

**Statutes of the Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Programme (IFAP),
as revised following approval by the 40th session of the UNESCO General Conference
through [40 C/Resolution 53](#)**

Article 1 - Establishment

An Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Programme, hereafter called the Council, is hereby established within the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

3. The Council shall endeavour to arrive at its decisions by consensus. In the event of a vote being taken, each member of the Council shall have one vote.

Article 2 – Membership

1. The Council shall be composed of twenty-six (26) Member States of UNESCO elected by the General Conference taking into account the need to ensure equitable geographical distribution and appropriate rotation.
2. The persons appointed by Member States as their representatives on the Council shall preferably be specialists in the fields covered by the Information for All Programme.
3. The term of office of members of the Council shall be of four years, which shall start immediately after the elections at the ordinary session of the General Conference and expire following the elections at the second ordinary session thereafter of the General Conference.
4. The Council may make recommendations to the General Conference concerning its own membership.

Article 4 – Rules of Procedure and working groups

1. The Council shall adopt its own Rules of Procedure including those for virtual meetings.
2. Under its Rules of Procedure, the Council may establish whatever working groups it considers appropriate, provided that the necessary financial resources are available.

Article 5 – Functions

1. Within the framework of the decisions of the General Conference concerning the Information for All Programme, the Council shall guide its planning and implementation. This shall, in particular, include:
 - a. considering proposals on the development and adaptation of the Information for All Programme;
 - b. recommending the broad lines of action that the Information for All Programme could take;
 - c. reviewing and assessing achievements and defining the basic areas requiring increased international cooperation, and formulating recommendations to strengthen it in the framework of the Information for All Programme;
 - d. promoting participation of Member States in the Information for All Programme;

Article 3 – Sessions

1. The Council shall normally meet in ordinary plenary session once every two years. However, the Council may meet in extraordinary session at the request of the Director-General or of the majority of its members.
2. The Council shall be entitled to hold virtual meetings.

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- e. providing, in its areas of specialization, its formal input to the Draft Medium-Term Strategy (C/4) and the Draft Programme and Budget (C/5) documents of UNESCO;
 - f. contributing, in its areas of specialization, to the implementation of UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy (C/4) and Programme and Budget (C/5);
 - g. making any necessary proposals for coordinating the Information for All Programme with those conducted by all concerned international organizations and with UNESCO programmes;
 - h. assisting in the development of regional and national projects related to the Information for All Programme;
 - i. supporting all fundraising efforts for the implementation of the Information for All Programme.
- 3. The term of office of members of the Bureau representing members of the Council shall expire in any event upon expiry of their term of office in the Council.
 - 4. The members of the Bureau shall consult closely with their respective electoral groups and inform them of key issues on the agenda of each session of the Council.
 - 5. The members of the Bureau are eligible for immediate re-election for a second term of office only.
 - 6. The Bureau shall discharge such duties as the Council may confer upon it.
 - 7. Meetings of the Bureau may be convened between sessions of the Council at the request of the majority of the members of the Council, or of the Bureau or of the Director-General of UNESCO. In such case, the reasons for convening the meeting of the Bureau shall be stated in the request therefor.
 - 8. The Bureau shall be entitled to hold online meetings.
 - 9. Meetings of the Bureau shall be open to members of the Council not member of the Bureau and observers.

Article 6 – Bureau

- 1. Whenever the membership of the Council is modified by the General Conference in accordance with Article 2 above, the Council shall elect from among its members a Chairperson, four Vice-Chairpersons and a Rapporteur, on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, who shall together constitute its Bureau.
- 2. The election of the Bureau shall take place during an extraordinary session of the Council to be convened by the Director-General during the ordinary session of the General Conference at which the members of the Council are elected, or as soon as possible thereafter.

Article 7 – Observers

- 1. Member States and Associate Members of UNESCO which are not members of the Council may attend all sessions of the Council as observers.
- 2. Representatives of the United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system may be invited to take part, as observers, without the right to vote, in all sessions of the Council.
- 3. The Council shall lay down the conditions under which other intergovernmental or international non-governmental organizations may be invited to participate in its sessions without the right to vote. The

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Council shall also lay down the conditions under which certain particularly well qualified persons might be consulted on matters within their competence.

Article 8 – Secretariat

1. The Secretariat of the 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 shall provide the necessary services for the sessions of the Council and meetings of its Bureau and of its working groups.
3. The Secretariat shall fix the date of the Council's sessions in accordance with the Bureau's instructions and shall take the steps required to convene such sessions.
4. The Secretariat shall assemble all suggestions and comments made by Member States of UNESCO and the international organizations concerned, with regard to UNESCO's Information for All Programme as a whole and the formulation of specific projects and shall prepare them for examination by the Council.

Article 9 – Financing

1. The servicing costs and expenses of the Council, its Bureau and its working groups shall be covered by an appropriation voted for this purpose by the General Conference.
2. Member States shall bear the expenses of the participation of their representatives in sessions of the Council and meetings of its Bureau and of its working groups, with the exception of the least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS) whose expenses shall be covered by

an appropriation voted for this purpose by the General Conference.

3. Voluntary contributions to the Information for All Programme may be accepted and established as trust funds, in accordance with the Financial Regulations of UNESCO, and administered by the Director-General.

Article 10 – Reporting

1. The Director-General shall submit to the Council, at each of its sessions, a report on the implementation of the Information for All Programme.
2. The Director-General shall submit through the Executive Board to the General Conference, at each of its sessions, a report on the implementation of the Programme, particularly as it relates to the activities of other UNESCO programmes and those of other bodies of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations and also international non-governmental organizations.
3. The Council shall submit through the Executive Board to the General Conference, at each of its ordinary sessions, a report on its activities.