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Agenda item for discussion Status Report on the Global Initiative for Excellence in Journalism Education

INFORMATION NOTE

SUMMARY CONTENT OF DOCUMENT

This document presents an update on the activities undertaken within the framework of the Global Initiative for Excellence in Journalism Education.

Status Report on the Global Initiative for Excellence in Journalism Education

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1. BACKGROUND

This status report is for the information of the IPDC Bureau on work carried out within the framework of the Global Initiative for Excellence in Journalism Education. It reflects the IPDC's efforts to realign UNESCO's support for journalism education in a way that reflects the teaching, practising and researching of journalism from a global perspective that deals with issues of international relevance. The update also focuses on how recent IPDC publications have become an important information resource for journalism training beyond established journalism classrooms, demonstrating the Programme's ongoing invaluable contribution towards non-formal (journalism) training.

2. UPDATE

- The Bureau is reminded of the IPDC publication titled "Climate Change in Africa: A Guidebook for Journalists" which was launched in Ghana by the country's former President and current UN Special Envoy on Climate Change, John Kufuor. Using the guidebook, several key activities have unfolded, including the following:
 - i) Collaboration with the French Agency for Media Cooperation (CFI) to train 18 African journalists, who then reported on the International Scientific Conference and the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties (COP21) events in July and December respectively.

- ii) Further COP21-linked work involved use of this guidebook by the IPDC to forge a strategic partnership with the Franco-Russian think tank Destination Est, whereby the IPDC was invited to address a group of 15 Russian journalists on reporting the global problem of climate change and how the Programme was supporting journalistic training interventions in this regard. A related activity involved the IPDC cooperating with UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme (IHP) to co-host a media breakfast for the presentation of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)'s 5th Assessment Report. Over 20 journalists, mostly drawn from the IPDC's partners CFI (French Agency for Media Cooperation) and Internews, participated in the event, where the IPDC outlined its work in building the capacities of developing-country and other journalists through the guidebook (*Climate Change in Africa: A Guidebook for Journalists*).
 - iii) Outside Africa, the guidebook was instrumental in two workshops held by the UNESCO Tehran Cluster Office in Iran and Turkmenistan. While some 35 journalists participated in Tehran, over 85 journalism students and professors took part in Ashgabat.
 - iv) Furthermore, the guidebook was translated into Tamil by the School of Linguistics and Communication of India's Madurai Kamaraj University for the benefit of young and aspiring Tamil language journalists, who were scheduled to participate in a training programme supported by Internews. New references relevant to the region were included in the translated version, thereby enriching it for wider application.
- The publication "Model Curriculum for Journalism Education: A Compendium of New Syllabi" (2013) was translated into Chinese, with support from the Communication University of China (CUC), which hosted a review of the Chinese version. More than 100 experts and scholars participated in the review. It was also translated into the Mongolian and French languages, with the Mongolian version already published online.
 - The IPDC's work to support the teaching of specialized journalism courses continued during the period under review, with the Programme publishing and launching its new publication "Teaching Journalism for Sustainable Development: New Syllabi" in Mexico City at the Universidad Iberoamericana. The launch was part of the annual conference of ORBICOM – the network of UNESCO Chairs in Communication. The publication was explicitly linked to UNESCO's role in advocating for the inclusion of media development within the newly-adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), for which new indicators are now being formulated (*for a detailed update on this, refer to the Information Note on the Status Report on IPDC's contributions to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*).

3. CONCLUSION

The IPDC will continue to support journalism education via the Global Initiative, with its next biennial focus being on consolidating the further usage of its collection of specialized journalism syllabi. Part of that will involve efforts to seek translations of the publications referred to above into additional languages. As such, partnerships are envisaged not only with UNESCO field offices but also with UNESCO chairs and other stakeholders.

4. BUREAU ACTION

The Bureau, having discussed this document, may wish to:

- Welcome this status report and note the ongoing contributions the Global Initiative is making in producing and popularising new specialised journalism syllabi as a way of reflecting the changing face of journalism education globally.