

NGO-UNESCO LIAISON COMMITTEE - MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, 12 April 2022 – 4:00 – 6:00 pm CET

NGO Members	Representative(s)
	Davide Grosso (DG) – President/Chairperson
ACWW	Nick Newland (NN) – Communications Officer
IPBPW	Marie-Claude Machon-Honoré (MCMH) – CCNGO Liaison
CCIVS	Victoria Lovelock (VL) – Vice President
CIOFF	Philippe Beaussant – Treasurer
CMA	Alexandre Ginoyer (AG) Alternate: Pat McCann (PM)
FAPE	Christian Grégoire Epouma (CGE)
ICASE	Teresa Kennedy (TK) – Executive Secretary
WOSM	Alternate: Nadine Shili (NS)
UNESCO	Sabina Colombo (SC) Armin Ibrisimovic (AI)
Absent/Excused	CLADE, Nelsy Lizarado (NL) FAPE, Christian Grégoire Epouma (CGE) ICASE, Teresa Kennedy (TK) – Executive Secretary Sozopol Foundation, Petya Zelenski (PZ)

Decisions taken

Actions for Committee Members

Actions for Paris Office

1. Opening – 4pm CET

-DG thanked everyone for connecting and noted that NL, TK, CGE and PZ are not able to attend and have sent their excuses.

2. Adoption of the agenda

Agenda located in **Dropbox** - *Documents for Meetings; April 2022*.

Agenda unanimously approved.

3. Adoption of the minutes of the last meeting

Minutes of the February 2022 meeting were presented by TK after the last meeting to the members who have made comments. All comments have been integrated.

Minutes of the last meeting unanimously approved.

DG proposes that since it was decided to have a shorter version of the minutes and, in order to be more efficient and fast in publishing them, from now on it will be published the version as it is approved and not just a summary.

Approved with a comment from NN: in case of conflict of interest on some issues and if the person involved recuses from a decision, no details will be made public.

Action 1: NN to publish minutes of the last meeting.

Action 2: MMC to translate minutes of the last meeting in French for publishing. For the next meeting, PB will provide the French translation.

4. Work Program

4.1 Webinar on STIE

- MCHM shared the updates (document on Dropbox). It is now time to finalise programme and set a date. Tentatively, it will be around mid-May. In principle, a second webinar, more focused on Open Science, will be organised as a follow up. NN expressed doubts about the title.

Action 1: MCHM will follow up with the working group. DG and MMC try to reach out again to CGE to propose an alternative representative for FAPE.

Action 2: NN and others to propose an alternative for title.

Action 3: All LC members invited to share ideas/suggestions.

4.2 Regional Webinars

- VL gave an update on the Webinar for the Africa region held on March 23. 9 NGOs were present as well as 3 regional offices. It was a very interesting and lively exchange (available on the LC Youtube channel). Unfortunately, CGE (elected for the Africa region) was unable to attend.

A report has been uploaded to the Dropbox after the meeting.

Next region to be targeted is Asia-Pacific and VL is following up with the Secretariat as well with TQ and NS from WOSM as their Secretariat is based in that region.

Action: VL will continue planning with SC and WOSM for the Asia-Pacific Region

4.3 Follow-Up position paper on Youth

NS explained that the LC should do more in communicating about the Position Paper and raise awareness among the NGO community in order to make them use it. A series of activities could be envisaged (a webinar, a workshop) around the International Youth Day (12 August) or other significant dates. DG pointed out that the group of NGOs who have worked on the elaboration of the paper would certainly be interested to contribute. SC suggested that, following DG meeting with ADG SHS, a stronger link could be created with the UNESCO Youth Sector.

Action 1: DG to liaise with NS and SC to discuss and reach out to the Youth Sector

Action 2: NN to update the list on NGOs who have endorsed the document on the LC website

4.4 Follow-up recommendations n°2

As decided at the last meeting and following the recommendation, the documents have been placed online for comments. Some were received. The question is now how to treat these comments? Are they substantial? AG propose to have a debate on major points. NN points out that some wording in the English version is quite unclear. MMC highlights the need to have a gender neutral wording.

DG propose that AG and PM consolidate all comments. Once done, a meeting will be called to discuss major issues and propose a way forward. People involved in the drafting may be invited to clarify some aspects. SC notes that the document was approved and therefore, the wording should be clear without need of external explanation.

Proposal was agreed noting that if the document(s) have major changes, will have to be submitted to the next ICNGO.

