

NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee – 7 June, 2021

1. Opening

Davide Grosso, president of the Liaison Committee, thanked all in attendance.

2-3. Adoption of the agenda/ Adoption of the minutes of the last meeting

Agenda unanimously approved, as well as minutes of the last meeting.

4. Work Programme - Follow Up on Recommendations

4.1 Forum on Global Citizenship

Nick Newland presented the updates on the preparations, answers from the NGOs to the survey and the plan to offer NGOs the possibility to send a video. The preliminary date is set for September 24 to be confirmed after consultation with the Education sector. The Forum will be held online on a dedicated platform and in close connection with the UNESCO Forum scheduled for the upcoming autumn.

4.2 Celebration of UNESCO 75th anniversary

Thais Queiroz gave updates about the proposed action: The LC will issue a call to NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO to appoint a youth representative (under 30 years of age) who will join a platform of young people who will work together in order to exchange and to elaborate a Position Paper on Youth which will be presented in time for the 75th anniversary celebrations of UNESCO. The Position Paper will serve as an important document for the Liaison Committee Youth Strategy, the Liaison Committee led by its youth representative will elaborate an advocacy strategy for its follow up and implementation. The LC should make sure to have balance (gender, geographical) and that those people are really representative of their NGO in order to active an internal intergenerational process.

4.3 Webinar on Science, Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Marie Claude Machon-Honoré presented a concept note with 4 objectives: underline the vital importance of science, technology and innovation in response to the challenges facing humanity; recall the role of Open Science as a game changer; recall the role of equitable and inclusive quality education and promote access of girls and women to scientific and technical training; gather NGOs across sectors and reach out to Africa in particular. Two round tables should be organized: 1 - Women's empowerment through Education (STI, STEM, TVET) and Entrepreneurship and 2 - Open Science, Entrepreneurship and Climate Emergency. The proposed period is September. Concerns were raised about the date and the theme considered too broad. MCMH will organize a meeting with TK, CGE and DG. Such meeting should consider: (1) How involve NGOs, and (2) brainstorm more to report out at the next meeting.

4.4 Report on meeting for strengthening the partnership

As per decision at the last meeting, the first meeting of the consultative group of President was held. They acknowledge that there is a wish of the NGOs to reflect on this topic and their meeting was to provide a frame for this to be done by the maximum number of NGOs possible. The idea is to have an overview on what has been done in the past and also request all NGOs to give feedback on the 2011 directives. The first thing that this group wants to do is to listen to the representatives to see what they have in mind in regard to the three points that they mentioned in their first letter. MCMH read a

statement explaining why she refused to be part of the consultative group of the Presidents. Thanking for the invitation, she cannot accept the decision to consult 4 former presidents "to know their opinion, to define a precise framework and to consider the modalities and the objectives of such a reflection (analysis of the directives) under the sign of "broader inclusion" without including NGOs. DG reassured that what this group of presidents is doing is to think about how to involve NGOs. How to involve them differently and taking stock of what has been done until now. These four presidents are not going to decide anything for the NGOS. They are simply setting the frame.

5. Updates

An update document has been posted in the Dropbox as item 5. It includes information about the trip of the Chairperson to Abidjan, the online meeting with the World Federation of Scientific Workers (WFSW) and online meeting with OMAEC and OIEC.

6 AOB

Alexandre Gynoyer provided information via email prior to the meeting about the 6th World Forum for Lifelong Learning on 1-2 July (Brussels and online) as an announcement pending time.

7. Next meeting

A Doodle will be sent in the following weeks.