



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

IPDC THE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNICATION

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Agenda item for discussion

Follow-up on:

1. IPDC's support to the International Conference on Youth and the Internet: Fighting Radicalization and Extremism, Paris, June 2015;
2. UNESCO's International Seminar on Community Radio Sustainability, Strengthening Policies and Funding, Paris, September 2015;
3. IPDC's support to the International Conference News Organizations standing up for the safety of media professionals, Paris, 5 February 2016;
4. IPDC's thematic debate on Media and Migration, Paris, March 2016.

INFORMATION NOTE

SUMMARY CONTENT OF DOCUMENT

This document summarizes follow-up to events recently supported by IPDC or for which IPDC's action is expected.

1. Background
2. Purpose
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1. BACKGROUND

UNESCO organized an **International Conference on Youth and the Internet: Fighting radicalization and extremism**, at UNESCO HQ on 16-17 June 2015. IPDC made a financial contribution to the Conference which enabled the convening of a panel of experts on issues particularly relevant to the IPDC Programme. The conference provided profile to IPDC through the Chair moderating this panel and delivering opening remarks. Overall, in terms of visibility, the Conference provided important international exposure to IPDC. Additionally, as a follow-up to the Conference, a number of follow-up projects on Empowering Youth to Build Peace were prepared and submitted to donors with the full involvement of IPDC Secretariat. The Conference provided a stage for launching UNESCO's new integrated Framework for Action – Empowering Youth to Build Peace: Youth 2.0 Building skills, Bolstering Peace. Drawing on the Organization's transdisciplinary competencies, this

initiative seeks to empower youth to leverage the influential role of information and communication technologies (ICT) and networks to promote harmonious, inclusive and equitable participation on-line and off-line in pluralistic societies. The Framework reaffirms the decisive role of values, knowledge and skills that strengthen respect for human rights, social justice and mutual understanding, and contribute to sustainable development and peace. A number of multistakeholder partnerships and commitments to support effective international collaboration aligned with the UNESCO Framework are being mobilized, which may in due course result in IPDC attracting funding for relevant projects and activities.

Within the UNESCO Integrated Framework, a conference on “Youth and Social Media: Fighting against Violence and Extremism” is being organized by UNESCO IFAP in Byblos, Lebanon in May 2016. UNESCO is also organizing an expert meeting on the concept of cyber citizenship, planned in June in UNESCO Headquarters, to be followed by a conference on the same topic in Montreal in Autumn 2016 that will be organized in collaboration with the government of Quebec (Canada). Two related studies are also being developed in the current year on media and terrorism, and internet and radicalization. These provide opportunities for IPDC involvement.

In September 2015, UNESCO’s section for Media and Society organized an **International Seminar on Community Radio Sustainability, Strengthening Policies and Funding**, which took place at UNESCO Headquarters. Attended by IPDC’s Secretariat, the conference brought together a wide range of community radio stakeholders, representing governments, regulators, practitioners, civil society, academics and other experts from all regions. The Conference adopted a set of 42 recommendations to support the ongoing development of the community media sector globally, with a particular focus on sustainability (see recommendations attached). The Recommendations are addressed to four different actors, namely governments and regulators, community media outlets and their associations, UNESCO – and including IPDC in particular, and the international community (donors, NGOs and IGOs).

For 5 February 2016, UNESCO planned the **International Conference News Organizations standing up for the safety of media professionals**, in Paris. The event was initiated by UNESCO’s Executive Board, and was convened under auspices of IPDC. It provided news organizations with a platform from which to discuss existing and new measures to strengthen the safety of journalists worldwide, and to engage with Member States on these issues. It provided international exposure to two important IPDC-backed initiatives: 1) The UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, and 2) IPDC’s Reporting Mechanism on the Safety of Journalists and Impunity Issues. The conference was organized in partnership with the World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers (WAN-IFRA), the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), the European Broadcasting Union (EBU), the International Press Institute (IPI) and the International Women’s Media Foundation (IWMF). It was supported by Australia, Austria, Finland, Latvia, the Netherlands and Sweden, through IPDC’s Special Account. IPDC’s Chair was scheduled as a panelist and the initiative provided important visibility to IPDC.

In March 2016, responding to the unprecedented migratory crisis, IPDC Secretariat organized a **thematic debate on Media and Migration** during the 60th Meeting of the IPDC Bureau. The debate aimed to better tune the work of IPDC with the needs of news media when reporting on migrants and the refugee crisis all over the world. The debate demonstrated IPDC’s response to contemporary issues; focused attention on the media issues related to the Syrian refugee crisis in particular, as well as raised broader issues relevant to many other situations; clarified the roles played by news media and social media; and provided the IPDC Bureau with insight that could enrich discussion on future priorities for projects.

2. PURPOSE

The IPDC Bureau may wish to discuss the impact of these UNESCO-supported events and the direction that the follow-up to these initiatives should take.

3. BUREAU ACTION

Based on the discussions on the follow-up to these events, the Bureau may wish to:

- Encourage the Secretariat to keep actively participating in the follow-up initiatives related to the **International Conference on Youth and the Internet: Fighting radicalization and extremism**, particularly in UNESCO's new integrated Framework for Action – Empowering Youth to Build Peace: Youth 2.0 Building skills, Bolstering Peace. Make a special financial allocation of 10,000 for this follow-up.
- Take note of UNESCO's current work in the field of community media sustainability, acknowledge the recommendations of the **International Seminar on Community Radio Sustainability, Strengthening Policies and Funding**, and continue its support to community media development projects which meet IPDC priorities;
- As a follow-up to the **International Conference News Organizations standing up for the safety of media professionals**, request the Secretariat to strengthen IPDC's monitoring and reporting mechanism on the safety of journalists and impunity issues, by preparing and submitting proposals to donors that focus on the development of new dimensions for the mechanism, such as providing capacity-building opportunities to Member States to improve their monitoring systems. This follow-up could include making a special financial allocation to allow the formulation and launching of a pilot project in a selected country.
- Make a special financial allocation of \$10 000 to follow-up on the issue of Media and Migration, by participating and/or co-convening events on the subject, where IPDC can promote best practices of professional reporting on migration issues and high ethical standards in this field.

Follow-up on IPDC's support to the International Conference News Organizations standing up for the safety of media professionals, Paris, 5 February 2016

3. BUREAU ACTION

Based on the discussions on the follow-up to these events, the Bureau may wish to:

As a follow-up to the **International Conference News Organizations standing up for the safety of media professionals**, request the Secretariat to strengthen IPDC's monitoring and reporting mechanism on the safety of journalists and impunity issues, by preparing and submitting proposals to donors that focus on the development of new dimensions for the mechanism, such as providing capacity-building opportunities to Member States to improve their monitoring systems. This follow-up could include making a special financial allocation to allow the formulation and launching of a pilot project in a selected country.

Proposed financial allocation:

- **US\$ 20,000** for the formulation, publication, translation (English, French, Spanish, Arabic) and dissemination of a (print and on-line) booklet explaining IPDC's monitoring and reporting mechanism on the safety of journalists and impunity issues to Member States, UN bodies, civil society, NGOs, human rights bodies, media professionals and other stakeholders.
- **US\$ 30,000** to compile and disseminate best practices in monitoring, reporting on and promoting the safety of journalists, including national and regional protection mechanisms for journalists, in view of tapping into IPDC's role as a vehicle for developing and sharing experiences from different parts of the world.