



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

# IPDC THE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNICATION

CI-17/BUR.61/4  
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## Agenda item for discussion

### Report on IPDC Special Initiatives and Emerging Issues

#### INFORMATION NOTE

#### SUMMARY CONTENT OF DOCUMENT

This document presents an update on the activities undertaken with respect to IPDC Special Initiatives on 1) the Safety of Journalists and Issue of Impunity, 2) media-related indicators, 3) Global Initiative for Excellence in Journalism Education and 4) knowledge-driven media development: follow-up to SDGs. The document also reports on IPDC responses to emerging issues, namely on 1) media and migration and 2) fighting violent extremism. A key aspect of this report which runs throughout the narrative is its reference to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

## 1. BACKGROUND

This report provides an update on the implementation of IPDC's Special Initiatives and Projects, as follows:

1. Background
2. Updates by Special Initiative
  - 2.1. The Safety of Journalists and Issue of Impunity
  - 2.2. Media-related Indicators: Media Development Indicators (MDIs) and Journalists Safety Indicators (JSIs)
  - 2.3. Global Initiative for Excellence in Journalism Education
  - 2.4. Knowledge-Driven Media Development: Follow-up to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
3. Emerging Issues
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## 2. UPDATES BY SPECIAL INITIATIVE AND EMERGING ISSUE

### 2.1 Special Initiative: The Safety of Journalists and Issue of Impunity

In 2008, the IPDC Intergovernmental Council adopted a Decision on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, which provides a mandate for monitoring follow-up actions on the killings condemned by UNESCO's Director-General. This decision urges Member States "to comply with the relevant obligations under international law to end impunity" and "to inform the Director-General of UNESCO, on a voluntary basis, of the actions taken to prevent the impunity of the perpetrators and to notify him/[her] of the status of the judicial inquiries conducted on each of the killings condemned by UNESCO".

Since then, a monitoring mechanism has been set up by which Member States are requested to inform UNESCO on the judicial follow-up carried out on each of the killings condemned by the UNESCO Director-General. Based on the information collected through this mechanism, the Director-General has every two years submitted to the IPDC Council a report on The Safety of Journalists and the Danger of Impunity, which provides background information on UNESCO's work in this area as well as an update on the killings of journalists condemned by UNESCO since 2006 and on the status of the judicial inquiries into each of these killings. Subsequent decisions on the Safety of Journalists have been adopted by the IPDC Council in 2010, 2012, 2014 and 2016.

In 2011, General Conference Resolution C36/53 called for monitoring of and reporting to the General Conference on the status of press freedom and safety of journalists, with emphasis on "cases of impunity for violence against journalists, including monitoring the judicial follow-up through the Intergovernmental Council of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC)". This reporting falls in alternate years to the session of the IPDC Council, and is published in the years in-between within the report on World Trends on Freedom of Expression and Media Development.

The UN Plan of Action, which was spearheaded by the IPDC Council continues to be supported by the IPDC through grants to projects that address the activity areas of the Plan: awareness-raising, standard setting & policy making, monitoring and reporting, capacity building, academic research and coalition building. Since the IPDC decision on making the safety of journalists a priority in 2008, 60 projects related to safety have been approved for funding in more than 30 countries for nearly US\$ 1.2 million dollars. Details were provided in a separate document, presented to the 60<sup>th</sup> IPDC Bureau in March 2016.<sup>1</sup>

Within this context, at its last Bureau meeting in March 2016, the IPDC requested the Secretariat to promote more actively the uniqueness of IPDC's reporting mechanism on safety of journalists and impunity issues and improve the IPDC branding of this important initiative. It also requested 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 national monitoring systems. For this purpose, it made a special financial allocation of US\$20,000 to allow the formulation and launching of a pilot project in a selected country. Please see in the boxes below the two initiatives organized in two countries with these allocations.

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<sup>1</sup> IPDC's Role in the Promotion of the Safety of Journalists: A Way Forward.

[http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CI/CI/pdf/Analytical\\_Paper\\_IPDC\\_Safety\\_of\\_Journalists\\_SChocarro\\_DE.pdf](http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CI/CI/pdf/Analytical_Paper_IPDC_Safety_of_Journalists_SChocarro_DE.pdf)

## **PAKISTAN ROUNDTABLE OPENS DOOR FOR INFORMATION SHARING ON SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS**

Between 2014 and 2016, Pakistan has acknowledged the Director-General's requests for information on judicial follow-up to killings, but the last contributed information on the cases concerned was in 2013.

