

**61ST MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE
INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL OF
THE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME
FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF
COMMUNICATION
(IPDC)**

DRAFT FINAL REPORT

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21 March 2017

(Day 1)

Item 1 – Opening of the 61st IPDC Bureau meeting and minutes of the 60th IPDC Bureau meeting

The 61st Bureau meeting of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) took place at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on 21 and 22 March of 2017.

The Chair. Ms Albana Shala (The Netherlands), welcomed the Bureau members and observers to the 61st IPDC Bureau meeting and introduced the members of the Secretariat and supporting staff. The presence of the Assistant Director General of the Communication and Information Sector of UNESCO, Mr. Frank La Rue, was

acknowledged, and a round of introductions by the Honourable Delegates representing the Bureau members took place.

The Chair invited the Bureau to consider approving the draft meeting minutes of the 60th IPDC Bureau meeting. The minutes were adopted by the Bureau finding no objections.

Denmark requested for the draft meeting's minutes of the 61st IPDC Bureau meeting be made available to Bureau members within the month.

Item 2 – Adoption of the Agenda

Following the welcoming of participants, **the Chair** invited member states to agree on an agenda for the session. With no objections to the

proposed Agenda, the Council adopted the latter and the Chair proceeded to the following agenda point.

Item 3 – Opening remarks by the UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information

The Chair invited Mr. Frank La Rue, Assistant Director General of the Communication and Information Sector of UNESCO, to make some opening remarks.

Mr. La Rue highlighted the need to support communication and media particularly in the

context of crisis in journalism that the proliferation of so-called 'fake news' has precipitated, which he wished to describe as campaigns of misinformation lacking any scientific basis or objective analysis. He wished to highlight the importance of media literacy, particularly among the youth, in the face of such

developments, and the vital role played in society by open and plural media.

Mr. La Rue noted the growth in the number of member states contributing to the IPDC, from 10 last year to the present 14, namely Andorra, Bangladesh, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Ghana, Latvia, Lithuania, Malaysia, Norway, Spain, The Netherlands, Sweden and the European Union.

Mr. La Rue emphasized the critical role played by the IPDC in supporting grassroots media initiatives and local groups wishing to promote open debate, freedom of expression and serve their communities all around the globe. Equally, the MDI, JSI and GSIM indicators were noted as positive instruments to qualify and monitor media developments all around the world. He expressed excitement at the implementation of the ROAM indicators approved by consensus by the General Conference.

Pressed to attend a press conference, **Mr. Berger** proceeded to present the main points of the ADG's report. He mentioned that over 200 expressions of interest in IPDC project funding had been received this year, with over 120 formal applications being completed. Of these, 114 had been validated for Bureau consideration, with an asking amount of about 3.000.000 USD. Topics covered were diverse, with the most popular being gender in media (21 projects), journalists safety protection (16 projects), investigative journalism training (9 projects) and training for climate change and/or environmental reporting (9 projects).

Regarding the IPDC's Knowledge-Driven Media Development role, the upcoming presentation at this year's meeting of the UN General Assembly of the two UNESCO-backed SDG indicators agreed-to by the UN Statistical Commission was

mentioned, although reporting on their progress had already begun.

As regards the Global Initiative for Excellence in Journalism Education, the partnership forged with Pancasila University of Indonesia and the Orbicom Secretariat to host this year's annual conference of UNESCO Chairholders in communication was highlighted.

Mr Berger detailed the advancements made in the implementation of the MDIs, which have now been completed in almost 40 countries, as well as the JSIs, with five assessments completed since 2014.

The continued key role played by IPDC's Special Initiative on the Safety of Journalists and its Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism in UNESCO CI Sector's overall action to promote the safety of journalists was noted.

Fundraising efforts undertaken to develop the Internet indicators, which the Secretariat hopes to present for endorsement at the 2018 IPDC Council, were described, to date supported by Sweden and the Internet Society.

The IPDC contributed to the UNESCO Integrated Framework for Action on preventing violent extremism through formulating the media development component of a UNESCO inter-sectoral project and by supporting a number of expert meetings and conferences.

The success of the IPDC Talks, held to observe the Universal Access to Information Day, and the complementarity of the IPDC's work to that of the CI sector as a whole were highlighted. The forthcoming evaluation would bring further insight into how this work could be further sharpened in this regard.

