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## **Ninth session**

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

30-31 May 2016  
UNESCO House, Paris (Fontenoy Building, Room XI) 9.30  
9:30 a.m. -12.30 p.m. and 2.30 p.m.-5.30 p.m.

### **Final Report**

This document is also available at:  
<http://www.unesco.org/webworld/ifap>

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## Introduction

The 9th session of the Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Programme was held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris from 30 to 31 May 2016.

The following Member States of the Council were represented: Argentina, Bahrain, Cambodia, Botswana, Egypt, China, Ethiopia, Guinea, Ghana, Lithuania, Grenada, The Russian Federation, Senegal, Malaysia, Slovakia, The Netherlands, Sudan, Peru, Switzerland, Philippines, Turkey, Sweden, Venezuela, Thailand, Zambia.

Several UNESCO Member States that are not members of the Intergovernmental Council were also represented at the session as Observers. Representatives of international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations also attended the session as Observers.

The Director-General was represented by Mr Franck La Rue, Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information (ADG/CI). The list of participants is available at: <http://unesco.org/webworld/ifap>

### **Item 1 - Opening of the session**

The representative of the Director-General opened the 9th session of the IFAP Council. In his introductory remarks, the ADG/CI commended the outgoing Bureau for the end of a successful two-year term marked by positive achievements and which contributed to building knowledge societies at the global, regional and local levels. The ADG drew attention to a number of major international conferences and projects implemented in Africa, Asia, Europe, as well as Latin America and the Caribbean. Recognizing that the strategic priorities addressed by IFAP are some of most urgent and rapidly evolving areas of public policy, Mr La Rue invited the Council to strengthen the sustainability of National IFAP bodies and effectively leverage IFAP's contribution to the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and the WSIS+10 follow-up.

Mr La Rue praised and drew attention to IFAP's contribution in countering radicalization, mentioning the success represented by the organization of the June 2015 Conference "Youth and the Internet: Fighting Radicalization and Extremism" and by the ongoing organization of the follow-up Conference "Internet and The Radicalization of the Youth: Preventing, Acting and Living Together" scheduled to take place from 30 October to 1 November in Quebec, Canada.

The ADG considered the statement made by the UN Secretary-General during the General Assembly High-Level Forum on Culture of Peace in New York, on 9 September 2015, as a remarkable recognition of the work of IFAP and of the Communication and Information (CI) Sector of UNESCO. The Secretary General had stated: **"I applaud UNESCO for having organized a conference on "Youth and the Internet: Fighting Radicalization and Violent Extremism" in June."**

The ADG emphasized that the prevention of radicalization can be done in a two-tiered approach based on education as the best long-term strategy to fight radicalization, but also using ICTs to fight radicalization among youth by reaching young people using their own language and chosen technologies. Mr La Rue also recognized IFAP for continuing to keep a gender perspective in its programmes, while expressing the need for more specific work to be done in fighting harassment and incitement to violence against women online.

The ADG also stressed the importance of IFAP's work in contributing to the achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, particularly IFAP's role in making ICTs available to everyone to decrease the digital divide. Mr La Rue also reminded the Council that Climate

Change is an important issue to take into account if countries truly want to achieve Sustainable Development.

## **Item 2 - Election of the Bureau of the Council (Chairperson, other officers)**

The Council elected the following Members to its Bureau:

Function	Name	Country	Group
Chairperson	Ms. Chafica Haddad	Grenada	III
Vice-Chair	Mr. Evgeny Kuzmin	Russian Federation	II
Vice-Chair	Ms DUAN Liping	China	IV
Vice-Chair	H.E. Mrs Johanna Odonkor	Ghana	Va
Member	Mr Hidalgo Gallegos	Peru	III
Member	Ms Françoise Clément	Switzerland	I
Member	Mr Izzeldin Mohamed Osman	Sudan	Vb
Rapporteur	Mr Ludovít Molnár	Slovakia	II

The new Bureau of the Council was elected by acclamation. After being reelected as IFAP Chair for a second term, Ms. Chafica Haddad thanked the Council Members for their support and reaffirmed her commitment to ensuring the continuation of the positive realization and gains made by the Programme. Ms. Haddad underscored the importance of collective efforts and the full participation of all Council members in the realization of IFAP's objectives as well as the creation of partnerships to broaden the reach and impact of IFAP's actions. The new Chair promised to keep strengthening the IFAP network in order to continue to build synergies, leveraging resources, and strengthening the programme's work. While continuing to extend its reach to least developed and developing states including African and small island states, Ms Haddad indicated that IFAP would reinforce its work on gender empowerment through ICT for young girls and women as well as take into consideration the needs of the disadvantaged communities particularly persons with disabilities. Ms Haddad also stressed that for IFAP to continue to carry its mandate in its six priority areas and contribute to the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, a plan of action and programmatic orientation needs to be created for the period 2017-2021 in the framework of the medium term strategy 2014-2021 and the preparation of the 39 C/5.

## **Item 3 - Adoption of the agenda**

The Chair invited comments on the agenda of the 9<sup>th</sup> session of the IFAP Council.

Sweden requested for clarification regarding the Item 9 of the Agenda. The Secretariat indicated that additional documents regarding IFAP's contribution to the 39C/5 would be circulated in the room. In addition, aspects related to item 9 would be covered under Agenda item 11 which included a list of activities organized by the Secretariat and some National IFAP committees. Furthermore, the Secretariat explained that a presentation addressing this item was foreseen to take place during the Council.

With these clarifications, the agenda was then adopted by the Council.

#### **Item 4 - Reports on the activities of the Information for All Programme and status of the implementation of the recommendations of the 8th IFAP Council**

##### **a) Report of the Director-General**

Mr Indrajit Banerjee, Director of the Knowledge Societies Division (KSD) and Secretary of IFAP, provided the Council with an overview of IFAP activities undertaken by the Director-General during the 2014-2015 biennium contained in Part 1 of Document 38 C/REP/24.

Particular attention was drawn to the following points which were highlighted:

- The Programme had successfully implemented activities in all its six strategic priority areas and IFAP Secretariat had contributed to the preparations of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, and the World Summit on Information Society's (WSIS) +10 review process.
- The Secretariat had maintained its support unchanged in terms of human resources to IFAP as in the past biennium. The establishment of new National IFAP Committees and focal points, as well as the organization of regional and international events, had contributed to the ongoing improvement of IFAP's visibility.
- IFAP had initiated the organization of UNESCO's landmark international Conference, "Youth and the Internet: Fighting Radicalization and Extremism", held in June 2015. The event was organized in partnership with the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) and under the support and involvement of other Programme Sectors. The event shared experiences on policy interventions, projects and processes to tackle the use of the Internet as a tool for youth extremism and radicalization. The event brought together over 240 diverse stakeholders from some 70 countries and served to launch a UNESCO's New Integrated Framework for Action aimed at Empowering Youth to Build Peace.
- Linkages between IFAP and other UNESCO intergovernmental bodies such as, the IPDC, the Management of Social Transformation (MOST) and the Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC) continued to be strengthened at the level of the Secretariat and the Bureau through participation in the statutory meetings as well as Programme Consultations. Similar actions have also been taken with other UNESCO expert bodies, particularly the International Bioethics Committee of UNESCO (IBC) and the Committee on the Ethics of Science, Technology and Knowledge (COMEST).
- Information Accessibility and Information for Development: 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 multi-donor 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.

