

2nd Liaison Committee (LC) Meeting Minutes
28 February 2023
Online

In attendance:

Liaison Committee Members:

- 1. Mr Nicholas Newland, Chairperson of the NGO-UNESCO LC (President)**
- 2. AIHR: Mr Abdelbasset Ben Hassan (Vice Chairperson)**
- 3. CEAIE: Ms Yibo Liu**
- 4. CLADE: Ms Nelsy Lizarazo**
- 5. IAESTE: Ms Olga Legacka (Executive Secretary), Mr Thomas Faltner**
- 6. ICASE: Ms Teresa Kennedy (Vice Chairperson)**
- 7. ICSSPE: Ms Junko Tahara**
- 8. IMC: Mr Davide Grosso**
- 9. ROTARY INTERNATIONAL: Ms Laura Regouby**

UNESCO

- 1. Ms Sabina Colombo, Head of Unit for Civil Society Partnerships (Unit)**
- 2. Mr Louis-Alberto Vargas Rojas**

MEETING MINUTES

1. Welcome

Mr Nicholas Newland, President of the NGO UNESCO LC and the NGO representatives warmly welcomed Ms Junko Tahara, representative of ICSSPE, and Mr Louis-Alberto Vargas Rojas, UNESCO, who joined the LC meeting for the first time.

Mr Nicholas Newland, President of the NGO UNESCO LC and the NGO representatives shared greetings from James Bridge, from the UK UNESCO National Commission UNESCO.

2. Adoption of the Agenda / Adoption de l'ordre du jour

The Agenda of the meeting has been distributed by the Executive Secretary and approved by unanimous consent.

3. Minutes from the previous meeting

Decision 6, 28 February 2023

The LC accepted the previous meeting minutes as proposed by the Executive Secretary. Minutes in English and French will be published on the LC website (<https://ngo-unesco.net/>)

4. Orientation Session

Ms Sabina Colombo, Chief of the Unit of Civil Society Partnerships, and Mr Nicholas Newland, Chairperson of the NGO UNESCO LC, presented the organisational, statutory and practical aspects framing the Liaison Committee's functioning and action. Details can be found in Enclosure 1.

The presentation was followed by the discussion/comments:

- Mr Nicholas Newland stressed the need to clarify the legal status of the Liaison Committee. The UNESCO legal department is investigating this issue; updates will be shared when available.
- The LC will aim to involve the NGOs that partner with UNESCO but don't have the official status in the ICNGO mechanism
- Primary documents for NGOs to be familiar with:
 - [Directives concerning UNESCO's partnership with non-governmental organizations](#)
 - [UNESCO Medium Term Strategy 41/C4](#) (Chapter III)
- Note, CCNGO - Collective Consultation of NGOs

5. Programme of Work of the LC

Mr Nicholas Newland, President of the NGO UNESCO LC, presented the Programme of Work proposal, prepared together by the Executive Committee of LC (Enclosure 2)

Few points were discussed

5.1. Communication

- Channels:
 - Newsletter: will be issued bi-monthly, the first issue in April
 - Online meetings with the NGOs to share updates about the LC work: First in April. Mid Term meeting in December.
 - Regional Webinars
 - Website
 - Social media
- The details of the above will be carried out by the Communication Sub-Committee members: Ms Olga Legacka, Mr Nicholas Newland, Ms Teresa Kennedy, Ms Nelsy Lizarazo

5.2. Working Groups

WG National Commissions, led by Mr Cyril Noirtin (LC) and Ms Stacy Dry Lara, (Graduate Women International) continues the work.

5.3. Thematic Mapping

IAESTE is working with the Civil Society Unit on this project. The process will be hosted on the LC website. The aim is to kick it off in April

5.4. Meeting Room

Decision 7, 28 February 2023

The LC decided to change the layout of the LC offices at the UNESCO building to create an open space for NGOs which could also be used for ad hoc meetings. The LC would like to thank the Civil Society Unit for their organisational and financial support in making this happen.

5.5. International Days

There is a number of NGOs involved in the International Days celebrations, at the beginning, they were ad hoc groups that became stable. Currently, active groups are International Day of Girl Child and International Day of Peace.

In the past, the ad hoc International Days groups requested financial support to organise the days' celebrations.

5.6. YOUTH

The LC acknowledged the importance of youth involvement in civil society activities.

Decision 8, 28 February 2023

The LC decided to establish the Youth Representatives Working Group and appoint Ms Celie Denez, WOSM, as the Youth Liaison for 1 year (with the possibility of being re-elected for this term). This Work Group will represent the youth's voice and participation (seat) in the Forums, Steering Committees, Working Groups and other activities. The age limit is up to 35 years (ref. to UNESCO definition).