Item 4 – Report by the Chairperson

The Chair wished to highlight the role of the IPDC in reaffirming media freedom, independence, pluralism and quality in the current context of crisis of journalism through its project support scheme. The Chair enumerated the results of efforts made in the past year to secure IPDC funding:

- 90.000 USD from Denmark for a proposed MOOC on freedom of expression and journalists' safety tailored to African authorities;
- 150.500 USD from Malaysia in support of IPDC/FIT project "Post COP-21: Strengthening media capacity to monitor and report on climate change in Asia Pacific";
- 770.000 USD from the European Union for a project proposal in The Gambia;
- 330.979 USD from Sweden for "Defining Internet Universality Indicators" project;
- 424.584 USD total pledged by The Netherlands through earmarked and non-earmarked funding;
- 200.000 USD pledged by Spain via FIT;
- The mission to Ankara organized by the Delegation of the Republic of Turkey and the Anadolu News Agency Journalism Academy and the discussions on opportunities for IPDC collaboration with the Turkish media, the Directorate of Press and Information, the Turkish Development Cooperation Agency and the Anadolu Academy in the field of media and migration was discussed.

The Chair explained that over 30 meetings had been held with delegations and potential donors, and that this year contributions had been secured from Norway, Finland, Sweden, The Netherlands, Spain, The European Union, Andorra, Bangladesh, Canada, Denmark, Ghana, Latvia, Lithuania and Malaysia.

The Chair further enumerated the efforts made with the purpose of raising the Programme's visibility, which included:

- The hosting of the IPDC Talks event on 26 September, 2016, in celebration of the International Day for Universal Access to Information.
- Participation at the Jakarta World Forum on Media Development, held on 19 September, 2016.
- Participation at in a UNESCO research panel on the safety of journalists during the International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) conference held in July 2016 in Leicester, UK.
- Participation at a session on Combatting Online Hate Speech and Youth Radicalization on 14 June 2016 in Bonn, Germany, within the framework of the Deutsche Welle Global Media Forum.
- The publication and dissemination of the IPDC's new brochure on the Programme's Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity.

Finally, the Chair wished to note that two processes aimed at evaluating the IPDC in terms of its governance structure and its overall programmatic relevance and impact had been initiated in the past year. The informal meeting held on 25 January 2017 in order to advance on the TORs of the upcoming evaluation was mentioned.

Item 5 – Discussion

The Chair opened the floor for discussion on Agenda Item points 3 and 4.

Denmark wished to underline the importance of the results of the upcoming evaluation in the designing of a future strategy for the Programme and its crucial work.

Ecuador agreed with Denmark and reflected on the need to secure a regular budget for the IPDC in order to ensure its future provided the volatility of contributions and the importance of the Programme. It was suggested that the Bureau and the Council should have a frank discussion on this matter and review IPDC priorities as the current situation jeopardizes the IPDC's future.

Poland highlighted the importance of journalists' safety and the public's media literacy in the current crisis of journalism. It was suggested that the IPDC should look into possibilities to work with other sectors in this

regard and Poland agreed that the possibility to ensure regular funding for the IPDC should be discussed and explored.

Zambia reminded the Bureau of the importance of freedom of expression in the realisation of the SDGs, acknowledged the need to support safety of journalists in this aim and welcomed the MOOC on such issues tailored to African authorities. The need to redefine the priorities of project funding allocation provided the limited resources was also mentioned.

Mongolia stressed its Government's struggle to improve media professionalism and quality in a saturated national media context and reiterated Mongolia's commitment to the IPDC and its values, as demonstrated by the willingness to host a regional IPDC Talks conference this year.

Mr. Berger noted in response to a question that IPDC priorities could indeed be reviewed by the Bureau if this was the will of Member States.

Item 6 – Selected Stories from the Field

The Chair invited the Bureau to take up Item 6 on local experiences of IPDC-supported projects.

The Bureau was presented firstly with a short video presentation on the IPDC and EU funded project to develop and review the journalism curricula of The Gambia Press Union School of Journalism with the support of key stakeholders and experts.

Ms. Sasha Rubel, CI Regional Advisor at the UNESCO Cluster Office for West Africa (Sahel), joined the meeting via video-conference to present on the key results of this project. The

fully-reviewed journalism curricula was said to now cover matters including election reporting, scientific reporting, human rights, good governance, democracy and principles of freedom of expression, all with a focus on gender equality promotion.

