

**Agenda Item: Membership Committee Report to the Board of Trustees**

**Summary:**

This report contains a summary of the various items considered and discussed by the Membership Committee at its meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2021. It presents various information for noting as well as those that require the Board of Trustees' approval.

**Action Required:**

The Board of Trustees is requested **to note** the update and information with regards to items 1 to 6 and **to approve** the recommendations for items 7, 8 and 9.

## **Membership Committee**

### **Report to the Board of Trustees**

The following attended the 11<sup>th</sup> of May 2021 virtual meeting of the Membership Committee (MC):

#### **Committee Members:**

Ms Donya Nasser, Chair  
Mr Amadou Bah, Member  
Ms Ann Hendrix-Jenkins, Member  
Ms Jossy Dukere, Member  
Ms May Thazin Myint, Member  
Mr Ulukbek Batyrgaliev, Member  
Mr Vinod Kapoor, Member

#### **Ex-officio:**

Ms Aileen McColgan, Honorary Legal Counsel  
Dr Alvaro Bermejo, Director-General

#### **IPPF Secretariat:**

Mr Sam Ntelamo, Acting Regional Director, Africa  
Ms Eugenia Lopez Uribe, Regional Director, Americas & the Caribbean  
Ms Dona Da Costa Martinez, Deputy Regional Director, Americas & the Caribbean  
Ms Fadoua Bakhadda, Regional Director, Arab World  
Ms Tomoko Fukuda, Regional Director, ESEAO  
Ms Caroline Hickson, Regional Director, European Network  
Ms Sonal Mehta, Regional Director, South Asia  
Mr Achille Togbeto, Director, Governance & Accreditation  
Ms Karen Watson, Accreditation Adviser

#### **Minutes Taker:**

Ms Caroline Dickinson

## 1. ACCREDITATION REVIEW OUTCOMES

Membership Committee reviewed the outcomes of the following nine Member Associations that underwent an accreditation review:

- **Mozambique** - Associação Moçambicana para Desenvolvimento da Família
- **Tunisia** - Association Tunisienne de la Santé de la Reproduction
- **Mauritania** - Association Mauritanienne pour la Promotion de la Famille
- **Korea, Republic of** - Korea Population, Health and Welfare Association
- **Belgium** - Sensoa
- **Lithuania** – Seimos Planavimo ir Seksualines Sveikatos Asociacija
- **Ukraine** - NGO Women Health and Family Planning
- **Iran** – Family Health Association of Iran
- **Pakistan** - Rahnuma - Family Planning Association of Pakistan

Noting that there are standards with which the afore mentioned Member Associations do not yet comply, and that these Associations are taking steps to remedy this, the MAs of **Mozambique; Tunisia; Mauritania; Korea, Republic of; Belgium; Lithuania; Ukraine; Iran; and Pakistan** cannot currently be re-accredited and will remain accredited members of IPPF.

➤ **Action required: BoT to note this information.**

## 2. ACCREDITATION REVIEW FOLLOW-UP

The Membership Committee reviewed the progress reports of the following 19 Member Associations that underwent an accreditation review under the third accreditation phase:

- **Malawi** - Family Planning Association of Malawi
- **Congo** - Association Congolaise pour le Bien-Etre Familial
- **Cameroon** - Cameroon National Association for Family Welfare
- **Zambia** - Planned Parenthood Association of Zambia
- **Botswana** - Botswana Family Welfare Association
- **Comoros** - Association Comorienne pour le Bien-Etre de la Famille
- **Cote d'Ivoire** - Association Ivoirienne pour le Bien-Etre Familial
- **Madagascar** - Fianakaviana Sambatra
- **Tanzania** - Uzazi na Malezi Bora Tanzania
- **Sierra Leone**- Planned Parenthood Association of Sierra Leone
- **Tuvalu** - Tuvalu Family Health Association
- **Indonesia** - Indonesian Planned Parenthood Association
- **Finland** - Väestöliitto
- **Estonia** - Eesti Seksuaaltervise Liit / Estonian Sexual Health Association
- **India** - Family Planning Association of India
- **Afghanistan** - Afghan Family Guidance Association
- **Nepal** - Family Planning Association of Nepal
- **Jamaica** - Jamaica Family Planning Association
- **Peru** - Instituto Peruano de Paternidad Responsable

**Noting** that there are standards with which the afore mentioned Member Associations do not yet comply and that they are taking steps to remedy this, they cannot currently be re-accredited. The respective Regional Offices should

continue monitoring the implementation of the follow-up action plans within the period agreed. During that period, the Member Associations of **Malawi; Congo; Cameroon; Zambia; Botswana; Comoros; Cote d'Ivoire; Madagascar; Tanzania; Sierra Leone; Tuvalu; Indonesia; Finland; Estonia; India; Afghanistan; Nepal; Jamaica;** and **Peru** will remain accredited members of IPPF with no change to their membership status.