- The UNESCO IFAP website and the IFAP Observatory continued to be constantly updated. Improvements had been made to the Observatory's online user interfaces and search tools to enhance the site's user-friendliness. A blog on information society topics continued to be maintained (<http://ifap-is-observatory.itk.hu/>) and the quarterly electronic newsletter and other resources disseminated to institutional and individual subscribers.
- To increase IFAP's visibility and improve its impacts for fund-raising, the Secretariat had regularly disseminated information on IFAP and its activities and developed proposals in the priority areas. As of June 2015, the Programme received over half a million dollars in direct financial contributions. IFAP had also benefited from a variety of in-kind contributions by Member States, including inter alia, the organization of national, regional and international events; the translation of IFAP documents and reports; the waiver of import taxes on equipment imported for IFAP projects; the defraying of travel and accommodation costs for participants attending events organized in the framework of IFAP.
- A special report highlighting selected major activities undertaken during the period 2008 – 2013 was published in English and French. The IFAP Report had been promoted through social media channels, with promotional videos in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Portuguese, Spanish and Russian. Copies of the report were disseminated to key audiences at important international and regional events, such as the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) Forum and the Internet Governance Forum (IGF).
- There continued to be marked and sustained recognition of IFAP as a platform for convening stakeholders and developing synergies across its priority areas. This is being realized in cooperation with UNESCO's members and partners, as well as with a wide range of major stakeholders operating in the areas covered by the Programme. IFAP was making steady strides in attracting both direct and in-kind resources from Member States, highlighting recognition of the relevance of IFAP and its increasing contribution to global development goals. The Director-General was encouraged by the growing responsiveness to the Executive Board call to Member States to "strengthen their participation and contribution to IFAP" (191 EX/Decision 41) and invited Member States to further increase their extra-budgetary contributions to this Programme. The Director-General also expressed her appreciation to the IFAP Bureau and Council members for their efforts to strengthen IFAP, namely through effective fund-raising activities in support to IFAP activities.

## **b) Report of the outgoing Chairperson of the Council**

The Chair provided a detailed overview of the international conferences IFAP had organized. The recommendations, action plans and other outputs of these events had been associated to and integrated into UNESCO's Regular Programme activities, both at headquarters and in field offices. Some examples of these actions included:

- 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 received technical inputs and helped to identify partners

who could be involved in building a working prototype based on the concept of the interactive Inclusive Learning Lab (i2Lab) presented by IFAP.

- IFAP contributed to the conference: “CONNECTing the Dots: Options for Future Action”, (UNESCO, 3-4 March, 2015). IFAP Council members contributed to the preparation and of the dissemination of UNESCO survey on Internet-related Issues and also discussed the study process during the eighth 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 closely associated to the conference as one of the partners. Accordingly, the IFAP Chair participated in the high-level governmental dialogue that took place during the conference and also served on the drafting group that reviewed the study and prepared the conference outcome statement. Various IFAP network members were also actively involved in the conference 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” was initiated by IFAP, following the Eighth session of its intergovernmental Council which underlined the urgent need for IFAP to more actively engage with young people. The conference helped better understand the role of the Internet as a recruitment tool for extremism and radicalization, to craft effective tools to encounter this phenomenon, 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 by the Director-General during the Conference.
- In concert with the United Nations University’s Special Operation Unit on Policy Driven Electronic Governance (UNU-EGOV) and the Republic of Uruguay’s Presidential Agency for Electronic Governance, Information and Knowledge Society (AGESIC), IFAP organized in Montevideo on 29 February 2016 an expert group meeting to review the Knowledge Societies Policy Handbook developed by IFAP and UNU-EGOV. Some 35 experts from 5 continents discussed and validated the Knowledge Societies Handbook and platform being developed by IFAP and UNU-EGOV as an update to the IFAP Information Society Policy Template. Brazil and Colombia committed to translate the Handbook once finalized into Portuguese and Spanish respectively.

Ms Haddad emphasized that the Council and Bureau were represented in several meetings, which provided an opportunity to make a presentation of IFAP priority areas and activities, as well as to network with the participants and to explore possible areas and options for cooperation, helping to raise IFAP’s visibility.

The Chair indicated that a transparent and both elected and non-elected Council Member States inclusive process that involved a wide self-assessment scheme was used in order to implement the decision by the General Conference concerning the overall governance audit. This approach adopted by IFAP had contributed to the increased visibility resulting from the active participation of the Bureau and Council members, International and Regional conferences, as well as the numerous meetings with representatives of Member States and Regional Groups have led to a better understanding of the Programme, thus facilitating greater contributions from members and non-members of the Council to the Programme. These efforts include:

- 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



twenty-first-century societies and economies through the application of the Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Assessment Framework and for enhancing access to inclusive ICT environments, within the project “ICTs transforming Education in Africa” being implemented in Mozambique, Rwanda and Zimbabwe, in both formal and non-formal settings, with an emphasis on the integration of persons with disabilities and lifelong learning.

- The financial support of the Republic of Bulgaria, the People's Republic of China and the Arab Republic of Egypt which facilitated the organization of the International Conference on Youth and the Internet: Fighting Radicalization and Extremism.
- The increased annual contribution of the People's Republic of China to the IFAP Special Account.
- In-kind contributions for the translation of various IFAP documents, into Arabic by the Arab Republic of Egypt, into Russian by the IFAP Committee of the Russian Federation, into Spanish by El Salvador, notably regarding the Guidelines for creating National IFAP Committees.
- The announcement by the Prime Minister of Quebec of the provision of half a million Canadian dollars to organize the Conference “Internet and the Radicalization of Youth: Preventing, Acting, and Living Together” which will take place on 30 October to 1 November 2016.

### **c) Reports of the Working Groups**

The Working Group Chairs and/or their representatives briefly presented the activities undertaken in each of the IFAP priority areas. The activities of four Working Groups, were presented to the Council, however the reports of all Working Groups are available on the IFAP website.

#### **Information Accessibility**

Indonesia presented events and conferences in this priority area that took place during the Biennium including:

- 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 held under the theme “From Exclusion to Empowerment: Role of ICT for Persons with Disabilities”.
- A series of workshops were organized in South Sudan in July 2014 under the Youth-Mobile Initiative with financial support from Zain mobile telecom company. 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.

Indonesia also highlighted the report published in June 2014, by the IFAP Secretariat that contained 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 for Open Solutions such as 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 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 national policy frameworks and strategies.

The Working Group emphasized the need to build an inclusive information society by creating initiatives that specifically addressed persons with disabilities and vulnerable groups. These included raising awareness of their right to access information; mainstreaming accessibility in the development of ICT standards; and providing human capacity building programs for ensuring their participation in inclusive development.

As a member of the Working Group, Thailand shared with the Council several National initiatives aimed at providing its citizens with equal access to information. The Thai government had been striving to enhance the use of ICT at all levels by establishing ICT networks across the country, and by establishing data centers. Thailand provided government services electronically via a system called “e-Government.”

In February 2016, The Government approved Thailand’s draft Digital Development Plan for Economy and Society. The draft lays a foundation for Digital Thailand, to help it move towards a digital economy and society, with the participation of all sectors.

