

Board of Trustees  
9-10 March 2022

Refers to  
agenda item 3.2

**Agenda Item: Board's contribution in formation and delivery of the GA.**

**Summary:**

The 2019 governance reforms established the General Assembly (GA) of Member Associations as the highest authority of IPPF's new governance structure. The Board of Trustees convenes the General Assembly and agrees on the agenda and key deliverables, which is sent to Members in advance.

The November GA in Bogota is a crucial moment for IPPF; it is our first GA since the governance reform, it will be where Strategy 2028 is approved, and it marks IPPF's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. The GA allows IPPF to carry out its governance duties and provides space for networking, individual and organizational fulfilment.

At the December BoT meeting, trustees agreed to meet with the President, ED and a youth representative of the MA in their country. This paper sets out the pathway for trustees, and their role in engaging participants to ensure all MAs have a meaningful, inspiring and successful GA.

**Action Required:**

- 1.The Board to note the paper and agree on the engagement approach.
- 2.The Board to approve the establishment of an oversight group to guide and oversee work towards the GA; a TOR forms Appendix A.

In fulfilling its governance objectives, **the General Assembly is expected to:**

1. Review and approve the overall strategic direction of the Federation
2. Provide input into the Board of Trustees policies and decisions
3. Remove, at the request of a two-thirds majority of its membership, one or more trustees from the Board of Trustees
4. Adopt and amend the Regulations and Bylaws of the Federation
5. Scrutinize the work of the Board of Trustees and Director-General and the financial performance of IPPF
6. Appoint members of the Nomination and Governance Committee as these rotate off (at least two members every three years)
7. Confirm appointments to the Board of Trustees

## **The trustees obligations and leadership at the 2022 General Assembly**

In the previous BoT meeting, we shared papers with trustees on the likely cadence and flow of the GA. What we now have is a sharper view on the key deliverables that the BoT will oversee, acknowledging the unique role the NGC plays. Trustees do not represent an MA, and in a Federation wide role they are expected to:

- Hold a successful Youth Summit
- Build momentum so that all members are ready to vote on the strategy; and in doing so the charter and a global rebrand (refer Agenda item 3.4)
- Complete all business within the Impact, Risk and Resilience Workplan, including the issue of a General Assembly public statement on making IPPF an anti-racist organization.
- Approve a Vice-Chair position and changes to the adjustment in financial governance (refer Agenda item 3.3)
- Ensure space and context so that the Nominations and Governance Committee can demonstrate their role in IPPF's new governance structure, elect its (3) new members and report to the GA on this, as well as on the board appraisal.
- Celebrate our 70th birthday.

### **Meaningful engagement of young people**

Trustees have already emphasized the opportunities for young people's participation and leadership in the GA, as well as the importance of maximizing the opportunity for engagement with each other. The environment which young people participate in must be accessible, safe for everybody and free of discrimination and stigma. Clarity around roles and responsibilities and an agenda with clear links between the Youth Summit and GA will ensure the investment of young people's program of work in the coming years.

### **Creation of a GA Oversight Group**

A successful GA is a critical task and as such a BOT oversight group would ensure responsibilities are clear and discharged purposefully. The Chair of the BoT would lead the group and would invite Sami Natsheh, Bience Gawanas, Andreas Prager and Surakshya Giri.

A Terms of Reference forms Appendix A.

END.

## **Terms of Reference Oversight Group – General Assembly 2022**

*We will stand together for love, intimacy, sex, pleasure, and care.*

### **Background**

The General Assembly (GA) is the highest decision-making body of IPPF. It takes place every three years, and this November marks IPPF's 70th anniversary defending choice and delivering care beyond barriers. A successful GA is a critical task and as such a BOT oversight group would ensure responsibilities are clear and discharged purposefully.

Our host, Profamilia Colombia just celebrated a monumental win to make abortion legal and could not think of a better time to invite MA's and trustees to the same region that sparked the green wave.

This will be a moment for MAs to probe the work of the Board and its Committees, the Director General, and the Secretariat. Member Association representatives will exercise their duty in appointing members for the vacant seats within the Nominations and Governance Committee. IPPF will also release its anti-racism statement; making public the journey we have undertaken and ensuring our legacy is one we can be proud of. A Global Youth Forum will ensure a space for young people to collaborate and co-create the change.

The GA is in Bogotá, Colombia, Monday 21<sup>st</sup> to Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

### **Objectives**

The objectives of this group are time bound and focused, with a view to:

1. Overseeing the work that the Director General (DG) undertakes in designing and co-creating the 2022 General Assembly.
2. Guiding trustees so that they are empowered to act in the best interests of the Federation, are connected across and ensure well-informed MA attendees arrive to Bogota in good spirit.
3. Ensuring the General Assembly is informed and emboldened by the principles of youth engagement – with clear connections and deliverables between the preceding Youth Summit and the General Assembly.
4. Overseeing the agenda and order of events, driving themes and speakers. Oversee arrangements for any voting that takes place, as well as resolve 'political' issues before and as they arise.
5. Prioritizing field visits for trustees and ensure meaningful involvement in that process of key stakeholders, MA's, young people, donors in the lead up to the approval of the strategic plan.
6. Reviewing the budget for the General Assembly; and

7. Receiving and responding to queries and concerns from stakeholders about the General Assembly and to report regularly to the trustees on progress.

### **Composition and roles**

The Oversight Group shall consist of 5 trustees and, key staff namely:

- Kate Gilmore (Co Chair)
- Surakshya Giri
- Sami Natsheh
- Bience Gawanas
- Andreas Prager
- Alvaro Bermejo
- Mina Barling

### **Timeline and Process**

The Oversight Group will hold its first meeting in first week in April, and will conclude its work at the BOT meeting immediately after the GA.