 2016 is under preparation in cooperation with the CI Sector.
- The strengthened cooperation with partners has led to the creation by UNU/EGOV of the first-ever UNESCO/IFAP – UNU/EGOV Fellowships and after a rigorous, international competitive review process, which was managed by UNU-EGOV, two Fellows were selected for 2016 representing Uganda and China. In due course, UNU-EGOV and IFAP will arrange for a more formal communication mode to recognizing this achievement and highlight the start of this new avenue of cooperation
- In collaboration with IFAP, the African Center of Excellence in Information Ethics (ACEIE) and the South African National IFAP Committee, which is Chaired by ACEIE, are planning to submit an application for a Category II Center status affiliated to IFAP which is expected to be submitted to the next session of the General Conference for its consideration.

- Discussions undertaken by UNU/EGOV in coordination with IFAP has resulted in the interest by the National eGovernance Division of the Government of India for the creation of an institute in New Delhi focused tentatively on the topic of Knowledge Societies and Digital Empowerment, with the possibility of seeking the UNESCO affiliation for it. Following similar discussions with the Director of International Organizations at Montreal International, in coordination with the Permanent Delegation of Canada to UNESCO, there is also the idea of having an institute in Montreal focused on the topic of Knowledge Societies and Digital Government with the possibility of seeking the UNESCO affiliation for it in the framework of IFAP priorities.
- UNESCO/IFAP participation in the EGM and ICEGOV 2016 events in Montevideo enabled IFAP to have fruitful contacts with experts and institutional partners who can support its work. The establishment of UNESCO Chairs in the IFAP priority areas at universities is under consideration.

REPORTS OF WORKING GROUPS

IFAP Working Group on Information Accessibility

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE PERIOD BETWEEN THE 8TH AND 9TH SESSIONS OF IFAP'S INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL

I. PROGRAM UNDERTAKEN IN 2014-2015

1. In May 2014, UNESCO hosted the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) Open Consultations and the Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) meetings which contributed to enhancing cooperation between the IGF and UNESCO Secretariat. As a follow-up, UNESCO participated in the ninth Internet Governance Forum on "Connecting Continents for Enhanced Multistakeholder Internet Governance", held in Istanbul, in September 2014. UNESCO co-organized with its partners some 12 sessions, including the High-Level Leader's Meeting. UNESCO's interventions reinforced and raised the visibility of ongoing actions in the six IFAP priority areas and identified new areas for collaboration. 38 C/REP/24 – page 2
2. In June 2014, the IFAP Secretariat published the findings of a one-year long Caribbean study and national consultation process. The study examined such issues as awareness levels, relevant policy and legislative support and the use of free and open source software (FOSS), open data, open education resources and open standards by governments, the private sector, civil society and individuals. The study was realized with the financial support received from UNESCO's Emergency and multidonor fund. While most Caribbean countries and territories have national ICT policies, few of them contain any explicit reference to FOSS and Open Solutions. The study served to sensitize several ongoing policy-reviews to the need and benefits of Open Solutions, which, in turn, is paving the way for their incorporation into the national frameworks and strategies.
3. With financial support received from the Zain mobile telecom company a series of workshops were held in South Sudan in July 2014 under the Youth-Mobile Initiative. This innovative project seeks to empower youth with the skills to develop smart mobile apps for sustainable development. Similar training activities were also undertaken in Kenya in August 2014. To inform the projects' future planning, and as inputs to national policy frameworks, comprehensive assessments of mobile training initiatives have been conducted in Nigeria and Lebanon. Youth-mobile continues to emphasize a gender-balanced approach with around 45% female beneficiaries.
4. The Information Accessibility Working Group discussed the Global Media Forum (26-28 August 2014, in Bali, Indonesia) a conference that addressed the role of the media in realizing the "Future We Want For All". 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.

5. The first ever high-level conference to examine how ICT can promote the human rights and fundamental freedoms of persons with disabilities was held in New Delhi from 24 to 26 November, 2015. Organized by UNESCO and the Government of India, the conference, "From Exclusion to Empowerment: Role of ICT for Persons with Disabilities", brought together some 1,000 persons including persons with disabilities, policy-makers, experts as well as representatives from civil society and the IT industry. During a special IFAP session, the Inclusive Learning Lab (I2L) concept, which focuses on creating dynamic, inclusive and accessible spaces for formal and informal learning, was presented.

II. IN-KIND/ INDIRECT CONTRIBUTION

Under in-kind/indirect contribution, some project were conducted by IAWG Member States and Partner Organizations namely:

- 1) From Oman – International Free and Open Source Software Conference (FOSSC-Oman) 18 & 19 February, 2015;
- 2) From Indonesia: 2.1.) the implementation of Integrated Broadband Village. The program aims to supply maritime village, agriculture village and isolated/rural village with network facility or internet access, end user device and application which suited with typically local characteristics. 2.2.) Ministry of Communication and Information Technology co-hosted Global IT Challenge for Youth with Disabilities (GITC) in cooperation with Korean Society for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (KSRPD) and Indonesia's Foundation of Youth with Disabilities Development. This event is Asia Pacific's IT competition for Youth with disabilities which was held on 25-29 October 2015 in Indonesia. The participants consist of 13 countries such as Malaysia, Brunei, Philippines, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, Mongolia. During the competition, It also hold IT Forum in which expert/government official from the participant countries presented ICT Policy for People with Disabilities;
- 3) From Bulgaria: 4.1) The European Dialogue on Internet Governance 2015 took place on June 4-5 in Sofia, Bulgaria. EuroDIG 2015 was hosted by UNICART in cooperation with the Bulgarian Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications. The European Dialogue on Internet Governance (EuroDIG) is an open multistakeholder platform to exchange views about the Internet and how it is governed. The main aim of EuroDIG is to highlight in particular the specific European approach to Internet governance. All stakeholders participate (governments, research institutes, academy communities, media, businesses and civil society). Created in 2008 by several organisations, government representatives and experts, it fosters dialogue and collaboration with the Internet community on public policy for the Internet. Culminating in an annual conference that takes place in a different capital city. One of main category of the forum in 2015 was „Accessibility“. In recent years, European countries have developed ambitious strategies and plans to provide universal or near-universal access to the Internet for all. At this event in a flash session "Towards Internet universality" was presented UNESCO'S Comprehensive Internet Study and new research on "Principles for governing the Internet". UNESCO took the occasion to present its finalized comprehensive Internet Study titled "Keystones to Foster Inclusive Knowledge Societies: Access to information and knowledge, Freedom of

Expression, Privacy and Ethics on a Global Internet”, as well as the Outcome Document of the “CONNECTing the dots” conference which was based on the findings of the Internet Study. 4.2) On Tuesday, November 17, 2015 the 38th General Conference of UNESCO adopted a resolution declaring September 28th International Day for Universal Access to Information. 4.3) Bulgaria has a serious interest in the creation of digital libraries in order to bridge the digital divide and providing access for everyone to cultural and scientific heritage. Account shall be taken of technological convergence and use of international standards. 4.4) Bulgaria has a good legal framework recognises a fundamental right of access to information. Bulgaria scores 42th with 91 marks out of 150, among the 102 countries with legislation on access to information according to the Global Right to Information Rating 2015.

4.5) On 26 November 2015 adopted amendments to Public Information Act, promulgated on December 11, 2015 in issue. 97 of the State Gazette. The majority of the changes came into force on January 12, 2016. The amendments provide for expanding the volume of information to be published on the websites of the public institutions, improving the mode of submission of electronic applications and to obtain data by electronic means, transposed to Directive 2013/37 / EC regulates the reuse of public sector information.