Action 1: AG and PM to consolidate the comments in one document

Action 2: DG to call a meeting to discuss about the comments

4.5 New opportunities

1. The LC has been solicited to help the Education Sector in consulting NGOs for the Revision of the Recommendation concerning education for international understanding, co-operation and peace. SC facilitated an an informal meeting between the sector and DG who provided them with the list of NGOs divided into regions. Moreover the LC has been offered an observer seat at the International Expert Group (IEG) in charge of the revision. DG highlights that besides the specific action, this is a concrete result of strengthening the links with UNESCO and the role of the LC. SC explained the formal context of this process and AI gave some more details on what can be expected.

DG proposed that TK will represent the LC in the meetings of the IEG. **Proposal was approved.**

MMC pointed out that a written contribution from observers is expected.

Action 1: DG to inform TK and follow up with AI on the form of such contribution.

Action 2: As soon as the invitation will be received, TK will coordinate the contribution from the LC with members who are willing to contribute.

2. During the meeting between DG and ADG SHS, the LC was invited to organise an International Forum of NGOs in connection with the 2nd UNESCO Global forum against Racism and Discrimination to be held in Mexico City on 22-23 November 2022. Tentatively, the one day Forum of NGOs will be held in the same venue on November 21. The ADG is very keen on involving NGOs and offered all her support. However, preparations and negotiations with the host country are still in progress and there is no assurance that funds for such event would be available. Answering to a question from AG, SC explained that usually funds for these events usually come from the host country but it might be necessary to do separate fundraising (also for in-kind contributions) to complete the missing budget. DG highlighted that if this Forum happens, it will be the very first time, after the experience of the 12th Forum on Global Citizenship, that the LC organises a Forum with such strong connection with an UNESCO event and that this is also a concrete sign of a stronger connection with the UNESCO action. Many NGOs partners and other stakeholder could be mobilised (UNAM, UNESCO Costa Rica, CIOFF Mexico, etc.).

It was agreed that if all conditions are reunited, the LC will organize such Forum. VL will be in charge of it in cooperation with WOSM and CLADE and coordinate the contribution from the entire NGO community by following the Guidelines for the Forum recently elaborated.

Action: DG to follow up with VL, SC and the sector as soon as possible

3. SC suggested that the LC could be a partner of the Unit in charge for Civil Society Partnerships in organizing awareness raising webinars on UNESCO priorities. The first concrete opportunity is with Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission

(IOC) of UNESCO (IOC) about the Decade of Oceans (2021-2030). SC had already discussed the idea with colleagues at IOC and seems they are willing to cooperate. In the future, another webinar could be organized on Open Science.

Proposal was approved.

Action: DG and NN to follow up with SC

5. Updates

DG gave some details about his recent meeting with ADG CLT and ADG SHS. These meetings were proposed by UNESCO DG during the first meeting at the beginning of the mandate in order to better anchor the community of NGO to UNESCO programme. The meeting with ADG SHS was very fruitful and many axes of cooperation were considered. The first and most urgent is the one about the possibility of a Forum (cfr. 4.3). The meeting with ADG CLT was also very productive although the culture sector has already many ways to cooperate with NGOs, it was important to remind the importance of including all NGOs and to keep in mind the LC as catalyser of NGO contributions.

- Strengthening partnership

DG provided an update on the work of the consultative group of Presidents. They have done a deep and complex analysis and the results of the overview and the proposal to the LC are ready. However, there was no time to have the document (15 pages) translated in English for this meeting and therefore, discussion on that is postponed to the next meeting.

- International Days

International Day of Peace: AG reported that the group of NGOs involved in this project is working hard to raise funds for their project of a publication. Besides the contribution from the LC (not yet wired) they have launched a crowdfunding campaign.

International day of girl child: the group of NGOs involved in this project is working to secure an agreement with ICESCO (Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) to support the 2022 celebration in Rabat (Morocco). DG reported that their project has also the direct support of the Director BSP who has offered to help for a preliminary visit of the two coordinators at ICESCO and asked DG to accompany them. The visit is foreseen for next April 20/21.

- CCNGO

MCM reiterated her request to organise a meeting with NGOs to enlarge the community of NGOs participating to the CCNGO. DG asked for a more structured request to not overlap with the work of CCNGO and to understand the necessity for that while reiterating his support to this idea.

6. AOB

- Request from the International Academy of Ceramics to have the moral support (logo) of the LC for their forthcoming Congress: approved. They also invite DG to attend it.

Action: DG to follow up

-Request from WFTU to DG to say a few words at the opening of their forthcoming congress.

7. Next Meeting: TBD

A Doodle poll will be sent out to determine the date of the next meeting.

End of meeting: 6:10pm CET - Paris