

Agenda Item: CSIP Report, Sex Worker themed – Stream 2 and a start on Gender Inclusion

The chair of C-SIP (Sami Natsheh) and the Director External Relations (Mina Barling) will report to the Board.

Summary:

In October 2022, IPPF published its Policy on Sex Work, incorporating feedback emerging from consultations to which all MAs and regional officers were invited, as well as dialogue with sex worker-led organizations, external experts and DLT. This Policy makes clear the position and commitments of IPPF with regards to sex work and presents human rights-based values and principles which apply broadly to all contexts, without being prescriptive about approaches or actions. The Policy was also developed in response to demands by sex workers and sex worker-led organisations for greater clarity for IPPF regarding its position on sex work.

However, to directly benefit sex workers and increase sex workers' access to SRH services, the Policy needs to be implemented and operationalised. To this end, DLT has approved the 2024-2025 Stream 2 Strategic Fund to support IPPF to deliver on its strategic outcomes by financing / granting a Consortium of MAs and Sex-Worker led organisations to deliver a Sex Work Policy Implementation.

In October 2023, C-SIP reviewed and adopted the IPPF Sex Work Policy Implementation as the theme for Stream 2 funding 2024-2025.

We also propose a Gender Policy to clarify IPPF's position on a changing understanding, celebration, and defence of gender in all their diversities – giving us a pathway to help bridge schisms and build a united movement.

Action Required:

- The Board to approve adoption of the IPPF Sex Work Policy Implementation as the theme for Stream 2 funding 2024-2025, for up to USD2m.
- Support the initiation of an IPPF policy on Gender, with a roadmap ready for approval at the next CSIP.

Background

In July 2020, the IPPF Board of Trustees approved Stream 2 of IPPF's Resource Allocation Model, also referred to as the Strategic Fund.

Following the publication of IPPF Policy on Sex Work, in July-August 2023, IPPF developed a Stream 2 Concept Note on 'IPPF Sex Work Policy Implementation'

which outlines the background, core principles, priority areas, consortium criteria and application process for this consortium channel.

In October 2023, C-SIP reviewed and adopted the IPPF Sex Work Policy Implementation as the theme for Stream 2 funding 2024-2025.

Core Principles and Priority Areas

Consortium proposals should be guided by and aligned with the IPPF Sex Work Policy. These include the following core principles and priority areas of the IPPF SWP:

- 1. Meaningful participation and leadership of sex workers**
- 2. Inclusive and intersectional**
- 3. Human Rights-based**
- 4. Evidence-based**
- 5. Transformative**

The consortium proposal addresses a cluster of the Priority Areas established in the Policy and listed below.

1. Ending all forms of stigma, discrimination and violence against sex workers, and their lack of legal redress, and supporting comprehensive efforts to dismantle systemic inequalities, including gender inequalities.
2. Supporting the recognition of sex work as work.
3. Distinguishing between sex work and forced labour/trafficking.
4. Supporting the decriminalisation of sex work.
5. Providing sex worker-led and -centred SRHRJ programming and service delivery.
6. Supporting sex workers' leadership, community empowerment, and organisational sustainability.
7. Supporting the integration of sex workers into feminist movements.

Approval Process

In accordance with IPPF policy, after recommendation from DLT, the Concept Note was adopted by C-SIP at its meeting on October 20th. The Board of Trustees agreed to consider it at its November 2023 meeting.

If adopted, on 1st December 2023 the Call for Expressions of Interest and Proposals will be issued. Following a process outlined in the Concept Note, successful applicants will be informed on 20th March 2024 and Contracts signed, and Project implementation period commencing on 3rd May 2024.

See full timeline in Concept Note for further information.

Opportunities and Risks

The IPPF Sex Work Policy Implementation programme offers the opportunity for IPPF to build on its recently approved Sex Work Policy and participate in the creation of rights-affirming environment for sex workers, support the global

movement for decriminalization of sex work and ensure better access to SRH services for sex workers.

Several risks have been considered in the implementation of the Policy. The Concept Note pays specific attention to potential risks related to power dynamics and difference between sex workers' community organisations, MAs and other partners.

Meaningful participation and leadership of sex workers has been identified as the first core principles which should guide the Consortium proposals: 'The proposal should ensure that sex workers are "meaningfully participating in all aspects of programme design, implementation, management, and evaluation". The proposal should make clear how sex workers are decision-makers in the development, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of the proposed consortium and work plan.'

Several criteria have been identified to ensure that potential harms to sex workers' communities are identified and mitigated. These include:

- The consortium must include at least one sex worker-led partner organisation external to IPPF in each proposed country, or if this is not possible due to a lack of sex worker-led organisations in the country, an organisation with reputable experience working with sex workers in the region.
- The proposal must demonstrate that a significant percentage of those involved in decision-making and implementation of the project have experience working with sex workers, lived experience of sex work, or will receive training over the course of the project on working with sex workers.
- The proposal must demonstrate that the distribution of funding and resources will not reinforce existing inequalities and power dynamics.
- The proposal must include a risk assessment, including a section pertaining to power dynamics between sex workers, sex worker/-led organisations and IPPF MAs and other relevant partners and how potential harms to sex workers and their communities will be avoided or mitigated.
- Training for sex workers (including professional development) and IPPF staff should be integrated in the proposal to ensure meaningful participation and sustainability of programmes.

Initiation of a Gender Policy

- This policy aims to clarify IPPF's position on a changing understanding, celebration, and defence of gender – giving us a pathway to help bridge schisms and build a united movement.

- The Identity Initiative, LGBTQIA+ Response and Sex Work Policy Paper Implementation (refer to agenda item 7) has set the stage and do much of the groundwork to crystalize IPPF's role in gender transformation. To truly deliver on its commitments, IPPF must reimagine and restructure how we think about gender.
- We propose to develop a policy on Gender that will evolve our understanding of gender, clarifying a position that commits IPPF to the defense of and advancement of the rights of all people, building on and bridging the women's rights and LGBTQIA+ movements. We will work for a future that protects and reaffirms the rights women have fought and continue to fight for – the right to abortion, right to engage in public life, right to determine our sexual and reproductive freedom and the right to resist the patriarch and violence.
- We commit to growing this space to ensure the inclusion of and equal partnership of all people subjected to patriarchal violence and oppression, including transgender women, transgender men and all people who do not identify within a gendered binary, as well as cisgender men who are exposed to patriarchal violence and oppression based on their perceived transgression of acceptable manhood.
- We must reframe our understanding of gender and expose the manifold ways that patriarchal violence impacts its diverse targets. This clear position will help develop narrative tools with which to engage the movable middle, build solidarity and elevate IPPF beyond polarising tropes.
- Assuming approval, the Secretariat will develop a roadmap that intersects to the SOGIE and Gender Working Groups, in time for approval at the next CSIP.