Mr Davide Grosso and Ms Nelsy Lizarazo will approach Ms Celie Denez to draft the Terms and References for the Youth Representation Work Group.

5.7. International Forums

Decision 9, 28 February 2023

The LC aims to organise five Forums: four in hybrid mode (online & in-person) and one online according to the following list: working topics, suggested timeline, co-hosting NGO/co-chair:

- 1. AI & Youth (online), September 2023, co-chair Celie Denez (proposed)**
- 2. Changing mentalities (hybrid), October 2023, IAESTE, co-chairs: Ms Olga Legacka and Mr Nicholas Newland**
- 3. Culture as a Pillar of the Sustainable Development (hybrid), fist quarter 2024, co-chairs Mr Davide Grosso and Mr Limame Monza Kane,**
- 4. Green Education for Sustainable Development (online), May-July 2024, co-chairs: Mr Cyril Noirtin and Ms Yibo Liu**
- 5. Right to Education and Life Long Learning (hybrid), September 2024, AIHR, co-chairs: Mr Abdelbasset Ben Hassan**

For each Forum Steering Committee will be established. Youth participation should be supported by providing funds. The details are subject to change.

6. AOB

- 6.1.** Mr Davide Grosso would like to move the archive files from Dropbox. Mr Nicholas Newland is working on 365 UNESCO access, so the files can be moved there.

Finished 5:02 pm CET

The main title of the event, centered on the page. It consists of two lines of bold, white, uppercase text. A small teal circle is positioned to the left of the first line.

**NGO-UNESCO LIAISON COMMITTEE
ORIENTATION SESSION - 28 FEBRUARY 2023**

UNESCO CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE XI

“The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization may make suitable arrangements for consultation and cooperation with non-governmental international organizations concerned with matters within its competence, and may invite them to undertake specific tasks. Such cooperation may also include appropriate participation by representatives of such organizations on advisory committees set up by the General Conference”

COOPERATION MODALITIES

Bilateral Cooperation



Collective Mechanisms of Cooperation



International
Conference of NGOs

NGO-UNESCO
Liaison Committee

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

Bilateral Cooperation

Directives concerning UNESCO's partnership with non-governmental organizations

Collective Mechanisms of Cooperation

Rules of Procedure of the International Conference of NGOs

COMPOSITION OF THE LC

- Made up of ten (10) NGOs:
 - four with Associate Status
 - six with Consultative Status
 - at least one NGO partner having its headquarters in each of the 6 regions as defined by UNESCO

- Members are elected for a term of office of two years, only renewable once consecutively

- Members are the NGOs themselves, not the individuals

- NGOs elected from a particular region are not formally representing the region

TASKS OF THE LIASION COMMITTEE

as defined by the Directives

Represent Interests

Represent the interests of all the NGO partners with regard to UNESCO

Efficiency of Partnership

Ensure the proper functioning and efficiency of the partnership between the community of NGO partners and UNESCO

UNESCO Draft Programme

Ensure that the opinions of NGOs taken collectively are reflected by UNESCO in the preparation of its draft programme

Information

Ensure the appropriate exchange of information with the NGO community it represents and, in this connection, promote consultation among NGOs at all levels

TASKS OF THE LIASION COMMITTEE as defined by the Directives

ICNGO

Implement the ICNGO resolutions, and prepare the subsequent session of the ICNGO, in consultation with UNESCO

NGO Forums

Organize, in consultation with the UNESCO Secretariat, two NGO Forums per year on a UNESCO priority issue

