



Status Report on

**WORKING GROUP ON THE GOVERNANCE, PROCEDURES, AND WORKING METHODS OF THE GOVERNING BODIES OF UNESCO
RECOMMENDATIONS
March 2019**

N	Recommendation	Status at IBE	IBE-Council and Secretariat Comments
A. VISION AND PRINCIPLES			
54	Sub-Group 2 recommends endorsing the vision of a more integrated, harmonized, coherent, and adapted system of International and Intergovernmental Bodies (IIBs) working closely with Member States, relevant partners, and each other in support of the Organization's objectives, medium- term strategy (C/4), and programme and budget (C/5), taking into account the specificities and requirements of individual mandates.	noted	The IBE Council and the IBE Secretariat support the recommendation.
55	While recognizing the immense value of experts to the work of UNESCO, the intergovernmental nature of the IIBs needs to be reinforced. Thus, transparency and awareness-raising measures should be strengthened across the board. The work of IIBs must be as inclusive as possible and seek to involve Member States for greater impact and visibility.	noted	The IBE Council and the IBE Secretariat support the recommendation.
B. GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ALL INTERNATIONAL AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES			
<i>Efficiency (mandate, composition, structure, rules of procedure, methods of work)</i>			
56	IIBs are invited to update their mandates, as appropriate, including their objectives and programs to be more coherent with approved C/5 priorities and responsive to current global developments, such as the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.	in effect	IBE is UNESCO's Center of Excellence for Curriculum and Related Areas. Its mandate was updated following the 36 th session of the General Conference, and is aligned with UNESCO core functions, C/5 MLAs, ERs, the Education Agenda 2030, and the SDG4 targets.
57	To promote diversity and inclusivity, voluntary term-limits of two consecutive mandates are recommended for IIBs which currently do	noted	The term of office of the IBE Council members extends from the end of the session of the General Conference

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	not have term limitations for membership.		which designates them to the end of the second ordinary session of the General Conference following. There is no limitation on renewal. The IBE Council will consider the recommendation carefully.
58	As a general rule, term-limits of two consecutive mandates for membership in all Bureaus are recommended.	noted	IBE Council Rules of Procedure do not currently stipulate term limits. The IBE Council will consider the recommendation carefully.
59	For cost-saving, coherence and harmonization, it is recommended that IIBs and the General Conference consider “right-sizing” the composition of the IIBs.	in effect	The IBE Council membership of twelve (12) is consistent with most UNESCO Category 1 institutes.
60	There is a need to reduce and manage politicization of nominations and decisions.	noted and in effect	The IBE Council and the IBE Secretariat support the recommendation and will discuss it carefully. Note that during its 62nd session in January 2013, the IBE Council recommended a steady move towards an appointed rather than an elected Council, as part of the depoliticization of nominations. Its resolution was adopted by the 37 th session of the General Conference in November, 2013.
61	To enhance visibility and the effectiveness of the work of the IIBs, more effective information-dissemination is recommended through updating and enhancement of websites and outreach to all involved actors, including Member States and their National Commissions.	in effect	The IBE maintains a vigorous communication presence through its Best Practice Hubs that promote peer learning and South/South as well as North/South cooperation by Member States, website, knowledge clearing house functions, annual magazine, social media, alerts, publications, and by playing key roles in global events in education.
62	Earlier preparation and dissemination of draft agendas and preliminary timetables, mainly by using the same template containing hyper-links to documents to be adopted/discussed in sessions.	in effect	Rule 4 of the Rules of Procedure directs the Director of the IBE, in consultation with the Council Steering Committee and the UNESCO DG, to communicate the provisional agenda to the Council membership no less than two months in advance of each session.
63	The Secretariat is invited to promote a harmonized virtual working environment for all IIBs and to revisit UNESCO’s “Strategy on Knowledge Management and Information & Communication Technology”. Simple, more user-friendly documentation (i.e. less fragmented reporting and easier document tracking; annotated agenda with hyper-links to reports and draft decisions).	in effect	IBE practices align well with this recommendation for a harmonized virtual working environment. For example, the IBE works closely with other IIBs evidence in the audit report. The IBE has a popular reader-friendly magazine in both hardcopy and electronic formats, is digitizing its archives to make them easily accessible, and is enhancing