Ms. Rubel further enumerated opportunities to further work in the field, which included the development of an MDI assessment, the establishment of a media council and the training of security forces on the role of the media, among many others.

The Bureau was subsequently presented with a short video presenting the success and results of the IPDC-supported project to bolster

investigative training in Jamaica both through investigative journalism training and through a fellowship scheme.

Item 7 – Analytical Assessment of Implementation Reports on IPDC-supported Projects in 2015-2016

Mr. Fackson Banda, CI Programme Specialist, was given the floor to present an overview of the implementation reports submitted as part of the implementation of IPDC projects approved by the 60th IPDC Bureau Meeting. He mentioned that the Secretariat had analysed 38 implementation reports, representing 74.5% of the total, of which 15 were fully implemented and 23 were still undergoing implementation. The main lessons on problems experienced during project implementation included (1) the need to ensure adequate resources; (2) keeping

project objectives modest; (3) ensuring geographical disaggregation of beneficiaries; and (4) the critical role that beneficiary staff time plays in project implementation. Moreover, lessons from successful dimensions of implementation included (1) the importance of assessing strengths and weaknesses of partners, and of building and maintaining good relationships with them; (2) the success of the use of IPDC normative instruments; and (3) the innovative approaches to content distribution taken up by partners.

Item 8 – IPDC Special Initiatives and IPDC-complementary FIT projects

Ms. Rosa Gonzalez, IPDC Deputy Secretary, provided the Bureau with an overview of IPDC Special Initiatives and Emerging Issues carried out in the last year.

Specifically, Ms. Gonzalez highlighted the work done under the monitoring and reporting role of the IPDC under the journalists' safety initiative. It was mentioned that following a 2016 IPDC Council decision, future DG reports would include data collected on actions taken by member states to promote the safety of journalists and to combat impunity, as well as gender disaggregated data on the specific risks faced by women journalists. Ms. Gonzalez

further presented the two capacity-building activities developed in Iraq and Pakistan with the Special Allocation of 20,000 USD provided by the Bureau in 2016. The growing number of project applications on the theme of journalists' safety through the regular project submission cycle was noted, with 16 such proposals received this year. The Secretariat's publication of a booklet on the IPDC monitoring mechanism and its ongoing compilation of best practices in safety world-wide, were also mentioned.

Among other issues, Ms. Gonzalez noted the growing demand to support journalism education and to keep developing syllabi on

emerging issues, the success of the mentioned IPDC Talks event and the work done on media migration and fighting violent extremism.

Turning to the IPDC-complementary FIT projects, Ms. Gonzalez provided an overview of the three projects under Funds-in-Trust:

- “Defining Internet Universality Indicators”, supported by Sweden with an amount of 330,979 USD;

- “Post COP 21: Strengthening media capacity to monitor and report on climate change in Asia Pacific” supported by Malaysia for an amount of 145,500 USD;

- “Journalists and Media Component – Governance in the Gambia” supported by the European Union with an amount of 767,574 USD.

Item 9 – Discussion

Following a lunch break, **the Chair** opened the floor for discussion on the presentations made under Agenda Items 6, 7 and 8.

Oman and Ecuador suggested (1) supporting fewer projects with a greater allocation as opposed to supporting large numbers of projects with small allocations; (2) supporting the training of trainers rather than training individuals; and (3) supporting online or virtual training as opposed to on-site training.

Denmark emphasized on the risks of cutting the budget of projects too far back and the need to take into account the on-the-ground realities and feasibility of projects and objectives.

Poland agreed quality should be put before quantity in the funds allocation process, with fewer projects supported with higher allocations, and suggested identifying ‘champion’ projects that could promote the program. Regarding the online project evaluation system, it was mentioned that improvements should include more time to evaluate projects and the inclusion of a running overall total of suggested allocations per Bureau member in order to allow for a more realistic

project evaluation and funds allocation experience.

Mongolia also agreed with prioritizing quality over quantity.

The Bureau proceeded to consider and approve by consensus the decision on the Analytical Overview of Implementation Reports on IPDC-supported Projects in 2015-2016 (see Appendix).