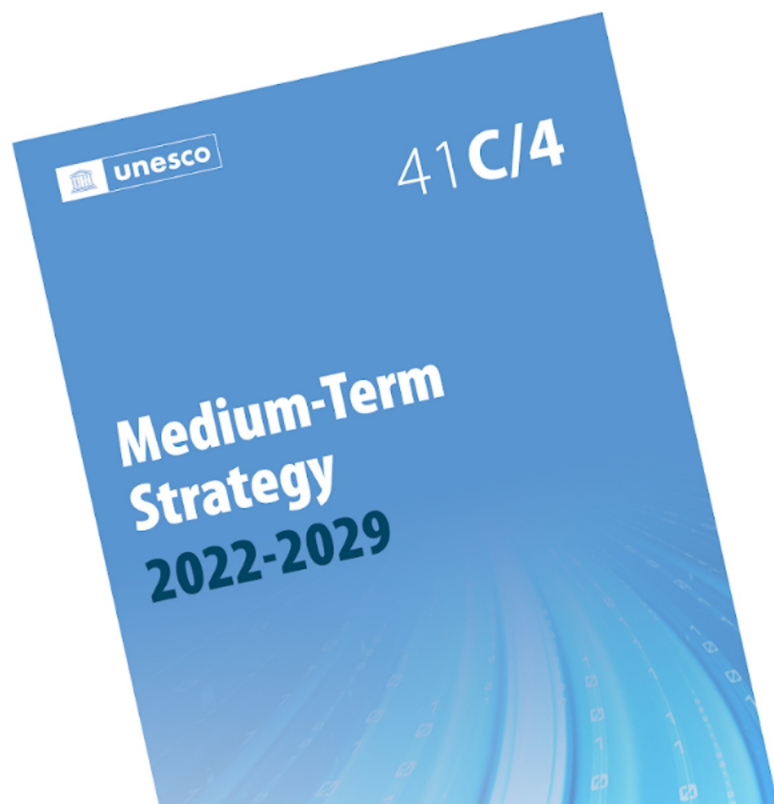
NGP Committee

Contribute to preparations for the debates of the Executive Board's Committee on Non-Governmental Partners (NGP), in particular by promoting the participation of a large number of NGOs

UNESCO MEDIUM-TERM STRATEGY

NGO liaison committee UNESCO

41 C/4



III. Our commitment: strengthening impact and partnerships

70. UNESCO is committed to a series of reform measures and corporate actions that are instrumental to implementing the Organization's mandate. The principles and measures set out below form the "enabling environment" objective for the optimal implementation of UNESCO's mandate from 2022 to 2029, in a fast-changing environment, with two related outcomes that will ensure the Organization's responsiveness, preparedness and adaptability.

Deepening and diversifying partnerships

Enabling objective: Foster an enabling environment for the efficient and effective delivery of UNESCO's priorities

41 C/4
(2022-2029)

05



Strengthen interaction & partnership with UNESCO

04



Lead and coordinate collective work of NGOs, and showcase their good practices to inspire others

