



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF NGOS 2018
UNESCO Headquarters, 17-19 December 2018

RECOMMENDATIONS

Preamble:

The 2018 International Conference of NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO was held at the UNESCO Headquarters Paris from 17 – 19 December, 2018 under the theme "**Promoting and Enhancing the Commitment and Contribution of UNESCO's NGO partners**" After two and half days of intense and very productive work, the conference ended with the following recommendations:

- **Recalls** the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which, in its 17th Objective (SDG 17), calls for a strengthened partnership with civil society, affirms its commitment to include our future activities in the context of the 2030 Agenda, its 17 Objectives and 169 targets, and calls on NGOs to consolidate their role in the implementation of the Agenda.
- **Reiterates** the importance of promoting dialogue between Member States, UNESCO and NGOs for the development of fruitful cooperation and *invites* the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee to contribute to the creation of new opportunities for interaction and dialogue in order to further strengthen cooperation with Member States, and UNESCO.
- **Reaffirms** the importance of forums organized in consultation with UNESCO in different parts of the world and *invites* the Liaison Committee to continue its efforts in this regard in order to take into account the cultural and geographical diversity of civil society.
- **Recalls** the central role of NGOs in the organization of a follow-up to the forums and international days, and invites UNESCO to assist them in this process.
- **Requests** the Liaison Committee to improve its communication and to reflect on new ways of collective cooperation of NGOs by using new Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs).

- **Requests** the Liaison Committee to also promote the visibility of the actions and good practices of UNESCO's official partner NGO network, to the extent of available resources.
- **Recognizing** the key role of youth among NGOs, **invites** the Liaison Committee to encourage greater participation of young people and youth organizations in the events it organizes, and to further collaborate with the UNESCO youth program in the framework of the organization of the next UNESCO Youth Forum in 2019.
- **Reaffirms** the importance of women and gender equality in all actions to be undertaken by the Liaison Committee.

RESOLUTIONS:

Preparation of future forums and events, the 2018 ICNGO recommends:

- to give an important space to NGO speakers in the forum programs, to increase the time available for discussion and to involve UNESCO networks more,
- to facilitate and encourage the participation of NGOs in the preparation of the Youth Forum of the next session of the General Conference in 2019, in accordance with point 9 of the 2016 ICNGO conclusion, and requests that the information concerning the Youth Forum be relayed to NGOs,
- to improve the information given to the projects and events of NGOs so that other NGOs can get involved, collaborate and join the project,
- to ensure that the collective work undertaken under the mandate of the liaison committee be continued by the following liaison committee including provisions for funding to the extent possible,
- to ensure that the Liaison Committee regularly informs the NGOs on the status of the consultation with UNESCO, the sectors and Member States in the preparation of forums.

For future forums and other events, the ICNGO proposes the following topics:

- 1 – ***“For the Safeguarding of Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage: the Role of Volunteers”*** and the integration of documentary heritage (H2) and world memory
- 2 - ***“Education for Global Citizenship”*** – target 4.7, SDG4, 2030 Agenda,
- 3 - ***“Nonviolence and Peace Education”*** in reference to SDG target 4.7 and the 2016 statement of the Human Rights Council in Geneva on the right to peace
- 4 - Celebrate the ***“International Year of Indigenous Languages”*** according to the appeal of the ICNGO
- 5 – ***“Which Inclusive and Equitable Education for All throughout Life?”***
- 6 – Propose a campaign on climate change on the model of the campaign of the abolition of nuclear weapons which resulted in a treaty at the UN

7 – Create a “***Festival for Peace***” for young people,

8 – “ ***Entrepreneurship, Science, Technology and Innovation to fight poverty and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals***”

9 – “***Energy and its Impact on Civil Society***” following SDG target 7 in relation to the scientific and academic community.

The ICNGO requests that:

- the follow-up of the forums is envisaged right at the beginning of the collective work undertaken by NGOs,
- a strategic planning with indicators for common actions is adopted,
- the necessary platform for the follow-up of the Tunis forum is funded,
- the follow-up of the forum "Science" is organized in cooperation with Member states, taking into account new issues such as “scientific diplomacy”,
- the conclusions of each forum are posted on the Committee's website to allow dissemination by NGOs and such document to also be transmitted to Member States.

The ICNGO invites the Liaison Committee to:

- improve the communication between NGOs by providing the list of NGOs with indication of their field of activities on the Committee’s website and taking into account the necessary legal framework on data privacy and protection,
- publish meeting reports on the website and send email alerts to NGO partners,
- engage in collective reflection:
 - to promote the collective action of NGOs,
 - to appropriately review the NGO working procedures as indicated in the 2011 guidelines (for example, the duration of the mandate of the president of the Liaison Committee),
 - to review the functioning of the ICNGO and simplify the election process,
 - to review the organization and funding of the next forums,
- strengthen contacts with NGOs from regions other than Europe in order to involve them in the collective work, organize forums in the different regions and to improve the relationship between Liaison Committee Members and local NGOs with a focus on Latin America & the Caribbean region,
- organize one or two annual meetings for NGOs in addition to the current newsletter (*The NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee Newsletter*),
- arrange to participate in National Commissions’meetings that take place at UNESCO headquarters in order to foster Member States’ cooperation with NGOs.

The ICNGO recommends to NGOs:

- to involve young people in the preparation of the forums and international days so that the voice of young people is better taken into account,
- to entrust young people and students with missions for the organization of international days,
- to develop joint actions with UNESCO sectors to achieve the objectives of the 2030 Agenda,
- to inform the Liaison Committee of their capacities to finance joint projects,
- to solicit Member States to honor their commitments to mitigate climate change and take the necessary steps to keep carbon emission below 1.5°C,
- to take the initiative of a conference under the auspices of the scientific and academic community in order to invite NGOs to debate on this theme.

The ICNGO asks UNESCO:

- To provide a room for NGOs for their collective work that can be reliably booked.

All these requests from the 2018 ICNGO will have to be taken into account by the Liaison Committee subject to the availability of human and financial resources.