Ecuador highlighted the opportunities that creating synergies with other UNESCO sectors could open up in delivering on the IPDC’s objectives such as with the Education Sector to deliver on journalism education and media literacy. Furthermore, the need for the Programme to also focus on issues such as migration, humanitarian crises and natural disasters was also mentioned.

Denmark warned against overstretching the scope of the programme, particularly in the context of limited resources.

Turkey, which was present in the meeting as an observer, argued the need for the IPDC to be relevant to all member states and highlighted

the importance of media and migration issues for Turkey.

Poland wished to warn against overstressing the scope of the IPDC and suggested widening the scope of other programs and sectors to cover issues in line with IPDC priorities instead.

The Bureau proceeded to consider and approve by consensus the decision on the IPDC Special Initiatives (see Appendix).

The Chair subsequently invited the Bureau to consider and approve by consensus the decision on the IPDC Special Initiatives (see Appendix).

The decision was adopted with no opposition.

Item 10 – IPDC’s knowledge management system

The Chair invited the Bureau to take up Item 10 and invited Ms. Gonzalez to take the floor on the latest developments in IPDC’s knowledge management system,

Ms. Gonzalez presented to the Bureau the new on-line platform developed, which was developed in 2015, tested in 2016 and which had been improved in 2017. The lack of human resources necessary to deliver on necessary

development was highlighted and a Special Allocation of 15.000 USD was requested on behalf of the Secretariat to respond to the need for platform development and to access support where needed.

The Bureau subsequently approved by consensus the decision on the IPDC’s knowledge management system (see Appendix).

Items 11 and 12 – IPDC financial situation: funds available for new projects under earmarked and non-earmarked modalities and examination of Secretariat proposals for Special Allocations

The Chair invited the Bureau to take up Item 11 and 12, and invited Ms. Gonzalez to present on the funding status of IPDC’s Special Account and IPDC-complementary FIT projects, as well as on the current available funding for new projects and the Secretariat’s proposals for Special Allocations.

Ms. Gonzalez provided a summary of the most recent Bureau decisions on fundraising and an overview of IPDC funds since 2011. It was concluded that the present trend is positive, with more donors than previously (15 up from 6), a rise in Funds-In-Trust and Earmarked contributions to the Programme and a marked decline of non-earmarked contributions. The

Bureau was subsequently presented with details on the funds available for new projects (non-earmarked contributions) for this 61st Bureau meeting, totalling 539.484 USD. A further 400,400 euros pledged by The Netherlands was noted as available under the earmarked modality for projects falling into specific categories detailed. Lastly, a further 45.000 USD was said to be available from unspent or cancelled project allocations to cover the new Special Allocations requested from the Bureau.

The Netherlands, present as an observer state in the meeting, wished to note that a second allocation to the IPDC would be made later on in the year.

The Bureau unanimously welcomed the support of the Netherlands to the Programme.

Denmark expressed reservations over the Programme's reliance on Special Allocations to cover SDG monitoring and reporting activities given its importance at the UN level.

Mr. Banda noted the lack of direct funding for SDG monitoring activities and stated that the Special Allocation seeks to cover the costs to be incurred by such work. Mr. Banda wished to note the unique opportunity that the IPDC's role leading the global reporting for the two SDG indicators represents, and reminded the Bureau that this falls in line with decisions made previously by the IPDC Bureau and Council.

Ecuador expressed concern and disapproval with the 22.000 USD Special Allocation for the Programme evaluation that the Secretariat asked the Bureau to approve via the Internet. The unfair nature of taking away from the limited funds available for projects was highlighted and described as an issue of principle. Furthermore, the importance of Bureau members meeting to discuss such allocations in person was highlighted. Finally, the need for coherence was reiterated, stating that other important aspects of the Programme such as journalism education could, for instance, be supported the same way.

Item 13 - Examination of projects submitted to the Bureau

The Chair invited the Bureau to discuss possible ways to proceed in the examination of projects submitted to the 61st IPDC Bureau. As for earmarked funds, the Bureau agreed to accept the Dutch earmarked contribution with no further discussion.

Mr. Berger noted that 22 project proposals had been agreed-to by the majority of members through the online system, amounting to 255.000 USD, leaving a further 43 projects with no majority consensus to be discussed and a budget of 283.000 USD plus a further 43.000 USD

available from The Netherlands. It was recommended that the Bureau does not discuss the already agreed-to project proposals in view of efficiency, time management and respect for the evaluation process already carried out.

