

Statutes of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC)

(as adopted at the twenty-first session of the General Conference of UNESCO, Belgrade, October 1980 [Resolution 4/21] and as amended at the thirty-second session of the General Conference of UNESCO, Paris, October 2003 [Resolution 43/32]).

Article 1

An Intergovernmental Council of the International Programme for the Development of Communication is hereby established within the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Article 2

1. The Council shall be composed of 39 Member States¹ of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, elected by the General Conference, taking into account the need to ensure equitable geographical distribution and appropriate rotation.
2. The term of office of Members of the Council shall extend from the end of the ordinary session of the General Conference during which they are elected until the end of its second subsequent ordinary session.
3. Each retiring member shall be replaced by a member belonging to the same regional group.
4. Members of the Council shall be immediately eligible for re-election.
5. The Council may make recommendations concerning its own membership to the General Conference.
6. The persons appointed by Member States as their representatives on the Council shall preferably be specialists in the fields covered by the International Programme for the Development of Communication.

Article 3

The Council shall normally meet in regular plenary session once every two years. Extraordinary sessions may be convened as specified in the Council's Rules of Procedure.

Article 4

1. The Council shall adopt its own Rules of Procedure.
2. Under its Rules of Procedure, the Council may establish whatever subsidiary bodies it considers appropriate, provided that the necessary financial resources are available.

Article 5

Within the framework of the decisions of the General Conference concerning the International Programme for the Development of Communication, the Council shall be responsible for:

- (a) Policy-making, guiding the planning and implementation of the Programme;
- (b) Approving priorities of the Programme;
- (c) Reviewing and assessing achievements on the basis of implementation and evaluation reports on the projects and defining the basic areas requiring increased international cooperation;
- (d) Reviewing ways and means whereby Member States might participate more effectively in the International Programme for the Development of Communication;
- (e) Approving an appropriate system of financing for the Programme in order to secure the necessary resources for the benefit of those requesting assistance from the Programme;
- (f) Awarding of the IPDC-UNESCO Prize for Rural Communication.

Article 6

1. At the beginning of its first session, and subsequently whenever the membership of the Council is changed by the General Conference in accordance with Article 2 above, the Council shall elect a Chairperson, three Vice-Chairpersons, a Rapporteur and three other members; these shall form the Council's Bureau. The members of the Bureau who are representatives of Member States of UNESCO shall preferably be specialists in the fields covered by the International Programme for the Development of Communication. They shall remain in office until a new Bureau has been elected.
2. The Bureau shall discharge such duties as the Council may lay upon it. The Bureau shall assume full responsibility for project selection, approval and allocation of funds from the Special Account and plan the organization of work of the Council session. The Bureau shall act as jury for selecting the winner of the IPDC-UNESCO Prize for Rural Communication.
3. Meetings of the Bureau may be convened between meetings of the Council at the request of an absolute majority of the Council's members, at the request of the Director-General of UNESCO or at the request of half the members of the Bureau.

Article 7

1. Member States and Associate Members of UNESCO which are not members of the Council may send observers to all meetings of the Council or its subsidiary bodies.
2. Representatives of the United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system supporting the Programme may take part, without the right to vote, in all meetings of the Council and its subsidiary bodies.
3. The Council shall lay down the conditions under which other international governmental or nongovernmental organizations, public and private foundations

and other bodies concerned may be invited to participate in its proceedings without the right to vote. The Council shall also lay down the conditions under which certain particularly well-qualified persons may be consulted on matters within their competence.

Article 8

1. The Secretariat of the IPDC Intergovernmental Council shall be provided by the Director-General of UNESCO, who shall place at the Council's disposal the staff and other means required for its operation.
2. The secretariat, under the authority of the Director-General, shall carry out the administrative work necessary for the implementation of the International Programme for the Development of Communication and for the sessions of the Council or the meetings of its Bureau.

Article 9

1. The running expenses of the Council and its subsidiary bodies shall be covered by appropriations voted for this purpose by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.
2. Member States shall bear the expenses of the participation of their representatives in sessions of the Council, its Bureau and working groups with the exception of representatives of Least Developed Countries (LDCs), whose expenses shall be covered by an appropriation voted for this purpose by the General Conference of UNESCO.
3. Voluntary contributions to the established IPDC Special Account shall be accepted, as will funds-in-trust and contributions in kind for concrete projects and activities, in accordance with the Financial Regulations of UNESCO.

Article 10

The Director-General shall submit to the Council, at each of its sessions, a report on the implementation of the International Programme for the Development of Communication. He shall report to the General Conference on the implementation of the Programme, particularly as it relates to the Regular Programme of the Organization and the activities of other agencies of the United Nations system.

Article 11

The Council shall submit reports on its activities to the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural" Organization at each of its ordinary sessions.