

Minutes of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee #6 – 20 November 2019

NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee

1. Marie-Claude Machon Honoré – Chairperson
2. Marie-Christine Gries – Treasurer
3. Richard Francis Apeh – Executive Secretary
4. Cyril Noirtin – Responsible for communication
5. Andrej Cheshev – Focal Point Eastern Europe Region

By Skype

1. Fatima Lahnaït – Forums and International Days
2. Abdel-Basset Ben Hassan – Focal point Arab region
3. Ratna Wagh – Focal point Asia region
4. Diego Gradis – NGO Partnership

Excused

1. Philippe Beaussant – Vice- President
2. Daves Guzha – Focal Point Africa Region

Observers

1. Sabina Colombo – Chief of the Unit for civil society partnership
2. Marine Teboul – Intern of the Liaison Committee

1- Adoption of the Agenda

Adding of an item “miscellaneous”.

2- Approval of the meeting of October 3rd, 2019

Approved.

3- Status of Forums preparation

• Forum “Challenging inequalities”

Richard provided updates on the forum preparation:

90% of speakers confirmed their participation to this day. A second keynote speaker is still missing (two possibilities are currently examined).

Regarding the pitch talk speaker: Richard contacted Mr Sané to propose him an economic class flight and a room in a hotel near UNESCO. The Committee is waiting for his answer.

The estimated budget (the Liaison Committee contribution) is € 10 000 (according to Marie-Christine, the treasurer).

Richard listed some upcoming actions:

Sending an email to NGOs as a second call to register

Strengthening the forum publicity through Facebook

Sending an email to NGOs to collect short films (within 10-days deadline)

Drafting recommendations (with Marie-Claude Allez and Géraldine)

Sabina Colombo informed the Committee that an announcement about the forum will be

posted on UNESCO website soon. A finalised program is a necessity before the second call. The program should be finished in consultation with the steering committee. Regarding the funding from UNESCO Secretariat, Ms Colombo confirmed resources mobilization.

Marie-Claude Machon Honoré recalled outstanding questions:

A third moderator is needed in addition to Richard and Abdel

Regarding parallel workshops' moderators: on day 1 a young moderator would be a good choice, on day 2 the Liaison Committee suggested someone with experience to facilitate recommendation drafting.

Finally, Marie-Christine Griès underlined the necessity to book plane tickets and hotel rooms quickly to avoid the increase in prices.

• **Forum “Science, Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship in support of the UN SDGs”**

Ms Colombo provided updates on the organisation of the forum:

UNESCO Secretariat is currently preparing a letter for the national commission general secretary

Some works on the substance are necessary: UNESCO Secretariat has already sent some background elements. Fatima recalled the importance of collective work in light of the lack of response from other Liaison Committee members (Cyril, Daves and Diego). Fatima will send for the fourth time an email to her co-workers to start drafting the concept note, or at least provide a list of themes.

• **Forum “Global Citizenship”**

Marie-Christine informed the Committee of the scheduling of a second meeting (following the one on 9 October 2019).

Sabina Colombo met the a national commission secretary general. He ensured his interest on the forum organisation in his country. However, he raised some questions:

Regarding the date: it is important to avoid the touristic period (for financial and organisation reasons). Furthermore, other events on the calendar must also be taken into account (in April: UNESCO Executive Board, and Catholic and Orthodox Easter celebrations).

Following discussion during the present meeting, Sabina Colombo will indicate on the letter approximate dates at the end of April/ beginning of May (to give enough time to examine the answers to the questionnaire and organize the forum).

The host country will not assume all the costs. Some high profile speakers should be invited to attract financial partners (dependent on speakers and themes).

Following the informal meeting between Sabina and the National Commission, UNESCO Secretariat will send a letter. A mission could be organized in that country (in January 2020) with Liaison Committee members in charge of the Forum to discuss the organization and preparation in detail. However, before scheduling such a mission, the concept note needs editing (Fatima will be back in Paris on November 28 and will join the working group at this time). Sabina Colombo will examine the feasibility of such a mission in Greece.

