

Agenda Item 6 : Membership Committee Report to the Board of Trustees

Summary:

This report contains a summary of the agenda items considered and discussed by the Membership Committee at its meeting on 12th May 2022.

Action Required:

The Board of Trustees to consider the individual requirements under each subheading.

Membership Committee

Report to the Board of Trustees

The following attended the 12th May 2022 virtual meeting of the Membership Committee (MC):

Committee Members:

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

Ex-officio:

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

IPPF Secretariat:

Ms Marie-Evelyne Petrus-Barry, Regional Director, Africa
Ms Dona Da Costa Martinez, Deputy Regional Director, Americas & the Caribbean
Ms Fadoua Bakhadda, Regional Director, Arab World
Mr Mustapha Kemayel, Assistant 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
Mr Ashish Kumar, Senior Technical Advisor - Institutional Development & Governance Support -Related agenda item
Mr Praveen Nair, Consultant - Related agenda item

Minutes Taker:

Ms Caroline Dickinson

1. ACCREDITATION REVIEW OUTCOMES

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

- **Chad** - Association Tchadienne pour le Bien-Etre Familial
- **Guinea-Bissau** - Associação Guineense para o Bem Estar Familiar
- **Niger** - Association Nigérienne pour le Bien-Etre Familial
- **Democratic Republic of Congo** - Association pour le Bien-Etre Familial/Naissances Désirables
- **Namibia** - Namibia Planned Parenthood Association
- **Algeria** - Association Algérienne pour la Planification Familiale
- **Somaliland** - Somaliland Family Health Association
- **Romania** - Societatea de Educatie Contraceptiva si Sexuala
- **Slovak Republic** - Spoločnosť pre plánované rodičovstvo
- **Israel** - Israel Family Planning Association
- **China** - China Family Planning Association
- **Hong Kong** - Family Planning Association of Hong Kong
- **Samoa** - Samoa Family Health Association
- **Kiribati** - Kiribati Family Health Association
- **Vanuatu** - Vanuatu Family Health Association
- **Bangladesh** - Family Planning Association of Bangladesh

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 **Chad; Guinea-Bissau; Niger; Democratic Republic of Congo; Namibia; Algeria; Somaliland; Romania; Slovak Republic; Israel; China; Hong Kong; Samoa; Kiribati; Vanuatu; and Bangladesh** cannot currently be re-accredited and will remain accredited members of IPPF, under accreditation Phase 2, with no change to their membership status.

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

2. ACCREDITATION REVIEW FOLLOW-UP

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

- **Cameroon** - Cameroon National Association for Family Welfare
- **Zambia** - Planned Parenthood Association of Zambia
- **Comoros** - Association Comorienne pour le Bien-Etre de la Famille
- **Tanzania** - Uzazi na Malezi Bora Tanzania
- **Sierra Leone** - Planned Parenthood Association of Sierra Leone
- **Mozambique** - Associação Moçambicana para Desenvolvimento da Família
- **Mali** - Association Malienne pour la Protection et la Promotion de la Famille
- **Egypt** - Egyptian Family Planning Association
- **Indonesia** - Indonesian Planned Parenthood Association
- **Republic of Korea** - Korea Population, Health and Welfare Association
- **Cook Islands** - Cook Islands Family Welfare Association
- **Lithuania** - Seimos Planavimo ir Seksualines Sveikatos Asociacija
- **Belgium** - Belgische Federatie voor Seksuele en Reproductieve Gezondheid en Rechten / Fédération Belge pour la Santé et les Droits Sexuels et Reproductifs
- **Republic of Serbia** - Serbian Association for Sexual and Reproductive Rights
- **Afghanistan** - Afghan Family Guidance Association
- **Nepal** - Family Planning Association of Nepal

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 **Cameroon; Zambia; Comoros; Tanzania; Sierra Leone; Mozambique; Mali; Egypt; Lithuania; Belgium; Republic of Serbia; Indonesia; Republic of Korea; Cook Islands; Afghanistan;** and **Nepal** will remain accredited members of IPPF, under accreditation Phase 2, with no change to their membership status.

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

3. CHANGE OF NAME

Membership Committee reviewed the report of the change of name of the Member Association of the Democratic People's Republic Korea from: **Korean Family Planning & Maternal Child Health Association of DPRK**

to: **Family Health Association of Korea**

On reflection of the reason for the change of name, the MA indicated:

"Family Planning & Maternal and Child Health" denotes mainly maternal and child health, not the health of young people, the aged and disabled. While the term "Family Health" implies attaining SRHR of all individuals covered by family which embraces youth, men, women, disabled and aged.