4.6) Bulgarian Open data portal is available since October 2014. Bulgarian Open data portal is designed by one source to be provided fast and convenient access to data of public administrations represented in open, machine-readable format. The portal is managed by the Administration of the Council of Ministers.

4.5) Bulgaria supports the recommendation of European Economic and Social Committee accessibility aspects to be included in all initiatives in the digital field, ensuring that e-learning programmes, ICT, materials and tools (both online and offline) are accessible to people with disabilities and to all vulnerable individuals.

5) ICT4IAL Project – Development of information accessibility guidelines;

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

With an estimated 10% of the world’s population – or around 650 million people – living with a disability and growing awareness of the potency of ICT as indispensable driver for person with disabilities to have equitable access, the figure represents a significant communication challenge. We need to collaborate to address inclusive information society. We should strengthen the enabling policy and regulation specifically address to the persons with disabilities, setting raising awareness of their right to access information; mainstreaming accessibility in the development of ICT standards; and providing human capacity building program for ensuring participation of the youth with disabilities in inclusive development.

IV. WORKPLAN OF ACTIVITIES IN 2016-2017

1. In conjunction with the newly established UNESCO’s International Day for Universal Access to Information which will be held on 28 September 2016, it is expected that we will sincerely participate, get involved, and give voice to strengthening awareness,

and channeling energy toward information accessibility worldwide. 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. UNESCO continue to lead by the power of our example. In September 28, 2016 Indonesia will conduct Information Technology Challenge Competition for youth with disabilities after the series of warming up 5 regional competitions

2. Continuing to hold some International Events such as Forum, Seminar and Workshop, which aim to develop policy recommendation in ensuring all people to have equitable ICT access to education, capacity building, business and entrepreneurship
3. Initiating collaboration among member states to conduct Joint Study and International Training in encouraging inclusive society (especially the poor people and youth with disabilities) to have the benefit of ICT access and use.

IFAP Working Group on Information for Development

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE PERIOD BETWEEN THE 8TH AND 9TH SESSIONS OF IFAP'S INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL

The report of the Working Group on Information for Development detailed below relates to activities following the recommendations of the International Conference on Well-Being in Digital Media (February 17-19 2015 at Ben-Gurion University and the Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya in Israel), which in itself was a central part of this group's activity. The conference brought together a trans-disciplinary group of experts from 20 countries and 5 continents. It focused on improving the long-term well-being of individuals and societies (i.e., long-term happiness and a positive experience of life as meaningful to individuals and their societies, even at times of crises) via digital media environments, for the coming decades (website: <http://hwbdigitalmedia.wix.com/hwb-digitalmedia-#!international-conference-2015/c1pdq>).

These activities focused on:

1. Formation of an NGO dedicated to the realization of the Conference recommendations
2. Formation of the blueprint of the general strategic plan for the activity of the NGO
3. Mobilizing the necessary seed budget

1. Formation of an NGO dedicated to the realization of the Conference recommendations

Our first goal was to establish a legal entity which can immediately receive contributions from private individuals and organizations in order to realize these recommendations. Founding a new NGO for this sake was disadvantageous since new NGOs cannot provide tax-deductible receipts to donors. Thus we have spent several months in search for a suitable NGO that would modify its goals to ones relevant to the conference recommendations.

In light of these recommendations and following meetings with organizations and individuals who engage with relevant issues, we located an established NGO – Education for Life – registered in Israel. Its goals were similar to the recommendations regarding the improvement of well-being – excluding the specific focus on digital media. We held intensive talks with the NGO board and managed to convince its members to convert the goals to one relying on digital media. As a result:

- A relevant addendum was written to the original NGO goals. It was approved by the board and sent to the Registrar of Fellowship Societies, Community Interest Companies and Charitable Trusts Units in Israel for confirmation.
- The original board approved adding three new members: Prof. Roni Aviram and Prof. Yair Amichai-Hamburger (the organizers of the 2015 conference), and Mr. Shmuel Barkan (the retiring CEO of Freescale Israel, a leader in the Israeli hi-tech industry who has 45 years of managing experience in various digital industries, and who joined us in the conference and has fully identified with our endeavor).

2. Formation of the blueprint of the general strategic plan for the activity of the NGO

Once the agreement with Education for Life seemed guaranteed, we formed a thinking-group headed by Mr. Barkan and Prof. Aviram. The other permanent members of the group were Prof. Amichai-Hamburger, Dr. Dalit Atrakchi (Secretary-General, Israel National Commission for UNESCO), and Ms. Yakarah Attias-Rosen (the NGO Administrator). Besides these members, other experts and professionals were invited according to need. This group held five one-day meetings by the end of February 2016

and is expected to resume its meeting by July (many of the invited professionals weren't able to be active without a seed budget for the first two years of activity).

The main action line stemming from the draft strategic paper for the first year activity involves R&D through empirical substantiation and improvement of the arguments basic to the NGO activity, formation of its basic work methodologies, and their presentations in several formats necessary for mobilizing the economic, political and social support necessary for the first five years of the NGO activity. We also estimated the seed budget necessary for this first year activity.

3. Mobilizing the necessary seed budget

Once we had an estimation of the budget necessary to finance the above foundational activity, we approached several organizations, NGOs and individuals in Israel and elsewhere to check the possibility for obtaining financial and political support. We are now in the midst of this process.

Work plan and activities foreseen for 2016-7

Assuming success in mobilizing the above seed budget, the main activities for 2016-7 will be:

1. Thorough examination and improvement of the NGO's basic empirical assumptions and arguments, and an operational formation of its work methodologies.
2. Preparation of presentations in several media – necessary to recruit the economic, political and wider social support, and the formation of an operational "marketing" plan for approaching various audiences vital for obtaining these three support levels.
3. Beginning the work on several pilots in light of the plan.
4. Simultaneously, launching the activities needed for recruiting the three levels of support.

IFAP Working Group on Information Ethics

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE PERIOD BETWEEN THE 8TH AND 9TH SESSIONS OF IFAP'S INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL

Introduction

As Chair of the IFAP Working Group on Information Ethics, Peru has structured the work carried out by the group within the scope of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). This approach has been used in the working group's activities, which are fully aligned with the interests of UNESCO Member States and embodied in the Information for All Programme (IFAP) mandate to provide a platform for discussion and exchange of ideas on national public policies, cooperation between countries, and the development of guidelines for access to information and knowledge.

The working group has maintained a lasting contact between members to ensure the fulfilment of the work plan. Collaboration and exchanges with other working group chairs have also been encouraged.

The Working Group on Information Ethics has also worked with the Chairperson of the Intergovernmental Council for IFAP, the relevant UNESCO sector and Member States to support programme implementation, debates, lectures by experts and regional meetings, where there is a greater exchange of views and different levels of analysis (local, national and international) on comparative experiences and approaches to cooperation on access to information and the use of Internet and other technologies, and the ethical scope in terms of different political realities and contexts, among other thematic areas.

Review of the main activities carried out in the field of information ethics:

- Seventh International Conference on Information Law and Ethics: "Broadening the Horizons of Information Law and Ethics: A time for Inclusion (ICIL 2016)", held in Pretoria, South Africa on 26 and 27 of March 2016.

The seventh International Conference on Information Law (ICIL) was co-organized by the African Centre of Excellence for Information and Ethics (ACEIE), the University of Pretoria, the South African Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services and the International Society for Ethics and Information Technology (INSEIT), with the support of the Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Programme (IFAP) and the UNESCO Office in Harare.

The seventh International Conference on Information Law and Ethics was a success from start to finish, assembling 140 senior policymakers from 14 African countries as well as representatives from IFAP, UNESCO National Commissions, universities and civil society, under the theme of information ethics and digital opportunities.

