Agenda item: Discussion: Date for 29th (2014) IPDC Bureau and Council sessions

INFORMATION NOTE

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

A number of reasons come together to schedule the proposed 2014 IPDC sessions later than originally envisaged. The Bureau is requested to discuss this proposal, and to adopt a decision.

The report of the 28th IPDC Council session states:

- that “the 58th Bureau meeting would be held from 5-7 February 2014”, and
- that “the 29th Session of the Intergovernmental Council was scheduled to be held from March 19-21 March 2014”.

It is proposed to amend these dates. The reasons are:

Bureau 2014 date: (change from February to March)

- The early date for the 58th (2014) Bureau meeting was originally conceived so as to enable the Bureau to decide timeously on the IPDC Prize, in order that an announcement could then be made at World Radio Day on 13 February 2014. Because Council did not manage to discuss this, a decision on the future of the prize would need to be formalised at the 29th Council session in 2014. There is thus no longer a rationale for this earlier date.
- To prepare project proposals and other documents for the 58th Bureau meeting, it would be helpful if the date for the meeting could revert from the proposed February to current March, for 2014.

Council 2014 date: (change from March to November/December)

- With the 29th (2014) Council meeting is in March, this would be very close to the Bureau meeting (even if that remained in February). This short gap between the meetings reduces the time available for preparations for the Council meeting, and for the timely circulation of any recommendations of the Bureau to the Council.
- A change to scheduling the 2014 Council session in November, or early December, would avoid the impending situation of Member States in 2013 twice receiving letters during the year requesting responses to judicial follow-up (once for the November 2013 report and once for a March 2014 report). A change would mean that one letter could be sent in 2013 for the 2013 General Conference report, and the letter for updated information for the IPDC Council report due in 2014, can then be
sent in 2014. This would create a more regular rhythm to the UNESCO reports on journalism safety, which would be tabled in November each year (instead of March one year, and November the next).

If the proposal is agreed:
- the Bureau meeting will then be held in March 2014,
- as regards the date for the IPDC Council, the Chair will circulate a recommendation from the Bureau for the decision of the Council members

Recommend scenario for amended dates:

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<th>2013</th>
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<td>IPDC Bureau</td>
<td>March session confirmed</td>
<td>Session date now proposed for March</td>
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<td>IPDC Council</td>
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<td>Session date now proposed for November</td>
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<td>Letter to Member States on judicial follow up for report to General Conference</td>
<td>Member States are asked for responses to be tabled for 2013 November General Conference report</td>
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