

**Board of Trustees**  
**15-16 June 2023**

**Agenda Item 9 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 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

**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 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023 meeting of the Membership Committee (MC):

#### **Committee Members:**

Mr Ulukbek Batyrgaliev, Chair  
Ms Surakshya Giri, Member  
Mr Amadou Bah, Member  
Ms Ann Hendrix-Jenkins, Member  
Ms Jossy Dukere, Member  
Ms May Thazin Myint, Member  
Mr Vinod Kapoor, Member (virtual attendance)

#### **Ex-officio:**

Dr Alvaro Bermejo, Director-General

#### **IPPF Secretariat:**

Ms Marie-Evelyne Petrus-Barry, Regional Director, Africa  
Ms Eugenia Lopez Uribe, Director, Americas & the Caribbean  
Ms Fadoua Bakhadda, Regional Director, Arab World  
Ms Tomoko Fukuda, Regional Director, ESEAO  
Ms Caroline Hickson, Regional Director, European Network  
Ms Sonal Mehta, Regional Director, South Asia  
Ms Manuelle Hurwitz, Director, MA Development & Impact  
Mr Achille Togbeto, Director, Governance & Accreditation  
Ms Karen Watson, Accreditation Adviser (virtual attendance)

#### **Minutes Taker:**

Ms Caroline Dickinson (virtual attendance)

## 1. ACCREDITATION REVIEW OUTCOME

Membership Committee reviewed the accreditation review outcome of the following Member Association that underwent an accreditation review under accreditation phase three:

- **Tonga** – Tonga Family Health Association

Noting that there are standards with which this Member Association does not yet comply and is taking steps to remedy this, the Member Association of Tonga cannot currently be re-accredited under the third accreditation phase and will remain an accredited member of IPPF, under accreditation Phase 2, with no change to its membership status.

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

## 2. ACCREDITATION REVIEW FOLLOW-UP

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

- **Tanzania** - Uzazi na Malezi Bora Tanzania
- **China** - China Family Planning Association
- **Vietnam** - Vietnam Family Planning Association
- **Indonesia** - Indonesian Planned Parenthood Association
- **Slovak Republic** - Spoločnosť pre plánované rodičovstvo
- **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 **Tanzania; Slovak Republic; China; Vietnam; Indonesia;** 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. RECOMMENDATION FOR ACCREDITATION

The Membership Committee reviewed the accreditation review results of the Member Associations of **Cameroon; Mozambique; Mali; Chad; Guinea-Bissau; Niger; Democratic Republic of Congo; Belgium; Romania; Israel; Samoa; Republic of Korea; Vanuatu** and **Kiribati**, which were all found in full compliance with IPPF Membership Standards under the third accreditation phase, and **recommends** to the Board of Trustees that **Cameroon National Association for Family Welfare; Associação Moçambicana para Desenvolvimento da Família; Association Malienne pour la Protection et la Promotion de la Famille; Association Tchadienne pour le Bien-Etre Familial; Associação Guineense para o Bem Estar Familiar; Association Nigérienne pour le Bien-Etre Familial; Association pour le Bien-Etre Familial/Naissances Désirables; Belgische Federatie voor Seksuele en Reproductieve Gezondheid en Rechten / Fédération Belge pour la Santé et les Droits Sexuels et Reproductifs; Societatea de Educatie Contraceptiva si**

**Sexuala ; Israel Family Planning Association ; Samoa Family Health Association; Korea Population, Health and Welfare Association; Vanuatu Family Health Association; and Kiribati Family Health Association** be re-accredited as Full Members of the Federation.

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

#### 4. UPDATE ON SUSPENSIONS

4.1. Membership Committee reviewed the update on the suspension of the Lithuania Member Association. With no response to the initial suspension notification, a reminder was sent to the MA from the European Network Regional Office which triggered a response from the Executive Director of the MA wanting to know what their available options are. The Regional Office contacted the MA with to inform them of the following three options:

**1. Continued suspension.** The recommendation to lift the suspension will only be made following the submission of a formal Board approved plan and budget, which demonstrates how Seimos Planavimo ir Seksualines Sveikatos Asociacija will sustain itself without IPPF core funding, in order to be accredited. The plan must be submitted to IPPF no later than 31st August 2023.

**2. Resignation from IPPF.** The decision to resign must be made by the highest decision-making body of the Association. If this resignation is received, IPPF will provide a close out grant.

**3. Recommendation for expulsion:** If the plan and budget of option 1 is not satisfactory, a recommendation from the Regional Director, IPPF European Network Region, for Seimos Planavimo ir Seksualines Sveikatos Asociacija to be expelled from IPPF to be presented at the October 2023 meeting of the Membership Committee.

Having reviewed the various communications, the Membership Committee **recommends** to the Board of Trustees that the suspension of Seimos Planavimo ir Seksualines Sveikatos Asociacijabe be continued until the next meeting of the Membership Committee when the response from the MA will be considered.

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

4.2. Membership Committee reviewed the update on the El Salvador Member Association, including the response from the MA in which they disputed the rationale for the suspension without providing any evidence or proof of actions taken.