In her message to the conference participants, Ms Chafica Haddad, Chairperson of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Programme, stressed the importance of the conference and its key role in creating a forum for regional policy dialogue, so that policymakers can learn, reflect and develop awareness, helping in turn to define

national strategies and regional cooperation as well as boosting and strengthening African nations in their efforts to make the most of the opportunities in knowledge societies.¹

The South African Deputy Minister of Telecommunications and Postal Services, Professor Hlengiwe Mkhize, was the guest of honour and keynote speaker. Deputy Minister Mkhize highlighted the role of the African Centre of Excellence for Information and Ethics (ACEIE) in promoting progress on information ethics to defend identities, cultures and traditions.

Ms Menesia Muinjo of the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation highlighted how the conference gave participants the opportunity to learn from one another in terms of how to coordinate IFAP activities in their respective countries and particularly how to implement IFAP objectives based on the different realities that exist.²

Finally, Mr Hezekiel Dlamini, Adviser for Communication and Information at the UNESCO Office in Harare, stated that the achievement of the ideal goal of safe access to information required leadership on many levels, including political, social and academic, to address current and emerging ethical issues of the information society in order to create the necessary trust in the digital world.³

During the conference, it was also stated that the submitted papers, in accordance with the established requirements and with the authors' consent, would be published in a special volume on information ethics and technology.⁴

Since 2008, ICIL has become a major international conference, dealing exclusively with the legal and ethical aspects of information. ICIL has also instituted a young scholars forum and special sessions, aimed at encouraging young researchers to present their work and debate issues relating to information ethics.

- First regional meeting of legislators, civil society representatives and experts from Latin America and the Caribbean, held in the Dominican Republic: "The challenges of the Internet, governance and ethical dimensions of the information society – towards an integrated agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean". The meeting was held in Santo Domingo on 26 and 27 November 2015 to share experiences and explore common regional approaches to Internet governance and information ethics in building open and inclusive information societies. It was organized within the framework of the 70th anniversary of UNESCO.

The meeting was attended by the President of the Global Foundation for Democracy and Development (FUNGLODE), the former President of the Dominican Republic, Mr Leonel Fernández, the Vice-President of the Dominican Republic, senior government officials, parliamentarians, academics and representatives from civil society of the Dominican Republic. Experts, legislators and civil society representatives from Latin American and Caribbean countries, including Peru, Brazil, Paraguay, Colombia, Argentina and Uruguay

¹ African States benefit from IFAP's efforts to establish policy frameworks. 14.04.2015 - Communication and Information Sector. Published on the UNESCO webpage: http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/resources/news-and-in-focus-articles/all-news/news/african_states_benefit_from_ifaps_efforts_to_establish_policy_frameworks/#.VxhEpEfn7MQ

² Published on the UNESCO webpage: http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/resources/news-and-in-focus-articles/all-news/news/african_states_benefit_from_ifaps_efforts_to_establish_policy_frameworks/#.VxhEpEfn7MQ

³ Published on the UNESCO webpage: http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/resources/news-and-in-focus-articles/all-news/news/african_states_benefit_from_ifaps_efforts_to_establish_policy_frameworks/#.VxhEpEfn7MQ

⁴ Mentioned on the conference webpage: <http://www.up.ac.za/en/african-centre-of-excellence-for-information-ethics/article/2087675/workshops>

also participated. The event was organized by the authorities of the Dominican Republic, with the support of UNESCO in the framework of the Information for All Programme (IFAP).

The meeting enabled the sharing of national and regional approaches and best practices on current and emerging public policy issues in the ongoing debate on Internet governance that guarantees free access to new technologies. The Conference also helped with efforts to improve cooperation and regional integration in terms of guaranteeing better access to information and knowledge, supporting national sustainable development strategies and managing potential challenges relating to Internet governance and the ethical dimensions.

At the closing session, participants adopted the final declaration of the meeting in order to formalize its findings for regional and international cooperation and to raise issues of interest on Internet governance and information ethics.⁵

- Infoethics Conference for East Caribbean States: “The Ethical Dimensions of the Information Society and Internet Privacy” for Member States (Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint-Martin, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, and Saint Kitts and Nevis). The event was organized by the Saint Kitts and Nevis National Commission for UNESCO of the Ministry of Education and Foreign Affairs. The event was held on the 23 and 24 September 2015 at the Saint Kitts Marriott Resort.

This major event, organized by the Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis in the framework of UNESCO’s Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Programme (IFAP), examined current information ethics challenges, particularly those facing small island developing States (SIDS). The event offered a series of strategic recommendations for shaping national and regional information and knowledge society programmes and policies to enable SIDS to develop a range of proactive responses.

The conference assembled some 100 participants, with notable attendees including Cabinet Ministers from Saint Kitts and Nevis, diplomats, senior government officials, civil society and the private sector, as well as teachers and secondary school student representatives. The event was inaugurated by Mr Shawn Richards, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture of Saint Kitts and Nevis.

Mr Boyan Radoykov, the official representative of UNESCO’s Knowledge Societies Division, emphasized in his comments that fruitful discussions had taken place to strengthen efforts in the Caribbean to address the ethical dimensions in information and their social implications, and to promote the basic values and principles that support the information society, such as peace and democracy, the free flow of information in the public domain, freedom of expression, tolerance, cultural and linguistic diversity, and solidarity.

The conference contributed to drawing conclusions that helped to clarify and raise awareness in the development of a holistic regional approach to complex issues on cyberspace and the progress of societies, particularly in terms of the risks of Internet use with regard to cyberbullying, privacy violations and cultural impact. This included the development of ICTs and their inseparable link in promoting education and connecting the world, especially young people.

The conference concluded with the endorsement of a declaration that was approved by all participants.⁶

⁵ The declaration can be seen on the UNESCO webpage:
<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/resources/news-and-in-focus-articles/all-news/news/first-regional-meeting-held-in-the-dominican-republic-to-discuss-internet-governance-and-info-ethics/>

Conclusions

- The abovementioned conferences discussed the challenges and opportunities posed by cyberspace and how the different approaches and cooperation mechanisms should be related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They also discussed the main observations on cyberspace and the risks of the Internet in terms of its ethical impact.
- The conferences have served to understand the different approaches to infoethics and examined cybersecurity, the use of cyberspace and its relation to national development strategies, resulting in fruitful discussions and highlighting the need to continue strengthening research and debate between UNESCO Member States. This must also include the continuation and greater implementation of activities with case studies, as well as in-depth analysis of different approaches and national and international regulations.
- Strengthening cooperation between UNESCO Member States on information ethics for IFAP requires the development of an ambitious work plan in several regions.

⁶ This can be seen on the UNESCO webpage:
<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/resources/news-and-in-focus-articles/all-news/news/infoethics-conference-for-eastern-caribbean-states-organized-in-st-kitts-nevis-this-week/>

IFAP Working Group on Multilingualism in Cyberspace

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE PERIOD BETWEEN THE 8TH AND 9TH SESSIONS OF IFAP'S INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL

IFAP's Working Group on Multilingualism in Cyberspace was chaired by Mr Evgeny Kuzmin (Russia) who also served as Vice-Chair of the IFAP Intergovernmental Council in 2014-2016.

Three major international events on multilingualism in cyberspace were organized within IFAP framework in the period between the 8th and 9th sessions of the IFAP Intergovernmental Council.

These events gathered leading national and international researchers from 63 countries working in the spheres of ethnolinguistics, sociolinguistics and ethnopolitology, as well as representatives of key international governmental and non-governmental organizations, managers and specialists of institutions and authorities in the field of education, science, culture, information and communication, staff of permanent delegations to UNESCO and national commissions for UNESCO.