The Bureau agreed that in light of the limited non-earmarked funds, support for certain projects would have to be prioritised over others.

The Chair brought the first day of the 61st IPDC Bureau meeting to a close in view of the time.

22 March 2017

(Day 2)

Item 13 (continued) - Examination of projects submitted to the Bureau

The Chair welcomed the Assembly to the second and last day of the 61st meeting IPDC Bureau, resuming the examination of projects submitted to the IPDC and opened the floor for comments.

Denmark and **Poland** requested establishing a clearer online project evaluation method, and suggested a lower number of projects are supported with higher levels of funding.

Ecuador stated that the online platform requires improving and that the Council should set the evaluation criteria to be followed in the light of limited funds.

Mongolia and Oman wished to clarify their non-participation in the evaluation process of specific projects in their countries due to conflict of interest.

Zambia suggested that Least Developed Countries (LDCs) should be allocated budgets first.

Ecuador agreed and suggested this is extended to Small Island Developing States (SIDS) also.

The Chair gave the floor to **Mr. Ricardo Grassi**, Senior Consultant for Communication and Information of UNESCO Afghanistan, who was unable to present the day before. Mr. Grassi explained that journalists' safety is a major issue in Afghanistan due to insurgency, the existing

war lord system and issues with the government due to a prevailing culture where media is seen as a threat. Mr. Grassi detailed that the proposed project seeking to train 400 policemen is extremely needed to help revert this image of the media and would complement the work of setting up special offices dedicated to journalists' safety in the country. He further highlighted the extremely vulnerable situation of women journalists in Afghanistan and the intention to implement the MDIs and JSIs.

Kazakhstan, present as an observer, wished to highlight that the media context of Kazakhstan described in two proposed projects does not coincide with the reality of the situation, and described the steps taken by the government in the context of a booming media landscape, including the creation of a Ministry for media and Information. The Honourable Delegate further expressed concern at the budget breakdown of the proposed projects.

The Chair thanked the representative of Kazakhstan for his remark, recognizing the need to trust the elected Bureau members in taking decisions about projects that foster independent media.

The Bureau then resumed the examination of individual projects presented to the IPDC.

Item 15 – Brainstorming session on IPDC Strategy for 2017

The Chair invited the Bureau to jump to Item 15, leaving Item 14 for later, and invited Mr. Berger to take the floor in order to explain the objective of this brainstorming session.

Mr. Berger suggested that the Bureau might want to brainstorm and decide on parameters for the selection of projects for the following year as well as brainstorm on how to create a more medium term focus that can dovetail with the evaluation.

Ecuador indicated preference for proposal 3 given the governance process in which the evaluation of the programme is taking place and invited the Chair to participate at the next Group for Governance meeting on 31 March.

The Chair underlined the need to set a route-map given the trend of rising FIT and earmarked funding and the decrease of non-earmarked funding.

Denmark cautioned over deciding on a new method prior to the evaluation and setting up too many working groups, particularly with members that have not been present in discussions.

Oman expressed support for Denmark's suggestion to wait for the evaluation but also reiterated that regional projects should be supported over country-specific projects, training of trainers over simple trainings, and online training over in-house training to ensure cost effectiveness. Oman further suggested LDC countries should also be given priority.

Poland wished to point out that limiting the scope and diversity of projects submitted would

limit the chances of valuable and innovative 'champion' projects being supported. Poland further noted that while it is disappointing not to be able to support all projects, it tends to be common within the public sector. The Honourable Delegate suggested improving the online preselection process instead, or embedding the elements of the 2nd and 3rd options presented without limiting the Bureau's options.

The Chair suggested that since the process is transparent, non-approved projects could be highlighted online as recommendable for funding.

Mr. Berger suggested that if the Bureau decides that it would prefer not to limit the numbers, it might want to agree on a list of priorities to follow in the event of limited funds.

Zambia suggested that a geographical balance should be ensured.

Mongolia agreed but highlighted the importance of quality in the selection of projects, particularly in the light of so many priorities. The ways in which local capacities could be reinforced by the IPDC's support should be carefully taken into consideration.