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			ease-of-use of its web presence.
64	Open-ended informal consultations on draft decisions to promote inclusive and effective decision-making.	in effect	Within the IBE Council, draft decisions are discussed openly, including in the presence of observers.
65	It is recommended that the Rules of Procedure of the IIBs be amended, when relevant, to advance the deadline for submission of candidatures to their subsidiary bodies from 48 hours to seven days before elections.	noted	
<i>Harmonization (role of Bureaus, transparency)</i>			
66	The role, composition and procedures of Bureaus and their members should be clarified and harmonized through codification in rules of procedure/ statutes or development of general guidelines for all IIBs, in close cooperation with the Secretariat.	noted	
67	It is suggested that Bureaus' composition be set, as much as compatible with individual IIBs' mandates, at a maximum of six members (Chair, Rapporteur, and four Vice-Presidents from the six Electoral Groups).	noted	
68	The intergovernmental nature of Bureaus should be reaffirmed while maintaining expert engagement. In this regard, the attached guidelines on responsibilities of Bureau members are recommended for dissemination to all Governing Bodies and IIBs (appendix 2).	noted	The guidelines were made available to the IBE Council at its 68 th Session of the IBE Council in December 2018, were endorsed by the President, and will be effected.
69	Documents related to Bureau meetings should appear online before meetings take place; outcomes, including reports of Bureau meetings, should be communicated to all members, and as appropriate, all Permanent Delegations, in a timely manner.	in effect	The Secretariat communicates all relevant documents electronically in advance of meetings, and posts full meeting proceedings, including outcomes, in timely manner afterwards. It will continue current practice with respect to this recommendation.
70	Elections of Bureaus should be held, as much as possible, soon after elections for seats on the IIBs conducted at the General Conference, to avoid having Bureau members from Member States, which are no longer members of the IIBs concerned.	noted	
71	As much as feasible, Bureau meetings should be open to observers and working methods made more transparent.	in effect	Rule 10.3 of Section VIII of the IBE Council's Rules of Procedure specifies that unless the Council decides otherwise, all meetings of the Council shall be public.
72	Strengthen information-sharing, communication and collaboration between Bureaus, Intergovernmental Councils and Committees and Member States.	In effect	The IBE Council and the IBE Secretariat support the recommendation. The presidents of the IBE, IIEP, and UIL have worked closely together whenever need has arisen. Additionally, presidents of Category 1 institutes meet during the GC; in the past, this has taken place mainly with

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			the former ADG. All ED Sector directors, including Institute Directors, regularly meet under the aegis of the ED Sector Leadership team, with a formal information sharing process. IBE-specific information sharing mechanisms include <i>Alerts</i> , the <i>InFocus</i> publication, an expanding web and social media presences, and news sent to the Sector's alerts.
73	Gender-neutral language be adopted throughout all UNESCO documents.	in effect	IBE documents consistently use gender-neutral language and provide leadership to MSs in this area. For example, the IBE produces resource packs that guide gender sensitive curricula, especially in STEM. These also guide equity and inclusion in curricula. Additionally, the IBE is a co-author of the UNESCO-wide policy on equity and inclusion in education.
<i>Alignment with overarching priorities of UNESCO</i>			
74	All IIBs should have the opportunity to submit formal inputs to the mid-term strategy C/4 and the draft Programme and Budget C/5 documents of UNESCO.	in effect	The ED Sector as a whole (i.e., all structures that make the Sector, including Category 1 Institutes) co-produce their sections of the C4 and C5 in a collaborative manner.
75	A feedback mechanism can be envisaged for substantive dialogue between Member States and IIBs, beyond the limited reporting to the General Conference. This could be through information meetings or briefings. Reporting to the General Conference should be enhanced through a new more strategic and results-oriented reporting format to be followed by debate and General Conference resolutions to provide feedback to IIBs.	noted	The ED Sector periodically makes space for the Category 1 Institutes to hold information meetings with UNESCO delegations; this promotes dialog with MSs. Additionally, at the demand of MSs, the IBE makes itself available for policy and operational dialog with MSs, focusing on the IBE's areas of competence. The IBE agrees with enhancement efforts.
76	Orientation sessions for new members of all IIBs, especially for Chairpersons and Bureau members, should be institutionalized and include introduction to the C/4 and C/5 frameworks. To that end, a short user-friendly guidebook including good practices and acronyms could be produced to familiarize members with working methods and C/4 and C/5 mechanisms.	noted	The IBE Council and the IBE Secretariat support the recommendation and will discuss means to implement it and to produce a guidebook.
<i>Coherence, coordination and synergies</i>			
77	Balanced resource allocation is necessary to ensure the effectiveness of all IIBs.	in effect	The IBE Council and the IBE Secretariat support this recommendation.
78	Use of languages for inclusivity and effectiveness remains an important	noted	Working languages of the IBE are English and French.