Invitations to all three events were officially dispatched to national commissions for UNESCO and permanent delegations to UNESCO of all UNESCO Member States.

1.

The Third International conference on Linguistic and Cultural Diversity in Cyberspace

(Yakutsk, Russian Federation, 28 June – 3 July 2014)

The conference was attended by 140 experts representing 48 countries: Albania, Argentina, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Central African Republic, China, Colombia, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Hungary, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Macedonia, Moldova, Netherlands, Nigeria, Oman, Peru, Poland, Republic of Korea, Republic of Maldives, Russia, Rwanda, Slovakia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Syria, Thailand, Togo, Turkey, UK, and USA.

The key topics of the conference were:

- ICT for linguistic and cultural diversity in cyberspace;
- Socio-cultural aspects of linguistic diversity in cyberspace;
- Preservation of linguistic and cultural diversity in cyberspace: national vision and experience;
- Education for preservation of linguistic and cultural diversity in cyberspace.

A total of 65 papers were presented at the conference.

The event finished with the adoption of a landmark conceptual final document – the Yakutsk Declaration on Linguistic and Cultural Diversity in Cyberspace (Appendix 1).

The event was organized by the Russian IFAP Committee, a Moscow-based NGO Interregional Library Cooperation Centre (Russian IFAP Committee's working body) and

Northeastern Federal University (Yakutsk, Russia) in cooperation with the MAAYA World Network for Linguistic Diversity.

Financial support for the conference was provided by Northeastern Federal University, the Federal Agency on Press and Mass Communications of the Russian Federation, Russian Ministry of Culture, the Government of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), and UNESCO.

2.

International Expert Meeting on Improving Access to Multilingual Cyberspace

(UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, 28-29 October 2014)

The meeting brought together world leading experts from 31 countries – Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Central African Republic, China, Colombia, Egypt, France, Germany, Grenada, Hungary, Iceland, India, Iran, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Mali, Mexico, Netherlands, Oman, Peru, Russia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, UK, USA. The event attracted attention of representatives of many diplomatic missions accredited to UNESCO, who attended it as observers.

The major objective of this expert meeting was to discuss the status of linguistic diversity in cyberspace and determine the next concrete steps to be taken by UNESCO in order to ensure continued efforts for the promotion and monitoring of linguistic and cultural diversity in cyberspace through effective use of open and inclusive technological solutions.

Final Recommendations for the Action Plan of UNESCO's World Atlas of Languages were adopted (Appendix 2)

The meeting was organized in close teamwork by the UNESCO Communication and Information Sector's Knowledge Societies Division, the Russian IFAP Committee and the Interregional Library Cooperation Centre in cooperation with the MAAYA World Network for Linguistic Diversity and Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to UNESCO.

Financial support for the meeting was provided by the Government of Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Area – Ugra (Russian Federation), and UNESCO.

3.

Ugra Global Expert Meeting on Multilingualism in Cyberspace

(Khanty-Mansiysk, Russian Federation, 4-9 July 2015)

It was the major international event in the field of multilingualism in 2015, included in the calendar of UNESCO's Major events, and also the fifth high-level international event, organized by the Russian UNESCO IFAP Committee and its working body – Interregional Library Cooperation Centre – within IFAP framework since 2008 – again with the financial support from the Government of the Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Area – Ugra, and in cooperation with the MAAYA World Network for Linguistic Diversity, UNESCO and Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO.

It was Ugra Government's second major initiative within the framework of cooperation between Russia and UNESCO in the field of language preservation and linguistic diversity development in cyberspace.

The meeting's key objectives were:

- developing and advancing international policies in the field of language preservation and linguistic and cultural diversity development in cyberspace;
- developing and promoting the outcomes of the Third International Conference “Linguistic and Cultural Diversity in Cyberspace” (Yakutsk, 2014) and the International Expert Meeting on Improving Access to Multilingual Cyberspace (Paris, UNESCO Headquarters, 2014).

The Ugra Global Expert Meeting on language issues has become a central event of the Seventh International IT-Forum in Khanty-Mansiysk.

The meeting gathered 80 representatives from 29 countries – Azerbaijan, Brazil, Canada, Central African Republic, China, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Georgia, Grenada, Ecuador, France, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Mali, Moldova, Mozambique, the Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Russia, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, and the USA.

The meeting’s programme included 6 plenary sessions and 5 thematic sections:

- Languages and Education.
- Research and Innovation.
- Organizations and Projects.
- National Experience and Vision.
- Multilingualism for Well-Being.

42 reports were presented at the meeting.

Participants to the meeting Evgeny Kuzmin (Russia), Adama Samassékou (Mali) and Louis Pouzin (France) used an opportunity to spoke on multilingualism problems to the wide audience of ICT specialists at the opening ceremony of the Seventh International IT Forum and at its closing plenary meeting entitled “From Information Society to Knowledge Society.”

As the result of these three important international events within the IFAP frame, comprehensive analysis of the situation in the language sphere has been made, all its basic problems were highlighted, formulated and structured, and de facto the short- and medium-term UNESCO Action Plan was drawn on the promotion and development of multilingualism in cyberspace.

The events showed that language preservation and development in cyberspace is an issue topical to all countries without exception. For the first time ever at the international level discussions focused not only on smaller endangered languages, but also on major African languages that cannot boast of proper status, as well as official UN languages, which are rapidly losing ground in the world giving way to the domination of English. Participants to the events also noted that languages should be regarded not only as cultural heritage, but as a source of enormous opportunities for cultural, political and economic influence. All major developed countries of the world do a lot for languages of developing countries, particularly in the sphere of national and local content presentation in cyberspace.

The preparation and holding of these events exemplified smooth and efficient teamwork of the UNESCO Secretariat and the IFAP Bureau. The work brought IFAP to new professional breakthroughs.

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New books on multilingualism in cyberspace were published by the Russian IFAP Committee and its working body, Interregional Library Cooperation Centre in English and Russian in 2014-2016:

- Proceedings of the Second International Conference on Linguistic and Cultural Diversity in Cyberspace (Yakutsk, Russia, 2011);
- Proceedings of the Third International Conference on Linguistic and Cultural Diversity in Cyberspace (Yakutsk, Russia, 2014);
- International Forums on Multilingualism in Cyberspace (2008-2014): Final Documents;
- Proceedings of the Ugra Global Expert Meeting on Multilingualism in Cyberspace (Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia, 2015);
- Collection of analytical materials, Net.Lang: Towards the Multilingual Cyberspace (Russian version).

All these publications put together make up the basic body of contemporary knowledge on multilingualism in cyberspace, and demonstrate once again what has been said in the IFAP framework on many occasions: all IFAP priorities are closely interlinked. Promoting multilingualism and linguistic development in cyberspace cannot be effective enough unless serious efforts for other IFAP priorities are being made.

Mr Evgeny Kuzmin, Chair of the IFAP Working Group on Multilingualism in Cyberspace, made a key plenary session report at the opening of the Portuguese-speaking countries' conference on multilingualism (Belo Horizonte, Brazil, 2014), organized by the International Portuguese Language Institute and the CEFET University of Belo Horizonte with support from the Brazilian government.

Third International Conference
“Linguistic and Cultural Diversity in Cyberspace”
Yakutsk, Russian Federation
28 June – 3 July 2014

FINAL REPORT and FINAL DOCUMENT

The Third International Conference “Linguistic and Cultural Diversity in Cyberspace” was convened in Yakutsk, Russian Federation, from June 28 to July 3, 2014. This Conference is part of the activities of the UNESCO Information for All Programme (IFAP) and is an important contribution to the implementation of the decisions of the World Summit on the Information Society (Geneva, 2003, and Tunis, 2005).