Ecuador stated that in the interest of consensus they would be able to accommodate limiting the number of projects approved through the mentioned criteria, but that the Bureau needs to propose to the Council the use of these criteria during the next session, taking into account evaluation and governance processes.

The Chair suggested that the Secretariat would put forward a proposal to Bureau members based on the meeting minutes for online discussion, which would serve as the basis for a

document to be presented to the IPDC Council in 2018. The Chair noted the lack of consensus in the intention to establish a working group.

Item 14 - Allocation of Earmarked and Non-Earmarked funds from the IPDC Special Account.

The Chair invited the Bureau to very briefly take up Item 14 in order to round up discussions pertaining to the allocation of earmarked and non-earmarked funds from the IPDC Special Account discussed during this Bureau meeting. The Chair stated that out of this year's non-earmarked funds, the Bureau had decided to approve the following funds: 167.000 USD for projects in Africa; 56.000 USD for projects in the

Arab region; 199.200 USD for projects in the Asia-Pacific region; 8.000 USD for projects in Europe and North America; 152.000 USD for projects in Latin America and the Caribbean; and a final 10.000 USD for international projects.

Following no further comments and no opposition from the floor, the Chair hit the gravel, formally approving the allocations.

Item 16 – Follow-up to the IPDC Consultation meeting organized on 25 January 2017, particularly regarding IPDC's evaluation and the ongoing review of UNESCO governance issues

The Chair invited the Bureau to take up Item 16 on the Agenda and gave the floor to Mr. Berger to present firstly on the IPDC evaluation.

Mr. Berger introduced the evaluation to Bureau members, which seeks to evaluate the following aspects for the period of 2011–2016: IPDC niche and results; its contribution to UNESCO programme; funding trends; efficiency; costs and benefits of specific governance; and working methods. The selection of evaluators and the inception of the report was said to be taking place in April 2017, with data collection subsequently extending to June 2017. The draft evaluation report was said to be expected in

June and the final evaluation report submitted in August 2017. The outcomes of the evaluation were said to include recommendations for 2017-2019 and a middle-term action plan for 2018-2021.

Following Mr. Berger's presentation, **the Chair** gave the floor to Mr. Geoffrey Geurts, Evaluation Specialist at the UNESCO Internal Oversight Office.

Mr. Geurts highlighted the importance of the evaluation exercise, which was described as a learning exercise seeking to verify whether the Programme is working correctly and whether the

right lessons are being learnt. Mr. Geurts explained that 5-6 companies had confirmed their willingness to submit a technical and financial proposal by next week's deadline to develop the evaluation following UNESCO's call for proposals based on the TORs developed. Mr. Geurts further mentioned that CI would be consulted during the selection process, but that the Internal Oversight Office would manage and guide the process. Lastly, the intention to present the evaluation to the UNESCO Executive Board was noted.

The Chair thanked Mr. Geurts and opened the floor for questions and comments.

Ecuador wished to note that taking into account the recommendations of the working group on governance might be useful during the evaluation process, and appealed for all Council members to be consulted.

Mongolia wished reiterate the importance of the evaluation report and its results, which could provide the keys to proceed successfully.

The Chair invited the Bureau to turn to the second part of this Agenda item on governance and invited Mr. Berger to take the floor.

Mr. Berger proceeded to present the results of the governance questionnaire, which sought answers to three questions: (1) whether the statutes and/or working procedures are satisfactory; (2) whether there any inconsistencies between current practice and the statutes and/or working procedures; and (3) what can be done to improve the nature of relations between the Bureau and the Council.

Of the ten member states that responded the questionnaire, three said they were satisfied with the status quo, while one did not clearly respond either way. Key suggestions included:

- To do away with the Prize for Rural Communication in line with the decision taken by the 29th session of the IPDC Council in 2014.
- To normalize the election of Bureau members by the IPDC Council in line with Article 2 of the Statutes.
- To normalize consultative preparation of the provisional agenda in line with Rule 5 – Provisional agenda – of the Rules of Procedure.
- To ensure language is gender-neutral, in line with UNESCO's Global Priority Gender Equality.
- For the Council to make final decisions about IPDC projects, with the Bureau only assisting in assessing projects. This might mean the Council meeting once a year, with the Bureau playing the role of organizing such Council meetings. However, other responses suggest that while the current role of the Bureau may be considered appropriate, the Council should be more focused on strategic orientation.
- To further clarify the niche of the IPDC within the CI Sector.
- To provide new Council members with orientation on the objectives and workings of the IPDC as an intergovernmental body.
- To improve information sharing between Bureau and Council members to improve co-ownership of IPDC.
- To limit the re-election of Bureau members to two consecutive terms (maximum 4 years).