The Regional Director, Americas and the Caribbean Region responded to the MA clarifying the points they raised and the rationale that sustain the validity of the suspension. The MA was requested to submit the following:

- Evidence of a duly approved new internal rules or new bylaws that remove the ambiguity in the interpretation of the retroactivity of article 22 of the constitution limiting consecutive and cumulative terms in the bylaws currently in force or of any new bylaw amendments;
- Duly approved evidence that the current ADS Board of Directors has complied with the establishment of a new Board of Directors in accordance with the process stipulated in article 12 of the bylaws and respecting the requirements for inclusion of young people under 25 years of age as stipulated in article 22.
- The commissioned audit package documents as well as the terms of reference that guided the work of the audit firm.

- The governance code developed for review and suggested adjustments, if appropriate, by the IPPF Americas and Caribbean Regional Office.

Having reviewed the report, the Membership Committee **recommends** to the Board of Trustees that the suspension of Asociación Demográfica Salvadoreña/Pro-Familia be continued until the next meeting of the Membership Committee when the response from the MA will be considered.

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

## 5. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SUSPENSION

The Namibia MA, Namibia Planned Parenthood Association, began facing institutional and financial issues in 2016 following the cancellation of a program funded by the USAID, worth USD 500,000 per year over five years. This was due to the reintroduction of the Global Gag Rule by the United States government. In March 2017, the Regional Office was made aware by a donor that its funding to the MA was suspended due to concerns about management of the grant.

In June 2019, the MA was urged, once again by the Regional Office, to restructure in order to be able to survive as an institution. Unfortunately, the MA ignored this advice and the inadequate realignment of the MA's organizational structure to a level compatible with their financial capabilities plunged the organization into a deep financial crisis. As a result, since 2017, the MA has been running a significant deficit. Statutory reports have been submitted with significant delay also since this time.

The MA underwent an accreditation review in January 2022. Of the twenty-five non-compliances identified during the review, only four have been addressed to date.

In 2022, IPPF funds channelled through the MA that was destined for a local community based organization (CBO) was instead used to pay MA staff salaries.

In March 2023, after several meetings with the Regional Office, the MA submitted a roadmap with three alternative staffing structures with corresponding cost implications; desired structure; current structure; and critically desired structure. The three structures only consider the projections of salaries and administration cost; programs/activity costs were not included. After a detailed analysis by the Regional Office, none of the three options was found to be viable and sustainable.

Based on the above rationale, the Regional Director recommends the Namibia MA's IPPF membership be suspended. This recommendation has been endorsed by the Director-General.

Membership Committee, having reviewed the report, **recommends** that the Board of Trustees suspends the IPPF membership of the Namibia Planned Parenthood Association.

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

**5.1. The report to the Membership Committee/Board of Trustees on the recommendation to suspend the IPPF membership of the Planned Parenthood Association of Sierra Leone is subject to IPPF'S Confidentiality and Information Sharing policy. <sup>1</sup>**

The Membership Committee reviewed the recommendation from the Regional Director, IPPF Africa Region, that Planned Parenthood Association of Sierra Leone's IPPF membership be suspended, on the basis of poor governance and failure to respond and act appropriately in respect of allegations of sexual harassment within PPASL. The investigation into the allegations is now completed and has concluded and that the allegations are substantiated, as weighed on a balance of probabilities.

Membership Committee, having reviewed the report, **recommends** that the Board of Trustees suspends Planned Parenthood Association of Sierra Leone from IPPF membership.

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

**6. UPDATE ON EXPULSION RECOMMENDATION**

Membership Committee reviewed the report on the Djibouti Member Association and noted their failure to respond to the notification send to them in March 2023 regarding the recommendation that the MA be expelled from IPPF. The expulsion recommendation was made due to the MA's failure to commit to undergo an accreditation review in the third accreditation phase.

Noting the absence of any response from the MA, Membership Committee **recommends** that the Board of Trustees complete the process to expel Association Djiboutienne pour l'Equilibre et la Promotion de la Famille from IPPF.

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

**7. UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF ACCREDITATION PHASE IV**

Membership Committee reviewed the report on implementation of Accreditation Phase IV and how the restructuring exercise of the Unified Secretariat earlier this year has disrupted accreditation review plans across the Regions. The restructuring process created vacancies that need to be filled and training will need to be provided to the newly recruited staff in order to proceed with implementing Accreditation Phase IV. Membership Committee considered the request for a six-month extension of the starting date of the fourth accreditation cycle so that it will run from July 2023 – June 2027.

Considering the impact of the Secretariat restructuring on the accreditation review plans, the Membership Committee **recommends** that the Board of Trustees approve the delay of six months to the official starting date of the implementation of Accreditation Phase IV so that the cycle will be implemented from July 2023 – June 2027 to allow for vacancies to be filled and trainings to be conducted with the reviewers .

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

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<sup>1</sup> Due to the nature of the allegations, some details could not be included here.

## **8. APPLICATION FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP**

Membership Committee reviewed the application from the former associate member, now collaborative partner, in Bhutan, Respect Educate Nurture Empower Women (RENEW). Noting that the application meets the requirements, as outlined in Procedure 6 of the IPPF Standards and Responsibilities of Membership, the Membership Committee **recommends** the application from Respect Educate Nurture Empower Women (RENEW) be approved by the Board of Trustees.

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