The Conference was organized by the Russian Committee of the UNESCO Information for All Programme, the Northeaastern Federal University in Yakutsk and the Interregional Library Cooperation Centre with the support of the Government of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation, the Federal Agency for Press and Mass Communications of the Russian Federation, the Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO, and in cooperation with UNESCO.

This interdisciplinary forum was attended by leading experts from 48 countries: specialists working in the fields of science, culture, education, communication and information, researchers on philosophical, sociological and anthropological issues emerging from the growing use of the Internet and other ICTs, representatives of international and national governmental and nongovernmental organizations, governmental policy makers in the field of knowledge societies development, managers of ICTs and media programmes from the private sector and civil society institutions, as well as executives from Russia’s various governmental bodies.

The Conference was built on the recognition of the importance of cultural and linguistic diversity in the digital world. It addressed political, cultural, social, ethical and technological aspects of activities aimed to support and develop linguistic and cultural diversity. The discussions focused on policies, standards and tools necessary to ensure linguistic and cultural diversity safeguarding and preservation and on specific tools for the promotion of multilingualism.

To accomplish their work the participants held two plenary sessions and eight sessions of four specific thematic sections:

- Section 1. ICT for linguistic and cultural diversity in cyberspace.
- Section 2. Socio-cultural aspects of linguistic diversity in cyberspace.
- Section 3. Preservation of linguistic and cultural diversity in cyberspace: national vision and experience.
- Section 4. Education for preservation of linguistic and cultural diversity in cyberspace.

Elaborating and implementating policies to develop and preserve languages and identifying the best practices in these areas of activities were the conference crosscutting issues.

In conclusion of their work, participants of the Conference thanked the organizers and supporters of the event and adopted the final document – **The Yakutsk Declaration on Linguistic and Cultural Diversity in Cyberspace**.

Yakutsk Declaration on Linguistic and Cultural Diversity in Cyberspace

Final document of the Third International Conference

“Linguistic and Cultural Diversity in Cyberspace”

Yakutsk, Russian Federation

28 June - 3 July 2014

Preamble

The participants of the Third International Conference “Linguistic and Cultural Diversity in Cyberspace” are conscious that:

An overwhelming majority of peoples in the world have no statehood and sovereignty. As a rule, their languages are not the state languages of their country of residence because a majority of countries are multi-ethnic and multilingual. Even in the most beneficial situation, when the government and the larger, dominant ethnic entities display the utmost care of ethnic and linguistic minorities, most of languages are marginalized to varying extents. They develop or decline in the shadow of a major and fitter language dominant in its country and used in all spheres – political, economic, educational, cultural, scientific, etc.

The relationship between language and culture is one of interdependency. No language can develop outside the culture of the ethnos that has created it and speaks it. Culture is a function of language, and language is a vector for culture; none of the two exists without the other. Every time we talk about culture we are addressing language, and every time we look upon language we are reaching culture through it.

The linguistic and cultural diversity of humankind is the top of an “iceberg” that includes cultural identities, the sense of belonging to a community, personal rootedness, intangible heritage, popular life-crucial knowledge and achievements over the centuries, proper interpretation of local content and much more.

The dissemination of multilingual information on the history, languages and culture of different nations enriches our ability to analyse facts, events and behaviours thanks to multiple viewpoints contributing to the promotion of tolerance and mutual understanding and a peaceful sustainable development of contemporary civilization. Cultural diversity and multilingualism are enablers of wellbeing and of the successful flourishing of humans.

Languages are stores of a rich and vast human heritage and life-crucial knowledge, i.e. the knowledge necessary for health, well-being, and participation in the local and worldwide community and economy, as well as necessary instruments for social life, the expression and dissemination of social and cultural traditions, self-identification and preservation of human dignity of their speakers, whether these are natives to the territory or migrants.

Urbanization and globalization promote the assimilation of ethnic cultures and challenge their majority status, moving them ever farther into the margins. Knowledge and historical and cultural experience stored by these cultures vanish gradually, and the potential of those

cultures and languages is reduced. Cultural and linguistic marginalization are interrelated and interdependent processes. A unique culture vanishes with the death of its language. Meanwhile forecasts say and UNESCO has been continuously warning that more than half of the currently alive approximately 7,000 languages may become extinct within several generations.

Migration and human mobility have experienced an unprecedented increase over the past few years. For the first time ever in 2010, the majority of the world's population was predominantly urban, and this proportion continues to grow. By 2050, more than 70% of the world's population will live in a city. The high concentration of people in urban settings has resulted in an increasing linguistic diversity, a trend that will continue over the next years.

An increasing number of studies show that a well-planned strategy on managing diversity, including the languages of migrants, can lead to social and economic benefits for the society as a whole. Diversity can also create benefits as it increases the variety of goods, services and skills available in urban environments. The increased level of competences provided by diversity can also foster creativity, innovation and economic growth.

The role of ICTs

The global information society is forming rapidly, and the recent relevant social impact of improvements in Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) makes this a turning point for the preservation of cultural and linguistic diversity.

Ever more people become active users of ICT, particularly of the Internet. It has become an inalienable and essential part of the life of the young majority, due to the extensive opportunities for communication, access to information and knowledge, self-expression, education, leisure and a greatly extended picture of the world. However, Internet services and information are mainly available in dominant languages and the current absence of certain languages in cyberspace contributes to the widening of the already existing digital information gap. While globalization encourages the merging of cultures and languages into a de facto standard, at the same time emerging ICTs potentially enable the exploitation of different languages and cultures and the flourishing of new alphabets and writing systems.

One of the main issues that is against the strengthening and diffusion of indigenous languages is that they are languages with no written tradition. In the context of our modern world, only a written tradition allows a language to become recognizable and useful. Cyberspace offers a unique opportunity for creating written tradition at low cost and with maximal possibilities of diffusion.

The digital era in which we live nowadays provides a unique opportunity to support the active promotion of well being, inter alia via the enabling of multilingualism and preservation of cultural diversity in cyberspace. The existing ICTs offer new opportunities to promote linguistic and cultural heritage for equal and universal access to life-crucial knowledge.

Being aware, in addition, that an increasing number of social media applications available and accessible may offer a relevant contribution to minority languages and cultural preservation and promotion thanks to services, communities and crowd initiatives, we must support initiatives to encourage them further.

Of course "availability" does not always mean "real use"; free or affordable access to ICTs is still a problem in many areas of the world and for many potential users. However, thanks to smart and mobile solutions both the new generation, and even those previously digitally excluded, have entered the digital age. Furthermore we are aware of the potential opportunities and threats connected to this process.

Guaranteeing linguistic and cultural diversity and the survival of every language and culture must be a common goal for humanity. Institutions ought to make commitments and assume responsibilities in relation to linguistic diversity and coexistence between languages.

Differences of languages and cultures should not create either manifest or hidden artificial obstacles for reasonable and fruitful cooperation among nations. This cooperation should be based on the equal treatment of all parties and it should not be governed by any cultural or linguistic prejudices.

The protection of linguistic and cultural diversity should include promoting and sustaining it in cyberspace, by enforcing digital opportunities for all languages.