### **Information Literacy**

The Working Group presented a comprehensive 54-page report on the use of ICTs in Botswana to support education. The report documented national good practices and cited lessons learned in the use of ICTs in both formal and non-formal education at different levels of the education system. The report was based on the analysis of a survey on the use of ICTs in education in selected primary, junior secondary, and senior secondary schools across Botswana.

The study drew the following Conclusions:

- **Policies in place**

While policies relevant to ICT in education have been clearly put in place, they tend to focus more on the ICT accessibility and availability of the basic resources such as computers in schools and internet access but do not focus on the pedagogical use of ICTs across the curriculum.

- **Literacy**

According to Statistics Botswana’s Literacy Survey of 2014, Botswana’s literacy rate is the highest in the world among the population aged 15 to 19 years (97.8 percent). Within this group, male literacy rate was estimated at 97.6 percent, while female literacy was estimated at 97.9 percent.

- **Telecommunications infrastructure and penetration**

Botswana has a robust telecommunications backbone infrastructure that is also complemented by mobile phone companies providing fast wireless technologies such as 3G and 4G. Botswana has among the highest mobile phone penetration rates in the world but this has not been translated into the effective use of ICTs in schools because schools’ connectivity and the cost of connectivity remains a major challenge.

- **Teaching of ICTs**

The teaching of ICTs at primary schools is not compulsory. While ICT is a taught subject, none of the schools surveyed actually used ICTs to enhance teaching and learning in other subject areas. Although there was limited teaching and use of ICT in the education system, some progress can be observed at primary and junior secondary and senior secondary levels. In the non-formal education sector, ICT appeared to be mainly focused on supporting service delivery such as online applications, but not for pedagogical activities.

- **Education and Training Sector Strategic Plan (ETSSP)**

The newly launched Education and Training Sector Strategic Plan (ETSSP) for 2015-2020 seeks to address these foregoing challenges. The Ministry of Education envisages that the ETSSP could serve to turn around the Education sector through the more effective utilization of ICTs in teaching and learning.

The working Group welcomes inputs from IFAP network members to support the sharing of experiences and lessons that could enhance impact of the Botswana project and similar initiatives in other regions and countries.

### **Information Preservation**

Austria, Chair of this Working Group, emphasized the urgent need to digitize audiovisual recordings that exist on magnetic tapes. Technical obsolescence threatened the ability of future generations to access the immense trove of diverse cultural and linguistic content stored on this media. Efforts to digitize and secure this content and draw attention to this threat were essential. In this regard the 24<sup>th</sup> IFAP Bureau had confirmed a project renamed “Magnetic Tape Alert” under preparation in cooperation with the International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives (IASA). The project is also supported by the UNESCO affiliate umbrella, the Coordinating Council of the Audiovisual Archives Associations (CCAAA).

### **Information Ethics**

Peru highlighted a number of major events that took place during the past Biennium. These emulated a range of national, regional and international event in Sub-Saharan Africa conducted in concert with the African Center of Excellence in Information Ethics (ACEIE).

A regional and sub-regional event for Latin America and the Caribbean held in the Dominican republic and St. Kitts and Nevis respectively.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

The activities of the Working Group had contributed to building knowledge between this strategic priority at the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda ; contributed to stimulating international debate and awareness around current and emerging challenges and supported the strengthening of cooperation and commitment to developing national, regional and international Action Plan.

### **Multilingualism**

The Russian Federation, Chair of this Working Group, presented the activities undertaken including the organization of international meetings, 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). The generous contributions made 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 in realizing these events were recognized.

The Chair pointed out that both 2014 meetings adopted important 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 the presence of all languages in cyberspace by using ICTs and developing the necessary policy frameworks, standards and tools.

### **Recommendations of the 8<sup>th</sup> session of the Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Programme (IFAP) – 19-20 May 2014**

The Chair invited the Rapporteur to read each of the recommendations. Following which the Secretariat prepared a summary of the progress attained. Clarification were then provided to any question or comment made by Council members and Observers.

- 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;**

Netherlands inquired whether a new strategic plan had been prepared to replace the developed one for the period 2008-2013. The IFAP's Chair reminded the Council that the 8<sup>th</sup> IFAP Council had decided to await the results of the governance audit before designing a new strategic plan so that any recommendations made by the auditors could be taken into account. The Secretariat suggested that a 2 year-long work plan could be developed in the interim.

- 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;**

The Secretariat provided an overview of steps taken to improve coordination of the programme across the IFAP Network. The June 2015 Youth and the Internet Conference, the events taken place within the framework of information ethics in both Africa and the Caribbean were cited as illustrative examples of this enhanced cooperation and coordination among IFAP's bodies.

- 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;**

The Secretariat indicated that News items on activities in the IFAP priority areas continued to be regularly disseminated through UNESCO's media channels. IFAP's activities were also being prominently highlighted in UNESCO's color Annual Reports. IFAP's activities 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 continued to be distributed to almost 8000 subscribers consisting mainly of institutions and researchers. The IFAP Brochure covering the period Report 2008 – 2013 published in late 2014 continued to be downloaded from the IFAP homepage.

This report which was also available in Arabic, English, French and Russian was being disseminated at a variety of IFAP events.

Finally, the IFAP logo had been featured prominently in various international, regional and national events organized in the framework of the Programme or with partners in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean as well as in Europe.

Chair of the South African National IFAP committee, Mr. Coetzee Bester, Director of the African Center of Excellence in Information Ethics (ACEIE), shared with the Council how his organization helped enhance IFAP's visibility by organizing regional and international events, disseminating IFAP news and activities among its network in Africa comprising some 80 academic institutions. He also pointed to a compendium of capacity-building, case studies and policy resources that this work had made available and invited IFAP network members to utilize these resources and cooperate with them.

- 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;**

The Secretariat made reference to a number of initiatives, consultations known to Member States which could attest to the ongoing efforts to develop and fund projects. The project "ICT transforming Education in Africa" carried out in Africa in alliance with the education sector was cited as an example of a project where IFAP was able to bring its expertise, acquired the necessary funding (Korean Funds in Trust – KFIT), while raising its impact and visibility. The Secretariat also pointed out that it continues to receive proposals thereby facilitating the creation of a project portfolio which it presents to donors and partners periodically. Donors are continually asked to contribute to IFAP's special account to support projects in the different IFAP priority areas.

**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;**

The Secretariat reminded the Council that during the Governance audit IFAP consulted extensively with Council as well as Member States outside the Council and partners members and identified areas of misunderstanding; as a result, a preamble was added to the Statutes which provided a means of closing these gaps, and clarifying these misunderstanding to enhance effectiveness, awareness, and understanding of IFAP.

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

The Secretariat pointed to the many activities carried out by Indonesia and highlighted that Oman, the previous Chair in the area, had shared its experience with Indonesia, thereby attesting to the success of this collaborative practice.

The IFAP Chair encouraged the strengthening of this practice and called for closer cooperation between Group Chairs and experts who could possibly act as co-chairs or vice-chairs of 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;**

Sweden's requested a concrete example of how IFAP's work had inspired and contributed to real world processes in policy making. The Secretariat pointed to the upcoming Quebec Conference on combating radicalization "Internet and the Radicalization of Youth: Preventing, Acting & Living Together", being organized from 30 October to 1 November 2016 by UNESCO and Quebec in the Framework of IFAP. The Government of Quebec participated in the June 2015 Conference "Youth and the Internet: Fighting Radicalization and Extremism, and this brought them to recognize that while they had a provincial strategy on radicalization, it was focused on the offline aspects. To address this gap in their policy framework, IFAP had then been asked by the government of Quebec to collaborate in the organization of the upcoming Conference and share its knowledge in countering online radicalization.

