

Results of the Working Group “Reinforce Partnerships between NGOs and UNESCO” under the aegis of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee

Theme 3: Vademecum for New NGO Official Partners

Welcome to all new Official NGO partners of UNESCO!

You are a member of a newly recognized NGO in partnership with UNESCO. Or you are the new representative of a long-standing NGO partner of UNESCO. This document, created especially for you, will answer your legitimate questions and facilitate your integration within the community of NGOs recognized as official UNESCO Partners. It should also help you in your initial contacts at UNESCO.

The LC can put you in contact with an experienced NGO Partner to UNESCO who can answer your questions and provide assistance to facilitate your collaboration with UNESCO.

We look forward to working with you!

1) Some clarifications about UNESCO

UNESCO is the UN agency for education, science, culture and communication.
<https://en.unesco.org/>

Mission: UNESCO contributes to promoting peace, eliminating poverty, sustainable development, and intercultural dialogue through education, sciences, culture, communication and information.

Structure: **The General Conference** is composed of the representatives of all Member States of the Organisation (193 at the beginning of 2020). It meets every two years, with the participation of Member States and Associated Members. *In addition, the following are invited to participate as observers: non-Member States, intergovernmental organisations, non-governmental organisations and foundations.* The conference establishes UNESCO’s orientation and general policy guidelines.

The Executive Board is, in effect, the administrative governing body of UNESCO. Composed of 58 members elected by the General Conference, it meets twice a year. Every four years, it appoints the **Director-General**.

The Secretariat is responsible for implementing the resolutions as adopted by the General Conference. It is composed of its **Director-General** and approximately 700 staff members working at headquarters in Paris and its 53 offices outside UNESCO headquarters throughout the world.

Implementing the SDGs: The programs of UNESCO contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals defined in Agenda 2030 that was adopted by the United Nations in 2015.

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/>

Mid-term strategy 2014/2021 - Document 37 C/4 : Two priority objectives: Peace and Sustainable Development; and two global priorities: Africa and Gender Equality.

https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000227860_eng

Partners: UNESCO cooperates with many partners: inter-governmental organisations, academia, private sector and civil society especially NGOs:

“The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization may make suitable arrangements for consultation and cooperation with non-governmental international organisations 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 organisations on advisory committees set up by the General Conference.” (UNESCO Constitution, XII.4)¹

2) What is the role of UNESCO NGO Partners?

NGO partners are governed by the Directives adopted by the UNESCO General Conference in 2011. https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000216192_en.page=152

NGOs provide intellectual contributions to UNESCO's programmes, based on their experiences in the field.

NGOs conduct collective actions in the NGO International Conference and its elected body, the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee (LC) which represents the NGOs

- to the Secretariat,
- to the Executive Board, notably within the framework of its Committee on Non-Governmental Partnerships (NGP).

NGOs can conduct bilateral actions with Member States, in collaboration with the sectors concerned (education, science, culture, communication and information).

3) Who are your interlocutors?

A) The International Conference of NGO-UNESCO partners (ICNGO)

NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO meet in an International Conference every two years, generally in December. The International Conference defines the Liaison Committee's objectives and elects 10 members and the President for a mandate of two years.

¹ Since 2011, national or local NGOs can also become official partners of UNESCO.

B) The NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee: <http://www.ngo-unesco.net/en/>

- The LC's mission is to develop a fruitful partnership between NGOs, Member States and the Secretariat, in conformity with the Organisation's priorities and programmes.
- The LC organises **forums, thematic days, and working groups** in which NGOs are invited to participate.

For the 2019 – 2020 mandate, the President of the ICNGO and the LC is Ms. Marie-Claude Machon-Honoré. The LC program can be consulted online on the LC site www.ngo-unesco.net/en/

C) The main collective ad-hoc structures: The Collective consultation of NGOs for Education (CCNGO, Education 2030), NGO Coordination on the diversity of cultural expressions (2005 UNESCO Convention), NGO Forum on Immaterial Cultural Patrimony (2003 UNESCO Convention).

D) Civil Society Partnership Unit of the UNESCO Secretariat ngo@unesco.org: Attached to the UNESCO Office of Strategic Planning, this unit is responsible within the Secretariat for diverse questions concerning NGOs. At the beginning of 2020, Sabina Colombo is Chief of the Unit for Civil Society Partnerships.

E) Outside headquarters: National Commissions for UNESCO, UNESCO Secretariat offices outside headquarters, Regional NGOs, UNESCO Associated Schools and UNESCO Clubs, UNESCO chairs.

4) And now, how can you invest in UNESCO?

NGOs should be involved as partners to UNESCO through their participation in UNESCO's institutional life by:

- Participating in the ICNGO, working groups, international days and forums,
- Presenting candidates for the various UNESCO Prizes,
- Promoting multilateral and bilateral advocacy,
- Participating in the sessions of the governing bodies,
- Attempting to obtain financial support (Participation Programme, various funds for culture or communication),
- Becoming involved in the life of the UNESCO conventions,
- Participating in the collective actions of NGO Partners coordinated by the Liaison Committee².

5) 2019 - 2020 Agenda:

- General Conference of UNESCO, 12 - 27 November 2019,
- Forum "Challenge Inequalities", 16 - 17 December 2019, Paris
- Forum on World Citizenship, 2020 (TBC),
- Forum on Science, Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship in support for the 2030 Agenda, September-October 2020 (TBC),

² An annual amount of \$125 is requested from official NGO partners as voluntary contributions to the activities implemented by the LC.

- International Day of Peace, Spanish Basque country, 21 September 2020 (TBC),
- International Day of the Girl Child, October 2020 .
- International Conference of NGOs, December 2020, Paris

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Contact:

NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee

1, rue Miollis, 75732 Paris Cedex 15, France

Tel: +33.1.45.68.36.68

E-mail: comite.liaison.ong@gmail.com, Facebook : Ngo-Unesco Liaison Committee,

Twitter : @NgoUnesco, Blog : <http://blog.ngo-unesco.net/>

Annex: Secretariat Document “Collaborate with UNESCO”, 2019
https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000368533_eng

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