Poland wished to note that their understanding was that the scope of the questionnaire was on governance as opposed to existing working practices, and that these should not be followed by regulatory instruments. Poland expressed overall satisfaction with IPDC regulatory

instruments and felt no absolute need for changes other than removing the Prize. Improvements on gender neutrality were said to be necessary, although it is a regulatory issue, not a governance issue. The Honourable Delegate further expressed that if the Council was to make the final decisions it would make IPDC functioning much less effective and make reaching consensus extremely difficult. Finally, Poland mentioned that the existence of the Bureau makes sense as it allows for efficient functioning without sacrificing openness, and reminded members that the Bureau is indeed elected by Council itself to take such decisions.

Ecuador highlighted the need for the Council to make final decisions as the present procedures do not allow for the Council to decide on the main issues of the Programme, citing that the last Council session saw no decisions taken for many issues programmed. Thus, the Bureau should advance the work of the Council to help consensus-reaching. Concern was further expressed on the limited replies to the questionnaire, which does not reflect all the views of all the member states.

Denmark, Oman and Zambia highlighted the efficiency of the Bureau, its transparent and open procedures and its elected nature and noted the challenge of reaching Council decisions on safety of journalists in the past.

Mongolia agreed and supported the Council's role in deciding on the politics and the Bureau's role as executor.

The Rapporteur agreed and expressed that decisions in terms of priorities is something that the Bureau should work on as part of its work.

Cuba, present in the meeting as an Observer state, expressed the need for the Council to hold

a yearly session to decide on the allocation of funds based on the recommendations of the Bureau.

Ecuador asked the Secretariat why comments from the LAC region had not been included.

Mr. Banda responded by saying that no responses from the region had been received. In response to the governance question, it was noted that one of issues addressed was whether the Council should be engaged, and the recommendation is no. It had been so in the past and thus it has been tested. He suggested member states to come back to Secretariat with a full package to be suggested.

Signature of an agreement with The Netherlands

The Chair invited then the Ambassador of The Netherlands to UNESCO, H. E. Mr Lionel Strenghart Veer, and the UNESCO Assistant Director General for the Communication and Information Sector, Mr. Frank La Rue, to sign the agreement awarding 400,400 euros to the IPDC under the earmarked modality.

Mr. La Rue took the floor to thank The Netherlands for this contribution as testimony of support for the IPDC and the joint commitment to supporting open and plural media and working for the safety of journalists, particularly in these challenging times.

The Netherlands Ambassador highlighted the commitment of The Netherlands to freedom of opinion, of expression and of the media, described as a priority within Dutch Human Rights policy. The Ambassador further expressed his confidence in UNESCO, in the IPDC and in its field offices to make a valuable contribution on

such issues, particularly in these challenging times.

Item 17 – Any other business and closure of the meeting

The Chair gave the floor to the representatives of the Don State Technological University, in the Russian Federation, who wished to present to the Bureau a conference they were organizing.

The representatives of the Don State Technological University took the floor to present the III International scientific and practical conference: “New media today: perspectives of the future of media”, to be held in Rostov-On-Don on 24-27 September, 2017. The Conference was described as looking into matters including development issues of mass media and mass communication technologies, media education, media information literacy, as the future of media. The delegates presented the main aspects of the Conference, including key topics covered, confirmed speakers, partners and draft programme. As well as extending an invitation to Bureau members, they wished to know whether the IPDC would be interested in becoming a partner of the Conference.

The Chair thanked the delegates for their presentation, invitation and proposal, and opened the floor to comments and questions.

The delegates took the floor to answer specific questions asked by Bureau members. They mentioned that some funding could be secured for Bureau members to attend and that they were open to suggestions regarding the programme. In response to Denmark’s question regarding independent journalists’ participation in the programme, it was mentioned that the Conference was indeed open to them and that a roundtable among independent journalists and

bloggers could be organized. It was further stated that Conference organisers would welcome suggestions on roundtables, speakers and panel discussions.