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

The Secretariat indicated that it had cooperated fully with auditors and had expected them to attend the 9<sup>th</sup> IFAP Council to observe the functioning of the meeting and witness that the recommendations arisen from the audit had been put into practice.

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

The Secretariat pointed out that at each Bureau meeting there was an Agenda item on the implementation of the recommendations. This allowed progress to be tracked and any necessary corrective measures to be implemented.

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

The Secretariat indicated that IFAP had been working actively in developing countries and pointed to the list of activities that had been organized in the past. The Secretariat said that the internet-related study, the open solutions survey conducted in 17 Caribbean countries along with the corresponding policy recommendations made, as well as ongoing efforts to ensure the participation of developing country representatives, was a tangible response of the Bureau and IFAP to this recommendation.

**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**

The Secretariat informed the Council that IFAP-themed International conferences had been organized in various regions and countries including the Dominican Republic, Israel, Oman, Mozambique, South Africa, St Kitts & Nevis, the Russian Federation. Arabic and Russian language version of the IFAP Report had also been produced and disseminated with the support of the Governments of Egypt and the Russian Federation respectively.

Zambia requested information on creating and running IFAP committees. The Philippines suggested that in the future new Council members could receive a briefing to assist them in their preparation for the Council meetings. The Philippines also reminded the Council that the recommendations to be adopted by this Council should address how IFAP would contribute to the SDGs. Moreover, the Philippines representative urged that IFAP should continue to focus on addressing the digital divide, particularly through capacity building and ICT training.

The Russian Federation pointed out that there was already considerable information about IFAP on its website. However, communication among and within IFAP bodies needs to be improved to increase the sharing of information and improve the effectiveness of the programme and the existing information also needed to be used by IFAP's members. The representative was of the view that communication and awareness of IFAP was weakest among Permanent Delegations to UNESCO, experts and National Commissions and that this situation needed to be improved urgently.

**Drafting Group for recommendations of the 9th session of the Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Programme (IFAP)**

The IFAP Chair extended an invitation to Members of the Council and Observers to voluntarily participate in the Drafting Group that would prepare a set of Recommendations, based on the discussions over the two-day period, that would be submitted to the Council for its consideration and adoption. The Recommendations would serve to orient the activities of the Programme over the 2016 - 2018 period. The Drafting Group was chaired by the Rapporteur (Slovakia) and supported by the IFAP Secretariat. The members of the Drafting Group were Mr. Mohammed Attiyah (Egypt), Mr. Osman Magued (Egypt), Mr. Ludovit Molnar (Slovakia), Mr. Izzeldin Osman (Sudan), Ms. Frida Gustafsson (Sweden), Mr. Niclas Lindberg (Sweden), Ms. Yvonne Donders (The Netherlands), Mr. Vincent Wintermans (The Netherlands), Mr. Richard Apeh, (Observer – International Young Catholic Students), Mr. Ali Yazdian Varjani (Observer- Iran), Mr. Paul Hector (IFAP Secretariat) and Mr. Hara Padhy (IFAP Secretariat).

**Item 5 – Financial situation of IFAP**

In line with the recommendation adopted by the IFAP Council at its 7th session, the financial report contained information on the status of the IFAP Special Account, the Regular

Programme's contribution to IFAP as well as in-kind resources from Member States and partners. A team comprising the Administrative Officer of the CI Sector but who also represented the Bureau of Financial Management (BFM) presented the report. It was recognized that the in-kind support is a vital support for realizing IFAP's mission. The Chair opened the floor for comments following the presentation.

The following points emerged from the discussion:

- Greater effort was required by all members of the IFAP network in order to secure the resources necessary to achieve the ambitious goals that had been set for the programme by Member States. Efforts were required at the international, regional and national levels to raise awareness of the Programme, identify funding sources and to share experiences among IFAP bodies of best practices. The preparation of project proposals for submission to potential donors should also be encouraged.
- IFAP funding is considerably lower than for other UNESCO programmes. Costly projects though deemed necessary by experts - such as a global report on Information preservation – could not be realized as the needed funding could not be obtained. IFAP Member States should lobby for more financial support from their countries and UNESCO's governing bodies.
- The Private sector should be approached by IFAP to establish new contacts and partnerships and secure funding. Some headway has already been made as can be seen in the commitment by two private sector companies to fund a project proposed by the Ghanaian Delegation. Furthermore, IFAP has established a partnership with ADICR to acquire funding from both public and private sources to finance the new "ICT Caravan Project"

#### **Item 6 - Visibility of IFAP**

The Chair indicated that during the past biennium IFAP's visibility had been improved on a number of fronts; the IFAP website, IFAP Observatory, as well as both new and traditional media were used extensively to enhance outreach. These visibility initiatives served to increase awareness of IFAP's regional and international events as well as the policy resources developed by IFAP. The IFAP logo was widely used and UNESCO Field Offices were playing a large role in the programme's outreach.

While acknowledging the positive strides made, attention was also given to areas where further improvements could be achieved; many of the activities undertaken at the national level were not reported and IFAP's partners were not sufficiently proactive in lacking initiative to writing about the IFAP-joint activities in which they participated in their newsletters and media channels.

With a view to supporting the exchange of experiences and learning from other intergovernmental programmes, Mr. Anthony Krause from the Secretariat of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005) was invited to present the Council with an overview of the visibility strategy the 2005 Convention had adopted as well as some of its outcomes.

Mr Krause presented the 5-year visibility Strategy which aimed increase donations to its International Fund for Cultural Diversity. The Strategy included campaigns directed to both the public and private sectors. With Financial Support received from Sweden, a Biannual Global Report was published and this proved to be an important communication tool for improving annual visibility. An important brochure was also published presenting projects and their impacts. The importance of adapting these communication tools to the specific target audience



was emphasized. To support this approach, a company had been contracted to develop the right language and tone that appealed to each of the targeted donors. Finally, the organization carried out fund raising activities and partnered with international NGOs who also published information about the Fund through their media channels, resulting in increased visibility.

The Chair opened the floor for comments and the following points were underlined:

The Philippines requested the Council to consider the creation of a global report for one of the IFAP priority areas, such as Information Accessibility and the production of short brochures to show why IFAP matters. The Representative also shared other ideas such as finding a good will ambassador for IFAP, strengthening IFAP's social media presence, partnering with corporations, and creating more partnerships with UNESCO other sectors and programmes.

The 2008-2013 IFAP report was highlighted by the Chair as an effective communication tool to promote IFAP. The Secretariat raised the possibility of complementing any future 5 year-long IFAP reports with compact biennial brochures. The importance of finding partnerships with other organizations was also underlined. The Secretariat emphasized that identifying the IFAP-related issues with specific organizations found interesting was key to establishing successful partnerships. Under this same point, IFAP was said to be able to benefit from partnerships in the CI sector's network and vice versa. The Russian Federation added that other organizations were also interested in partnering with IFAP due the visibility UNESCO had among world states.

