

Board of Trustees

13-14 March 2025

Refers to agenda item

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Agenda Item: DG and Chair Report

As mentioned in our last report we will continue to present progress along 10 “lanes” that together summarise our journey thus far, providing an outline on recent activity since the last BoT meeting and opening it up for questions.

1. The **governance** lane. In November 2024, the BoT approved a 2025 budget that maintained the levels of investment in MA and stuck to the 30% cap on Secretariat reliance on unrestricted income. It was a big success in this difficult environment. We also finished the year stronger than forecast and took the opportunity to eliminate the need to designate funds to cover the (now closed to new entries) defined benefit pension scheme. This has allowed us to put forward some further financial designations that will (partially) protect MAs from the direct impact of funding cuts coming from Sweden, Netherlands, UNFPA and, most dramatically, the US.

The Nominations and Governance Committee (NGC) is undertaking a trustees’ and committees members’ recruitment campaign to identify suitable candidates for vacancies (NGC= 3; BoT = 4; C-SIP = 1; C-FAR = 1 and RATSC = 3) and are preparing to launch the 2024/25 performance review of the governing bodies. As you know, the NGC is also helping the BoT with nominations for the next vice-chair. There is a need for the Board to set aside time to also discuss the process for and timing of appointment/election of the next Board Chair.

Two of the 12 MAs that embarked on the governance reform process have postponed Board elections to ensure the findings from the reform process inform their next wave of trustee recruitment.

The project to review IPPF’s 2019/20 Governance Reform, which we mentioned at the Board’s November meeting, is now well underway with initial results from its survey and interviews already confirming the usefulness of this work.

2. The **strategy** lane. We finalised the year-long Strategy Dialogues Series focussed on areas of implementation where we have the most challenges and are now in the planning stages of an MA-led series of strategic reflection panels, to consider failures and the radical global context changes. There have also been strategic investments in our technical capacity. We have two new MA-led Centers of Practice in Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, Expression and Sex Characteristics (DFPA, Denmark and RHU, Uganda) as well as Digital Health Interventions (Profamilia-Colombia). These will build learning and help shape practice in other MAs. A new MA-led Consortium (PPAT) will support collaboration with national and international sex worker movements across ACR, ESEAOR and SAR. Following the unapologetic sex work policy agreed by the Board, we are in the final stages of producing a revamped gender equality policy, ready for the May CSIP meeting. In February, the Secretariat reported back on their 2024 deliverables. Out of 451 planned deliverables, which tracked directly to the pillars’ pathways, 68% were completely achieved, 24% were partly achieved, and only 8% were not. The results were discussed by DLT, who are making 2025 about accelerating delivery.

3. The **service improvements** lane. The Women's Integrated Sexual Health (WISH2) programme (~97m/5yrs) continues at pace while the USAID freeze has condemned ExpandPF to an early (and messy) closeout. With funding from the Australian Government, RESPOND II (9.6m/4yrs) has started implementation to ensure high quality, comprehensive, equitable and inclusive SRH services across six MAs (Afghanistan, Laos, Maldives, Pakistan, Philippines, Vietnam). The global programme EmpowHER (34m/6yrs) funded by Canada is working with 10 MAs and the Secretariat on abortion care, CSE and advocacy. Three new members joined IMAP bringing technical skills relevant to digital health interventions and abortion self-care, sexual violence in humanitarian settings, and in research ethics. We agreed a new MoU with MSI to access their ethics committee which ensures integrity in our research work. Our latest IMAP statement on abortion over 13 weeks gestation has been published, and we finalized an inclusive service delivery technical brief which we will be disseminating widely including a joint webinar with WPATH.

4. The counter-criminalisation/**humanitarian** lane. Since the Board met in November, we have approved five "Stream 3" proposals: Senegal (floods), Indonesia (volcano eruption), Ukraine (conflict) Mozambique (cyclone) and Lebanon phase II (conflict). And in the pipeline, a Stream 2 funding for *People on the Move* recommended by CSIP is being designed, preparing for a call later in the year and a January 2026 start. Following on from the last Issues paper on militarisation and reproductive violence, work has begun on developing IPPF's position on criminalised and incarcerated people and SRHRJ, in consultation with CSIP. Work on the situation analysis to assess vulnerabilities and SRHR gaps along migration routes in Africa and Latin America for the *People on The Move Programme* supported through Stream 2 is also underway.