Taking into account all the above and recalling the

- Outcomes of the First and the Second International Conferences on Linguistic and Cultural Diversity in Cyberspace (Yakutsk, Russian Federation, 2008 and 2011) as well as the Bamako International Forum on Multilingualism (Bamako, Mali, 2009), the 1st International Symposium on Multilingualism in Cyberspace (SIMC I - Barcelona, Spain 2009), the 2nd International Symposium on Multilingualism in Cyberspace (SIMC II - Brasilia, Brasil 2011), and the 3rd International Symposium on Multilingualism in Cyberspace (SIMC III - Paris, France, 2012);
- Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity which says that “cultural diversity as a source of exchange, innovation and creativity is just as indispensable for humanity as biological diversity for Nature, and is a treasure shared by the entire human race”;
- UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace;
- Key documents of the World Summit on the Information Society (Geneva, 2003, and Tunis, 2005) and the Vision for WSIS Beyond 2015 (WSIS+10, Geneva, 2014) which emphasize the importance of the preservation of cultural and linguistic diversity and suggest a set of measures necessary to achieve this goal;

The Conference agrees on the following recommendations:

General framework

Local, regional and central governments should play a wider and significant role in preserving, developing and sustaining local indigenous languages and their cultures by providing, in particular, resources for the development of digital tools, and the promotion of education and literacy for these languages to be present in cyberspace.

Governmental bodies at all levels should build professional communities and further develop necessary resources and tools (training courses, higher education courses, educational curricula, preparation of teachers, training for trainers, seminars, research, etc.) to strengthen linguistic and cultural diversity in cyberspace as digital language vitality is only sustainable where the language is spoken and taught. “Digital natives” should not be left alone in the digital arena. They belong to the always-on global communication community. They create their own forms of language to exchange text messages, instant and multimedia messages as an additional legacy for future generations.

This can be done with the help of academia and thinktanks providing the expertise and identifying the best practices on language policies that not only promote all languages and

put them on equal footing but also foster dialogue between co-existing languages in specific territories.

The development of natural language processing technologies (Text understanding, Question answering, Information querying, Speech Recognition, Speech Synthesis, (Spoken) Machine Translation and others) is a crucial step for ensuring equal digital opportunities for all languages. Mobile phone, Internet chat and social media interaction should be included in any definition of digital vitality and use of minority languages.

All institutions, organizations, associations and even individuals involved in language development, language planning or language promotion should set up collaborative projects to support lesser spoken languages, with a special attention to the:

- development of culture-based terminologies;
- production and dissemination of written materials and digital documents in these languages.

Local digital communities (not just read-only material) are also needed for digital ascent. Micro-grants to small communities (literary, theatrical, whatever brings people together) should be provided to document in their native language what they are doing.

Further examination should be made of the:

- identification of all the factors necessary to sustain linguistic diversity;
- link between digital vitality and spoken language vitality;
- impact of digital stillness on a spoken language.

The setting-up of language policies should include the state language, the national/regional language, and also migrant languages, as this is the only way to ensure that all citizens, regardless of their legal status in a territory, can be recognized equally by recognizing the plurality of their languages.

Diversity management of the communities enables a real representation of language minorities to promote stable and sustainable development.

Corpora, the lifeblood of modern computational linguistics, must be unencumbered by Copyright. A research exemption must be enshrined in the legal framework. In addition national projects need to make their corpora not just searchable but also downloadable by ROAMing (randomize, omit, anonymize, mix). Open access to materials collected, as a precondition of funding, must be assured.

A significant part in linguistic diversity is linguistic diversity in scientific production. “Grey” literature naturally incorporates a greater linguistic diversity in scientific production particularly in developing and less developed countries. Promoting “grey” scientific literature can ensure linguistic diversity in knowledge production. Efforts should be deployed to raise the interest of academia in “grey” literature and acknowledge the alternative knowledge production it represents.

The open access movement makes scientific publications openly accessible and proposes that they give a greater priority to linguistic diversity so that the production of knowledge in multiple languages is promoted and facilitated, especially of life-crucial knowledge.

All publicly funded translations of works should be available under free license for everyone to use and re-use without additional restrictions or exemption from copyright. This should apply both to works that are in the public domain as well as works still being under copyright, so they can be used as soon as copyright to the original work expires. International and national copyright law systems should be amended in a way to allow all educational, scientific and non-commercial use of global cultural heritage.

In order to promote a widespread positive adoption of the notion of linguistic diversity and a favourable cultural climate that is a precondition for its flourishing, educational and informative tools need to be developed, aiming at correctly informing the public at large and at educating the new generations about the value of multilingualism.

Efforts should be made to:

- support, enable and assist the documentation, protection and promotion of regional, minority and endangered languages;
- bring together specialists in specific areas of the world with members of endangered language communities in these areas.

It is very important to ensure long-term preservation of audio and video recordings reflecting linguistic and cultural diversity, specifically of orally transmitted cultures, key elements to ensure demo-anthropological studies. Over the past 60 years, rich collections of such audio-visual recordings have been produced, forming the basis of our present knowledge. Nowadays they can only be preserved by digitization and proper digital preservation of data. Presently, however, the availability of replay equipment for magnetic audio and videotapes is dramatically shrinking which may bring digitization programmes to a halt. Adequate measures must be taken to respond to this threat in order to prevent such unprecedented loss of irreplaceable documents of the linguistic and cultural diversity of humankind.

At the political level

1. All stakeholders should seek to facilitate the emergence of knowledge societies respecting human rights and values and based on four principles: Promoting freedom of expression in traditional and new forms of media, including the Internet; Access to quality education for all; Respect of cultural and linguistic diversity; and Universal access to information and knowledge, especially in the public domain;
2. UNESCO, especially through its Information for All Programme (IFAP), should pursue in cooperation with relevant UN agencies, IGOs and NGOs the efforts for further development and promotion of ethical, legal and societal principles and norms for preserving linguistic and cultural diversity worldwide, in particular in cyberspace;
3. All stakeholders should encourage governments to enact and implement more effective national policies in support of preservation of linguistic and cultural diversity;
4. All stakeholders should continue to promote and support the creation and free dissemination of language resources (alphabets, diacritic marks, phonetic language resources, Wikipedia, Wiktionaries, and related technical means (e.g. spell checkers, and generally speaking natural language processors), with specific reference to the use of virtual keyboards), necessary for the use of indigenous and minoritized languages in cyberspace ensuring equal digital opportunities for all languages;
5. UNESCO and its Member States should continue to develop with the relevant IGOs and NGOs policies to enhance the presence (localization and content) of all languages in cyberspace, based on media and information literacy, access to resources and promotion of participation, developing programmes of inclusion of knowledge from languages unrepresented on the Internet, creating a comprehensive and sustainable set of indicators, and promoting a comprehensive view of the digital divide which encompasses the content and linguistic divide;

6. Governments should strengthen existing discussion platforms involving all concerned stakeholders in a continuous interdisciplinary debate on preservation of linguistic diversity in the context of current socio-cultural transformations in globalizing information society/knowledge societies;
7. All stakeholders, especially in academia should develop interdisciplinary research and comprehensive study on the various political, social and cultural challenges especially in education with regard to the preservation of linguistic diversity;
8. All stakeholders, especially governments, scholars and experts in academia, should develop and strengthen educational and awareness-raising programmes, especially among the youth, to form stronger respect of linguistic and cultural diversity and deeper understanding of the necessity to preserve all languages particularly minority/minoritized ones.