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

4. RESIGNATIONS

- 1- The Membership Committee noted the reports from the Japan and Iran Member Associations indicating their resignation from IPPF.

In the case of Japan, due to the MA's set up as General Incorporated Association, the Directors are financially liable for all losses incurred by the Association, thus, is not able to fulfil IPPF's membership standards and responsibilities particularly on the remuneration to Board members and percentage of youth on the Board. These non-compliances also restrict them from becoming Associate Member. Based on this background, the Japan Family Planning Association Inc. (JFPA) board took the decision to resign from IPPF.

Nevertheless, JFPA have expressed interest in becoming a Collaborative Partner with ESEAOR. As part of the global movement to ensure and improve Sexual and Reproductive Health and Right for all, JFPA continues its commitment in supporting IPPF and its programmes in the country.

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

- 2- The Family Health Association of Iran (FHA) informed IPPF SARO in Oct/Nov 2021 of its difficulty in continuing its association with IPPF because of a decision by the Iranian government to revoke their license. The decision was taken as the work done by FHA was deemed to clash with the new population law passed last year. The "Rejuvenation of the Population and Support of the Family" bill, which was signed into law in

November 2021, by the Iranian President, imposes restrictions on abortions, prohibits sterilization and the distribution of free contraceptives in Iran's public health care system.

Efforts made by the Director-General and the Regional Director, SARO to assure the government of IPPF's commitment to provide support in taking forward FHAI's overall strategy which is in line with the country's healthcare priorities and refocus FHAI's service delivery strategy, failed to convince the government to restore FHAI's license.

SARO is engaged in the process of situation assessment of Iran through a local consultant and will identify a new organisation to invite for Collaborative Partnership.

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

5. UPDATE ON THE CARIBBEAN FAMILY PLANNING AFFILIATION MEMBERS' JOURNEY TO ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

Membership Committee reviewed the update on the 2 remaining members (Guadeloupe and Martinique) of the Caribbean Family Planning Affiliation (CFPA) that embarked on the journey to become Associate Members of IPPF following the separation of the Western Hemisphere Region from IPPF.

Both organizations faced delays because of Covid-19 at the national level impacting their abilities to engage with actors to address the required changes to meet the application requirements. Communication between the Regional Office and both affiliates had stalled for a while but was re-established again with the assistance of the Regional Director, Africa Region. Both organizations have made substantial progress. Their application for IPPF Associate Membership will be tabled at the next meeting of the Membership Committee.

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

6. UPDATE ON RECRUITING AFFILIATES IN AMERICAS & THE CARIBBEAN REGION

Membership Committee reviewed the update on the progress being made to recruit affiliates in the Region following the separation of the Western Hemisphere Region from IPPF.

The Region have identified an additional nine organizations for membership in the countries of Aruba; Bolivia; Brazil; Ecuador; Guyana; Haiti; Honduras; as well as Guadeloupe and Martinique mentioned above.

The organization in Guyana has completed the due diligence process; the one in Haiti is in the process of the financial due diligence; and the organizations in Honduras and Brazil have agreed to start the due diligence process.

For Ecuador, their statutes comply with many of the IPPF requirements, but there are key areas where they fall short, including no youth participation in the Board; voting rights for staff and currently staff holding positions in the board; no evidence of involvement of the Board in approving plans, budgets and financial reports. Provisions have now been included in their statutory documents to address most of these issues.

Twelve young members have recently been recruited and been provided induction and training in preparation to be eligible as Board members in the September 2022 elections.

The Collaborative Partnership MoU signed with IPPF has allowed the ACRO team to provide support with the reform and the membership application preparation process.

The Bolivian organization shares IPPF vision, mission and values. Their statutes and bylaws covers much of IPPF's admission requirements. However, there were some key areas where they fell short, including no youth participation in the Board; no up-to-date membership records; no clear definitions for the functioning of the Board; lack of a policy that prevents volunteers from being paid; no conflict-of-interest declaration signed; no written policy on the responsibilities of the Board; no regulated performance review of governing body.

Most of the issues have been addressed by amendments to statutory documents. In the November extraordinary AGM, a young woman was approved as a new member. The board's term expires in 2027 but it is expected that as soon as there is an open position in the board, there would be a pool of young members from which to select a young board member and thus comply with the requirement of youth on the Board.