03



Encourage participation of new NGOs

02



Promote inclusiveness and diversity of participation

01



Communicate clearly and in good time

OUR APPROACH

PAST FORUMS

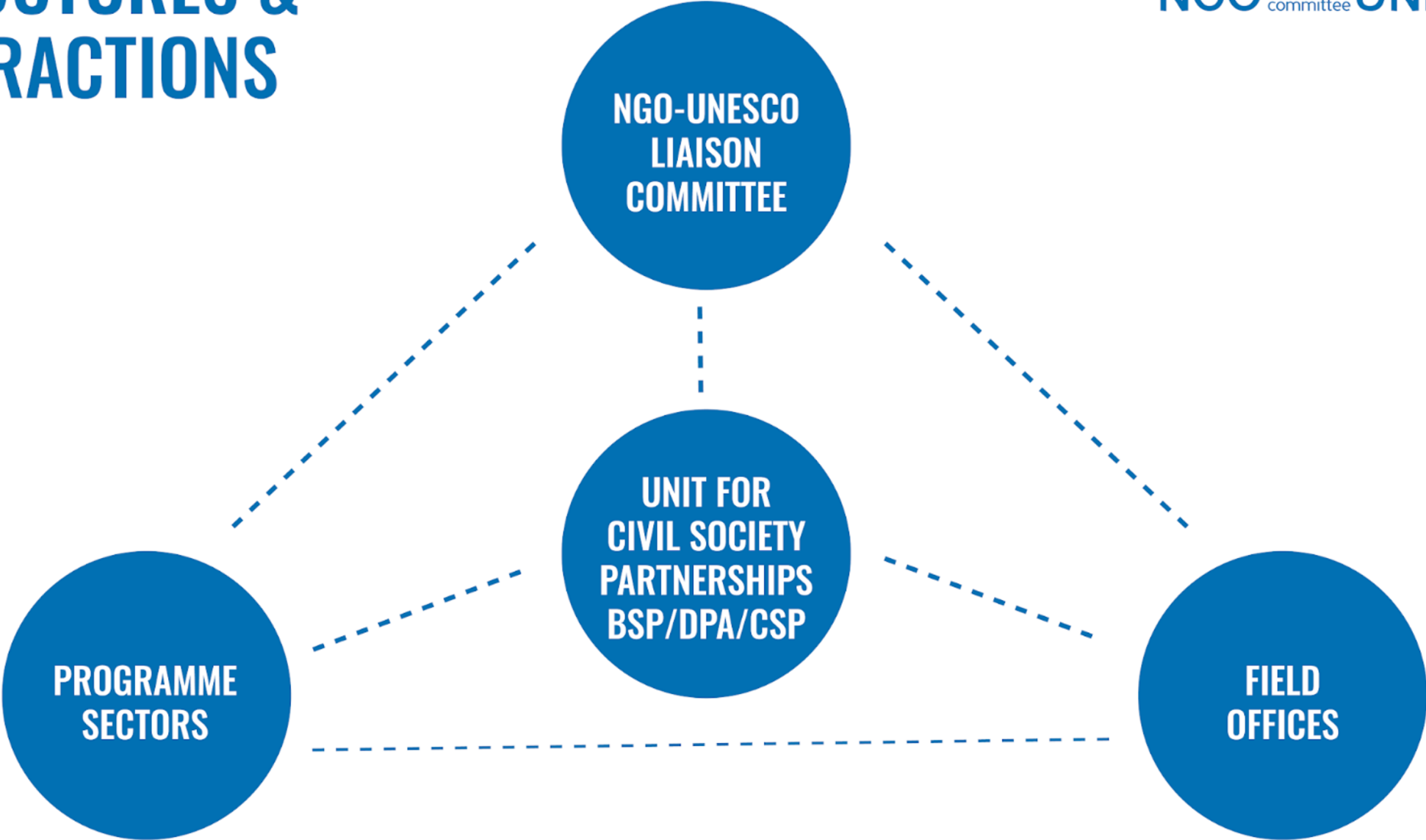
- “Which Education Goals for Tomorrow’s Citizens of the World: Is Quality Enough?” (UNESCO Headquarters, Sept. 2013)
- “Access to Water For All in Africa” (Yamoussoukro, Côte d’Ivoire, July 2014)
- “The role of youth in the safeguarding of tangible and intangible heritage”, (Sozopol, Bulgaria, Sept. 2014);
- “The Role of Women in Fighting Poverty” (UNESCO Headquarters, June 2015)
- “Rapprochement of cultures: one humanity beyond diversity” (Beijing, China, July 2015)
- “From promoting to building peace with NGOs” (Querétaro, Mexico, November 2016)
- “Youth and their Social Impact” (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, May 2017)
- “Changing minds, not the climate: the contribution of NGOs” (UNESCO Headquarters, December 2017)
- “Another Look at Migration” (Tunis, Tunisia, September 2018)
- “Science, the Common Good of Humanity” (Moscow, Russian Federation, November 2018)
- “Challenging inequalities” (UNESCO Headquarters, December 2019)
- “Achieving Global Citizenship”. (Online, December 2021)
- “Mobilizing NGOs for the International Decade of Indigenous Languages and the Ocean Decade (Ottawa, Canada, November 2022)

“Noting that the CCNGO/ED 2030 is UNESCO’s key mechanism for dialogue, reflection and partnerships with NGOs for the implementation of the SDG4–Education 2030 and an important part of the global SDG 4 coordination mechanisms as spelt out in the Education 2030 Framework for Action, we recommend the CCNGO to:

33. Amplify its advocacy and lobbying role at local, national, regional, and global levels.

35. Foster exchange and learning, share knowledge, and engage in wider debates and cross-sectoral engagement, including through increased dialogue with the UNESCO-NGO Liaison Committee and Education and Academia Stakeholder Group.”

STRUCTURES & INTERACTIONS



PREMISES & SECRETARIAL SUPPORT

“The premises and secretariat facilities necessary for the meetings of the International Conference and for the work of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee shall, as far as possible, be provided free of charge by the Director-General.

UNESCO’s technical services will facilitate appropriately the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee meetings by setting up video-conferencing” (Article XI 2.3 of the Directives).”



**NGO-UNESCO LIAISON COMMITTEE
PROGRAMME OF WORK 2022-2024**

ICNGO Priorities / Recommendations

Ocean Decade

Appointed new Liaison to Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, building process towards April '24 Ocean Conference. Will invite NGOs to a meeting to be held in April 2023



NOW

CCNGO

Appointed new Liaison CCNGO, and agreed to support the 2023 Global Conference as details become available.



NOW

Youth

Representation
Voices
Working Group
Participation
See full slide!



NOW

Thematic Mapping

Meeting held with Unit and process agreed to conduct Thematic Mapping of all NGOs in Official Partnership, to be hosted on LC website. Conducted and supported by IAESTE.



