

ngo-unesco

liaison committee

3rd Liaison Committee Meeting
3 May 2023, 14.00-16.00 CET
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)**
6. **ICASE: Ms Teresa Kennedy (Vice Chairperson)**
7. **ICSSPE: Ms Claire Boursier, Ms Junko Tahara**
8. **IMC: Mr Davide Grosso**
9. **ROTARY INTERNATIONAL: Mr Cyril Notin**

UNESCO

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

MINUTES

1. **Adoption of the Agenda/Adoption de l'ordre du jour**
The agenda has been accepted.
2. **Approval of minutes from the previous meeting/Approbation du procès-verbal de la réunion précédente**

Decision 10, 3 May 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/>)

3. **Feedback from Launch of Work Plan/Réactions au lancement du plan de travail**

Mr Nicholas Newland, Chairperson of the NGO-UNESCO LC, reported the positive feedback he received about the Work Plan and how it was presented to the NGOs. We have received over 300 emails from NGOs showing enthusiasm, support and interest in volunteering in the working groups/forums.

Ms Sabina Colombo, Head of the Unit for Civil Society Partnerships, also informed that the Secretariat received positive feedback. In addition, Mr Julien Pellaux, Director Partnerships Division, also shared positive feedback about the plan.

Ms Claire Boursier and Ms Junko Tahara presented the "EXPE" proposal. They are interested in cooperating, inviting experts, and possibly interacting with many NGOs.

4. International Forums updates/Mise à jour sur les forums internationaux

○ Changing Mentalities (Luxembourg), 27-28 October 2023

The Secretariat will formally contact the Luxembourg Delegation at UNESCO regarding hosting the Forum in Luxembourg. The draft concept note is agreed upon with the Sector.

Led by Ms Olga Legacka, Mr Nicholas Newland

Steering Committee forming timeline:

- call in early June
- Brainstorming online meeting mid-June (open to all NGOs interested in)
- Forming of the Steering Committee (NGOs, Sector) by the end of June)

○ Discussion around AI & Youth (online)

Planned for September 2023 (led by Teresa Kennedy)

Ms Sabina Colombo, Ms Teresa Kennedy (lead of this forum) and Mr Nicholas Newland will set a call to agree on who from the sector(sectors) should be involved in this Forum.

○ Culture Sector (Monza, Davide)

The meeting took place: Ms Sabina Colombo, Mr Nicholas Newland, Mr Davide Grosso, Mr Monza Limame Kane and Sector representatives - draft concept note awaiting internal feedback.

5. Working Groups updates/Groupes de travail

○ IOC Task Group (Ocean Decade)

Ms Teresa Kennedy reported on the group activity

- The work is delayed according to the schedule.
- A few NGOs have been identified as involved in the group activities; the group is looking for speakers.
- Terms of reference are agreed upon with the Sector. (to be formally approved at the next meeting).

○ Youth Working Group

Ms Nelsy Lizarazo, Mr Davide Grosso, and Ms Celie Denez wrote a draft of "our ideas". The framework document will be shared soon (to be formally approved at the next meeting) by Celie Denez.

Ms Sabina Colombo stressed the importance of starting the group ASAP and making it work, and sending at least one member from this group to participate in the UNESCO Youth Forum (which will take place before the GC UNESCO)

Discussion about Inclusivity.

Ms Claire Boursier raised questions about Youth with disabilities.

Mr Davide Grosso: how to be inclusive topic was addressed (social, economic, etc. background);

Ms Sabina Colombo shared feedback from one NGO, which is concerned that the majority of the people in the young group are literate and have a high education level. The question was raised on involving people from different environments and conditions to be welcomed in this group.

Mr Nicholas Newland suggested that it will depend on the NGOs whom they appoint.

6. Thematic mapping/Mappage thématique

IAESTE representatives and the Secretariat are working closely on preparing the process. The necessary translations have been done. The aim is to kick off the process in June and give one month for NGOs to submit their data. The results should be included in the quadrennial report to the General Conference.

7. Budget/Budget

Accounting

Mr Cyril Nordin, the Treasurer, is working on uniting the way of financial reporting to have a good start to work on the new budget. In the previous reports, different accounting methods were mixed.

Budgeting

- We must figure out how much we can/want to spend on each forum:
 - online forums are mainly interpretation costs
- Income from NGOs: less than 10k EUR were received as voluntary contributions
 - We need to advertise better the possibility for NGOs to make contributions and remove the administrative obstacles (like issuing invoices)
 - Proposal to ask large NGOs to contribute more, smaller contributions from the NGO (Amount based on Number of Members or Operational budget of the NGOs)
 - To make a call once per year
- UNESCO financial contribution:
 - Practical problems with providing financial support to the LC (UNESCO internal rules/French legislation - but it can be solved)
 - In the past: the Secretariat was supposed to provide the financial contribution, but last 10 years ago stopped and is on ad hoc basis now. The Secretariat is looking for ways to get some extra funds.

8. Communication/Communication

- **A meeting of the communication sub-committee took place.** We identified the need for contact details of the NGOs as one of the main challenges.
- **LC NGO Newsletter**
 - The newsletter is published on the website and can be found in French and English here: <https://ngo-unesco.net/newsletter>
 - Next newsletter issue:
 - **Social media:** focused on the NGOs, campaign for the mapping. It's essential to be visible, create a social media post about the event
 - **LinkedIn group:** set up an informal group of a networking group for NGOs representatives

9. AOB

- **Office:** Davide Grosso, Cyril Nordin and Claire Boursier volunteered to set up the office and take a picture of the office for the communication purposes

- **Culture & Education, Communication Framework:** One-year initiative, intergovernmental meeting, at the end of May great dialogue (some NGOs are already involved); and there will be invitations (multistakeholder website)

10. Next Meeting/Prochaine réunion

Subsequent meetings are planned:

- Tuesday, 6 June 2023, 16.00-18.00 CET
- Tuesday, 4 July, 16.00-18.00 CET

Finished 5:30 pm CET