In October 2016, IPDC supported a meeting in Islamabad where 20 experts from government, civil society and media were able to advance the potential for national information sharing about the safety of journalists.

During the discussion, the representative of the government nominated an official to henceforth receive and consider data from the NGO sector. The authorities retain the role of verifying, defining the official statistics and sending reports to UNESCO.

Before the meeting, only one of five Pakistan NGOs which track safety and impunity issues indicated that it shared information with government.

This event was co-hosted by UNESCO and the Ministry of Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage, and reflected joint interests in improving existing monitoring and reporting systems.

This situation is now improving, with a second round-table taking place in December 2016 where specific data was discussed and harmonised.

## **MEETING TO ASSIST IRAQ TO RESPOND TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL'S REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION**

A meeting of 15 Iraqi senior officials from government, the country's Council of Representatives and representatives of the Iraqi media profession was held in Baghdad in November 2016 to discuss practical approaches to strengthening Iraqi information-sharing and reporting on the safety of journalists. The success of this roundtable, which was convened on the occasion of the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists, is highlighted by the identification of the Ministry of Justice as focal point for reporting on safety of journalists, supported by a Committee from other relevant ministries and entities.

In addition to supporting project applications on safety, the 60<sup>th</sup> Bureau also made special allocations for a booklet in multiple languages explaining the IPDC monitoring mechanism, and a compilation of best practices in safety around the world. The English booklet was distributed to the IPDC Council and will be distributed in Arabic, French and Spanish at the 61<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Bureau. The compilation of best practices is currently under way and should be finalized in spring 2017.

The 2016 IPDC Council decision on the Safety of Journalists requested *inter alia* "the Director-General of UNESCO to continue to provide to the Intergovernmental Council of the IPDC an analytical report on the killing of journalists, media workers and social media producers who are engaged in journalistic activities and who are killed in their line of duty, based on the Director-General's condemnations; including information on the judicial inquiries that is based on the information provided by Member States on a voluntary basis".

It also "invites the Director-General to further reinforce this analytical report by:

- a. Also collecting information on actions taken by Member States to promote the safety of journalists and to combat impunity, as a way to share good practices;
- b. Improving data collection on killings and judicial process in order to provide these data as part of the UN's monitoring of SDG 16, Target 10 within the IPDC's remit;

*c. Strengthening data disaggregation in order to highlight the specific risks faced by women journalists in the exercise of their work;*

This mandate can be implemented by the Secretariat without need for an additional special allocation.

## **2.2. Special Initiative: Media-related Indicators: Media Development Indicators (MDIs), Journalists Safety Indicators (JSIs) and Media Viability Indicators (MVIS)**

This section gives an update on two key media-diagnostic tools that the IPDC relies upon for some of its normative work, including support for research related to media and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These include the MDIs and the JSIs.

In terms of the **MDIs**, endorsed by the IPDC Council in 2008, they have become a well-established reference for media development stakeholders worldwide. Their scope of application is steadily increasing, with MDI applications concerning almost 40 countries to date. Since 2014, studies have been completed in Bolivia, Brazil, Curaçao, the Dominican Republic, Libya (partial assessment), Jordan, Madagascar, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Palestine, South Sudan, Swaziland and Uruguay.<sup>2</sup>

One of the key components of the MDI reports are their recommendations, which provide a roadmap for media development interventions and legal and policy reform based on objectively identified needs, as expressed by national media stakeholders and with reference to international standards and good practice. Increasingly, follow-up activities are organized to catalyze the implementation of key recommendations. Examples include:

- In Jordan, UNESCO initiated a dialogue with universities teaching journalism to engage academia and students on the outcomes of the MDI assessment.
- In Palestine, in line with a key recommendation of the MDI Report on Palestine (2014), UNESCO has provided technical assistance to the national authorities in the finalization of a right to information law in Palestine and promoted its adoption among key stakeholders.
- In Mongolia, in response to one of the key recommendations of the MDI Report to repeal current regulation and amend draft laws related to digital media, UNESCO launched a project to sensitize decision makers involved in the drafting of laws on international standards regarding freedom of expression, including online, and to support independent monitoring of freedom of expression violations in cyberspace.
- In Curaçao, UNESCO supported a successful series of Master Classes based on the MDIs.