### **Item 7 - Improving operation modalities**

The Chair explained that Document IFAP-2016/COUNCIL.IX/INF.7 contained three parts:

- a) Discussion of the outcomes of the 38<sup>th</sup> General Conference of UNESCO
- b) Terms of Reference for the IFAP Working Groups and
- c) Roles and Responsibilities of IFAP's Bodies

The Chair indicated that in addition a document from the Information Preservation Working Group would be circulated. The Chair then proceeded and introduced the documents.

#### **a) Discussion of the outcomes of the 38<sup>th</sup> General Conference of UNESCO**

The Chair provided an overview of the key policy documents in the IFAP priority areas adopted during the 38<sup>th</sup> session of UNESCO's General Conference. The documents all pointed to contribution by IFAP and its Working Groups to UNESCO's work. Furthermore, they presented areas where IFAP could seek to develop partnerships with other stakeholders to further disseminate and enhance its impact. The following documents were highlighted:

**Conclusions of the Youth Forum (Document 38 C/REP/19)** – The Youth Forum was held from 26 to 28 October 2015 at UNESCO's Headquarters. The event brought together some 500 young women and men from 159 Member States. Of particular relevance to the IFAP's priorities are the following:

- Supporting the involvement of young global citizens in the implementation of the 2030 SDG Agenda
- supporting diversity and identity;
- contributing to learning, personal development and sustainability; and
- supporting the involvement of young global citizens in efforts to ensure the planet's sustainability.

The Chair reminded the Council that IFAP played a leading role in the realization of the June 2015 conference “Youth and the Internet: Fighting radicalization and Extremism.” The outcome document highlighted other avenues where the Programme could develop responses and continue to advance youth-focused interventions.

**Outcome document of the conference “CONNECTing the Dots: Options for Future Action” (Document 38 C/53)** –The outcome document identifies 38 areas for UNESCO’s action based on the findings of the “Comprehensive Study on Internet-related Issues: Access, Free Expression, Privacy and Ethics”. The outcomes adopted by Member States included the Internet Universality concept and the ROAM principles. IFAP contributed extensively to the study development process. The 38 options adopted provide useful departure points for orienting IFAP’s policy in the six priority areas.

**Proclamation of 28 September as the “International Day for the Universal Access to Information” (Document 38 C/70)** – At the 38th session of UNESCO’s General Conference, Member States adopted a resolution proclaiming 28 September as a UNESCO International Day for Universal Access to Information. This proposal was initially submitted to the 197th session of the Executive Board by Angola, Morocco and Nigeria. IFAP was instrumental in the negotiation process which resulted in the consensual adoption of this new UNESCO Day. Given IFAP’s focus on “information for all” this international day clearly implicates IFAP, and accordingly the IFAP Network should seek to play a leading role in the celebration of this day.

**Draft recommendation on preservation and access to documentary heritage including digital heritage (Document 38 C/24)** - IFAP actively contributed to the reflections and other preparations of this landmark policy document. This document should orient the future activities of IFAP and especially the Information Preservation Working Group.

Third consolidated report on the implementation by Member States of the **2003 Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace (Documents 38 C/28 and 38 C/LEG/3)** – This statutory report submitted by Member States every four years indicates the status of their national actions in support of the “Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace”. This recommendation was adopted by Member States in 2003 at the 32nd session of UNESCO’s General Conference. There has been a continued decline in the number of Member States reporting, from 32 in 2007 to 22 in 2015. This represents an area where IFAP could seek to advocate nationally and regionally to raise awareness and compliance.

**The New Delhi Declaration on Inclusive ICTs for Persons with Disabilities: Making Empowerment a Reality (Document 38 C/48)** – This declaration adopted by Member States is the outcome document of the landmark UNESCO conference and film festival, organized in New Delhi in November 2014.

#### **b) Terms of Reference for the IFAP Working Groups**

This document outlined the focus, responsibilities and operation of each Working Group. The Chair indicated this would enable harmonization of the Groups work and enhance their operation.

The Chair explained that the terms of reference also contributed to achieving the recommendations of the Auditors aimed at helping IFAP Working Groups to be enhanced. They addressed issues about visibility ensuring the IFAP’s alignment with strategic priorities.

Furthermore, they supported fund raising, and reporting to Member States on its activities.

Finally, The Chair came to the last document under the item,

### **c) Roles and Responsibilities of IFAP's Bodies**

The Chair summarized the role and responsibilities of IFAP's Bodies and highlighted areas for improvements.

Following the introduction of the documents under this item, the IFAP Chair opened the floor for comments and the following points were emphasized:

The Russian Federation reminded Council members of their responsibilities which included strengthening the work of the programme, seeking extra budgetary resources, advocating for IFAP and keeping abreast of IFAP's actions including the Working Groups. Council members were also expected to liaise with members of the Bureau and the Secretariat, request information about specific projects and activities being implemented within the framework of IFAP, and develop initiatives in their own countries and collaborate to support activities in other countries and regions of the world. The Representative from Russia also stressed the importance for countries to nominate national experts as these serve as key links between Delegations and National Commissions. Moreover, the need for Working Groups to meet more often was raised by the Council. The Secretariat noted that there was no formal mechanism in place for the organization of Working Group meetings. Member States were invited to submit proposal and resources for making such a meeting possible.

Sweden pointed out that it had been very involved along with the Nordic countries in the "CONNECTing the Dots: Options for Future Action" project and thus highly supported the outcomes adopted by the Member States including the internet universality and the ROAM principles. The Representative expected that the outcome from the connecting the dots Conference be used to orient IFAP's upcoming policies. Sweden also proposed that the names of all members of the Working Groups be included in future reports on the activities of these groups. Sweden also recommended that the activities of the Working Groups be more closely aligned with UNESCO's Regular Programme and C/5. The Secretariat agreed to incorporate the names of the Working Groups in future reports and called on Working Group Chairs to submit this information in their reports to the Bureau and Council and also invited the Council to give any suggestions as to how they could further emphasize that the work of the Working Groups must be aligned with UNESCO's Regular Programme.

## **Item 8 – Improving modalities for involving Member States and other Stakeholders in the activities of IFAP**

### **a) Review of the IFAP Statutes**

The Recommendations of the 8<sup>th</sup> IFAP Council called for the ongoing modification of the statutes of IFAP. In light of the work being undertaken by the external Auditors as part of the self-assessment of Intergovernmental Programmes and subsidiary bodies, the Bureau had decided to await the outcome of the audit exercise before making any changes to the statutes.

The Secretariat indicated that during the past Bureau meeting the following decisions had been taken:

- The proposals made by Austria and Brazil for amendments to IFAP statutes had been retained by the Bureau.

- As a result of the audit review process and consultations with Member States and partners a preamble which clarified IFAP's role and function was to be included in the Statutes.
- To widen participation in IFAP's Council and Bureau, the final 5 words of Article 7 of the Statutes : "except meetings of the Bureau", would be eliminated.

As the representative of the Office International Standards and Legal Affairs could not attend the Council meeting, the Secretariat presented on their behalf recommendations on the modifications to the Statutes.

