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Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Programme

Seventeenth Meeting of the Bureau

UNESCO House, Paris, Bonvin Building, Room XIV

31 March 2010

Final Report

Introduction

The seventeenth meeting of the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Programme (IFAP) was held at UNESCO House, Paris, Bonvin Building, Room XIV, on 31 March 2010.

The following newly elected Members of the Bureau participated in it:

Chairperson	Mr. Evgeny Kuzmin	Russian Federation
Vice Chairpersons	Mr. Dietrich Schüller	Austria
	Mr. Khaled Al-Razni	Kuwait
	Mr. Angelo Timoteo M. Diaz de Rivera	The Philippines
Members	Mr. Alexandre Brasil da Silva, for Mr. Emir José Suaiden	Brazil
	Mr. Andrejs Vasiljevs	Latvia
	Mr. Victor Rakoto	Madagascar
Rapporteur	Ms. Anne-Marie Konan Payne	Côte d'Ivoire

Mr. Alexandre Brasil da Silva of the Brazilian Permanent Delegation to UNESCO attended the Bureau meeting on behalf of Brazilian member elected, Mr Emir José Suaiden.

The Director-General of UNESCO was represented by Mr. Abdul Waheed Khan, Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information (ADG/CI).

Item - 1 Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by the Chairperson, Mr. Evgeny Kuzmin, who welcomed the newly elected Bureau Members and expressed his conviction that the work of the new IFAP Bureau will be dynamic, constructive and efficient. He also pointed out that it is important not only to sustain the level of the Bureau work, achieved under the guidance of the former Chairperson Karol Jakubowicz, but to further improve its quality. There is much to be done to solve the problems IFAP is facing today and to fulfil the goals of the IFAP Strategic Plan for 2008—2013.

Mr. Khan also welcomed the new Members of the Bureau and stressed the importance of the active involvement of Member States, together with the Secretariat, in the various tasks and responsibilities decided by the last session of the IFAP Council in order to revigorate and enhance further the efficiency of this programme.

Item - 2 Adoption of the Agenda.

The Chairperson invited comments and proposals regarding the proposed Agenda of the meeting. The representative of Austria proposed a new item 7 on the "Coordination between the Secretariat and IFAP in the planning and the preparation of UNESCO's draft programme and budget (36 C/5)". Since no other comments were made, the Agenda was adopted with this added item.

Item - 3 Discussion on the recommendations of the 6th IFAP Council session

Bureau members requested that the recommendations be finalized in the report of the IFAP Council session as soon as possible by the Rapporteur and sent to them for further consideration on actions to be taken. They also decided that two of the adopted by the Council decisions namely on the "Guidelines for the creation and operation of National IFAP Committees" and on "IFAP Bureau's recognition of best accomplishments or projects of excellence by National IFAP Committees", be now duly implemented.

Item - 4 Improvement of the financial situation of IFAP

The Secretariat informed briefly the Bureau about the financial situation of the IFAP Special Account. Since 2008 the only country to contribute to this Account has been China. During the General Conference, a representative of the donor country underlined the importance of voluntary extrabudgetary contributions to the IFAP Special Account and suggested that all elected members of the IFAP Intergovernmental Council should make a yearly financial contribution to the Account. Several other delegates supported this proposal.

Bureau members expressed their willingness to make the difference over the next two years by first designing a plan for raising extra-budgetary contributions from private sector and individuals and by possibly organizing special events. A letter could be sent by the IFAP Chair to the National IFAP Committees asking for their opinion on fundraising for the Programme (the proposal was made by the representative of Kuwait). The delegate from the Philippines underscored in that respect that it would be difficult for developing countries to raise internally funds for IFAP.

The Chairperson noted that beside the contributions to the IFAP Special Account there exist other aspects of the problem of IFAP funding. He stressed that Member States (especially the IFAP Council members) should try to exert efforts to improve the funding of the activities within the Programme's framework. They should take all possible measures to provide support to their national IFAP committees general activity as well as to specific initiatives and projects, encouraging the organization of international, interregional, regional and national events.

Another proposal concerned the preparation of a document to explain more in depth the Information for All Programme to potential donors in order to get donations for specific actions and activities. The IFAP Brochure should be updated and put on-line on IFAP's

website (Latvia). The delegate from Brazil pointed out that the DG should facilitate fundraising for IFAP as decided by the Executive Board.

Moreover, it was considered that a presentation of IFAP should be organized for the Permanent Delegations to UNESCO and that international events such as the WSIS week in Geneva in May 2010 and those held by UN and international non-governmental agencies (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, International Council of Archives, Co-ordinating Council of Audiovisual Archive Associations, International Council of Museums, International Publishers Association etc.) represent an opportunity for IFAP to draw more attention and visibility.

