

**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.

Three rounds are underway. MAs are still working with independent consultants in conducting the analysis. It is anticipated that this initiative 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 MA Governance Initiative is designed in two phases - analytical (phase 1) and implementation (phase 2). A secretariat support team was formed to manage the project. This team facilitates learning and sharing exchanges among the MAs that are part of the initiative. Two online roundtables were organised 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. The sessions brought together Presidents, young board members and CEOs from the participating MAs as well as the consultants from the three phases.

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.

Learning from phase 1 pilot round, in the next two rounds, a joint Coordination Committee comprising of MA President, Youth and ED with two secretariat colleagues were constituted in the MAs for better coordination and timely secretariat support.

### ***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, two more rounds of the initiative were launched. The call for second round was made in January 2021, and launched in March 2021 with six MAs from Afghanistan, Fiji, Indonesia, Mali, Morocco and Nigeria.

The third-round call was made in May 2021 and launched in June 2021, with eight additional MAs from Jamaica, Lesotho, Malawi, Maldives, Mexico, Sudan, Tunisia and Vanuatu

In total, 23 MAs are undergoing governance reform in the Federation and are at various stages of the exercise.

### ***Progress to date***

Currently, the Round 1 MAs are under the initiative phase 2, which is expected to end in December 2021. Mozambique, Palestine and Uganda have submitted the phase two report and constitutional amendments due to be approved before end of this year. These are being validated by the secretariat and necessary support and advice as required are being provided. Cameroon, Denmark, India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka reports are expected in November and looks positive to complete reforms by December 2021. In the case of Malaysia, in the phase 2 it was identified that the MA was in breach of the membership standards governance overstepping to management role and recommendations for next steps were provided by the consultant. The MA is yet to come to an agreement on the above proposals. The secretariat team is in touch with the MA. Further action depends on the outcomes of the engagement with the MA.

The Round 2 MAs are currently completing the Phase 1 governance analysis. Among them Nigeria, Mali, Fiji, Indonesia and Morocco have submitted the phase 1 analysis report. The secretariat team is jointly reviewing the reports with the MA to agree on the next steps. Unfortunately, in Afghanistan the humanitarian crisis in the country has delayed the start of the work and now the consultant is on board.

The Round 3 MAs have completed the recruitment of the consultants for phase 1 governance analysis. The governance diagnosis is in progress.

***What's next?***

A third series of online learning session is being organised on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021 for the consultants engaged in Round 3, consultant from phase 1 are invited to share their experiences and learnings in this online event.