ACRO has offered to support and have shared a reference tool for formal assessment of the Board. Record-keeping of the organisation's membership is now in place and Board members and senior staff have signed conflict-of-interest declarations.

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

7. MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

Membership Committee reviewed the concept note for the annual performance review of IPPF's Standing Committees and of the individual members and the subsequent actions as per the NGC timeline.

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

8. STAGGERING OF THE MC MEMBERS TERMS OF OFFICE

Membership Committee reviewed the paper on staggering the terms of office of MC members. The Members will confer among themselves to devise the plan to ensure staggering on the Membership Committee based on the guidance provided.

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

9. RECOMMENDATION FOR ACCREDITATION

The Membership Committee reviewed the accreditation review results of the Member Associations of Botswana; Congo; Mauritania; Finland; and Ukraine, which were all found in full compliance with IPPF Membership Standards under the third accreditation phase, and **recommends** to the Board of Trustees that **Botswana Family Welfare Association; Association Congolaise pour le Bien-Etre Familial; Association Mauritanienne pour la Promotion de la Famille; Väestöliitto; and NGO Women Health and Family Planning** be re-accredited as Full Members of the Federation.

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

10. RECOMMENDATION FOR SUSPENSION

Membership Committee reviewed the paper on the Djibouti Member Association. The MA was scheduled to undergo an accreditation review in the first half of 2021 but

requested the visit be postponed until the second half of the year. Over the past few years, the relationship between Tunis Office and the MA has broken down and the MA requested to join the IPPF African Region, arguing that the former Regional Director and some staff of Tunis office were harassing the President and not supporting the MA. Both acting Regional Directors that came later were not able to resolve this issue.

The MA was informed that the review team would consist of three persons from the Africa Regional Office and a new joiner in the Arab World Regional Office. The MA requested that the review team should consist of a team only from the London and Africa Regional Offices. Despite reassurance that the accreditation review would be conducted objectively and the need for the MA to undergo review before the end of Phase 3 accreditation cycle in December 2021, the MA resisted going through the process. Instead, the MA emailed to inform IPPF that it's Board had taken the decision to resign from IPPF and that the minutes of the meeting where this decision was made would be submitted to London shortly.

Following several reminders requesting a copy of the decision, the MA President insisted that for such an important step, they needed to have a meeting with the IPPF Director-General. The requested meeting took place on 16th February 2022 with a commitment from the MA to officially send their formal decision about going through the accreditation review or not by 20th February 2022. At this meeting, the MA explained that they needed to be supported through accreditation, as due to staff turnover there was no longer anyone in the organization familiar with the process. The MA reiterated their non acceptance of having anyone from Tunis Office on the accreditation review team. The DG assured them that the accreditation would be objective and impartial, but the President indicated that he would consult his board for a final answer regarding the acceptance of the accreditation review visit. To date, no response has been received despite gentle reminders with set deadline sent.

For failing to commit itself to go undergo an accreditation review, coupled with poor performance over the years, the Regional Director, IPPF Arab World, recommends that the IPPF Membership of the Djibouti Member Association, Association Djiboutienne pour l'Equilibre et la Promotion de la Famille, be suspended. The Director-General endorses this recommendation.

Having reviewed the case, the Membership Committee **recommends** to the Board of Trustees that the IPPF Membership of Association Djiboutienne pour l'Equilibre et la Promotion de la Famille, be suspended.

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

11. RECOMMENDATION FOR EXPULSION

- 1- Membership Committee reviewed the recommendation from the Regional Director, Africa Region, which was endorsed by the Director-General, to begin the process of expelling the Senegal Member Association, Association Sénégalaise pour le Bien Etre Familial, from IPPF.

The MA has been under suspension since March 2021 due to institutional challenges linked to governance and financial management. The Regional Office has sent requests in September 2021 and February 2022 to the MA for information on the actions being taken to resolve the issues which led to its suspension. The MA did not respond to the September 2021 request and responded to the February 2022 request stating that the MA was functioning well, volunteer legitimately elected, and the executive director's contract was still in force (despite her having been found guilty of embezzlement of

funds). They repeated that their initial position had not changed and that IPPF should follow the new dynamics of the organization.

Having reviewed the update, the Membership Committee **recommends** that the Board of Trustees begin the process to expel Association Sénégalaise pour le Bien Etre Familial, from IPPF.

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

- 2- Planned Parenthood Association of Liberia has been under IPPF suspension since August 2021 due to the forensic audit which reported suspected mismanagement of funds between the period of 2013 – 2018 of USD 4,367,786.19. The MA agreed on a road map to ensure redress but were unable to implement it.