The Chair opened the floor for comments and the following items emerged from the discussion:

Sweden requested clarification on the modifications to the IFAP Statutes and which aspects should be addressed in the Rules of Procedure. The Chair explained that the legal department had found the IFAP statutes to be too detailed; as a result, it was decided to move some paragraphs from the Statutes to the Rules of Procedure. Furthermore, the Chair clarified that under article 7 of the statutes it was decided that the last part of section one "except meetings of the Bureau" should be removed to allow for more transparency in Council meetings, adding that in any case it was already a common practice to let non-member observers to attend Bureau meetings.

After a discussion about changing the wording of section 2c of article 6 of the IFAP statutes, the Council agreed to not make any changes and to leave the word "ensure" in the section as it expressed correctly what the Bureau's work should be with respect to the Council resolutions. The Chair displayed the new elements of the IFAP statutes on the screen for everyone to see and declared the changes adopted by the Council. Mr Schüller and the Delegation of Brazil were thanked for their work in drafting the changes.

### **Item 9 – Activities of the IFAP Council and its subsidiary bodies during the 2014-2018 period**

As they were inter-related, Sub-items a, d, and e were considered together. After this, items b and c were presented. The Chair recalled that the CI Contribution was distributed the previous morning as well as Resolution 104 of the 38th session of the General Conference. The Chair introduced the documents accordingly and then opened the debate.

#### **a) IFAP's contribution to the preparation of the 39 C/5**

The Chair reminded the Council that a questionnaire was sent to Member States asking for their views concerning the preparation of the 39 C/5. Mr Frank La Rue, Assistant Director-General for the Communication and Information Sector, was invited to the floor to make a presentation about the preparation of the 39 C/5 in the light of the newly adopted SDGs for the 2030 agenda.

Mr La Rue highlighted the importance of linking UNESCO's 39 C/5 to the SDGs, which were key to improving the standard of living of every human being around the world, specially by fighting poverty, racism, discrimination against women and the lack of fundamental services. The ADG expressed his belief that the SDGs represent an improvement over the MDGs because they had a global perspective that did not discriminate between developed and

developing countries when it comes to fighting the issues that plagued our societies. To be successful; however, the implementation of the SDGs had to be accompanied by awareness campaigns at the community level about what these goals actually were. Furthermore, although goal 16 dealt directly with issues in the area of the CI sector, IFAP and other programmes should keep in mind all 17 SDGs and the Paris Climate Declaration when making contributions to the 39 C/5. Council Members were invited to submit their contributions to the 39 C/5 through the regular IFAP and UNESCO mechanisms.

#### **b) Renewed vision and new commitments: IFAP's contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)**

The Chair invited Mr Banerjee to take the floor to talk about IFAP's contribution to the SDGs.

Mr Banerjee also stressed the important of all SDGs but warned about spreading CI and IFAP too thin. Taking into consideration the current financial situation, it was important to identify which SDGs benefitted most from the use of ICTs. The Director of KSD noted that IFAP started a mapping process to identify in which SDGs the programme had a major role to play. Goals number 4, dealing with education, 5 with gender equality, 8 with inclusive and sustainable economic growth, 9 with building a resilient infrastructure and enforcing innovation, and 16 with promoting just, peaceful and inclusive societies were all closely related to the CI sector and thus to IFAP.

The Director of KSD offered to share with Member States a draft of the mapping metrics about how the future goals and planning of the CI sector fit with the SDGs. By having access to the draft Member States could see how the sector as a whole stood with respect to SDGs, how these two could be connected, and also how IFAP's six priorities could be linked to the SDGs. This was a work in progress and the Secretariat was still awaiting the results of the questionnaire sent to Member States to complete the task.

The Chair noted that The National Information Society Policy Template which IFAP launched in 2009 was an important contribution to policy-making efforts at the international, regional and national level. In particular, this tool was instrumental in supporting the development of national capacities to design and manage policy processes in a number of East African and South Asian countries. This training was delivered through a series of Executive Trainings in Government Information Leadership conducted in partnership with the United Nations University's Special Operating Unit for Policy-Driven Electronic Governance (UNU-EGOV).

Ms Haddad agreed that the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda offered new possibilities for more holistic and contextualized approaches to development. The new approaches as well as the demands of a framework with 17 goals and 169 targets also highlighted an urgent need for tools to support policy-makers in more effectively aligning their actions and efforts to this new global focus of action. To respond to this pressing need, IFAP and UNU-EGOV had again joined forces and leveraged their networks to develop the Knowledge Societies Policy Handbook. The Handbook built on existing knowledge and practices to provide policy-makers with an actionable conceptual framework for understanding and assessing the relationships between the SDGs and Knowledge Societies. By identifying gaps as well as strengths, the Handbook would enable countries to more effectively deploy resources and implement appropriate policy measures.

Dr. Tomasz Janowski, founder and head of the UNU-EGOV was invited to the floor to give a presentation on the Knowledge Society Handbook.

Mr Janowski presented a study on Digital government which identified three major stages in the evolution of the use of ICTs by state authorities to improve governance. The first stage, Digitation, consisted on digitizing and automating government operations; the second stage, transformation of electronic government, was based on improving and reforming the internal working of government; the final stage, referred to as contextualization or policy driven electronic governance, and of particular interest for UNESCO's mission, put digital government at the service of development of local communities. The Representative added that the trend of Knowledge Societies subsuming Digital Government provided a powerful means to further SDG 16.

Furthermore, Mr Janowski gave a summary of past and future collaboration between IFAP and UNU-EGOV. In particular, reference was made to the collaboration on training government executive officers since 2013, the organization of ICEGOV's Conferences in Montevideo and the future Conference in New Delhi, the two instances of government fellows from China and Uganda doing research on Knowledge Societies and Digital Government, and the development of the Knowledge Society Handbook.

The Representative from UNU-EGOV also proposed avenues for future cooperation. The creation of IFAP Chairs in Universities around the world specialized in different areas of research related to Knowledge Societies was proposed. Moreover, another measure that could be implemented with the help of such a network of IFAP Chairs was the establishment of an Executive Master diploma on information leadership as a continuation of the executive training done in the past in collaboration with IFAP which targeted Government Chief Education Officers. An international IFAP approved curriculum could be used for the Master training.

The Chair opened the floor for comments and the following points were highlighted:

The Russian Federation invited Mr Janowski to attend and give his presentation on Digital Government at the Conference "Media and Information Literacy for Building a Culture of Government" scheduled to take place a week later in Russia. Several Member States considered the establishment of research Chairs in the IFAP priorities and the training problem should be supported.

The IPDC Chair, Ms Albana Shala, expressed her satisfaction with the collaboration between IFAP and IPDC during the previous year and a half which had resulted in the inclusion of the work of both programmes in the CI Sectors expected results report. The small financial contribution and the session hosted by IPDC as support for the June 2015 Conference on Radicalization and Extremism was also cited by the IPDC Chair, adding that she expected further cooperation between the two programmes for the forthcoming Quebec Conference on the same topic. Furthermore, IFAP was invited to contribute names of speakers and ideas for the event proposal the IPDC Secretariat was putting together to have distinguished speakers talk about how programmes like IFAP and IPDC can effectively contribute to the SDGs; This event was schedule to take place on September 27.

The Knowledge Society Handbook was being published that very same day and two countries, Colombia and Brazil had already offered to translate it to Spanish and Portuguese respectively.

