

Consultation on IPDC Governance, Procedures and Working Methods

Introduction

The 60th Session of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) Intergovernmental Council requested the IPDC Secretariat, in coordination with its Bureau, to consult with all IPDC Council Members, prior to the 61st Meeting of the IPDC Bureau in March 2017, with the aim of reviewing the Statutes and/or Rules of Procedure of the IPDC and to report on its proposals and recommendations to the Chairperson of the Open-ended Working Group on Governance, Procedures and Working Methods of the Governing Bodies of UNESCO.

The background to this consultation is informed by:

- Document 38 C/23 and the Executive Summary of the Audit of the governance of UNESCO and dependent funds, programmes and entities;
- The report by the Director-General on the status of implementation of Recommendations 1, 11 and 13 of the External Auditor's Audit of the governance of UNESCO and dependent funds, programmes and entities (document 199 EX/12).
- Resolution on "Governance, procedures and working methods of the governing bodies of UNESCO" (38 C/Res. 101). The General Conference, noting the aforementioned External Auditor's report and decision of the Executive Board, decided "to establish an open-ended working group of all Member States of UNESCO, and invite Member States to submit their views and proposals on governance, procedures and working methods of the governing bodies of UNESCO" and invited "all intergovernmental programmes ... to inscribe, in 2016 if feasible, an item on their agenda concerning the follow-up to the recommendations of the External Auditor's report contained in document 38 C/23, to improve their governance by concrete measures, and to report on their proposals to the Chairperson of the open-ended working group".

In this regard, the decision by the 60th Session of the IPDC Council to initiate this consultation responds to the General Conference's invitation above.

Historical contextualization of IPDC's governance

The formation of the IPDC dates back to 1978. It was at its twentieth session, held in Paris in 1978, that, on the proposal of the delegation of the United States of America, the General Conference unanimously invited the Director General to convene "a planning meeting of representatives of governments, to develop a proposal for institutional arrangements to systematize collaborative consultation on communication development activities, needs and plans."

Following the appropriate consultations, and, in particular, the holding in Washington in 1979, at the invitation of the Government of the United States, of a preparatory meeting of a group of experts brought together by UNESCO, the Director General convened in Paris, in April 1980, the Intergovernmental Conference for Co-operation on Activities, Needs and Programmes for Communication Development, known as the DEVCOM Conference. This Conference adopted, after thorough discussions and by consensus, a recommendation for the establishment of an International Programme for the Development of Communication. This recommendation was approved by the General Conference at its twenty-first session, held in Belgrade from 23 September to 28 October 1980, by resolution 4/21, also adopted by consensus.

According to the terms of the resolution, the aims of the International Programme are "to increase co-operation and assistance for the development of communication infrastructures and to reduce the gap between various countries in the communication field." The same resolution set forth the objectives, competence and measures necessary for the effective functioning of the Programme. These measures included the establishment of the Intergovernmental Council, which is defined as a coordinating body with the task of implementing the Programme's objectives, and the adoption of the Council's Statutes.

Objectives of the consultation

It is against this background that this present consultation now seeks to involve all IPDC Member States towards answering the following three questions:

- 1) On the basis of recent practice, which Statutes and/or Rules of Procedure can be judged obsolete, incomplete or technically flawed, and what revisions/enhancements may be proposed?
- 2) In view of discussions about organization-wide cost-effectivity, as contained in Recommendation No.3 of the External Auditor's report (Follow up to the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit [JIU] Recommendations Concerning the Methods of Work of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Bodies), could the Statutes and/or Rules of Procedure be revised to reduce costs without compromising the oversight role of the IPDC Council and Bureau?
- 3) With due regard to the fact that the 15 recommendations made in the Audit Report on the Governance of UNESCO and Dependent Funds, Programmes and Entities apply to the entire UNESCO universe, are there any specific recommendations among these which could be meaningfully adopted and/or adapted in order to enhance the IPDC's governance (e.g. recommendations 8, 10, etc.)?

Relevant documentation

To facilitate this consultation, Member States may wish to consult the following documents online:

- *IPDC Collection of Basic Texts*: Available online at: http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CI/CI/pdf/ipdc2010_collection_of_basic_texts.pdf. These documents include:
 - a) Resolution 4/21 adopted to set up the IPDC, 1980;
 - b) Amendments to the Statutes of the IPDC by Resolution 43/32;
 - c) Statutes of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) (adopted at the twenty-first session of the General Conference of UNESCO, Belgrade, October 1980 (Resolution 4/21) and amended at the thirty-second Session of the General Conference of UNESCO, Paris, October 2003 (Resolution 43/32); and
 - d) Rules of Procedure of the Intergovernmental Council of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC).

- Other useful background documents include:
 - a) *Recommendations for the Reforms of the IPDC Working Methods*: http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CI/CI/pdf/ipdc_recommendations_reform_en.pdf
 - b) *Media in Development: An evaluation of UNESCO's International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC)*: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0012/001297/129729E.pdf>.
 - c) *New Proposals for the Reforms of the IPDC Working Methods (as the follow-up to the Evaluation Report on IPDC conducted by the University of Oslo)*: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001305/130550e.pdf>.
 - d) *Preliminary Proposals for the Reforms of the IPDC Working Methods*: http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CI/CI/pdf/ipdc_working_methods_preliminary_proposals.pdf.
 - e) *International Programme for the Development of Communication: An Evaluation of the Reforms*: http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CI/CI/pdf/ipdc2006_evaluation_reform_report.pdf.
 - f) *Follow up to the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit [JIU] Recommendations Concerning the Methods of Work of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Bodies: Report by the External Auditor*: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0023/002352/235207e.pdf>.

Process and timeframe

The proposals made pursuant to this consultation must be collected and collated by the IPDC Secretariat in time to be shared with the IPDC Bureau members for their collective recommendations before being passed on to the Chairperson of the UNESCO-wide working group. As such, it is requested that the following timetable be respected:

| Date | Action | Responsibility |
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| 13 February 2017 | IPDC Secretariat sends questionnaire to the IPDC Council Members | IPDC Secretariat g.berger@unesco.org f.banda@unesco.org |
| 6 March 2017 | Deadline to respond | IPDC Council Members |
| 21-22 March 2017 | IPDC Bureau members review all responses and send a report to the Chairperson of the UNESCO-wide working group. | IPDC Chairperson. |