



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



UNESCO Institute
for Information Technologies
in Education

H.E. Mrs. Zohour Alaoui
President of the
UNESCO General Conference
7, place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris, France

IITE/MOS/DIR/19/119/SR

30 April 2019

Subject: *Recommendations to the international and intergovernmental bodies of UNESCO*

Dear Madam President,

Thank you for your letter of 16 July 2018.

The UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education (UNESCO IITE) Governing Board in its 18th Session discussed in-depth the recommendations made by the open-ended working group on the governance, procedures and working methods of the governing bodies of UNESCO.

Based on the discussion, I am attaching the Board's comments for your kind consideration.

Please accept, dear President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Mansoor Al Awar
Chair
UNESCO IITE Governing Board

Report from IITE Governing Board

On the implementation of Recommendations of the Working group on the governance, procedures and working methods of the governing bodies of UNESCO

During the 18th session of IITE Governing Board (GB) held on 9-10 April 2019 in Moscow, the implementation of Recommendations of the Working group on the governance, procedures and working methods of the governing bodies of UNESCO (ANNEX I (of document 39 C/20)) was discussed and decision was adopted. The letter of 16 July 2018 by the President of 39th General Conference was shared among all GB members.

The director of the institute introduced the background of the open-ended working group on governance, procedures and working methods of the governing bodies of UNESCO set up in its 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO, and briefed the GB members the recommendations of the Working Group to all UNESCO international and intergovernmental bodies-IIBs such as IITE. Relevant Recommendations to UNESCO Category 1 Institutes are covered in Section B with general recommendations and Section G with special recommendations for the Category 1 institutes.

Implementation of relevant Recommendations at IITE: General Recommendations 57-80

✓ Recommendations on Efficiency and Transparency (mandate, composition, structure, rules of procedure, methods of work)

IITE's Governing Board (GB) met annually except for 2015 and 2016 because of the vacancy of the Institute's Director. The current GB consists of 11 Members with consideration of gender balance (four female and seven male representatives) and global geographical coverage. All GB Members are nominated and approved in line with UNESCO regulations. The two-term limit of GB membership has also been well followed.

IITE's GB examines all-important issues and adopts relevant decisions for the Institute. During last two Governing Board Sessions in 2018 and 2019, a new Medium-Term Strategy (2018-2021), the Resource Mobilization Strategy and Risk Register of IITE were discussed and adopted. After the internal Audit for IITE conducted by UNESCO IOS, the Governing Board also reviewed the implementation of IITE's Action Plans approved by IOS.

In addition to the annual Session, IITE's Governing Board Chair and Members keep regular communication with IITE Director and core staff for information sharing, consultation and participation in the events organized by the institute. In particular, GB Members play important role in partnership development and fundraising of IITE at the global level.

✓ Recommendations on Alignment with overarching priorities of UNESCO

In IITE's Medium-Term Strategy (2018-2021) adopted by the Governing Board, strategic priorities of IITE have been identified following UNESCO Education Agenda for SDG4 and particularly Main Lines of Action

(MLA) and Expected Results (ERs) in C5. In its annual session, IITE Governing Board reviews and approves reports and implementation plan of Programme Activities.

IITE reports to General Conference and Executive Board on its Programme Activities with special focuses on its contribution to SDG4 and UNESCO's priorities.

✓ **Recommendations on Coherence, coordination and synergies.**

The budget for IITE GB is stable as part of the regular budget allocated from UNESCO HQs. GB Chair keeps regular communications with all Board members regarding information sharing and relevant issues of the Institute. Information about the Institute and its GB has been shared with new Board members before the annual meeting.

Implementation of relevant Recommendations at IITE: Special Recommendations 117-126

- ✓ **Recommendation 117:** IITE has drafted reports to General Conference and Executive Board following UNESCO regulations. These reports cover the programme activities and governance of the institute, major achievements and challenges, as well as its strategic priorities for the future. All reports and documents prepared for GB meetings are shared with Russian National Commission for UNESCO and Ministry of Science and Higher Education (previously Ministry of Science and Education). IITE also submits its annual financial report on the host country contribution to the Ministry of the host country. With Member States, that IITE has joint projects or programme activities, reports and information sharing are mainly through exchange of letters and briefings on projects related issues.
- ✓ **Recommendation 118:** IITE has regular communications and information sharing with its host country and targeted Member States of programme activities. Though periodic dialogues are not established, however, meetings and discussion are organized without obstacles whenever needed.
- ✓ **Recommendation 119:** IITE publish the key decisions of GB meetings on its website and share relevant information with host country and UNESCO HQs.
- ✓ **Recommendation 120:** With support from UNESCO KMI, in 2018 IITE's IT infrastructure upgraded and integrated with UNESCO HQs and all field officers in one network. To promote best practices in the sphere of ICT in education and increase IITE's visibility, a new website of UNESCO IITE has been developed in March 2018 with such main features as: user-friendly interface, clear presentation of the Institute's projects and activities, extended social networks options.
- ✓ **Recommendation 121:** IITE has been following strictly UNESCO regulations on governance and autonomy.
- ✓ **Recommendation 122:** In IITE's Medium Term Strategy, (2018-2021) the contributions of all Programme Activities to each individual target of SDG4 has been clearly indicated. This information is also included in its Reports to General Conference, Executive Board and its Governing Board.

- ✓ **Recommendation 123:** In its Medium Term Strategy (2018-2021), IITE has updated its vision, mission and programme priorities for the period.
- ✓ **Recommendation 124:** IITE receives \$717,600 regular contribution for 2018-2019 from UNESCO HQs. More balanced support to the Institute would be highly recommended.
- ✓ **Recommendation 126:** IITE collaborates with HQs, field offices as well as other Category 1 institutes on joint projects and Programme Activities. There is frequent communication and information sharing with other Category 1 Institutes. However, there is no joint project with these Institutes currently.

Further implementation actions:

1. Visibility and dissemination of information. IITE plans to draft its communication work plan and publish its News Letters and Policy Briefs online.
2. Collaboration with other category 1 institutes. IITE plans to strengthen its collaboration with other category 1 institutes on joint events and projects.

Suggestions:

1. More balanced support by UNESCO HQs to Category 1 Institutes.
2. More decentralized resources including extrabudgetary funding from UNESCO HQs to the Institute, and sustained support from the host country to the Institute's Programme Activities.
3. Unified strategy of UNESCO on ICT in education, following UNESCO Internal evaluation of ICT in education.

IITE Governing Board Decision on Implementation of Recommendations of WG on Governance, procedures and working methods of the governing bodies of UNESCO (18th Session, 9-10 April 2019, Moscow)

The Governing Board,

- a) Having read_the Annex 1 of the document referenced 39 C/20, Working Group on the Governance, procedures, and working methods of the Governing bodies of UNESCO, and the letter of the President of the General Conference.
- b) Having examined the Report of the Director on Implementation_of Recommendations of WG on Governance (18 GB/8).
- c) Requests the Director to further improve implementation of Recommendations on external communications and global visibilities of the Institute.
- d) Takes notes_and welcomes the Recommendation of balanced supported to Category 1 Institutes.
- e) Approves the Report of the Director on Implementation of Recommendations of WG on Governance.