The MDI projects are also designed as capacity building exercises aimed both at building national research skills in the field of media and at providing media stakeholders with a better understanding of international standards related to media and freedom of expression. Nine training workshops on the MDI methodology have thus been organized since 2014.

At its 53<sup>rd</sup> (2009), 54<sup>th</sup> (2011) and 59<sup>th</sup> (2015) meetings, the IPDC Bureau approved special allocations of respectively US\$ 100,000, US\$ 100,000<sup>3</sup> and US\$ 40,000 for projects involving the application of the Media Development Indicators or follow-up thereto. The allocations have contributed to supporting MDI applications in 15 countries.

As regards the **JSIs**, these allow for a mapping of the key features that indicate the extent to which journalists are or are not able to carry out their work under safe conditions. The JSIs also serve to identify the actions that are taken by the various relevant stakeholders in promoting journalists' safety and fighting impunity at national level. These actors include State and political actors, civil society organizations and academics, the UN and

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<sup>2</sup> Seven of these have been published while seven are awaiting publication, having already been reviewed and edited by international media experts and UNESCO.

<sup>3</sup> This allocation was reduced by US\$ 8,000 by the IPDC Secretariat in 2015 to accommodate new IPDC project proposals.

international NGOs, and media and intermediaries. As such, the JSIs are an important tool for measuring progress in the implementation of the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity.

Since 2014, five Journalists' Safety Indicators (JSI) assessments have been completed in Guatemala, Honduras, Kenya, Nepal, and Pakistan, in cooperation with local research institutions. Assessments are ongoing in Afghanistan, Iraq, and South Sudan, in addition to a regional study covering Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda.

Based on JSI findings, a national monitoring mechanism is now being developed in Pakistan, in order to support the safety of journalists in the country. The findings of the Guatemala report have been used locally in discussions with various stakeholders for the same purpose.

Through a partnership with the Deutsche Welle Akademie, UNESCO developed a new sub-set of indicators on media viability, which was submitted to a wide international consultation process in 2014-2015. The purpose of the Media Viability Indicators (**MVIs**) is to provide a tool to help assess the sustainability of media businesses and assist actors, through their application, in developing appropriate responses that can promote media viability as an important pillar of media development. The draft indicators were presented to the IPDC Bureau at its 59<sup>th</sup> meeting in 2015, and the Bureau adopted a decision endorsing the initiative to develop indicators of media sustainability and encouraging their application. However, due to lack of funding, the MVIs have yet to be piloted.

The existing work under this Special Initiative can be continued without need for a special allocation.

### **2.3. Special Initiative: Global Initiative for Excellence in Journalism Education**

This section gives an update 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. In particular, the update 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.

To this end, the Council is reminded of the IPDC publication titled "Climate Change in Africa: A Guidebook for Journalists" (2013) which was first 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 21<sup>st</sup> session of the Conference of the Parties (COP21) events in July and December 2015 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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.
- 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.

Another IPDC 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 titled "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 – held in October 2015. The publication was explicitly linked to UNESCO's role in advocating for the inclusion of media development within the newly-adopted SDGs, for which a global indicators framework has been elaborated, as per the update in section 2.1 above.

Finally, in its effort to broaden the regional representation of UNESCO Chairs in Communication, the IPDC supported and eventually helped to secure the establishment of a UNESCO Chair on Communication and Sustainable Development at Pancasila University in Indonesia. This chair will contribute towards a more scholarly reflection on, including undertaking research into, the role of media and communication in the achievement of the 17 SDGs.

There is increasing demand for UNESCO to support active participation of developing-country journalism teachers in shaping global journalism teaching, especially via such forums as Orbicom, the International Association for Media and Communication Research, the World Journalism Education Congress, etc. As such, to support such efforts, especially taking into account Global Priority Africa, as well as the need to develop new syllabi on new key topics, the Bureau may wish to set aside a special allocation of US\$15,000 for this activity. This will make the IPDC more visible at such forums as a convening agency for shared excellence in global journalism education, and spread the results through new training course resources.

