

**Agenda Item 6: Member Associations Issues**

**Summary:**

This report contains a summary of membership issues that require swift board attention. It focuses on three expulsion cases, one suspension and one admission. The dossiers were shared electronically with the Membership Committee for review and recommendation.

**Action Required:**

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

## **Member Associations Issues**

### **Background**

The first meeting of the Membership Committee this year will take place in June 2023, linked to the Board meeting in Germany. Given the urgency of pending decisions, in February 2023 the Membership Committee reviewed five dossiers in order to present their recommendations in time for consideration at the March 2023 meeting of the Board of Trustees. The dossiers were shared by email and Membership Committee requested to cast their vote electronically for each of the five items.

The Membership Committee, after raising clarifying questions, voted with the required majority to submit the following recommendations to the Board of Trustees for consideration.

### **1. RECOMMENDATION FOR EXPULSION**

The Membership Committee reviewed the plea from the Kenya Member Association, Family Health Options Kenya, in response to the show cause notice issued by IPPF in November 2022. The Association, whilst acknowledging that it had been under suspension for a period exceeding two years, requested IPPF to wait until the court case or criminal investigation was concluded before making the decision to expel Family Health Options Kenya from IPPF.

Noting that the situation is still ongoing and the matter before the court with no end in sight for the conclusion of the case, coupled with the fact that the Association has been under suspension for more than two years, to avoid any further negative reputational risk to the Federation and to be able to move forward with a new member, the Membership Committee **recommends** to the Board of Trustees that the process to expel Family Health Options Kenya be completed.

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

### **2. RECOMMENDATION FOR EXPULSION**

The Membership Committee reviewed the recommendation from the Regional Director, IPPF South Asia Region, to complete the process to expel the Bangladesh Member Association, Family Planning Association of Bangladesh, from IPPF.

The recommendation was made due to previous history of suspension; unsatisfactory performance; inadequate actions to concerns raised; non-compliance with the IPPF's accreditation standards going back since accreditation phase 2; no progress on constitution and governance reform; sharing misleading and conflicting information; lack of any meaningful action or serious efforts on issues like conflicts of interest; inaction of the National Executive Board members; and quality of programmes.

Having reviewed the report, Membership Committee **recommends** that the Board of Trustees complete the process to expel the Family Planning Association of Bangladesh from IPPF.

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

### **3. RECOMMENDATION FOR EXPULSION**

The Membership Committee reviewed the recommendation from the Regional Director, Arab World Region, which was endorsed by the Director-General, to begin the process of expelling the Djibouti Member Association (MA), Association Djiboutienne pour l'Equilibre et la Promotion de la Famille, from IPPF.

The MA's IPPF membership was suspended in June 2022 for failing to commit to undergo an accreditation review under the third accreditation phase. The MA was informed in November 2022 that, should no progress be made on this matter, the case for expulsion would be presented to the Membership Committee.

The Regional Director, IPPF Arab World met with the Association in December 2022 to better understand the situation of the MA. During the meeting she stressed the lack of performance; poor governance; lack of management accountability; and poor understanding of accreditation, despite the board being in place for eleven years, as areas of concern.

The meeting concluded with a request for the MA to share detailed finance and activity reports and to read through the accreditation documentation and complete the self-assessment.

In January 2023, the MA shared activity and finance reports which demonstrated a lack of performance, bad management and poor governance. The accreditation self-assessment was not shared.

Membership Committee, having reviewed the paper, **recommends** to the Board of Trustees to begin the process to expel the Djibouti Member Association, Association Djiboutienne pour l'Equilibre et la Promotion de la Famille, from IPPF.

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

### **4. RECOMMENDATION FOR SUSPENSION**

Since November 2021, the IPPF Secretariat began receiving complaints from staff and from members of the board about malpractice in governance and management at the El Salvador Member Association, Asociación Demográfica Salvadoreña. A team from the Americas and the Caribbean Regional Office (ACRO) visited the Member Association, Asociación Demográfica Salvadoreña in May 2022 to investigate. The team discovered that an ongoing investigation was taking place into alleged wrongdoings by the former Executive Director and other staff, and that the Association's Board composition was in violation of its constitution relating to tenure. At least two board members (including the President) had exceeded their tenure and should not have been eligible for election in 2020, the time of the last elections; and there is no youth representative on the Board.

Following the visit, the team shared a summary of their findings and recommendations with the Member Association. In June 2022, Asociación Demográfica Salvadoreña responded indicating that the Association agreed with the recommendations and would act on them. Sadly, since then, no further actions have been taken by the Association to address the recommendations or to engage in discussion.

As a result of the Association's failure to respond or try to rectify the non-compliant situations, their IPPF funding has been suspended in August 2022.

After more than 12 months since the crisis in the Association began and having exhausted the options to convince Asociación Demográfica Salvadoreña to work on its issues that go against its own rules and bylaws and against IPPF principles and standards of membership, ACRO's Senior Management Team believes that it is time to resort to a more drastic measure by recommending Asociación Demográfica Salvadoreña's IPPF membership be suspended.

Membership Committee, having reviewed the report, **recommends** that the Board of Trustees suspends the IPPF membership of the El Salvador Member 12

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

## **5. APPLICATION FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP**

Membership Committee reviewed the application for Associate Membership of IPPF from the São Tomé and Príncipe IPPF Collaborative Partner, Associação Santomense para Promoção Familiar. Associação Santomense para Promoção Familiar was established in 1995 and has been a partner of IPPF since 1998. In 2022 the organization requested support from IPPF Africa Region to move towards Associate Membership.

Following a review of the organization's statutory documents and an onsite visit to the organization, IPPF Africa Region is satisfied that the application meets the requirements as outlined in Procedure 6 of the IPPF Standards and Responsibilities of Membership.

Membership Committee **recommends** the application for IPPF Associate Membership submitted by the Africa Regional Office on behalf of the Collaborative Partner, Associação Santomense para Promoção Familiar, be approved by the Board of Trustees.

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