5. The **donor support** lane. Amid an increasingly far-right geopolitical landscape and increases in funding of military objectives, Official Development Assistance (ODA) continues to decrease. IPPF's refusal to accept the conditions of the U.S. Global Gag had an unintended consequence of preparing us for the incredibly destructive and extraordinary attacks against USAID. As forecasted, no donors have been willing (yet?) to step up in the SRHR space, but what was not expected was the level of silence from donor governments, with some even publicly pandering to the new Administration. The 2025 income coming through the IPPF Secretariat is not yet affected beyond the anticipated USAID funding loss, but a Federation wide survey is capturing the impact on those MAs being hit directly through bilateral and UNFPA funded programmes. We are working on the renewal of several major core contracts for 2026 onwards including with Denmark, Finland, Ireland, New Zealand, and Switzerland. For 2025, Japan has lowered its core support by 25% due to weakening of the Yen and reduced ODA. For 2026 onwards, Switzerland has informed us to expect ~20% cuts as they increase military expenditure.

6. The **political influence** lane. IPPF has continued to stand up and speak out, both on the militarisation of our service-landscapes, and the violence directed against our health workers, women and girls. We did not wait for the Global Gag Executive Order to drop but went out immediately on Trump's other executive orders on foreign aid, anti DEI, and anti-gender/LGBTQI attacks. This proved a wise approach. Our instinct that the earlier orders would be most destructive was right, whilst much of the reproductive rights community was effectively silenced waiting for a largely unchanged Global Gag that came many days later. Our messaging saw up to 850% growth across IPPF's key social media channels in January alone. As the US (and then Argentina) withdraws from WHO, as other global and US public health institutions see funding reductions and further conditional funding, as key US public health institutions (CDC

and NIH, etc) are hard hit, we still can see little evidence of a joined up political response. Immediately after the US inauguration, the DG was in Geneva (seeing WHO, OHCHR, Global Fund, UNFPA Humanitarian) and the Swiss Development Cooperation, in Washington DC (meeting HIV activists and funders to respond to attacks on PEPFAR) and in Ireland (Irish Aid).

7. The **MA-centering lane**, not much new to report, just a reminder that trustees can stay on top of what is happening via our [MA Forum](#). And, also connected of course to the governance lane, preparations for the General [Assembly](#), bringing all MAs together, are picking up pace.

8. The **risk management, safety and accountability** lane. Better focus on what *is* safeguarding and incident management has ensured clearance on a growing back log of SafeReport cases. Support and facilitation of MA safeguarding communities of practice meetings in all regions continues, and an MA safeguarding self-assessment tool is being piloted. A redesign of IPPF's policies and processes to ensure we can safely continue to support our partners delivering critical work in sanctioned contexts is underway and includes enhanced controls to identify sanctioned entities and persons prior to any funds being transferred. We will rollout new policies and mandatory secretariat training to guide our sanction checks, and ensure we have the appropriate licences to carry out our work in high risk / sanctioned countries.

9. The **identity** lane. The DLT and CSIP endorsed a final draft of a "[Charter of Values](#)" that is now with the Board. Then we will reengage MAs on the final draft in the lead up to the General Assembly.

10. The **people and systems** lane. The POC team has introduced [new talent management](#) policies, processes and training for staff – a recruitment tracker, a new performance management approach, a health and wellbeing site with details of our new policies for menopause, menstruation, accessible safe abortion and our employee assistance programme.

The finance team rolled out phase 1 of the [timesheet tracking system](#) across the entire Secretariat and setup a cost recovery system to ensure optimum recovery of costs from restricted projects. IPPF's (unaudited) [year-end position is healthy](#). IPPF has ended 2024 with a surplus of \$12m of unrestricted core. On the income side, this was contributed by slightly higher than budgeted income (\$0.885 Mn) and an unrealised forex gain of \$2.85m. On the expenditure side, it was contributed by the secretariat expenditure net of overheads recovery was lower than budgeted by \$2.2m and MA grant expenditure was also lower than budget by \$4.8M. This was largely contributed by grants not released to countries with no MAs or where MAs were suspended/ expelled. As at the end of 31st December 2024 secretariat costs were **27%** of the core funding i.e. well below the threshold of 30%.

Overall

The wider impacts, as expressed through these 10 lanes, of what began with the IPPF Governance Reform process demonstrate what is conceivable when a Federation comes together with the courage to reform itself. More so, they evidence what is possible when a board and DG/DLT work with trust, accountability and cooperation toward a shared vision.