



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

## IPDC THE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNICATION

### Agenda item: Discussion: Date for 29<sup>th</sup> (2014) IPDC Bureau and Council sessions

#### INFORMATION NOTE

#### BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

A number of reasons come together to schedule the proposed 2014 IPDC sessions later than originally envisaged. The Bureau is requested to discuss this proposal, and to adopt a decision.

The report of the 28<sup>th</sup> IPDC Council session states:

- that “the 58<sup>th</sup> Bureau meeting would be held from 5-7 February 2014”, and
- that “the 29<sup>th</sup> Session of the Intergovernmental Council was scheduled to be held from March 19-21 March 2014”.

It is proposed to amend these dates. The reasons are:

Bureau 2014 date: (change from February to March)

- The early date for the 58<sup>th</sup> (2014) Bureau meeting was originally conceived so as to enable the Bureau to decide timeously on the IPDC Prize, in order that an announcement could then be made at World Radio Day on 13 February 2014. Because Council did not manage to discuss this, a decision on the future of the prize would need to be formalised at the 29<sup>th</sup> Council session in 2014. There is thus no longer a rationale for this earlier date.
- To prepare project proposals and other documents for the 58<sup>th</sup> Bureau meeting, it would be helpful if the date for the meeting could revert from the proposed February to current March, for 2014.

Council 2014 date: (change from March to November/December)

- With the 29<sup>th</sup> (2014) Council meeting is in March, this would be very close to the Bureau meeting (even if that remained in February). This short gap between the meetings reduces the time available for preparations for the Council meeting, and for the timely circulation of any recommendations of the Bureau to the Council.
- A change to scheduling the 2014 Council session in November, or early December, would avoid the impending situation of Member States in 2013 twice receiving letters during the year requesting responses to judicial follow-up (once for the November 2013 report and once for a March 2014 report). A change would mean that one letter could be sent in 2013 for the 2013 General Conference report, and the letter for updated information for the IPDC Council report due in 2014, can then be

sent in 2014. This would create a more regular rhythm to the UNESCO reports on journalism safety, which would be tabled in November each year (instead of March one year, and November the next).

If the proposal is agreed:

- the Bureau meeting will then be held in March 2014,
- as regards the date for the IPDC Council, the Chair will circulate a recommendation from the Bureau for the decision of the Council members

Recommend scenario for amended dates:

	2013	2014
IPDC Bureau	March session confirmed	Session date now proposed for <u>March</u>
IPDC Council		Session date now proposed for <u>November</u>
Letter to Member States on judicial follow up for report to General Conference	Member States are asked for responses to be tabled for 2013 November <u>General Conference report</u>	
Letter to Member States on judicial follow up for report to IPDC Council		Member States are asked for responses to be tabled for the 2014 November <u>IPDC Council report</u>