



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

# IPDC THE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNICATION

**Agenda item:**

**FOLLOW-UP TO:**

- 1) THE AUDIT OF THE GOVERNANCE OF UNESCO AND DEPENDENT FUNDS, PROGRAMMES AND ENTITIES,**
- 2) AUDIT REPORT ON THE COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SECTOR (CI)**

## INFORMATION NOTE

### SUMMARY CONTENT OF DOCUMENT

This document presents the results of the Audit of the governance of UNESCO and dependent funds, programmes and entities and of the Audit on the Communication and Information Sector (CI) and proposes the terms of reference for an evaluation of IPDC.

### FOLLOW-UP TO THE AUDIT OF THE GOVERNANCE OF UNESCO AND DEPENDENT FUNDS, PROGRAMMES AND ENTITIES

1. Background
2. Recommendations of the External Auditor's Report
3. Council action

### 1. BACKGROUND

#### 1.1. Audit of the governance of UNESCO and dependent funds, programmes and entities

In November 2013, by means of 37 C/Resolution 96, the General Conference requested the External Auditor to conduct an audit of the external governance of UNESCO and entities that are attached to or administered by the Organization. This was in the framework of the follow up to the recommendations of the UN Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) report on the administration and management of UNESCO.

In this connection, the External Auditor was requested to report on the outcomes of self-assessments covering the overall relevance of the work of the different programmes in relation to their specific terms of reference, as well as the efficiency and effectiveness of their meetings. Two questionnaires on IPDC governance were completed and submitted by the Chair to the External Auditor on 2 September 2014. These were also made available to IPDC Council Members.

The General Conference requested “the External Auditor to present an interim report on the findings and main recommendations of the governance review to the Executive Board at its 196<sup>th</sup> session (April 2015) in order for the Board to recommend relevant follow/up measures for consideration by the General Conference at its 38<sup>th</sup> session (November 2015).

After consideration of the Executive Board’s recommendations (summarized in document 38 C/23 attached), the General Conference, by its 38 C/Resolution 101 (attached), decided to establish an open-ended Working Group on governance, procedures and working methods of the governing bodies of UNESCO.

The Resolution, in its paragraph 5, specifically “*invites all intergovernmental programmes, committees and organs of the conventions 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 line with the above, the results of the IPDC Council’s discussion on the audit’s recommendations will be reported to the Working Group on governance, so that the Working Group can study the Council’s proposals in 2017 and report back, with its recommendations, to the Executive Board and ultimately to the General Conference at its 39<sup>th</sup> session in 2017.

Furthermore, the Council can be reminded that during the 58th IPDC Bureau meeting held in March 2014, the IPDC Chair proposed that the Council consider the possibility of proceeding with a new evaluation of the IPDC Programme, following the two previous evaluations carried out respectively in 2002 and 2005. The Chair’s proposal was supported by a number of members of the IPDC Bureau. However, on considering this item, the 29<sup>th</sup> session of the Council decided that, taking into account the decision of the General Conference in 2013 to carry out the above-mentioned audit, that it would postpone the decision regarding a new IPDC evaluation until the 30th IPDC Council session, pending the conclusions of the impending overall governance audit of UNESCO and attached funds, programmes and bodies. As evident above, this overall audit has now been conducted.

## **1.2 Audit on the Communication and Information Sector (CI)**

During 2016, the External Auditor conducted a specific Audit Report on the Communication and Information Sector, to be tabled at the 200<sup>th</sup> session of the UNESCO Executive Board (document 200 EX/20.INF.3). In Paragraph 201, the Report notes the following: “In its 29th session, the IPDC Council agreed to defer the decision concerning that evaluation to its 30th session, pending the findings of the external audit of the governance of UNESCO and dependent funds, programmes and entities. Now that [the] said audit has been completed, there no longer appear to be any obstacles to the evaluation”. It further recommended that a “study of the costs and benefits of maintaining specific governance for this Programme should be submitted to the Executive Board, based on the external evaluation that has been pending since 2014”.

## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR’S REPORT**

Recommendations of the Audit of the governance of UNESCO and dependent funds, programmes and entities are summarized in document 38 C/23 attached.

Recommendations on the Audit on the Communication and Information Sector (CI) are contained in document

200 EX/20.INF.3 New Audits by the External Auditor. Audit Report on the Communication and Information Sector (CI). Executive summary is attached.

### 3. COUNCIL ACTION

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

- Take note of document 38 C/23 and the Executive Summary of the Audit of the governance of UNESCO and dependent funds, programmes and entities;
- Take note of 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);
- Take note of the document "Informal summary of contributions from Member States.REV" prepared in the framework of the open-ended Working Group on governance, procedures and working methods of the governing bodies of UNESCO, which contains proposals by Member States in relation to the Governance of subsidiary bodies, inter-governmental/international programmes/committees and organs of UNESCO conventions.
- Agree that a summary of its discussion on the recommendations of the audit be forwarded to the Working Group on governance for further follow-up;
- Proceed with the initiative to commission a new IPDC evaluation, depending upon the necessary extra-budgetary funding being raised, and mandating the Secretariat to proceed with its implementation, according to the Terms of Reference and estimated budget attached.

Attachments:

- Annex 1: 38C/Resolution 101
- Annex 2: [38 C/23](#), with Executive summary of Audit Report
- Annex 3: Informal summary of contributions from Member States.REV
- Annex 4: New Audits by the External Auditor. Part I – Short-Form Report, [200 EX/20](#) Part III Executive Summary Audit Report on the Communication and Information Sector.  
(Full length audit report can be found online at [200 EX/20.INF.3](#) New Audits by the External Auditor. Audit Report on the Communication and Information Sector (CI))
- Annex 5: Draft terms of reference for an evaluation of the IPDC Programme.