

New York, NY

May 11, 2020

**Members of the Transition Committee
 International Planned Parenthood Federation**

Dear Transition Committee Members,

Thank you very much for the opportunity to candidly discuss IPPF/WHR's comments to the proposed amendments to the IPPF Regulations, Procedural Bylaws and Policies. We appreciate your openness to find the common ground that will allow IPPF and WHR work together in the benefit of women, girls and other populations that need us the most. As we have expressed in different occasions, we would like to reinforce our commitment to the IPPF reform process, given that we in WHR have been one of its engines and have supported structural change from the start.

We would like to summarize the agreements we have reached in our conversation and highlight some pending matters we would like the Transition Committee and Governing Council to consider:

1. **The proposed amendments to IPPF regulations did not consider WHR's independent status since its inception.** Therefore, we propose that the following text be included in section 10 (3) of the proposed IPPF Regulations:

"Since its foundation in 1954, the Western Hemisphere Region (WHR) has been constituted as a not-for-profit tax-exempt 501(C)3 Corporation in the State of New York, United States. As such, it is governed by an independent Board of Directors whose powers, functions and duties are established in its Byelaws. As unanimously determined by the WHR Member Associations in November 2019, the IPPF/WHR Board of Directors has the duty and authority to represent the interests of Member Associations in the Western Hemisphere Region with IPPF.

Consistent with the WHR independent status, the application of the IPPF Regulations, Procedural Byelaws and Policies in the Western Hemisphere Region shall concur with the IPPF/WHR Byelaws, policies, and the functions, roles and responsibilities of the IPPF/WHR Board of Directors. The conditions for joint work and collaboration shall be established in a Framework Agreement between IPPF and WHR."

2. **In order to be consistent with our independent legal status, we propose to add the following text, as a footnote, to the policies listed below:**
"The application of this policy for WHR and its organizations shall concur with the IPPF/WHR Byelaws, policies, and the functions, roles and responsibilities of the IPPF/WHR Board of Directors, as well as with the conditions set forth in the Framework Agreement between IPPF and WHR."

Language to be included as footnotes in the following policies:

- **1.1 Autonomy and Accountability**, number (3).
- **1.4 Terms of Reference of the Honorary Officers of IPPF**, number (2) x.
- **1.11 Membership Categories**, numbers (5), (7) and (9).
- **1.20 Employment Principles**, number (7) a.
- **2.2 Terms of Reference of the Director General**, numbers (1) v, (1) xiii, (1) ix, and (7).
- **2.3 Terms of Reference of the Regional Directors**, number (1), (2) e, (2) h, and (2) xiv.

3. **The conditions of joint work and collaboration between IPPF and IPPF/WHR shall be established in a Framework Agreement**, which will be shared by IPPF/WHR with the Transition Committee for endorsement before it submits

it to the newly elected IPPF Board of Trustees for their review and approval.

4. **The participation of the Staff Association representative in the Board of Trustees meetings represents a governance-management conflict.** We advise the Transition Committee to not make the Staff Association representative a permanent position at the IPPF Board of Trustees.
5. **WHR strives to work alongside and in partnership with the IPPF Secretariat,** however, WHR staff cannot join the Staff Association or Union due to WHR independent legal status as a 501(C)3 Corporation governed by the laws of the United States.
6. **We acknowledge the expanded role that has been given to the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee (FARC).** However, and considering the importance of the Treasurer position, we recommend maintaining this position's functions to guarantee its financial responsibilities are fully executed in the governing body.
7. As you are aware, **the new resource allocation system has not been approved,** and therefore it should not yet be referenced in the amendments to the IPPF Regulations, Procedural Byelaws and Policies. Furthermore, **any new resource allocation system has to consider existing inequalities within countries,** and fundraising and resource allocation should focus on the needs of women and girls independently of the conditions of the countries where they live. We have expressed this in the IPPF reform website before the meeting of the General Assembly in India: <https://ippfcommission.org/2019/11/19/extraordinary-meeting-of-the-whr-regional-council/>.

Looking forward to strengthening our ongoing collaboration. We stand together strong in carrying out our mission!

Sincerely,



Jovana Ríos Cisnero

Chairwoman of the IPPF/WHR Board of Directors and Governing Council Delegate

Donya Nasser

WHR Board of Directors and Governing Council Delegate



Kobe Smith

WHR Board of Directors and Governing Council Delegate