Denmark expressed concern in the direct participation of the IPDC and the use of its logo in the event, which seemingly included only Russian NGOs and academics, and worried about the IPDC distancing itself from its role.

The Chair noted that as UN programme seeking to mobilize support on media development, the IPDC should consider the possibility of working with member states that have shown interest in and contributed to the programme. The Chair further reminded the Bureau of the Russian Federation’s participation in the Council and the Bureau until 2014 and its active participation within IFAP.

Poland agreed with the comments made by Denmark and wondered whether the IPDC was the right forum for requesting such support given that elements to be covered at the Conference are not limited to the IPDC’s work.

The Chair thanked the University delegates for their kind proposal, noted that no agreement had been reached on the formal partnering of the IPDC in the Conference, and opened the floor for other comments or questions prior to the closure of the meeting.

Oman requested whether the IPDC talks and other IPDC events could systematically be livestreamed including on social media in order

to widen participation and to ease the following of such meetings by the delegations.

The Chair stated that last year's IPDC talks were livestreamed online, although more needs to be done to publicize this, and further noted that discussions are taking place with member states in order to host regional IPDC talks, with Mongolia and Ecuador having expressed their interest in holding such a conference.

The Honourable Delegate from Zambia wished to share his idea of perhaps donating a percentage of funds raised from the second edition of his book to support projects on safety of journalists when published.

The Chair thanked the Honourable Delegate for his kind and generous suggestion.

Item 18 – Closure of the 61st IPDC Bureau meeting

The Chair requested approval from the Bureau of the provisional dates proposed for the 62nd IPDC Bureau meeting: 21 - 22 March 2018. The Chair further reminded delegates that the 31st IPDC Council session is scheduled for 21 - 22 November 2018.

Following no comments or objections, the dates were approved.

The Chair proceeded to officially close 61st IPDC Bureau meeting, thanking the Secretariat, the Honourable Delegates, the interpreters and the technical team for their participation, and wished to encourage Bureau members to do whatever they can to raise the IPDC's visibility and mobilize support for the IPDC's media development activities.

Appendix:

DECISIONS TAKEN AT THE 61ST MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL OF THE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNICATION (IPDC)

Decision on the Analytical Overview of Implementation Reports on IPDC-supported Projects in 2015-2016

The Bureau, having discussed this document, wished to:

- Take note the key outputs recorded in the implementation reports as forming an important knowledge base that can inform ongoing and future decision-making regarding the IPDC's media support.

Decision on the IPDC Special Initiatives

The Bureau, having discussed this document, wishes to:

- Welcome the status report and encourage continual engagement by the IPDC Special Initiatives and Emerging Issues in contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by complementing other work and expected results in the Division for Freedom of Expression and Media Development.

- Request the Secretariat to strengthen IPDC’s Special Initiatives and further position them so that they continue to contribute to Sustainable Development through impact on relevant dimensions of media development; and encourage the Programme to continue to be responsive in identifying and acting on Emerging Issues.
- Urge Member States to financially support the IPDC’s new responsibility of reporting global progress on indicators 16.10.1 and 16.10.2 via the UN Secretary-General SDG Progress Report and other processes, while setting aside seed funding to coordinate this function of IPDC’s Secretariat, which will enhance the Programme’s visibility and enrich its content in the continued contributions towards assisting the national and global implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Support efforts in shaping global journalism teaching, especially taking into account the Global Priority Africa, by setting aside seed funding for this Special Initiative, which will make the IPDC more visible at journalism education forums as a leading body for shared excellence in global journalism education, network African journalism educators and produce specialised new syllabi on key emerging issues.

Decision on the IPDC-complementary FIT projects

The Bureau, having discussed this document, wishes to:

- Take note of these updates as evidence of what the FIT financing modality can achieve in terms of complementary projects regarding IPDC’s priorities and special initiatives in the field of media development.

Decision on the IPDC’s knowledge management system

Based on the above, the Bureau wishes to:

- Allocate an amount to strengthen the IPDC Programme’s knowledge management and project submission cycle platform.
- Consider seconding personnel to the IPDC Secretariat who could support the Programme’s knowledge management processes.

Projects approved by the 61st session of IPDC – See attached Excel Table.

List of participants – See attached.