

Board of Trustees
23-24 November 2023

Agenda Item 8 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 virtual meeting on 26th October 2023.

Action Required:

The Board of Trustees to consider the individual requirements under each sub-heading.

Membership Committee

Report to the Board of Trustees

The following attended the 26th October 2023 virtual 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
Mr Vinod Kapoor, Member

Ex-officio:

Ms Aileen McColgan, IPPF Honorary Legal Counsel
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 Lena Luyckfasseel, Acting 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, Governance & Accreditation Adviser

Membership Committee Designates participating as Observers:

Mr Gédéon Perphyte Endezna Okali
Ms Margarita Maria Rehbein Davila

Minutes Taker:

Ms Caroline Dickinson

1. ACCREDITATION REVIEW OUTCOME – Accreditation Phase IV

Membership Committee reviewed the accreditation review outcomes of the following Member Associations that underwent an accreditation review under accreditation phase four:

- **Bahrain** - Bahrain Reproductive Health Association
- **Philippines** - Family Planning Organization of the Philippines
- **Sweden** - Riksförbundet För Sexuell Upplysning

Noting that there are standards with which the above listed Member Associations do not yet comply and are taking steps to remedy this, the Member Associations of **Bahrain**; **Philippines**; and **Sweden** cannot currently be re-accredited under the fourth accreditation phase and will remain accredited members of IPPF, under accreditation Phase 3, with no change to their membership status.

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

2. ACCREDITATION REVIEW FOLLOW-UP – Accreditation Phase III

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

- **China** - China Family Planning Association
- **Vietnam** - Vietnam Family Planning Association
- **Indonesia** - Indonesian Planned Parenthood Association

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 **China**; **Vietnam** and **Indonesia** 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. UPDATE ON SUSPENSION

Membership Committee reviewed the update on the suspension of the Lithuania Member Association, Seimos Planavimo ir Seksualinės Sveikatos Asociacija, and their response to being informed of the available options to having their suspension lifted.

The President of the Association informed that its members had reluctantly taken the decision to resign from IPPF, whilst maintaining hope that the Association would eventually regain its footing and rejoin IPPF in the future.

In accordance with IPPF Regulation 9(6), taking into consideration the six months' notice period, the Lithuanian Member Association's membership of IPPF will cease on 11th March 2024.

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

4. RECOMMENDATION FOR ACCREDITATION -Accreditation Phase III

The Membership Committee reviewed the accreditation review results of the Member Associations of **Tanzania; Slovak Republic, Tonga and Nepal**, which were all found in full compliance with IPPF Membership Standards under the third accreditation phase, and **recommends** to the Board of Trustees that **Uzazi na Malezi Bora Tanzania; Spoločnosť pre plánované rodičovstvo; Tonga Family Health Association; and Family Planning Association of Nepal**, be re-accredited as Full Members of the Federation.

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

5. RECOMMENDATION FOR ACCREDITATION -Accreditation Phase IV

The Membership Committee reviewed the accreditation review results of the Member Associations of **New Zealand and Sri Lanka**, which were all found in full compliance with IPPF Membership Standards under the fourth accreditation phase, and **recommends** to the Board of Trustees that **New Zealand Family Planning; and Family Planning Association of Sri Lanka**, be re-accredited as Full Members of the Federation.

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

6. UPDATE ON SUSPENSION

Membership Committee reviewed the update on the suspension of the Sierra Leone Member Association and noted the positive steps taken by the Association to address the issues that led to its suspension.

The Regional Director, IPPF Africa Region, having discussed the case with the IPPF Director-General and the Director of Safeguarding & Incident Management, is of the opinion that the suspension can be lifted subject to the following conditions:

- The subject of concern (SoC) must never in future, under no circumstances, and in no capacity, have any form of relationship with the Planned Parenthood Association of Sierra Leone.
- The governing bodies of the Planned Parenthood Association of Sierra Leone to take the necessary actions to ensure this.

The Association is to continue implementing its phase three post-accreditation action plan and its progress report will be presented at the next meeting of the Membership Committee.

Membership Committee, having reviewed the report, **recommends** that the Board of Trustees revoke the suspension of the Planned Parenthood Association of Sierra Leone.

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

7. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EXPULSION

7.1. Membership Committee reviewed the recommendation submitted by the Regional Director, IPPF Africa Region, which was endorsed by the Director-General, for the Namibia Member Association, Namibia Planned Parenthood Association, to be expelled from IPPF.

In coming to this decision, the Regional-Director noted the failure of the Association to outline any actions it has taken, or will take, to address the issues that led to its suspension in June 2023.

Given the absence of any concrete progress; a sustainable roadmap; or a genuine commitment to resolving its issues, the expulsion recommendation was made.

Membership Committee, having reviewed the report, **recommends** that the Board of Trustees initiates the process to expel the Namibia Planned Parenthood Association from IPPF.

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

7.2. Membership Committee reviewed the recommendation from the Regional Director, IPPF Americas & the Caribbean Region, to expel the El Salvador Member Association, Asociación Demográfica Salvadoreña, from IPPF.

The Association has been under suspension since March 2023 due to allegations of governance and management malpractice and the findings of the team from the Americas and the Caribbean Regional Office (ACRO) that visited the Association in May 2022 to investigate these allegations.