➤ **Action required: BoT to note this information.**

### **3. CARIBBEAN FAMILY PLANNING AFFILIATION MEMBERS JOURNEY TO ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP**

The Western Hemisphere Regional Office separation from IPPF made clear the unequal level of participation of the Caribbean Member Associations and affiliates in the life of the former Western Hemisphere Regional Office. A clear signal of this situation was the fact that the majority of the Caribbean Member Associations (MAs) decided to remain in IPPF. This journey that affiliates of the Caribbean Family Planning Affiliation have chosen to embark on, provides an opportunity to seek justice for the Caribbean in overcoming years of invisibility in the Region and is based on their enthusiasm to become Member Associations of the IPPF in their own right.

As a result, the Americas and the Caribbean Transition Team prioritised a change process aimed to offer the opportunity to become Full Member Associations with equal rights to the twelve affiliates currently working under the umbrella of the Caribbean Family Planning Affiliation (CFPA). Currently, all these organizations together form one Member Association, the Caribbean Family Planning Affiliation.

After a series of meetings to discuss the process of becoming an Associate Member, the following five affiliates made the decision to begin the process:

- Antigua
- Aruba
- Dominica
- Guadeloupe
- Martinique

External consultants were hired to undertake the due diligence process to ensure the affiliates meet the criteria to successfully apply for Associate Membership.

The due diligence identified that none of the five affiliates are yet in the position to submit an application. The Transition Team provided feedback to each of the affiliates on the areas to be addressed.

CFPA has devised a plan to work on the identified gaps with an estimated completion date of October 2021 for the affiliates to fully comply with IPPF requirements and have been provided with a special budget allocation from the Transition Team for the implementation of the transition plan.

To re-establish IPPF's presence in the region, it is essential to prioritise this transition process and increase the number of Member Associations. The inclusion of new Member Associations from CFPA is of utmost importance for IPPF to fulfil its promise of giving justice to the Caribbean Region and ensuring their equal participation in IPPF in the region and beyond.

**Action required: BoT to note this information.**

#### **4. PROGRESS ON RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS IN THE AMERICAS AND THE CARIBBEAN REGION**

The Americas and the Caribbean Transition team prioritized the recruitment of new Member Associations in the Region as requested by the Board. Processes to identify 10 new Member Associations for IPPF in the Americas and the Caribbean Region started in September 2020. An initial criterion, based on need, was applied to begin exploration in Bolivia, Ecuador, Honduras, Guatemala, Haiti and Cuba. There are also the five members of the Caribbean Family Planning Affiliation that are in the process of taking remedial action on the issues identified during the due diligence exercise in order to become Associate Members.

Guatemala was dismissed due to the adverse national context against SRHR that denied Planned Parenthood Global registration. An agreement was reached to work in Guatemala through PP Global through an MoU.

Former IPPF Members in the scoping countries were informed that IPPF was seeking a new Member Association in the country. Their response was friendly and welcoming.

Local consultants were commissioned in the first phase of this exercise and asked to report on the following three aspects:

- a) SRHR and gender equality situation in the country as a rationale for IPPF's work.
- b) A long list of potential Member Associations against the provided criteria.
- c) A list of 10 national key informants to be interviewed in the second phase.

The second phase involved an in-depth exploration by a consultant external to the scoping country, (to avoid bias), interviewing the 10 key informants in order to identify one or two organisations as potential IPPF Member Associations.

Two reports were produced on organisations in each of the following countries Honduras; Haiti; Bolivia; and Ecuador.

Meetings to explore interest were held with the organisations, the Transition Regional Director and the Director-General.

Due diligence exercises were undertaken that identified that neither of these two organisations that expressed interest are at the stage yet to submit a successful application for membership. These organisations are Colectivo Rebeldia in Bolivia and CEMOPLAF in Ecuador. Both organizations have been provided with feedback on issues identified during the due diligence exercise which need to be addressed and both have expressed willingness to continue to work to address the issues.

Invitations were also issued to Centro de Derechos de Mujeres in Honduras and SOFA in Haiti and an MoU has been signed with CENESEX as a Collaborative Partner in Cuba. The MoU is awaiting ratification on their part.

➤ **Action required: BoT to note this information.**

## 5. UPDATE ON THE THIRD ACCREDITATION PHASE

Membership Committee reviewed an update on the third accreditation phase and noted that this year is the final year of Phase 3. Accreditation reviews will be conducted until December 2021 and MAs will be given the usual 12 month timeframe to address any identified areas of non-compliance.

