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IPDC THE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNICATION

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Agenda item for discussion Gender mainstreaming in IPDC and future strategy

INFORMATION NOTE

SUMMARY CONTENT OF DOCUMENT

This document presents the findings of an internal review of IPDC project proposals through a gender lens during 2014. It reports on the findings and describes the recommendations that arose.

Gender mainstreaming in IPDC and future strategy

(January 20, 2015)

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1. BACKGROUND

Applications for funding from IPDC are required to comply with basic gender-awareness criteria. This current document reports on an internal survey of 80 project proposals approved by the IPDC Bureau in 2014, which were examined for their gender-awareness compliance.¹ The majority studied fell short of the full requirements. The findings show that there is a need for more systematic effort to include gender-awareness throughout all parts of the project proposals where relevant. All IPDC project proposals should show gender-sensitivity. Only some will be gender-responsive, and only some will be gender-transformative. The research findings have been communicated to field officers, and steps are being taken to improve compliance.

2. PURPOSE

IPDC's project submission guidelines states that IPDC "does not normally support projects, which do not demonstrate gender-sensitivity as regards the ultimate beneficiaries (for instance, which fail to disaggregate numbers of men and women beneficiaries)". The site also has guidelines that explicitly request information on gender aspects to be provided in four sections of the project form:

- Section 1: Project Justification
- Section 2: Description of the target group
- Sections 5 & 6: Project outputs and activities

¹ Research was conducted by Lisa Soderlindh, a secondee to IPDC from the Swedish Immigration Board.

Field Advisers/Officers for Communications and Information, as well as backstoppers at UNESCO HQ, have the role of ensuring project proposals are appropriately aligned to these requirements. Despite all this, the research showed gender-issues to be lacking, according to the research which operated with the UNESCO Guidelines for the formulation of 37 C/5 (2014-2017 quadrennium) Regular Programme Workplans. These guidelines have a valuable elaboration on gender-awareness as comprising between one and three components:

- a project that is *gender-sensitive* (i.e. registers basic gender differentials);
- a project that is *gender-responsive* (i.e. it goes further and sees how the differentials are significant, in how the project is designed);
- a project that is *gender-transformative* (i.e. it is a gender-specific project in that it aims to change gender inequalities);

All projects should at least be *gender-sensitive*, and this should be evident across most if not all all fields of the project proposal.

3. ANALYSIS

Project Justification and gender analysis

- Approximately 16 percent of the examined project documents provided basic gender analysis relevant to *the problem* to be addressed. The other documents did not.
- Some 20 percent of the project documents include some information *in their context analysis* (project justification, section 1) concerning women's status in the national media landscape, or some general information on the legal, social and/or economic status of women in the target country or region. The other documents did not.

Description of the target group, sex-disaggregated data

- Approximately 45 percent of all project documents reflected the criterion to provide a gender breakdown of the direct beneficiaries (sex-disaggregated data). The others did not.

Project outputs and activities

- 35 percent of the project documents indicated how many women and men are targeted in respectively the outputs and/or activities. The others did not.

Consistency:

- Gender awareness was not consistently evident across all sections of the project proposal document.

4. CONCLUSION and RECOMMENDATIONS

If the examined project documents did not achieve consistent gender mainstreaming, it is less likely that gender-issues will follow in project implementation, monitoring or evaluation. Yet recognising different experiences and aspirations of both women and men should be throughout the programme cycle. Recommendations and action from the study have been:

- Alerting both field officers and HQ back-stoppers to the need to improve gender-mainstreaming in project proposals, and how gender-awareness can be interpreted in terms of –sensitivity, -responsiveness and –transformation.
- Reinforce that field officers have the responsibility to work with project submitters to help them to do gender-mainstreaming across all parts of the project proposal – including in those documents being prepared for the 2015 Bureau meeting.
- A checklist has been promoted, targeting key sections of the project documents to ensure improved compliance with gender mainstreaming requirements.
- The secretariat is elaborating an alternative format for the project proposal in the medium-term, which through a participatory process, that will involve all CI-Field Officers and relevant stakeholders.

5. BUREAU ACTION

The Bureau, having discussed this document and any amendments, may wish to:

- *Take note of the Secretariat's work to improve gender-awareness in IPDC project submissions.*