

**Minutes of Meeting #8 of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee – 16 March 2020**

**NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee**

1. Marie-Claude Machon Honore - Chairperson
2. Philippe Beaussant - Vice Chairperson (for part of the meeting)
3. Richard Apeh - Executive Secretary
4. Marie-Christine Gries - Treasurer
5. Diego Gradis - Member
6. Fatima Lahnait – Member

**Observer**

Sabina Colombo - UNESCO Secretariat

**1. Approval of the agenda**

Approved

**2. Approval of the minutes of meetings # 7**

Approved

**3. Appointment of a rapporteur for the meeting**

Richard Apeh will draft the minutes of the meeting

**4. Report on the mid-term information plenary meeting with the NGOs (26 February 2020)**

All documents and presentations will be posted on the Committee website.

**5. Forums**

**• Global citizenship**

Some confusion appears amongst NGO representatives about the topic “Global citizenship”. The preliminary note could reflect such confusion which can be caused by the great diversity of locations.

It is suggested that draft conclusions should be produced prior to the Forum and approved by the plenary. This document could be presented at the Conference in South Korea in 2021. The Secretariat suggests organizing a virtual meeting with the steering committee with the participation of more Sectors in view of the preparation of the Forum. Concerned is expressed that possibly, few entities will be proposing to organize Forums in the coming months.

It is reminded that the Committee should be informed of all communication about the Forum to the Sectors done by the working group or their representative.

- **Science, technology, innovation and entrepreneurship in support of SDGs**

Daves Guzha sent a preliminary concept note to be circulated to all Committee members for perusal. Daves will be thanked and encouraged to continue pursue further the contact with the Zimbabwe National Commission. The Committee and the Secretariat will assess the situation by the end of the month to then decide on the next possible steps.

## **6. International Days (updates)**

- **Peace:** The meeting scheduled for 20 March will be canceled and attempts will be made to reschedule it to be held virtually.

- **Girl Child:** The scheduled meeting of 24 March has been postponed. Maintaining the event on 14 October 2020 is still an option.

## **7. Working groups**

- **Strengthening the partnership between NGOs and UNESCO**

Meeting with Mr. Jean-Yves Le Saux: The Chairperson and Diego Gradis had on 4 March a meeting with Mr Jean-Yves Le Saux. He expressed the interest from the Secretariat for the outcome of the Working Group and as proposed by the Secretariat at the #7 meeting of the Committee gave its comments on the two documents adopted, one on the Dialogue with Member States and the other, the Guide to the Forums. These comments will be circulated to all Committee members.

During that meeting was expressed the need for more visibility from the NGOs, especially given that many members of the Executive Board are new. The lack of a database on NGO partners to UNESCO was pointed out. The Secretariat could contribute to this visibility by the production of a publication recalling the partnership modalities (bilateral and collective), giving examples of practices of cooperation and describing the presence of NGOs at UNESCO. [The Working Group is willing to contribute to this task, should the Committee consider it worthwhile.]

Contacting Permanent Delegates, possibly the Chairpersons of the electoral groups, although not directly in their field of competence, and the Chairperson of the Committee on Non-Governmental Partners (NGP) is encouraged. Sabina Colombo confirms to the Committee that the Executive Board has asked the Chairperson of the NGP to explore the possibilities of reinitiating the thematic debates. A meeting with her should be organized as soon as possible, even virtually.

It is decided to set up a working group within the Committee to propose actions to increase the visibility of NGOs and organize advocacy activities for the role of civil society at UNESCO.

Meeting with the Permanent Delegate of Switzerland: The Chairperson and Diego Gradis inform on the meeting they had with the Permanent Delegate of Switzerland who showed a clear interest to learn more about the Committee and its activities.

#### Working Group on partnership:

The Sub-working group on **dialogue with the Member States** will analyze the Secretariat's comments on this topic and decide on that basis either to revise the document or to produce another document which would be more concise and more easily disseminated, or to leave it as such, considering that the document as it now stands, expresses the expectations of the NGOs. The Plenary of the Working Group will then take a position and refer to the Committee to decide how to make the document visible on the website.