Evaluation of Phase 3 is currently underway and consultations will take place with key stakeholders, including Member Association staff and volunteers, donors, past and present members of the Membership Committee, and secretariat staff.

The findings of the evaluation and recommendations to be considered for the fourth accreditation phase are expected to be finalised by the end of September 2021 and presented to the Membership Committee and then to the Board of Trustees for its review and approval at their November 2021 meeting after review and discussion by the Directors' Leadership Team.

The accreditation tools will be revised in 2022 and staff and volunteers provided with the required training. Accreditation Phase 4 is expected to be launched in 2023.

➤ **Action required: BoT to note this information.**

## 6. UPDATE ON THE MALAYSIA MEMBER ASSOCIATION AND THE IPPF GOVERNANCE INITIATIVE

The Regional Director, ESEAOR, gave a verbal update on the Malaysia Member Association and their involvement in the IPPF Governance Initiative. The MA was selected to participate in the first round of the initiative and began phase one of the process in October 2020. An assessment of their governance was conducted by a consultant and the report published in February 2021 highlighting 21 recommendations to improve key areas of the MA's governance.

In March and April, the Governance Initiative Team began discussions with the MA about moving into phase two of the initiative, - the implementation phase. The MA wrote to the team, informing them that they agreed with the recommendations and would take them on by themselves. The MA also informed the team that they would be pulling out of phase two of the initiative.

Given the amount of time and resources already invested in phase one and the global commitment to revamp the Federation's and its members' governance, the team found this situation unacceptable.

The Governance Initiative team reached out to the MA to get an understanding of why they had chosen to pull out of the initiative; why the decision was made, who was involved in making such decision, and what were the plans going forward for implementing the recommendations.

The MA responded but didn't provide any further clarity and just reiterated that they would like to take on the recommendations and go forward by themselves and had consulted the 13 states.

The Director General will be sending the message out to the MA the seriousness of pulling out of the initiative, especially due to the issues highlighted in the phase one

report which the team had expected to work together with the MA to implement the recommendations.

The Regional Director will be withholding phase 2 funding and the second tranche of the MA's core funding, to highlight to the MA the seriousness of the matter, until the MA can demonstrate that it has acted on the recommendations.

➤ *Action required: BoT to note this information.*

## 7. RECOMMENDATION FOR ACCREDITATION

The Membership Committee reviewed the accreditation review results of the Member Associations of Guinea-Conakry; Palestine; and Cyprus, which were all found in full compliance with IPPF Membership Standards under the third accreditation phase and **recommends** to the Board of Trustees that **Association Guinéenne pour le Bien-Etre Familial; the Palestinian Family Planning and Protection Association; and the Cyprus Family Planning Association** be re-accredited as Full Members of the Federation.

➤ *Action required: BoT to approve this recommendation.*

## 8. UPDATE ON SUSPENSIONS

**8.1** Membership Committee reviewed the update on the suspension of the Kenya Member Association. Noting that progress in this matter will be determine by the court hearing scheduled for September 2021, Membership Committee **recommends** to the Board of Trustees that the suspension of Family Health Options Kenya be continued.

➤ *Action required: BOT to approve this recommendation.*

**8.2** Membership Committee reviewed the update on the Senegal Member Association, including the response from the MA on being informed of its suspension; and the response from the Africa Regional Office to some of the allegations made by the MA of Senegal. Noting that the situation that led to the Association being suspended is still ongoing, Membership Committee **recommends** to the Board of Trustees that the suspension of Association Sénégalaise pour le Bien-Être Familial be continued.

➤ *Action required: BOT to approve this recommendation.*

## 9. EXEMPTION FROM PHASE III ACCREDITATION

Membership Committee reviewed a request to exempt the Member Associations of the Caribbean Family Planning Affiliation (CFPA) and the United States of America from undergoing an Accreditation Phase 3. These are the only two MAs from the Region yet to undergo an accreditation review under the current accreditation phase.

Given that 2021 is the final year of the third accreditation phase; together with the efforts being made to establish a functioning fully staffed office in the Americas and Caribbean Region; along with the journey five members of CFPA are embarking on towards Associate Membership in their own right; and the efforts being made by the Federation to re-establish an IPPF presence in the Americas and the Caribbean Region, Membership Committee **recommends** to the Board of Trustees that the Caribbean Family Planning Affiliation and the Planned Parenthood Federation of America be exempt from undergoing an accreditation review under the third accreditation phase. This will provide the Region the most needed opportunity to focus on more pressing issues during this unprecedented period the Region is facing.

➤ **Action required: BOT to approve this recommendation.**