The Executive Director of the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission responded to a letter dated 21st October 2021 received from the Centre for Accountability and Transparency in Liberia regarding allegations of misappropriation of public funds and unethical conduct by some Planned Parenthood Association of Liberia officials. The letter from the Commission indicated that a complaint had been logged and investigations were on-going.

In response to the January 2022 request from the Regional Office for the MA to call a Board meeting to discuss the reimbursement of mismanaged funds, the MA Chairperson indicated that the National Executive Committee no longer had jurisdiction over the forensic audit as the case had been handed over to the Liberian Anti-corruption Commission.

In February 2022, the Regional Office sent a letter to the MA Chairperson requesting an update on the action plan for reimbursement of the mismanaged funds to IPPF and other donors. A reminder was sent in March 2022. The MA did not respond.

In view of the breach of the IPPF membership standards, and to avoid further reputational risk to IPPF and its stakeholders, the Regional Director, IPPF Africa Region, recommends Planned Parenthood Association of Liberia be expelled from IPPF. This recommendation was endorsed by the Director-General.

Having reviewed the update, the Membership Committee **recommends** that the Board of Trustees begin the process to expel Planned Parenthood Association of Liberia, from IPPF.

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

12. UPDATE ON APPLICATION FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

Membership Committee reviewed the re-submission of the application for IPPF Associate Membership by the Foundation for the Promotion of Responsible Parenthood of Aruba. The application was originally submitted in October 2021, but MC raised some questions which needed to be clarified before it could make any recommendation. Having reviewed the resubmission, Membership Committee **recommends** the application for IPPF Associate Membership, from Foundation for the Promotion of Responsible Parenthood of Aruba, be approved.

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

13. UPDATE ON SUSPENSION

Membership Committee reviewed the update on the suspension of the Kenya Member Association. Noting that the situation is ongoing and the matter is still before the court, with 04th July 2022 as the new date for the hearing, 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**

14. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO IPPF STANDARDS & RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERSHIP

Membership Committee reviewed the proposed amendments to the membership standards and procedures as outlined in the IPPF Standards and Responsibilities of Membership.

Following the [Accreditation Phase 3 Evaluation Report](#), Accreditation Focal Points led teams including subject experts and other members from across the Unified Secretariat, Member Associations and the Membership Committee. In total, a team of 32 individuals spent many days working tirelessly to propose the required changes based on the recommendations from the evaluation report.

Following feedback from the Director's Leadership Team, the proposed changes were further fine-tuned. Ultimately the membership standards, which form the backbone of the accreditation system, were reduced from 48 to 33 (and the underlying checks from 201 to 153). With such a reduction, the accreditation system is made lighter and more agile especially with the proposal that reviews be conducted virtually as the norm but on a hybrid basis, (virtual and onsite), when deemed absolutely necessary.

The proposed amendments to the membership standards and its accompanying procedures are highlighted in [IPPF Standards and Responsibilities of Membership](#). The draft document containing the revisions made to the accreditation checks which underlie the accreditation standards can be accessed at [International Planned Parenthood Federation: Document Center \(boardable.com\)](#).

Some of the key revisions proposed include:

- **Admission criteria**

Focus interest was given to the need to reflect the diversity of IPPF membership, hence creating flexibility in admitting new members. In addition, other not-for-profit organization such as a charitable trust, social enterprise, philanthropic organization, etc. working in the area of SRHR will be welcomed to apply for membership of the Federation. The procedures also provide for "**at least 80% compliance**" with the revised key governance and constitutional provisions at the time of application and **a window period of two years** to be given to new members to comply with the remaining provisions following their admission.

- **Standards**

The following have emerged as key areas for amendments of the standards and their underlying checks:

- Emphasis on skill-based boards, expertise and accountability appointment process;
- Safeguarding and security embedded across standards & checks;
- Environment impact brought under management from Quality of Care to consider its overall effect on the organisation;

- Strengthened financial standards;
- Improved HR practices; including mainstreaming of safeguarding foundations;
- Strategy and Advocacy including gender and inclusion principles.

Formal accreditation review will take place once every four years with a mid-term review after 24 months. Review teams will include members from the Secretariat and MAs (staff and volunteer) and can consist of local consultants where necessary; and there will be MA to MA peer engagement to support MAs in resolving non-compliances.

The Membership Committee **recommends** the amendments to the IPPF Standards and Responsibilities of Membership be approved by the Board of Trustees.

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