APRIL 23

ICNGO Priorities / Recommendations

Communications

Newsletter to be published every 2 months; inc. NGO input. First Issue March 23

Comms Sub-Committee being established

Mid-term meeting Dec 23



NOW

National Commissions

Working Group will continue for 6 month mandate; new Co-Chairs Appointed (1 from LC, 1 from NGOs)

Pledged support from Canada, France & UK to get NatCom input



NOW

Meeting Room

Agreed to replace President's Office with a Committee Office and move to one side not middle

Waiting for costs of joining other 2 rooms to use as a meeting room for NGOs



NOW

International Days

Will establish contact with the groups working previously and discuss process and progress



APRIL 23

ICNGO Priorities / Recommendations

Finances

Undertaking review of previous expenditure

Treasurer preparing new budget based on Work Programme

New strategy for collecting Voluntary Contributions

→ **APRIL 23**

Forums

Working with Sectors based on priorities established during ICNGO

See detailed slides

→ **23/24**

Mid-Term Meeting

Will hold a Mid-Term update in December 2023

Offer opportunity for NGOs to receive detailed updates, and feedback on progress

Dates to be confirmed

→ **DEC 23**

ICNGO 24

Programme to build on reflections from the 2022-2024 mandate

Dates to be confirmed

→ **DEC 24**

Youth Representation

- Agreed a Youth Liason between the Committee and Youth Representatives - Célie Denez (WOSM)
- Recall the Youth Representatives Working Group who established the Advocacy Guidelines, and invite ALL NGOs in Official Partnership to designate Youth Representatives to this group. This group to ensure input and participation in Forums and other LC activities, plus establish priorities for action, and suggest modalities for broadening participation. Participation must be diverse, representative, and reflect the languages of our membership.
- Each Working Group and Steering Committee will have one seat reserved for a Youth Representative, taken from volunteers from the Youth Working Group. Each Forum will have at least one youth-led panel; each panel should, where appropriate, have a youth participant
- Open Meeting in Late March/Early April 2023 to establish this group. Maximum age of 35 years
Terms of Reference will be drawn up in advance of this meeting.

Forums

- We plan to hold both “in person” and online Forums during this mandate. In person Forums will be live-streamed as a minimum, with hybrid participation where possible.
- For in person Forums, we will seek financial support for NGO attendance, including youth delegates
- Information will be published at the earliest possible stage with a “Save the Date”, and an open call for input, as well as the creation of a Steering Committee with participation from NGOs, the Liaison Committee, Secretariat and the Sectors

Forum 1: AI & YOUTH

- Follow-up to UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence and STIE Webinar
- We plan to hold this Forum online in September 2023
- Costs: Interpretation - all other activities carried out “in house”, design, technology etc.
- Need to establish partnership within the Social & Human Sciences (SHS) / Comms Sectors
- Once partnership with SHS is agreed, need to hold open meeting to appoint Steering Committee
- Need Co-Chair from the Liaison Committee, and consider Co-Chair from Youth group



SEPT 23

Forum 2: CHANGING MENTALITIES (TBC)

- Title to be finalised, but addressing gender equality, discrimination, the shadow pandemic of violence, changing mindsets and mentalities, and influencing policy
- Has the full support of Assistant Director-General Ramos, SHS Sector
- To be held 27-28 October 2023, in person, in Luxembourg - lead NGO will be IAESTE
- Co-Chairs suggested Olga Legacka & Nick Newland
- Need open meeting to get input, and establish Steering Committee



27-28 OCT 23

Forum 3: CULTURE AS A PILLAR OF S.D.

- Follow-up to Mondiacult, with support of ADG Ottone, Culture Sector
- Initial discussions indicate to be held first quarter of 2024
- Intend to hold the Forum in person, in East Africa
- Following up on previous efforts, suggest Monza Kane & Davide Grosso as Co-Chairs
- Will continue follow-up with the ADG

 **Q1 2024**

Forum 4: GREEN EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- Online Forum, as a build up towards Forum 5, following up on previous Forums and CCNGO Global Conference
- Costs: Interpretation - all other activities carried out “in house”, design, technology etc.
- Further planning to come, but suggesting May-July 2024 as a prelude to Forum 5
- Cyril Noirtin has requested to Co-Chair this Forum; will need 1 Co-Chair from NGO community



Mid 24

Forum 5: RIGHT TO EDUCATION & LIFELONG LEARNING

- Follow up to the new social contract for education, the UNESCO Report on the Future of Education, the Transforming Education summit, and previous LC Forums on Education and Global Citizenship
- Initial discussions need development, but Arab Institute for Human Rights as lead NGO
- Looking to organise in person in either Tunisia or Morocco
- Further planning to come but suggesting September 2024 as a 2-year progress check on Transforming Education summit



SEPT 24