The Conference also especially recommends UNESCO, and other relevant international, regional and national stakeholders, to

- a) develop and propose an international act on global linguistic and cultural diversity in cyberspace as well as in other communication spaces;
- b) stimulate the creation of a worldwide network of competence centres for the study and promotion of multilingualism in cyberspace and for sharing expertise on the subject;
- c) set up a working group representing each continent to identify language policies, initiatives, and digital opportunities that best respect the linguistic reality of the territory;
- d) invite the National IFAP committees to support the development of culture-based terminologies and promote online publication of indigenous and minority history, events, raw data (Newspapers, Books, Radio-TV Broadcast, Videos, etc.), as well as the production and distribution of annotated corpora, lexica, dictionaries, grapheme-phoneme converters, parallel corpora, etc. allowing for the development of language technologies;
- e) invite National IFAP committees to create and support a specific action aimed at activating crowdsourcing in order to address autochthonous and minoritized language content digitization (Adopt an endangered language/culture!) and constitute related communities;
- f) emphasize the role of the broader literacy context for digital language ascent (work the chain of literacy);
- g) conduct comparative study on national policies to sustain languages, including linguistic preservation and development in cyberspace;
- h) conduct a survey of the state-of-the-art regarding language resources and technologies for all languages;
- i) set up a clearing-house on language technologies to be used for identifying and assessing digital language development;
- j) start focusing (including through IFAP) on the possibility of using cyberspace as a laboratory for creating writing traditions for endangered and minority languages;
- k) further work on the development of language technologies for minority languages, which can be easily adapted for application from one language to another (easier localization techniques), especially within language families;
- l) ensure the availability of language technologies for the largest number of languages through the cooperation of all stakeholders (Member States and regions, public and private research laboratories, industries) under the general coordination of UNESCO;

- m) design an Index of Digital Language Diversity, as an instrument for measuring the digital language diversity of a given region and for assessing the type of intervention needed to ensure all languages equal digital opportunity;
- n) invite universities in all countries to submit project proposals to international institutions (such as UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN) to promote multilingualism and cultural diversity in cyberspace;
- o) support the documentation of endangered languages in their area and provide an inventory of existing material;
- p) start working on the modernisation of the existing Atlas of World Languages by using advantages of modern ICTs;
- q) set up fund-raising events and look for possible sponsors of the work in the area.

A Virtual Observatory for Multilingualism and Digital Language Diversity (possibly as a part of the IFAP Information Society Observatory) should be set up in order to:

1. Accumulate reliable and up-to-date data about the presence of the world's languages on the Internet, the availability of digital technologies supporting languages, and of infrastructural conditions enabling presence of languages in the digital world;
2. Accumulate publications on academic and civil society projects concerning multilingualism in digital world;
3. Closely monitor the existing language policies that best respect the linguistic reality of the territories, and the efforts and initiatives taking place worldwide to support multilingualism both offline and online;
4. Help identify best practices being developed in each continent;
5. Highlight what works best in each geographical location and to monitor the extent to which language diversity is digitally reflected;
6. Map the researchers working on the subject and the fields of knowledge.

The Conference finally urges UNESCO and other relevant international, regional and national stakeholders to initiate a preparatory process for a World Summit on Multilingualism as it is highly desirable for the preservation and development of the world's languages and cultures in the epoch of galloping globalization.

This document was produced through a collaborative process involving participants from the following countries – Albania, Argentina, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Central African Republic, China, Colombia, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Hungary, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Macedonia, Moldova, Netherlands, Nigeria, Oman, Peru, Poland, Republic of Korea, Republic of Maldives, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Slovakia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Syria, Thailand, Togo, Turkey, UK, USA.

**International Expert Meeting
on Improving Access to Multilingual Cyberspace**

28-29 October 2014

UNESCO's Headquarters, Paris, France

**Final Recommendations and Action Plan
for UNESCO's World Atlas of Languages**

Preamble

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognizes the importance of individuals' personal language and acknowledges it, among other rights, as essence for realization of the fundamental human rights and freedoms. Therefore, language becomes an enabler for the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms and should be considered as a key asset of all stakeholders for ensuring sustainable development and peace.

Many linguistic communities cannot fully enjoy and exercise their rights and freedoms, express their views and opinions, and communicate in a most meaningful and effective manner. Speakers of languages in danger in particular require special attention.

The rapid technological development has brought about multiple opportunities for users to share information and knowledge in various languages. Technology not only affects how language communities communicate with each other, but also how they contribute to language revitalization, documentation, monitoring, learning and teaching in formal and informal educational settings. Unfortunately, ICTs are not evenly spread and made available around the world – there are vast inequalities in terms of access and use. The growing digital divide is even more reinforced by the existing linguistic divide.

UNESCO is convinced that cultural and linguistic diversity, including multilingualism in cyberspace, have a key role to play in fostering pluralistic, equitable, open and inclusive knowledge societies. In this regard, the Organization supports the inclusion of new languages in the digital world, the creation and dissemination of content in local languages on the Internet and mass communication channels, and encourages multilingual access to digital resources in cyberspace.

The Recommendation Concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace, adopted by UNESCO's General Conference in 2003 is the only normative instrument, at the international level, focusing on the promotion of linguistic diversity in cyberspace.

From 28 to 29 October 2014 at its Headquarters in Paris, UNESCO, in cooperation with the Government of Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug – Ugra (Russian Federation), the Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation for UNESCO and the Russian Committee of the UNESCO Information for All Programme, organized a two-day international expert meeting bringing together leading experts, researchers, and policymakers to discuss the status of linguistic diversity in cyberspace and determine the next concrete step to be taken by UNESCO.

The focus of the discussions was two-fold :

- Further steps for the implementation of the Recommendation Concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace and an examination of the recommendations of the Third International Conference, “Linguistic and Cultural Diversity in Cyberspace”, held in Yakutsk, Russian Federation from 28 June to 3 July 2014;
- Elaboration of a plan of action and initiation of new partnerships to upscale UNESCO’s Atlas of the World’s Languages in Danger to UNESCO’s Atlas of the World’s Languages for the monitoring and promotion of world languages as well as providing online space for other international, regional and national language institutions to share their e-content on languages using open and inclusive technological solutions.

* * *

We, the participants in the International Expert Meeting on Improving Access to Multilingual Cyberspace,

Fully committed to the promotion of linguistic diversity, particularly of multilingual cyberspace, according to the UNESCO’s Recommendation Concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace (2003), the Geneva Plan of Action and the Tunis Declaration of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and the ongoing debate of the Post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals.

Recalling that Multilingualism is one of the main strategic priorities of the Intergovernmental Information for All Programme (IFAP);

Referring to the Resolutions of the General Conference of UNESCO with regard to the promotion of multilingualism and universal access to information in cyberspace,

Convinced that the development of information and communication technologies (ICTs) provides great opportunities to improve the presence of, and access to, languages in cyberspace, but also presents new challenges for their usage, acquisition, transmission, documentation, preservation and promotion.

Recognizing that promoting and safeguarding linguistic diversity and multilingualism in cyberspace is a key asset of humankind, comparable in importance to biodiversity, and should be at the core of contemporary debates in the globalized world as a determining factor in the development of inclusive, open, pluralistic and diverse knowledge societies,

Inviting UNESCO and its Members States and partners to increase efforts for the implementation of the Recommendation Concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace and of the recommendations of the Third International Conference, “Linguistic and Cultural Diversity in Cyberspace”, held in Yakutsk, Russian Federation from 28 June to 3 July 2014;

Further recalling the importance of upscaling UNESCO’s Atlas of the World’s Languages in Danger for the monitoring and promotion of the world’s languages as well as providing online space for other international, regional and national language institutions such as governmental, educational, research, information and media, commercial, and non-governmental organizations to share their e-content on languages using open and inclusive technological solutions,

Recommend the present Action Plan to UNESCO for its work on the promotion of linguistic diversity and multilingualism in cyberspace with special emphasis on the creation of UNESCO’s

World Atlas of Languages:

Policy and strategic orientation:

Member States should formulate and adopt sustainable national language policies on the crucial issue of access to multilingual cyberspace for all, including the promotion, safeguarding, representation and use of the world's languages, and the development of linguistic and cognitive skills as the necessary key into multilingual cyberspace. The establishment of comprehensive language policy frameworks will help to ensure that rights and freedoms of every language user and community are equally respected, protected and equal opportunities, particularly digital, provided;

Strategies must be designed to promote the learning and teaching of languages using solutions provided by technological and scientific progress. International support and assistance to developing countries should be strengthened and extended to facilitate the development of freely accessible materials on language education in electronic form and to the enhancement of human capital skills in this area.