In case the organisation of the Forum in that country is not possible, the Committee should explore other locations. The forum can't be held in Paris according to Ms Colombo.

4- Updates on the Event on intangible cultural heritage proposed by ABSS India

Given the bad connexion, another skype meeting will be scheduled with Ratna to discuss the event.

Furthermore, following the present meeting, Ratna will provide the latest updates by email to the Liaison Committee regarding the event to give time to Liaison Committee members to examine propositions before the skype meeting.

5- Working groups under the aegis of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee

• **Climate Campaign**

Andrej confirmed that in the COP 25 framework, the Liaison Committee cannot present its work. Indeed, only NGOs can act in their names through bilateral ways.

Sabina Colombo informed the Liaison Committee on its possibilities to act at the COP 25. Should UNESCO have a specific space, the Liaison Committee could be allowed to present its work. However, in light of the location change, UNESCO still does not know if such a space will be provided.

Marie-Claude Machon-Honoré recalled the importance to link climate action and youth in accordance with UNESCO strategy. She recalled the idea of organizing a day of action on the previous themes as initially proposed by the working group “Climate Campaign” in cooperation with UNESCO.

Following a discussion, Mr Peter Dogse assured of his interest in the organisation of such a day. However, Ms Colombo recalled that a large number of similar days was already scheduled. Ms Colombo proposed to collect outcomes of the working group and to prepare an event during the 2020 ICNGO in order to mobilize NGOs.

Richard informed the Liaison Committee he was not aware of any statement issued by the Climate Group (various recommendations). He added the importance of scheduling a new meeting of the group very quickly. The Liaison Committee Chairperson asked Richard about his availability to organize such a meeting.

• **Reinforcing partnership between NGOs and UNESCO**

Philippe Beaussant and Marie-Christine Griès examined only two documents: one concerning the dialogue between NGOs and UNESCO / and the other on strengthening the partnership . The third document "vademecum" could not be read in time. Philippe and Marie-Christine annotated only two documents with the approval of Fatima Lahnait, although the first one benefited from a deeper analysis than the second one.

Only the two annotated documents were discussed with the working group on Tuesday 8 October 2019. Subsequently, the three documents were sent by the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee Chairperson to Mr Le Saux and Ms Azoulay. These documents were published on the Liaison Committee website on Tuesday 19 November 2019 to share them with NGOs. The two documents were also sent by email to partner NGOs on Monday, 18 November.

The Working group will be informed of the situation.

• **Education/ CCNGO 2030**

Marie-Claude Machon-Honoré informed the Liaison Committee about the organisation of the next CCNGO meeting in Hammamet, Tunisia from 2 to 4 December 2019. In the framework of this meeting, on behalf of the Liaison Committee, Marie-Claude is in charge of organizing a panel on the theme of inclusion “make it for all: changing mindset”. Various approaches will be addressed by this panel: girls, women, people with disabilities... This panel will be moderated by Marie-Claude, and the rapporteur will be Lisbeth Gouin. All documents and outcomes are posted on the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee website (NGO-UNESCO Partnerships-CCNGO-Education2030).

6- **Finances**

Marie-Christine Griès announced a provisional budget of € 48 000-50 000. Therefore, each forum represents approximately 25% of the budget.

The second call for voluntary contributions raised about twenty additional ones. At the end of the year, the Liaison Committee will collect around 80 contributions which correspond to the quotas for previous years.

Cyril Noirtin recalled the importance of improving the Liaison Committee's form of communication in order to increase the quantity and quality of voluntary contributions. It would be necessary to examine first the method of solicitation, and second the possibility to provide invoices (which would be legally possible according to Cyril). Andrej also proposed to add "catchphrases" (with the call for voluntary contributions) in order to express the gratitude of the Liaison Committee for the support of NGOs. Andrej again proposed to help with the platform to facilitate communication between the Liaison Committee members.

Next LC meeting to be decided