### **c) 15<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary of IFAP**



Member States were asked to share proposals to organize commemorative events in their territories for IFAP's 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary. These activities could be new or combined with activities already foreseen by the Secretariat. A modified IFAP logo to celebrate the anniversary, developed in consultation with ERI, was presented to the Council.

The activities found in Document IFAP-2016/COUNCIL.IX/Inf.11 which contained a list of activities planned by KSD for the current biennium were said by the Chair to represent good opportunities for partnerships in the celebration of IFAP's anniversary. The new International Day for Universal Access to Information to be celebrated on September 28 also opened opportunities.

Ms Haddad recalled the discussion under item 7, regarding responsibilities of members of the Council and the Bureau in implementing IFAP's programme of work across the six priority areas, particularly in their territories.

#### **d) International Day for Universal Access to Information – 28 September**

The Chair introduced the document that highlighted the relevance of this newly adopted UNESCO International Day to IFAP's mandate. The document also identified a number of activities that could be used to commemorate the day and highlighted their expected contributions to the SDGs, capacity-building of Member States and the implementation of UNESCO's programme. Obtaining financial and human resources necessary for the celebration of this Day was also discussed.

#### **e) Future projects, initiatives and conferences**

The Chair reminded the Council of the numerous forthcoming events that were mentioned during the presentation of the Working Groups reports. Council Members were encouraged to identify or indicate additional activities to be undertaken in the coming biennium and to consider the hosting of events for sharing experiences and strengthening the IFAP Network.

The floor was opened for comments on sub-items a, d and e and the following remarks were made:

Mr Coetzee Bester, Chair of the South African National IFAP Committee proposed that both IFAP's 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary and ACEIE's 10<sup>TH</sup> anniversary be jointly celebrated in South Africa in early 2017. Mr Bester was invited to formally submit this proposal.

The Council approved, the new IFAP logo designed to commemorate its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

#### **Agenda Item 10 – Strengthening the network of National IFAP Committees**

In her introduction of this document the Chair explained that Document IFAP-2016/COUNCIL.IX/INF.10 contained two parts: the first part provided experiences from Africa

undertaken within the framework of the IFAP strategic priority for Information Ethics by the African Center for Excellence in Information Ethics (ACEIE). The second part of the document contained a proposal for holding a second meeting of National IFAP Committees; it also contained a list of IFAP national committees that had been established.

The Chair provided additional information on a proposed second meeting of National IFAP Committees.

The First Meeting of IFAP National Committees held in Moscow, in November 2009 served to support the strengthening of National IFAP structures by sharing experiences. To effectively leverage its potential, IFAP's structures at the national level had to play a key role in supporting adaptation and localization of global and regional practices to address their needs. Furthermore, they needed to be able to identify emerging trends and support exchange and reflection on their potential impacts by drawing on expertise within IFAP's global networks.

A Second Meeting of IFAP National Committees could provide an opportunity to develop plans for reviving and strengthening its network and contribute towards shaping an overall IFAP plan for responding to the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. The annexed option for either international or regional meeting provided background of the event, and some of the key steps in the preparation.

The Chair invited Member States interested in funding and holding such an event in the 2016-2017 period to convey this information to her. Such an event could also be seen as contributing to the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of IFAP.

The Director of the ACEIE, Mr Coetzee Bester, was given the floor to make a presentation about the work of his organization.

Mr Bester explained that ACEIE was present in 19 sub-Saharan countries and had a research team comprising people from 80 different countries. The organization had two main objectives: first, keeping an approach where Information for all was considered as important as information by all; and second, ensuring safe access to safe information for all people who form part of the Knowledge Society. As examples of his organization's work Mr Bester brought some of its published material containing a curriculum to teach information ethics at universities and tertiary education institutions. Recognizing the need for teaching material at other community levels the organization also published 9 books containing curricula for teaching children about ICT all the way from pre-school through primary and secondary level education. All these publications were available online for anyone to use as they wished, which helped create an open source online library on ICT teaching material.

Aiming at more effectively contributing to all six IFAP priority areas, Mr Bester gave three recommendations to the Council based on his own experience: number one, finding out how all the 6 IFAP priority areas could be applied in every project the programme undertakes; number two, integrating the IFAP objectives and priority areas into ICT related projects; and number three, trying to involve people and organizations into IFAP's work through what Mr Bester called Volunteering projects, where the aim was asking people to contribute time rather than money to the programme.

Mr Bester informed the Council that ACEIE was applying to become an UNESCO category 2 Center. The Chair added that there was an integrated comprehensive strategy for the creation and functioning of category two centers and that there were steps to be taken to prepare this submission to the General Conference and the Executive Board. A key step in this process involved asking Member States whether a feasibility study should be conducted.



Mr Banerjee highlighted how well IFAP goals fitted with ACEIE's goals, even if the latter focused on Ethical aspects of ICTs; this fit was particularly clear in the area of media and information Literacy which was becoming a more critical area as more people went online every year.

The Council welcomed the actions and plans of the ACEIE including its ongoing efforts to become an UNESCO Category 2 Centre.

### **Agenda Item 12 – Thematic Debate on Internet, Youth and Radicalization**

Both the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> IFAP Council emphasized the importance of greater engagement between IFAP and Youth. As part of its youth focus and outreach, in June 2015 UNESCO organized the land mark conference "Youth and the Internet: Fighting Radicalization and Extremism" initiated by the IFAP Programme. This Conference led to the development of a UNESCO-wide Strategy for actions in this field.

Subsequently, IFAP has been actively involved in the overall UNESCO engagement in this area. With the support of the Government of Quebec a second International Conference "Internet and the Radicalization of Youth: Preventing, Acting & Living Together", will be held in Quebec City, from 30 October to 1 November 2016. In addition, a conference on youth and social media is scheduled to take place in Lebanon in May 2017, in concert with the Lebanese National Commission for UNESCO and the UNESCO Beirut Office a regional event is under preparation.

The Chair indicated that this special session would thus present major ongoing activities and developments in this field that could serve and orient IFAP's future actions.

The two discussants, Mr Boyan Radoykov, Chief of Universal Access and Preservation Section (UAP) of UNESCO and initiator of the June 2015 Conference "Youth and the Internet: Fighting Radicalization and Extremism" and Mr Dan Shefet, Specialist in Cyber law, were invited by the Secretariat to identify and discuss gaps and challenges related to Radicalization and Violent Extremism.

In his presentation Mr Radoykov highlighted the rapid increase of violent radicalization material found online during the last 16 years. The first propaganda website was created in 1991 but it was not until the year 2000 that the amount of online material started to increase dramatically attaining alarming levels in 2012. Jihadists used the internet and social media as a tool to raise funding, communicate their messages to the world and to facilitate the radicalization of youth and for recruitment purposes.

The Chief of UAP also summarized UNESCO's fight against radicalization and extremism. In June 2015 with the financial contributions of Bulgaria, China and Egypt, IFAP organized the conference "Youth and the Internet: Fighting Radicalization and Extremism." This first Conference on that important subject was attended by experts from some 70 countries. A second Conference is under preparation with the support of the government of Quebec that will take place at the end of October 2016.

Moreover, in December 2015 the Security Council of the UN adopted the first resolution on youth, peace and security recognizing the urgent need to mobilize the youth in the promotion of peace and the fight against extremism. Later in January 2016 the UN Secretary General presented his plan of action for the prevention of violent extremism; a call was made at the

time to the international community to implement a global strategy in the fight against violent extremism.