Since May 2022, Asociación Demográfica Salvadoreña has failed to submit to the Regional Office all the documents it has requested as evidence that the Association have carried out actions throughout the years 2022 and 2023 that are indicative of their will to fully comply with the Association's constitutional provisions, to restore good governance practices and to comply with IPPF principles and standards. The actions of Asociación Demográfica Salvadoreña do not reflect a real desire to resume communication and the relation with the IPPF Americas and Caribbean Regional Office or to reverse the current situation of their membership suspension. The Regional Office deeply regret this situation, as it was eager to work to contribute to the improvement of access to SRHR and to continue fighting for the rights to sexual and reproductive health of the Salvadoran population, especially those mostly affected for being in a situation of marginalization and denial of rights.

Having reviewed the report, the Membership Committee **recommends** that the Board of Trustees initiate the process to expel Asociación Demográfica Salvadoreña from IPPF.

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

7.3. Membership committee reviewed the recommendation from the Regional Director, IPPF Americas & the Caribbean Region, to expel the Caribbean Family Planning Affiliation (CFPA) from IPPF .

In 2020, to address the under-representation of the Caribbean within IPPF decision making process, the 12 affiliates of CFPA were given opportunity to apply for Associate Membership of IPPF following the separation of the former Western Hemisphere Regional Office (WHRO). Four affiliates have successfully gone through the application process and are now IPPF members in their own right; and a further two became Collaborative Partners.

WHRO had identified significant improvement needed in CFPA in 2017 and an external consultant was commissioned by the current Regional Office, the Americas and the Caribbean Regional Office (ACRO), to develop a Road Map to identify how CFPA and ACRO could collaborate better to position IPPF in the Caribbean.

An internal audit of CFPA was conducted in 2022 which found that key policies and controls were missing or not implemented in the areas of governance; finance; human resources; and information technology. An overall audit opinion of "minimal assurance" was given in October 2022.

In December 2022, the Director-General received a letter signed by the Executive Directors and Presidents of six CFPA affiliates and three Caribbean Member Associations expressing concern about CFPA's capacity to deliver on its mission and responsibilities.

Following efforts from the Regional Office to engage in constructive dialogue, CFPA was informed, on 5th June 2023, that the decision had been taken to suspend its IPPF funding for the following reasons:

- Resignation of the St. Vincent and Aruba affiliates from CFPA due to allegations of conflict of interest, management challenges and CFPA's lack of capacity to support them.
- External auditor's management letter (April 2023) indicating that CFPA had conducted an internal audit review during the year. A number of internal deficiencies were identified, and recommendations were made. Some of which are still not implemented by CFPA. The recommendation from the auditors is that CFPA implement the recommendations made in the Internal Audit Report.
- The management letter also indicated that CFPA did not have a designated bank account for receipt and disbursement of UNFPA funds. Instead, funds were mixed up with CFPA's main operating banking account.
- CFPA has failed to provide any progress report to ACRO on implementation of the 2022 internal audit recommendations.
- CFPA has not responded, or taken any action to improve, following concerns raised in December 2022, by its affiliates, on the need to transform its mode of operations, and the need to evolve quickly to remain effective and relevant, or risk being a regional family planning organization without legitimate country membership.
- Unilateral decision by CFPA to move operations to Grenada, with the sale of its property without any evidence of such decision being made by CFPA affiliates at the General Assembly. In addition, this decision left the Antigua Planned Parenthood Association (APPA) without a place to operate from despite being offered the option to purchase the building at a very high cost - which APPA cannot afford.

- Serious operational issues (conflict of interest, CEO's attitude when interacting with affiliates EDs, human resources issues neglected, lack of capacity to support and provide technical assistance to affiliates) raised with the President and CEO of CFPA, but little change in quality of response and diligence.
- CFPA has not been able to prove that the Board of Trustees has been elected in a General Assembly according to its bylaws; and conflict of interest with the CEO and the members has been noticed by affiliates EDs and ACRO staff (i.e. appointment of trustees as consultants for projects by the CFPA CEO).

The 5th June communication also advised CFPA that a recommendation would be made to terminate its IPPF membership if the above mentioned issues were not resolved as soon as possible.

At the Caribbean Meeting in Panama (18th - 19th September 2023), prior to the IPPF Americas and the Caribbean regional meeting, seven of the original affiliates of CFPA, four Caribbean Member Associations and one Collaborative Partner made a collective decision and requested the IPPF Director-General and the Regional Director, Americas and the Caribbean, to make a recommendation to the Membership Committee to consider the expulsion of CFPA from IPPF as soon as possible.

Membership Committee, having reviewed the report, **recommends** that the Board of Trustees initiates the process to expel the Caribbean Family Planning Affiliation from IPPF.

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

8. APPLICATION FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

Membership Committee reviewed the application for Associate Membership from the former Member Association in Chile that had resigned from IPPF in 2020 when the Western Hemisphere Region separated from the Federation.

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 for Associate Membership of IPPF, submitted on behalf of Asociación Chilena de Protección de la Familia, be approved by the Board of Trustees.

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

9. CONFIRMATION OF ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

Following recommendations from the IPPF Regional Directors, Africa Region; Americas and the Caribbean Region; Arab World Region; IPPF ESEAOR; and IPPF South Asia Region, Membership Committee **recommends** to the Board of Trustees that the Associate Membership of Mauritius; Sao Tome & Principe; Yemen; Antigua; Aruba; Bolivia; Dominica; Guadeloupe; Australia; Papua New Guinea; and Bhutan be confirmed for the period 2023 – 2024.

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