

Governance Review Consultation Paper

28 November 2008

The International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC) has grown organically over the last two years. With improved security and structure, it has been possible to appoint a full-time Coordinator to review and strengthen the processes and structures for managing the consortium and its work. We are therefore conducting a consultation with IDPC members and partners on a set of proposals that covers the purpose, membership arrangements, communication processes, and management structures of the IDPC. We would welcome your views on our proposals below – please send them to Ann Fordham at af@internationaldrugpolicy.net by Monday 15th December 2008.

The Purpose of the Consortium

Since its inception, the IDPC has had three objectives and areas of activity:

1. To facilitate communication and co-operation between NGOs on issues relating to international drug policy. We do this through the IDPC website, regular email alerts, the hosting of meetings and seminars, and ongoing email exchanges.
2. To produce and disseminate information and analysis that casts light on the problems with law enforcement-dominated approaches to drug policy, and that promotes a health and human rights based approach. We do this through reports and briefing papers on the UNODC, INCB and CND processes, on specific drug policy issues, or on national situations.
3. To strengthen the influence of civil society on the policy making processes of national governments and international agencies, leading to more humane and effective drug policies and programmes. We do this through constructive but critical engagement with officials and politicians, and creating channels for members and partners to engage with the policy making process.

Draft proposal for Consortium Membership Structure

The Consortium plans to become more inclusive in terms of membership. The proposal is to implement a framework which includes two types of membership.

IDPC Network members

This type of membership would encompass those organisations seeking to be part of the IDPC communication network. These members would receive all IDPC communications, and be involved in the exchange of ideas and information, and shared activities. These members may jointly plan activities and will be able to use the IDPC alerts and website to promote their work. Network members would be required to

support IDPC's policy principles but other criteria for this type of membership would be fairly broad.

IDPC Partners

This type of membership would include organisations seeking to play a more active role in the work of IDPC. These members will have the skills, capacity and contacts to engage governments and international organisations to help further shared policy and advocacy goals. This level of membership will have stronger criteria including clear expectations in terms of involvement in consultations, efficient communication and contribution to the advocacy work.

There would be a formal process for members to move between the two levels of membership providing the criteria are met. Existing IDPC members will have the opportunity to decide where they best fit within this membership framework.

If current members and partners agree this structure, we will draft a set of criteria and expectations for both types of membership, and distribute for comments.

Communication Mechanisms

The IDPC website will be reviewed and re-launched in early 2009. The IDPC Alert will go out on a monthly basis going forward and the IDPC Update will go out every three months to members only.

Draft proposal for an IDPC Steering Group

The growth of the Consortium has created the need for a more robust decision making structure. It is proposed that a steering group be set up of between four to eight representatives from IDPC partners, ideally with geographic representation from each region. This group would oversee the delivery of the 2009 IDPC work plan and work with the management of IDPC in making key strategic decisions. The group would meet via conference call every three months and be available for consultation.

The membership of the steering group will be reviewed annually. A formal mechanism for receiving expressions of interest from members wishing to join the steering group will be set up following this consultation.

The chairmanship of IDPC for 2009 will remain with Mike Trace the end of 2009, and will then be reviewed by the steering group and membership.

e-mail:

phone:

The logo for IDPC, consisting of the letters 'IDPC' in a bold, white, sans-serif font, set against a blue rectangular background.