

1st Liaison Committee Meeting Minutes
27 January 2023
Online

In attendance:

Liaison Committee Members:

1. Mr Nicholas Newland, President of the NGO-UNESCO LC (President)
2. AIHR: Mr Abdelbasset Ben Hassan
3. ARTERIAL NETWORK: Mr Limame Monza Kane
4. CEAIE: Ms Yibo Liu, Ms Jessica Bian
5. CLADE: Ms Nelsy Lizarazo
6. SOZOPOL FOUNDATION: Ms Petya Zelenski
7. IAESTE: Ms Olga Legacka, Mr Thomas Faltner
8. ICASE: Ms Teresa Kennedy
9. ICSSPE: Ms Claire Boursier
10. IMC: Mr Davide Grosso
11. ROTARY INTERNATIONAL: Mr Cyril Noirtin, Ms Laura Regouby

UNESCO

1. Ms Sabina Colombo, Head of Unit for Civil Society Partnerships (Unit)
2. Mr Armin Ibrišimović

1. Opening / Ouverture

It was agreed at the informal meeting in December 2022 to proceed with meetings in English, with all members encouraged to ask for clarification or interpretation at any point if needed. All members are reminded to respect the diversity of the Committee and speak at a moderate speed. The present representatives have confirmed this agreement.

Ms Sabina Colombo, Mr Nicholas Newland, President of the NGO UNESCO LC and the NGO representatives acknowledged the work and NGO support of Mr Armin Ibrišimović in recent years and wished him success in his new role at UNESCO.

Members of the Liaison Committee and those attending meetings have been confirmed (Enclosure 1)

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

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

3. Introduction session from the Secretariat / Séance d'introduction du Secrétariat

Ms Sabina Colombo, Chief of the Unit of Civil Society Partnerships, introduced the unit and her team.

Main points:

- There are 411 NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO
- There are also other partners: foundations and the private sector, for instance, who work with UNESCO. Several NGOs that are not in official partnership also work directly with sectors and field offices.
- UNESCO Medium-term strategy 2022-2029 (C4) guides the framework of cooperation with civil society
- The Unit of Civil Society Partnerships is a relatively small team responsible for the management and mobilisation of NGOs' network, coordination of different mechanisms to work with the NGO Liaison Committee and ICNGO, and facilitating the work between NGOs and the sectors.

4. Adoption of the report of the International Conference of NGOs 2022 / Adoption du rapport de la Conférence Internationale des ONG

The President thanked Ms Teresa Kennedy, Ms Vicky Lovelock, Mr Davide Grosso and Ms Sabina Colombo for their input and revisions to submit the report. The only parts that still need to be included are a final paragraph from Ms Marie-Claude Machon-Honoré (former member of the Committee) on her session and the text of guest speeches, which will be supplied in the near future.

Decision 1, 27 January 2023

The report of the International Conference of NGOs 2022 (Enclosure 2) was approved by consensus.

5. Finalising and approving the Recommendations from ICNGO 22 / Finaliser et approuver les recommandations du CIONG 22

The President thanked Mr Patrick Gallaud and the members of the drafting group, and past President Mr Davide Grosso for support in tidying up the document. The President has gone back through the full recording of the relevant conference sessions, as well as all email submissions to the drafting group, to ensure all input is considered.

Decision 2, 27 January 2023

The Recommendations from ICNGO 22 (Enclosure 3) were approved by unanimous consent.

6. Functions within the Committee / Fonctions au sein du Comité

Decision 3, 27 January 2023

The LC members approved by unanimous consent allocation of the particular duties and responsibilities to its members.

Executive Committee:

- Vice president Ms Teresa Kennedy
- Vice president Mr Abdelbasset Ben Hassan
- Treasurer Mr Cyril Noirtin
- Secretary (internally called Executive Secretary) Ms Olga Legacka

Representation / Liaison:

- CC NGO for Education 2030: Mr Abdelbasset Ben Hassan
- IOC (International Oceanographic Commission): Ms Teresa Kennedy

7. Update from the Chairperson since ICNGO / Mise à jour du Président depuis la CIONG

The President shared a report on his activities and meetings since the election:

- He spoke with the majority of new Liaison Committee Members, and pending meetings have been scheduled.
- Meeting with the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education, Ms Farida Shaheed.
 - Discussed Human Rights in Education and cooperation with NGOs. The [survey](#) was distributed among NGOs on 20 Jan 2023.
- Meeting with ADG Culture, Mr Ernesto Ottone
 - Discussed Forum of NGOs on culture, as a follow-up to Mondiacult and in line with some preliminary discussions had with Mr Davide Grosso, which also tied in with conversations with Mr Monza Kane and with one of the topics recommended by NGOs at the last ICNGO.
- Meeting with Ms Irmgarda Kasinskaite-Buddeberg, Advisor for Communication and Information in the Section for Media Development and Media in Emergency, CI sector.
 - Discussed the Forum held in Ottawa in November last year, International Decade of Indigenous Languages.
- Meeting with Mr Julien Pellaux, Director of Partnerships
 - Discussed the cooperation between LC and Unit, the importance of diversity and youth engagement.
- Meeting with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Committee; Ms Alison Clausen, Ms Regine Heve
 - Followed up the Forum held in Ottawa. Discussed the role of the LC to help build a new mechanism for Civil Society cooperation, specifically to act as a think tank or advisory group.
- Meeting with Ms Anna Maria Majlof, SHS (Social and Human Science Sector)
 - Discussed the potential to organise the Forum on the theme associated with the sector.
- Meeting with Ms Véronique Mistycki, CCNGO Education 2030
 - Discussed the potential for closer collaboration.
- Meeting with Ms Sabina Colombo, Head of Unit for Civil Society Partnerships
 - President gave thanks for her extraordinary support and time commitment during his five-day visit to UNESCO, Paris.
- Attendance at the 76th Annual Conference of the International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience (IAESTE), Warsaw, Poland.
 - IAESTE invited President as the keynote speaker and honorary guest. (Enclosure 4)

8. Work Programme - Follow Up on Recommendations/Programme de travail - Suivi des Recommandations

1. Discussion on Recommendations

The LC Members initially discussed implementing the recommendations. Every LC Member should analyse the recommendations and propose the priorities for the next meeting.

Strategic Planning of the LC: the President, Vice-presidents, Treasurer, Executive Secretary and former President will organise a meeting to discuss the priorities and initial budget.

Ongoing activities:

- [Survey: Implementation of Directives on NGO Partnerships](#), Ms Claire Boursier will follow up with Ms Vicky Lovelock to finalise the report. If many more answers have been received, Claire Boursier will integrate them into the report presented at the ICNGO. Otherwise, that report will be considered final and transmitted to the UNESCO Director General.
- Thematic alignment of NGOs and Civil Society: IAESTE (Ms Olga Legacka, Mr Thomas Faltner) will support the Unit in this process.
- LC Office at UNESCO: the LC will analyse the possibilities to make the space available to the NGOs community. Mr Cyril Noirtin will manage this project.

2. Discussion on Communications / Discussion sur les communications

The communication target group of the LC are the NGOs and UNESCO. The communication channels are emails, electronic letters, social media, website, regional meetings (online) and newsletter (new).

Social Media

The LC currently runs social media accounts on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#). IAESTE will support the LC in effectively managing the social media accounts through a dedicated software tool.

Website

The ACWW will continue maintaining, hosting and funding the LC website for the 2022-2024 mandate and ensure appropriate handover at the end of this term, or if sensible and acceptable to the next LC, continue at that stage.

Newsletter

- There was a high demand for the newsletter during the last ICNGO.
- The Newsletter has to be issued with close coordination with the Civil Society Unit & Secretariat, as they are responsible for maintaining the contact list of NGOs in an official relationship with UNESCO.
- Technical solutions to distribute the newsletter and monitor its effectiveness/stats should be implemented.
- The content should mix messages from the LC, UNESCO and NGOs.
- The importance of creating content in different languages has been discussed.

Decision 4, 27 January 2023

The LC decided to create the bi-monthly Newsletter dedicated to the NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO, monitor the results and submit the report to the next ICNGO.

Decision 5, 27 January 2023

The LC decided to create a Communication Sub-Committee.

3. Discussion on Forums / Discussion sur les forums

This agenda item was moved to the next meeting.

4. Discussion on Working Groups & Portfolios / Discussion sur les groupes de travail et les portefeuilles

WG National Commissions

The LC recommends continuing this group and would like to ask Mr Cyril Noirtin (LC) and Ms Stacy Dry Lara, (Graduate Women International) to co-chair this group.

Group of Former Presidents

Acknowledging the benefit of the institutional knowledge and experience of the group of Former Presidents, the President will conduct an informal briefing and request their support on an ad-hoc basis as needed.

Working Group's suggestions to be discussed in detail in the next meeting:

- Youth Engagement
- International Days

9. Any Other Business (AOB) / Questions Diverses

1. The matter of the legal status of the Liaison Committee will be discussed together with the Unit.
2. Liaison Committee logistics:
 - Communication among the committee members will be via email.
 - To co-work on the Office 365 Cloud dedicated to LC. The President to follow up on this with the Secretariat.
 - LC Credit Card is with Treasurer. Access to the bank account is in progress. Treasurer takes care of it.
 - Next meeting: we respect that our members are from different time zones. President will suggest the next meeting date and time.
 - The LC aims to meet once per month.
3. NGOS recommendations/calls to action:
 - Davide Grosso: campaign for a standalone goal for Culture:
<https://culture2030goal.net/>

End of meeting: 4:10 pm CET - Paris

Draft Minutes respectfully submitted: Ms Olga Legacka, 2 February 2023