It was also decided to evaluate the results achieved in fundraising for IFAP after one year.

Item 5 – Strengthening the cooperation with the National IFAP Committees

The Chairperson pointed out that the successful First IFAP National Committees Consultation Meeting in Moscow (December, 2009) organized by the Intergovernmental Council for IFAP, the UNESCO Secretariat and the Russian IFAP Committee should be followed by similar regional and inter-regional events in 2011 (as suggested by the Consultation Meeting participants). That would boost the existing committees and facilitate the establishment of new ones

It was also pointed out that the adopted by the IFAP Council “Guidelines for the creation and operation of National IFAP Committees”, have to be disseminated and promoted. These new Guidelines based on the analysis of the actual experience of national committees should not be considered as a mandatory, but as a suggestion concerning the National Committees structures, functioning, mandate, and financial mechanisms. A letter to all National Commissions for UNESCO could be sent inviting them again to consider strengthening the existing National IFAP Committees or establishing new ones in countries that have not done it so far.

Item 6 – IFAP Working Groups

The Chairperson reminded the Bureau that under the Strategic Plan for IFAP, three Working Groups (WGs) were expected to be developed in the last biennium.

The Secretariat informed that some tangible progress has been achieved in the case of two WGs – Information Preservation and Information Ethics, which was not a formally established one.

Information preservation and the incipient Information Literacy WGs developed Terms of Reference which were approved by the Council, but the latter one did not go further.

For that current biennium, it was decided that the following Bureau members will assume responsibility for the functioning of the WGs according to the five priorities of IFAP:

Information Literacy: Mr. Angelo Timoteo M. Diaz de Rivera and Ms Divina Frau-Meigs (France)

Information for Development: Mr. Khaled Al-Razni

Information Ethics: Mr. Andrejs Vasiljevs and a representative of Venezuela

Information Preservation: Mr. Dietrich Schüller

Information Accessibility: Mr. Victor Rakoto

Each WG will elaborate a Term of Reference (ToR) for its functioning. Once the ToR is approved by the Bureau, the WG will be fully established.

Bureau members responsible for WGs will present to Chairperson interim 3-monthly reports on the progress achieved. They should also identify and call for qualified national and international experts and provide opportunities for the experts to actively participate in the WG's activities, including consultation meetings and international events if necessary. Because of the close connection between five IFAP priorities it is important for the WG to cooperate and communicate.

In addition, a special WG will be established and chaired by Brazil on the proposed amendments to the IFAP Statutes. The proposals will be then examined by the Bureau before submission to the IFAP Council and subsequently to the General Conference. This WG will coordinate closely its work with the Legal Affairs Office of UNESCO.

Item 7 – Coordination between the Secretariat and IFAP in the planning and the preparation of UNESCO's draft programme and budget (36 C/5)

Under this item of the Agenda, included at the request of Austria, the Secretariat informed the Bureau that after consultation with the relevant services, it was agreed that IFAP Council members will be included in the consultation process leading to the drafting on the next C/5 document. Thus, the questionnaire that is normally sent to Member States, Associated members, NGOs, National Commissions for UNESCO and UN agencies, will be extended to IFAP Council members as well. Contributions by members of the IFAP Council should be channelled via the IFAP Chair who will consequently present an analytical summary of the preliminary proposals, related to the mandate of IFAP, to the DG for her consideration and possible incorporation in the draft C/5.

This *modus operandi* was considered fully satisfactory by Bureau members.

Item 8 – Miscellaneous

Concerning the Information Society Observatory, the Secretariat indicated that it is operational and serves the objectives for which it was created. The Observatory makes accessible up-to-date information grouped, in the first instance, around the IFAP five priority areas. The Observatory will be continuously updated with new, relevant strategic documents, events, books and experiences, annotations and links, following the development of the field.

The Bureau was informed that the negotiation process for the continuity of the Observatory during 2010 has to be completed shortly. There is a substantial reduction in

funds contributed by IFAP, given that the Hungarian contractor will now only have to maintain the Observatory, since the main job of designing it has been completed.

It was decided that the Bureau members will communicate to the Secretariat their final decision on the 2010 contract with the Hungarian partner as soon as possible.

Item 9 – Closure

The Bureau members expressed satisfaction with the conclusions reached during the debates and decided that the next Bureau meeting will be held in February 2011 and the results achieved by WGs discussed and evaluated. Until then, all necessary decisions will be taken through on-line consultation.

There being no other issues to be discussed the meeting was adjourned.