Mr Radoykov explained that UNESCO's plan of action to combat youth radicalization revolved around 4 main objectives:

1. Supporting multidisciplinary research on the link between youth and the internet
2. Empowering the online community of young people, including relevant players among youth to combat radicalization by equipping them with the right tools to create knowledge.
3. Reinforcing the mobilization and cooperation among all actors and professionals of the media to fight radicalization and hate speech online.
4. Supporting creative and strategic campaigns to sensitize political decision makers, relevant players and the general public on the subject of youth radicalization.

All these actions were implemented at the national and local level while integrating a gender approach to all conducted activities. To facilitate conflict prevention and resolution as well as combat online youth radicalization more effectively these actions were adapted through legislative and programmatic artifacts to different contexts.

Mr Shefet presented the findings from a study commissioned by UNESCO that sought to compare the efficacy of the legal and policy measure available in different regions and countries for combating radicalization and extremism as well as their compliance with international human rights standards.

Mr Shefet argued that there was a need to develop a consensus-based international definition of radicalization, not only for enforcement purposes, but also in order to assure compliance with fundamental human rights, penal liability subject to law, freedom of access, protection of privacy, freedom of establishment, freedom of religion, and freedom of expression.

In order to shed some light on what consensus based definition could be chosen for the term radicalization, Mr Shefet undertook a study divided into 3 parts: The first part consisted on going through numerous international policy instruments that dealt with consensus-based definitions of terms similar to radicalization; the second part of the research involved conducting a survey in 30 countries to learn about what is already available out there in terms of national legislation to define and combat radicalization; finally, the third part provided policy recommendations. The study aimed at contributing to future projects seeking to draft a consensus-based treaty imposing certain countermeasures against radicalization.

Mr Shefet encouraged Member States to send the questionnaire to their respective governments to find about their own national polices to fight radicalization. The distinguished lawyer informed the Council that he would present a document called "policy regulations and regulatory mechanisms for managing radicalization on the internet" in the upcoming Quebec conference on fighting radicalization.

### **Agenda Item 13 – Presentation of the IFAP Project: "ICT Caravan Project & Conference"**

As part of its innovative approaches to visibility and fund raising IFAP had established a partnership with the Association for Inter-Cultural and Inter-Religious Dialogue (ADICR) to develop a project aimed at developing youth capacities to leverage ICTs. Ms Samar Sassine, President of ADICR was invited to talk about this fund raising initiative which was contained in document IFAP-2016/COUNCIL.IX/Inf.13

Mr Shantha Retnasingam, Chief of the Sector for Multilateral and Private Partnerships, was also present to provide an overview of the activities of his sector and the support it could provide to IFAP.

Ms Sassine described “the ICT Caravan Project & Conference” which involved holding an international Conference on training in new technologies. The programme aimed at teaching young men and women in all areas of the world how to use ICTs to help them find jobs or improve their professional situation. A Conference was already scheduled for 28-29 November in Paris that would bring together experts, diplomats, politicians and young people to discuss about the topic. The Conference would be followed by several training modules in the Mediterranean region. There would be 3 modules per country in three different countries for a total of 9 modules. The ICT Caravan project required one and half million dollars to be implemented and funding was already being sought out from public and private sources. Some of the prospective funding opportunities came from the European Commission and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mr Odon Valle, founder of the Odon Valle foundation intervened to share his experience with fighting youth radicalization. The distinguished Professor from Science Po emphasized that a better education and opportunities for a better future were key tools to preventing youth radicalization around the world. The Odon Valle foundations, staying true to its high regard for education, was a world leader in the granting of scholarships to underprivileged children around the world.

Mr David Fajolles, Secretary General for the French National Commission for UNESCO, shared his willingness to partner with IFAP and offered to give help in securing funding from the private sector through its own network.

Mr. Shantha Retnasingam, Chief of Section for Cooperation with Multilateral and Private Funding Sources also intervened to give fund raising advice to the Council.

#### **Agenda Item 14 – Miscellaneous**

A document was submitted under this item for a project developed by The Electronic Village, a non-profit organization based in the United Arab Emirates interested in establishing a partnership with IFAP. This organization is specialized in electronic publication and development of open digital content. The Secretariat distributed the document and informed the Council that it would be discussed during the 26<sup>th</sup> IFAP Bureau meeting.

#### **Agenda Item 15 – Adoption of the recommendations**

The Council noted that 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 especially at the national level. This approach/idea should cut across all of IFAP’s priorities and actions;

The Council, taking into account the extensive debates on all important issues on the Agenda of its meeting adopted the following recommendations prepared by the Drafting Group:

1. *Continue the efforts and initiatives undertaken in view of implementing the objectives of IFAP with a view to updating its strategic plan in line with the C/4 and C/5 to reflect changes within IFAP, as well as contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals 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, the Secretariat, UNESCO Intergovernmental Bodies, as well as other partners. This cooperation should be oriented to enhance the achievement of IFAP's objectives;*
3. *Take concrete steps to enhance the visibility of IFAP's objectives, contributions and results with key actors at the international, regional and national level. Efforts to promote wider understanding of IFAP and involvement of diverse stakeholders in the activities being undertaken within 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 including among youth. In addition, IFAP should work with media and specialized academic centers, civil society, private sector and other actors;*
4. *Take further steps to attract additional resources (financial and in-kind) at the national, regional, and international levels from governmental and intergovernmental sources as well as the private sector. Attention should be given to exploring and establishing mechanisms appropriate to funding sources and attaining IFAP's objectives;*
5. *Continue the work by the Bureau on the draft text on proposed modifications to the Statutes and Rules of Procedure of IFAP taking into account the recommendations emerging from the governance review process at UNESCO;*
6. *Strongly encourage the voluntary participation of past-IFAP Council members and other experts in the ongoing activities of the Working Groups to support knowledge sharing;*
7. *Continue to improve the documents of the Council and Bureau to support the preparation of debates and decision-making as well as communicating and respecting the statutory deadlines;*
8. *Continue to improve the modalities of operation by harmonizing and improving the terms of reference of the Working Groups taking into account the discussions and suggestions of the Council regarding the Implementation of the IFAP priorities and invite all Members States of the Council to nominate experts to the Working Groups;*
9. *Provide clarity around the guidelines and/or criteria for the funding of activities from the IFAP Special Account;*
10. *Appreciate and keep abreast of the ongoing and future initiatives aimed at the development of IFAP-labeled UNESCO Chairs and Category II Centers;*
11. *Strengthen the use of virtual tools in addition to face to face meetings to enhance communication and decision-making of the Council, Bureau and Working Groups;*
12. *Requests the Bureau to ensure the effective implementation of the recommendations of the intergovernmental Council;*

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

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

**Item 16 - Closure of the meeting**

The Chair thanked the members of the Council and Observers for their active participation; the Secretariat for the organization of the event and the quality of documents; the Rapporteur for the high quality of his work, and the interpreters for their support which was essential for the smooth running of the Council session. Special mention was made of the contribution by Ms Anabelle Huppe-Nadeau (Canada) and Mr Alejandro Diaz Jimenez (Venezuela) who had contributed to the preparation of the IFAP Council Meeting.

There being no further matters to be discussed, the Chair closed the meeting at 5:55 p.m.