Member States should encourage Internet service providers (ISPs) and other technological solutions developers to consider provision of concessionary rates for Internet access in public service institutions, such as schools, academic institutions, museums, archives and public libraries, as a transitional measure towards universal access to cyberspace.

UNESCO, Member States and other stakeholders concerned, should develop training materials and build capacities of content developers, particularly local content producers and providers, in using sustainable formats, easy to access and sharing this content platforms.

Development of technological solutions

UNESCO and its Member States should encourage research and development on operating systems, search engines and web browsers with extensive multilingual capabilities, online dictionaries and terminologies.

Efforts should be supported with regard to advanced language technology services accessible for all, as well as intelligent linguistic systems such as those performing multilingual information retrieval and speech understanding.

UNESCO, in cooperation with other international, regional and national organizations, should establish a collaborative online platform entitled UNESCO's World Atlas of Languages on full and comprehensive data on world's languages, existing policies, regulations, technical recommendations, and best practices relating to multilingualism and multilingual resources and applications.

Member States and international organizations should encourage open access solutions including the formulation of technical and methodological standards and sustainable formats for information exchange, portability and interoperability, as well as accessibility of digital public domain information on global information networks throughout its lifecycle, regardless of the technology used when it was originally created.

Strengthening international cooperation and building partnerships

UNESCO, its Members States and partners concerned should encourage and support capacity-building for the production of local and indigenous content on the Internet in order to foster the digital presence of minority and lesser-used languages, in particular those more at risk of digital

extinction, and encourage cooperation especially of those language communities.

The public and private sectors, research community, and the civil society as well as other stakeholders at large should work to provide the necessary resources and take the necessary measures to alleviate language barriers and promote human interaction on the Internet by encouraging the creation and processing of, and access to, multilingual educational, cultural and scientific content in digital form.

Inter-agency cooperation within the United Nations system should be reinforced with a view to building up universally accessible bodies of knowledge that are poorly represented in cyberspace, particularly for the benefit of developing countries and disadvantaged communities, from the massive amount of multilingual information currently available to speakers of dominant languages.

UNESCO, in close cooperation with other intergovernmental organizations concerned, should undertake the compilation of an international inventory of legislation, regulations and policies on multilingualism in cyberspace.

Over the next two-year period :

UNESCO, in close cooperation with other relevant partners, should establish a Task Force/ composed of professional community respecting regional and gender balance for the upscaling of the UNESCO's Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger to UNESCO's World Atlas of Languages.

UNESCO, in partnership with other relevant bodies, should develop a mechanism for monitoring the vitality, possible endangerment of the world's languages and for promotion and preservation of linguistic diversity and multilingualism, including in cyberspace, applying innovative technological solutions for dissemination of multilingual information, exchange of experience and cooperation among partners.

UNESCO should mobilize synergies for the further development and implementation of the existing Language Vitality Index to cover all the world's languages from the perspective of the use of languages at the same time, Index's extension and adaptation to the world's languages in multilingual cyberspace.

UNESCO, in close cooperation with other partners, should develop comprehensive and sustainable language monitoring tools for assessing linguistic diversity and multilingualism in specific regions of the world, based on the existing advantages of ICTs.

IFAP Working Group on Information Preservation

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE PERIOD BETWEEN THE 8TH AND 9TH SESSIONS OF IFAP'S INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL

Report as of 15. February 2016
Update of the report of June 2015

The Working Group on Information Preservation is composed of experts covering all fields of information preservation – from preservation and restoration of traditional materials like palm leaf documents to born-digital information and electronic data bases. The core of the Working Group is formed by the Sub-Committee on Technology of the Memory of the World Programme, and is augmented by representatives from NGOs of the Libraries and Archives Sector. Over the past years our members have been constantly engaged in initiatives focused on supporting information preservation in their respective countries and regions. In addition, through global conferences and workshops they support exchanges of experience and expertise which lead to greater recognition of the related challenges and spur action.

As a Think Tank, the Working Group, in monitoring the situation of information preservation world-wide, has identified four strategic areas where it must address urgent problems in the field of information preservation. Consequently it has provided proposals in these areas for inclusion in UNESCO's Regular Programme.

1) World Report on Information Preservation

A comprehensive overview of the global situation with regards to Information Preservation is an indispensable prerequisite for effective action.

2) Safeguarding the Hidden Documents of Linguistic and Cultural Diversity

This topic is of the highest urgency, as the time window for obtaining replay equipment for analogue and digital audiovisual documents is dramatically shrinking.

Parts of Proposals 1 and 2 are reflected in the project “**Magnetic Tape Alert**” (progress report see below).

3) Open Source Software for Digital Preservation and Data Management

Open source software for digital preservation and data management has a crucial role to play in assisting developing countries to effectively meet the challenges of digital preservation.

4) Promoting International Cooperation in Format Registries

In order to avoid loss of information caused by software obsolescence, UNESCO must promote the establishment of format registries- repositories of digital “Rosetta Stones” - that will enable future generations to interpret the data and information contained in current software and files.

The core idea of this proposal is also part of Project PERSIST, which is supported within the framework of the Memory of the World Programme. PERSIST has been presented in the course of the CI-Session at the 38th UNESCO General Conference. A PERSIST Project working meeting is arranged in Abu Dhabi 14-16 March 2016

These four strategic areas are also identified in the Vancouver Declaration.

Magnetic Tape Alert”, Progress Report:

The core of the project is to alert governments and decision makers that audiovisual documents still sitting on their original magnetic tapes are massively endangered by the rapid disappearance of replay equipment in operable condition.

The attention of the IFAP Bureau is drawn to the fact that practically all documents proper of linguistic and cultural diversity of the past sixty years have been recorded on magnetic tape. A considerable part of this legacy is outside archival custody in the narrower sense. Unless these tapes – audio and video, analogue and digital - are transferred to digital repositories, they will very soon be irretrievably lost. This was also a major concern expressed in the course of the Vancouver Conference on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of Memory of the World Programme, and is addressed in the Working Group’s proposal 2, Safeguarding the Hidden Documents of Linguistic and Cultural Diversity, submitted for inclusion in the Regular Programme at the General Conference 2013.

At the 24th IFAP Bureau Meeting the project has been confirmed. The project renamed “Magnetic Tape Alert”, it is presently under preparation in cooperation with IASA, the International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives. The project is also supported by the UNESCO umbrella CCAAA, the Coordinating Council of the Audiovisual Archives Associations.

The realistic threat of losing a considerable part of primary source material representing the linguistic and cultural diversity of human kind has made this topic a widely discussed matter.

Joint Technical Symposium – JTS 2016.

CCAAA, the Coordinating Council of the Audiovisual Archives Associations, is an UNESCO Umbrella of seven audiovisual archives association. The reporter is observer at CCAAA.

Joint Technical Symposia were founded in the 1980s under the umbrella of UNESCO. They are organised by CCAAA, generally every three years, as joint gatherings of top experts in the fields of audio, video and film preservation. JTS 2016 will take place in Singapore, 7-9 March 2016. The reporter is member of the Programme Committee. 34 papers from experts from all continents have been selected. The Proceedings of this conference will be published by Indiana University Press.

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Chair Working Group
15 February 2016