

Agenda Item 10: Recommendation to expel, Planned Parenthood Association of Liberia from IPPF

Summary:

In June 2022, following recommendation from the Membership Committee, BoT approved that the process to expel Planned Parenthood Association of Liberia should begin. Having reviewed the updates on this case, Membership Committee voted with the required majority in favour that the process be completed.

This paper summarises the background to this case.

Action Required:

The Board of Trustees is requested **to approve** that the process to expel the Liberia Member Association, Planned Parenthood Association of Liberia, from IPPF be completed.

Background

A 2019 forensic audit of Planned Parenthood Association of Liberia (PPAL) covering the period 1st January 2013 to 31st December 2018 uncovered misappropriation of USD 4,367,786.19. Having agreed and then failing to fully implement a roadmap for redress, PPAL's IPPF membership was suspended in August 2021.

In view of the lack of concrete actions being made towards recovery of the mismanaged funds and to avoid further reputational risk to IPPF, at its May 2022 meeting, Membership Committee recommended that the BoT begin the process to expel PPAL from IPPF.

At its June 2022 meeting, the BoT voted with the required two-thirds majority to begin the process to expel Planned Parenthood Association of Liberia from IPPF and PPAL was duly informed and given opportunity to respond and show cause why it should not be expelled.

Planned Parenthood Association of Liberia responded in June saying that the president of the board had been asked to resign and an interim board was now in place with the mandate including to report on implementation of the recommendations of the audit report.

PPAL responded again on 03 August 2022, pleading for IPPF to terminate the expulsion process. They acknowledged that the previous management had been "lethargic" in implementing the agreed roadmap; acknowledged the support provided to them by IPPF Africa Regional Office; stressed the detrimental affect its loss of IPPF membership would mean for the country; and submitted copy of a press briefing from the Liberia Anti-corruption Commission recommending four former employees and the board vice-chair be prosecution on several accounts relating to economic sabotage, abuse of office, and theft and related offences.

This was followed by a plea from the Ministry of Health, (12 August 2022) requesting IPPF reconsiders its decision to expel PPAL, outlining the history of PPAL and stressing the importance of the services they provided in the country.

PPAL submitted a draft restitution plan to the Regional Office on 31 August 2022. Given that neither the Africa Regional Office nor the IPPF London Risk Management team consider the restitution plan to be realistic as well as the PPAL trading debts of US \$268,558, the case was submitted electronically back to the Membership Committee to for its review on 14 September in order for a paper to be submitted to the September 2022 meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Having reviewed all the correspondence relating to this case, Membership Committee voted with the required majority recommending that the Board of Trustees complete the process to expel Planned Parenthood Association from IPPF.