## **2.4 Special Initiative: Knowledge-Driven Media Development: Follow-up to SDGs**

The UN General Assembly has since adopted the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) proposed by the Open Working Group. In particular, there is now a global indicators framework in place for each of the 169 targets associated with the SDGs.

Target 16.10 of the SDGs framework specifies "public access to information" and protecting "fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements". Goal 16 itself aims to "promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels".<sup>4</sup> To this end, the 58<sup>th</sup> meeting of the IPDC Bureau reaffirmed commitment to the SDG process, culminating in the 29<sup>th</sup> session of the IPDC Council urging "IPDC Member States to ensure freedom of expression, free, independent and pluralistic media ... issues are integrated into the ... Post-2015 Development Agenda."

Accordingly, the IPDC Secretariat made efforts at building greater partnerships within the UN System and with a larger coalition of non-governmental international media development actors to contribute to the work of the Inter-Agency Expert Group (IAEG) on SDGs on their elaboration of the global indicators framework referred to

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<sup>4</sup> See Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform. 2014. *Outcome Document - Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals*. Available [0]: <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/focussdgs.html>. Accessed 03/09/2014.

above. Their initial meeting took place in New York in June 2015, followed by a second one in Bangkok in October.

As part of its effort to build advocacy coalitions, UNESCO engaged in discussion with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the World Bank and over 200 international, regional and national media development actors represented by the Global Forum for Media Development (GFMD). Against this background, two indicators were finally settled on, namely:

**Priority indicator: ‘Number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates in the previous 12 months’.** While this indicator does not cover every aspect of this particular target, it does identify one of the most salient and measurable dimensions that impact on the whole. Further, it is an indicator that draws upon existing UN agreements and mechanisms for data collection. Some of the components on journalists and media personnel, namely that on killings and judicial follow-up, are already monitored regularly by UNESCO under the mandates discussed above concerning IPDC’s Special Initiative on safety. More importantly, both from a methodological standpoint and for its relevance to the measurement of the “fundamental freedoms” enshrined in Target 16.10, this indicator is relevant to UNESCO’s abiding interest in pushing for freedom of expression and media development as a key aspect of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**Additional indicator: Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information.**

These two indicators have since been endorsed by Inter-Agency Expert Group on SDGs (IAEG-SDGs), adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) and presented to the Coordination and Management Committee of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). They are yet to be formally adopted by ECOSOC and the UN General Assembly.

It is worth noting that UNESCO has been designated by UNSC as the ‘custodian’ UN agency for Indicator 16.10.2, meaning that, through the IPDC, the Organization is officially mandated to undertake the following:

- Collecting data from national statistical systems
- Providing storyline for the annual global SDG progress report, including the High Level Political Forum’s Global Sustainable Development Report
- Providing and regularly updating metadata
- Working on the methodological development and further refinement of the indicator
- Contributing to statistical capacity building in the area of the indicator
- Coordinating with other agencies and stakeholders who are interested in contributing to the indicator development

UNESCO will also serve as a ‘contributing’ UN agency for Indicator 16.10.1, with OHCHR taking the lead, under the general guidance of the Praia Group on Governance Statistics.<sup>5</sup>

More specifically, Council members may wish to note that Indicator 16.10.2 seeks to establish three key things: (a) whether a country (or at the global level, the number of countries) has constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information; (b) the extent to which such national guarantees reflect ‘international agreements’ (e.g. the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, etc.); and (c) the implementation mechanisms in place for such guarantees, including the following aspects: (i) Government efforts to publicly promote the right to information; (ii) citizens’ awareness of their legal right to information and their ability to utilise it effectively; and (iii) the capacity of public bodies to provide information upon request by the public.

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<sup>5</sup> The Praia Group on Governance Statistics is headed by Cape Verde and works with UN agencies and other stakeholder groups to refine the measurement and reporting on the ‘governance’ indicators related to SDG 16.