A workshop with representatives of the Committee, of the Secretariat and of the Working Group analyzed the Secretariat's comments communicated orally on the draft **Guide for International Forum**. Members of the Committee are invited to provide within 7 days comments they may have on this final version of the document. After what the document will be put on the website with an indication that it will be submitted for approval to the ICNGO of 2020. In the meantime, some practical modalities of the guide can usefully be put in practice for future Forums.

- **The Vademecum** for the new NGO partners has been translated to English. Both versions will be posted on the website shortly.

- **Liaison Committee's working procedures** : The draft working procedures for the Committee was finalized during a workshop with five members of the Committee. The document will be put in consultation with other Committee members for comments within seven days. The provisions concerning Finances will be reviewed by Cyril Noirtin and Marie-Christine Gries and later integrated to the document.

- **Code of conduct** : A new date was proposed to review the draft code of conduct. Version #3 of the document, after adoption by the Committee will be presented to the 2020 ICNGO and candidates at the elections will formally subscribe to the Code.

- **CCNGO/Education2030** : The new coordination team of the CCNGO is working on the conclusions of the 9th CCNGO Global Meeting. All documents on the forum have already been posted on the website of the Committee. As part of its new strategy, the coordination plans to reflect on the future of education and on the call for contribution on the online consultation on the 2021 global report on education. It is available through the UNESCO website.

All information on question of education 2030 can be found on <https://sdg4education2030.org/> .

- **Climate campaign** : Re-activating the working group is important as it answers a recommendation of the 2018 ICNGO. Richard Apeh will help finding a person willing to coordinate the group.

- **Preparation of the ICNGO (December 2020)**

The Committee will initiate a process to define a theme for the ICNGO. A working group could then be composed of Committee members and NGOs. The Secretariat proposes the following dates: December 14-16 in Room IV, without the option of NGO space as in previous ICNGO, or December 16-18 in Room II, with the option of NGO space. The Chair will consult the Committee and let the Secretariat know.

#### **8. Youth**

An NGO youth consultation is on hold for now, pending the evolution of the situation of the sanitary crisis.

#### **9. Communication: website, blog, listing and mapping of NGOs for visibility etc.**

The person who set up the platform for Forums will be asked if he could renovate the website. The visibility and criteria for the use of the blog by NGOs should be reviewed. Attempt will be made to identify a volunteer among NGOs who can do the maintenance of the website. In the meantime, the possible intern could work on it (see below).

## **10. Finances**

### **• Expenses for forum 11**

A total of € 13 324.06 was spent by the Committee for Forum 11.

CCIC asked to include in the financial report of Forum 11 its expenses connected with the musical presentation. As it was not a direct expense of the Committee, it will be reflected as an “in kind contribution” in a foot note to the financial report with mention of the amount spent.

### **• Photocopy machine**

Canon will refund the amount overcharged for copies not actually made. A proposal by Canon to change the machine will be studied. A proposal of € 500 EUR/month should be reduced to at least € 400 EUR/month. The option of purchasing a good office copier/fax/scanner/printer should also be envisaged.

### **• Call to NGOs for 2020 contribution**

The appeal for the 2020 voluntary contribution by NGOs will be sent with the report on the mid-term information meeting, as an annex.

### **• Comment by the Treasurer**

The Treasurer presents and comments the financial situation.

## **11. Miscellaneous**

### **• Reservation of rooms for meetings**

Due to the sanitary crisis, the Secretariat cannot guarantee reservations of meeting rooms in the coming months. Virtual meetings are strongly encouraged. The Chairperson will send a note to the Secretariat, recalling that NGOs had a permanent meeting room in the past. Although when the NGOs had to move out of the NGO building at Bonvin the Secretariat said that it would make all possible efforts to provide rooms for the collective work of NGOs (see 2011 Directives), getting rooms for meetings has been more and more difficult, some meeting having even had to take place in a rented space outside of the headquarters.

### **• Internship**

Is pending a candidacy of a young woman in Master1 submitted by IAEP (May-June 2020).

### **• ABSS event at UNESCO Headquarters “Global Festival of Intangible Cultural Heritage - Unity in Diversity” (November 2020)**

Once confirmed a recommendation letter by the Committee will be sent to ABSS.

## **12. Next Liaison Committee meeting**

Virtual meeting to be scheduled around end of April 2020