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	objective.		Nevertheless, in recent years for cost-saving purposes and based on the IBE Council's composition, documents have been prepared and meetings primarily conducted in English.
79	IBBs and their Secretariats are requested to enhance coordination in scheduling of meetings to avoid overlap.	in effect	The meetings of the IBE Council are scheduled taking into consideration the dates of UNESCO Executive Board and General Conference sessions.
<i>Best practices</i>			
80	Best practices should be shared and replicated or, if necessary, adjusted to reflect specificities with the aim to promote governance mechanisms that facilitate strategies and action plans anchored on the C/4 and C/5. Attached, in this regard, is a non-exhaustive list of best practices identified by the Working Group (Appendix 3).	noted	The IBE Secretariat and the IBE Council Steering Committee will examine this recommendation carefully and provide suggestions to the full Board at its next regular session in December 2019.
G. SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE CATEGORY 1 INSTITUTES			
<i>Education Category 1 Institutes</i>			
117	To improve transparency and information dissemination, more systematic and coherent presentation of the work of the Education Category 1 Institutes to the Executive Board and Member States is recommended, considering that allocations from the Regular Budget support the Category 1 Institutes.	noted	The IBE Council and the IBE Secretariat welcome opportunities for significantly improved communication of its work to the Executive Board and Member States.
118	In this connection, enhancing visibility and interaction with Member States, through appropriate feedback mechanisms, such as periodic dialogues or orientation and information meetings is suggested.	noted	The IBE Council and the IBE Secretariat support the recommendation and will discuss it carefully. The IBE expects that the new ADG will sustain the culture and practice of periodic information meetings for Delegations.
119	Dissemination of information on selection, procedures, and key decisions of Governing Boards to all Member States is desirable.	noted	The IBE Council and the IBE Secretariat support the recommendation and will discuss it carefully.
120	Updating of websites to improve information-sharing is necessary.	in effect	The IBE Secretariat updates its website regularly with briefings, news, and links. Its website structure is under review to enhance its information-sharing capacity. Additionally, the IBE regularly employs social media as a complement to its web presence.
121	The functional autonomy of Education Category 1 Institutes has to be maintained.	noted	The IBE Council and the IBE Secretariat concur.
122	Mapping of assets/ contributions of Category 1 Institutes for implementation of SDG4 would be a valuable tool to enhance synergies	in effect	The IBE Council and the IBE Secretariat support the recommendation and will seek additional ways to create

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	and impacts.		visual mappings as a tool to enhance synergies and impacts. The IBE already maps its work according to UNESCO core functions, C4, C5 MLAs and ERs, and SDG4 targets. Similar practices by other entities would promote synergies, but all IBE reports and plans of work currently appear in this manner.
123	Harmonization and updating of statutes and procedures is timely. The Secretariat, Member States and relevant Governing Bodies should continue to engage on this issue	noted	The IBE Council and the IBE Secretariat concur.