In order to effectively respond to this global reporting mandate, the IPDC Bureau may wish to set aside a special allocation of US\$ 15,000 to coordinate and strengthen this function of the IPDC's. The support will enhance the Programme's visibility in its continued and enriched contributions towards shaping the national and global implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Other activities carried out, all of which were aimed at building awareness of communications issues in sustainable development referred to above, included the following:

- i) IPDCTalks, sponsored by the delegations of the Netherlands and Lithuania, marked the IPDC's celebration of the first International Day for Universal Access to Information. Held on 26 September 2016, the IPDCTalks was a day-long event themed "Powering sustainable development with public access to information". Convened by IPDC in association with the the Information for All Programme (IFAP), it was supported by financially by The Netherlands and Lithuania. Streamed live across the world, and widely tweeted, the talks highlighted the key importance of Access to Information in the success of implementation of the SDGs. The event entailed a series of dynamic presentations by philosophers, journalists, intellectuals, entrepreneurs, community leaders and the Ghanaian President, HE John Dramani Mahama. Each spoke about the contribution of media, information and ICT to achieving the different SDGs.
- ii) An Expert Workshop was held on 19 September 2016 in Tangerang (near Jakarta), Indonesia, as part of UNESCO's mandate as a 'custodian agency' for Indicator 16.10.2. Over 30 experts attended the workshop, contributing towards conceptually and methodologically operationalising the indicator and addressing the data gap on implementation of FOI guarantees. The workshop called for data triangulation as part of the solution, drawing on multiple data holdings in an evolving dynamic of data partnerships which UNESCO is leading in this regard. The workshop was held alongside the World Forum on Media Development held by the Global Forum for Media Development (GFMD), in conjunction with the Indonesian Press Council (IPC).

### 3. Emerging issues

#### 3.1 Emerging issue: Media and Migration

In March 2016, responding to the unprecedented migratory crisis, IPDC Secretariat organized a **thematic debate on Media and Migration** during the 60<sup>th</sup> 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.

Although many media outlets have focused on humanistic reporting and on telling the stories of refugees, very few journalists are trained to cover this issue – with important consequences. The experts agreed that newsrooms lack capacity to cope with such an unprecedented situation, and that more means are needed to report on this issue appropriately. Support was also urged for refugee media, and for networks of refugee journalists, so that refugees themselves can tell their own story.

After the debate, the IPDC Bureau agreed on follow-up action to promote best practices of professional reporting on this issue and high ethical standards in this field.

As a follow-up to this decision, IPDC Chair and Mr Blicher Bjerregard, IPDC Bureau member, Representative of Denmark and President of the European Federation of Journalists, visited Ankara from 9 to 11 May 2016. The mission was organized by the Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Turkey to UNESCO and the Anadolu News Agency Journalism Academy (AA).



The objective of the mission was to discuss IPDC collaboration with Turkish media, the Directorate of Press and Information, the Turkish Development Cooperation Agency (TIKA) and the AA in the field of media and migration, as announced by Ambassador H.A. Botsali during the 60<sup>th</sup> IPDC Bureau meeting in March this year.

As a result, an IPDC project was formulated in cooperation with the Turkish delegation based on research and perceived need of journalists and media organizations to increase their skills and knowledge in reporting about the issue of migration and refugees. The project was foreseen to consist of organizing a series of training workshops by skilled national and international lecturers and journalists associated with universities, professional media and journalists' organizations. It was agreed that the project would also include training on safety of journalists and the situation of women refugees, based on UNESCO/IPDC's syllabus on "Reporting Migration, with a focus on refugees".

During the visit, IPDC delegates were also able to address challenges of press freedom, the situation of media and journalists in Turkey, particularly issues related to accreditation, media polarization and the use of the Anti-Terrorism Law. It was discussed to develop a dialogue on these topics.

Unfortunately, due to the recent events in Turkey the project did not receive confirmation of funding. Hence this special allocation has not yet been utilized. An alternative project will be considered during the course of 2017.

### **3.2 Emerging issue: Fighting Violent Extremism**

UNESCO's Information for All Programme (IFAP) initiated an **International Conference on Youth and the Internet: Fighting radicalization and extremism**, at UNESCO HQ on 16-17 June 2015. The event was convened in association with IPDC, which also made a financial contribution to the Conference that 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. 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. As a follow-up to the Conference, a number of follow-up house-wide projects on Empowering Youth to Build Peace were prepared and submitted to donors with the full involvement of IPDC Secretariat. A number of multi-stakeholder partnerships and commitments to support effective international collaboration aligned with the UNESCO Framework have been mobilized. As a result, UNESCO and the UN Center for Counter-Terrorism (UNCCT) will work together on a project focused on the prevention of violent extremism through youth empowerment in Jordan, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia thanks to the support of the UNCCT and the Canadian Counter-Terrorism Capacity Building Programme. This project will create an environment where young women and men are empowered, heard and engaged as change-makers in their communities. In this regard and through the IPDC, the following activities will be implemented:

