

Agenda Item: MA Governance Reform Initiative

Summary:

This paper provides the Board of Trustees an update of the MA Governance Strengthening Programme that aims to pursue IPPF efforts to revamp itself following a successful governance reform at global level.

Supported by the Chinese Government throughout the first round of the initiative, a second round is underway through the support of the Australian Government where MAs are working to identify the independent consultants that will support them in conducting the analysis. Early in May 2021, a third round is launched with the support of the Canadian Government. It is anticipated those various rounds will enable MAs to critically review their own governance systems and practices through an external consultancy support. This will enable them to make the required changes to their governance systems, processes, and practices. The outcomes of the analysis will be implemented during phase 2 of the initiative for each involved MA.

Action Required:

The Board of Trustees is required **to note** this update.

Background

Building on the momentum established by the IPPF Governance Reform, the Global Initiative on MA Governance Strengthening aims to ensure that the participating MAs are equipped with the best governance arrangements that will enable sound and effective decision making, free of any bias or conflict of interest with the best available expertise. It is anticipated that such transformations will ensure governance is aligned to advancing our shared SRHR mandate and improve operating efficiencies.

Approach and strategies

The Global Initiative is designed in two phases - analytical (phase 1) and implementation (phase 2). A secretariat support team was formed to manage the project. Joint online sessions were organised to bring together Presidents, young board members and CEOs from the participating MAs as well as the consultants recruited under phase 1 - to discuss governance strengthening and share key learnings from reform processes. These sessions benefited from the opening remarks of both the IPPF Chair and the IPPF Director-General.

Grants of (up to) USD 22,000 (i.e. USD 10, 000 for phase 1 and USD 12, 000 for phase 2) are made available for all MAs participating in the global initiative. However, phase 2 funding is subject to the commitment from the MAs to meaningful changes.

Several rounds for applications to participate in the initiative are being launched - the estimated timeline for implementation per round is about 18 months.

Recap on the global initiative

In the spring of 2020, the IPPF Global Initiative on MA Governance Strengthening was piloted with a first cohort of ten Members Associations selected from across the Federation – Cameroon, Ecuador (the MA left the initiative with WHR separation), Denmark, India, Malaysia, Mozambique, Palestine, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Uganda. Round 1 is funded under the Chinese Restricted fund (Budget: USD 200.000).

IPPF received a very good response from the MAs under the first round of the pilot initiative call. Taking cue from this enthusiasm, six more MAs were selected for a second round. This second round was launched in January 2021, with MAs from Afghanistan, Fiji, Indonesia, Mali, Morocco and Nigeria selected in March. Round 2 is funded by DFAT (Budget: USD 185.000).

A third round is currently being launched, that will include eight additional MAs. Round 3 is funded in the framework of the GAC project “Driving change: an acceleration agenda to deliver SRHR for all” (Budget: USD 254.000).

Progress to date

Currently, the Round 1 MAs are under the initiative phase 2, which is planned to end in December 2021. Three MAs (Denmark, Pakistan and Uganda) have already signed funding agreements for phase 2, and three more are about to be finalised by the end of May: some delays were due to a variety of reasons, including the need to consolidate governance reform plans (Sri Lanka, Mozambique) or to identify a new consultant to support the process (Palestine). In the case of India, the severe Covid crisis that is currently hitting the country is posing additional challenges to finalise phase 2 plans. In Cameroon, there are discussions with the MA's main donor (Global fund) on the last ED recruitment process that is also posing challenges and risks in implementing phase 2. These 2 cases are being closely followed by the secretariat team. In the case of Malaysia, the MA has announced in April that they would not implement phase 2 – which has been discussed by the DLT and the Membership Committee was subsequently informed: a decision was made by the management to withhold the next core funding tranche as a response to the non-justified withdrawal of the MA from the global initiative.

The Round 2 MAs have been introduced to the global initiative concept and processes at an online joint launch session in March and jointly with the secretariat team are now recruiting, their respective consultants to conduct the phase 1 governance analysis. A first consultant was recruited in Mali and interviews of short-listed candidates are being held in other countries. The round 2 implementation is until July 2022.

The Round 3 open call was launched in May – with 25 May deadline for applications. The round 3 implementation is until September 2022.

What's next?

It is planned to organise a joint online session for Round 2 MAs to share experience on governance reform and also hear about the recent experience of Round 1 MAs. This event will be conducted once all consultants of the Round 2 MAs have been recruited – most probably in June.