- Strengthening media capacity: training of young journalists and media trainers on conflict-sensitive reporting and cross-cultural/cross-religious dialogue, and production of online and offline training materials for media professionals to counter hate speech".
- Amplifying new narratives through youth: creation of improved curricula in journalism schools, focused on the development of new narratives by youth, and new media spaces for youth building upon the alternative narratives

Within the UNESCO Integrated Framework, UNESCO also organized an expert meeting on the concept of cyber citizenship, in June 2016 in UNESCO Headquarters, followed by a conference on the same topic in Montreal in October 2016 organized in collaboration with the government of Quebec (Canada), and where the IPDC Chair spoke about the role of media and social media in countering violent extremism.

Similarly, UNESCO, in partnership with the German National Commission for UNESCO, hosted a session on Combatting Online Hate Speech and Youth Radicalization in Bonn (Germany), on 14 June 2016, within the framework of the Deutsche Welle Global Media Forum. Moderated by Ms Albana Shala, IPDC Chair, the panel included well-known experts in the field. Speakers highlighted that there is no simple cause-effect relationship between Internet and youth radicalization, and that the context, psychological and external factors play an

important role. While social networks can be amplifiers and facilitators, they rarely trigger radicalization. Combatting the spread of online hate speech, extremist propaganda and recruitment for terrorism and radicalization efforts should not be at the expense of freedom of expression, underlined the experts. Panelists also discussed possible solutions for current use of the Internet as a vehicle for hate-speech and how Media and Information Literacy (MIL) can empower young people to use media critically.

These activities have not exhausted the 2016 special allocation for this emerging issue, and the balance of funds will be used for further follow-up in 2017.

### 3. CONCLUSION

IPDC's Special Initiatives, in several instances supported through special allocations, have produced a significant volume of knowledge on different aspects of media development and have led to the implementation of high-impact projects in different regions of the world – such as in the foundational steps in Pakistan and Iraq to create sustainable monitoring systems.

The IPDC contribution to the conceptualisation of sustainable development beyond 2015, coupled with a strong mandate from the UNESCO General Conference, the IPDC Bureau and the IPDC Council, have resulted in the adoption of indicators within the 2030 Agenda that are relevant to freedom of expression and media development. UNESCO's role as a 'custodian' and 'contributing' agency for indicators 16.10.2 and 16.10.1 respectively, will draw on the IPDC's diagnostic tools, namely the MDIs and the JSIs, among other data sources. The IPDC's Special Initiative on Safety of Journalists provides additional contributions to achieving SDG 16, and the IPDCTalks have highlighted how communications issues in general, along with ICT, are relevant to all the SDGs.

Similarly, the Global Initiative for Excellence in Journalism Education will help to facilitate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Finally, the IPDC Emerging Issues have also enabled engagement with other media challenges of relevance to sustainable development, such as migration and refugees, as well as radicalisation and violent extremism.

### 4. BUREAU ACTION

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

- Welcome the status report and encourage continual engagement by the IPDC Special Initiatives and Emerging Issues in contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by complementing other work and expected results in the Division for Freedom of Expression and Media Development.
- Request the Secretariat to strengthen IPDC's Special Initiatives and further position them so that they continue to contribute to Sustainable Development through impact on relevant dimensions of media development; and encourage the Programme to continue to be responsive in identifying and acting on Emerging Issues.
- Urge Member States to financially support the IPDC's new responsibility of reporting global progress on indicators 16.10.1 and 16.10.2 via the UN Secretary-General SDG Progress Report and other processes, while setting aside seed funding to coordinate this function of IPDC's Secretariat, which will enhance the Programme's visibility and enrich its content in the continued contributions towards assisting the national and global implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Support efforts in shaping global journalism teaching, especially taking into account the Global Priority Africa, by setting aside seed funding for this Special Initiative, which will make the IPDC more visible at journalism education forums as a leading body for shared excellence in global journalism education, network African journalism educators and produce specialised new syllabi on key emerging issues such as terrorism and radicalisation, as well as Internet governance.