

**9th Liaison Committee Meeting  
17 June 2024  
2:00 - 4:00 PM (CET)**

**Liaison Committee Members:**

- 1. Mr Nicholas Newland, Chairperson of the NGO-UNESCO LC (President)**
- 2. AIHR: Mr Abdelbasset Ben Hassan (Vice Chairperson)**
- 3. ARTERIAL NETWORK: Mr Babylas Ndiaye**
- 4. CE AIE: Ms Jessica Bian**
- 5. CLADE: Ms Patricia Gainza**
- 6. IAESTE: Ms Olga Legacka (Executive Secretary), Ms Jovana Kocavska (Youth Working Group Coordinator)**
- 7. ICASE: Ms Teresa Kennedy**
- 8. ICSSPE: Ms Junko Tahara**
- 9. IMC: Mr Davide Grosso**
- 10. ROTARY INTERNATIONAL: Mr Cyril Notin, Ms Laura Regouby**

**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  
The agenda was adopted.
2. Previous meetings minutes
  - Two sets of missing minutes will be shared via email for approval.
3. Updates from Nick Newland on recent activities
  - The newsletter was out last month: <https://ngo-unesco.net/newsletter>
  - UN Civil Society Conference, 1000+ ECOSOC status NGOs Nairobi, Kenya
    - We would like to thank the UNESCO Secretariat for supporting the attendance of this conference.
    - Outcomes:
      - Nick & Sabina led a session in partnership with the UNESCO Nairobi office with 70 regional NGO representatives;
      - Pact for the Future: bring the voice of the NGOs, online briefing, C5 process (AI & Youth Forum), and firm position of the network of NGOs was recognised.

- Nick addressed the plenary. This activity was unique and spectacular.
    - The aim was also to promote the network of NGOs in the region and ensure more NGOs apply for partnership status.
  - Nick made a couple of visits to Paris in previous weeks.
    - Meeting the EU Ambassador (offered to give a speech at the ICNGO, keen to engage with the LC)
    - Press Freedom Meeting (many NGOs noticed the presence of LC)
  - In touch with the Decade of Science for SD, working together with UNESCO Colombia
4. Update of the Legal Status: we're working on the document to be presented as the outcome of the process.
5. Brief report from **Davide Grosso** on 16<sup>th</sup> International Forum of NGOs, Cote d'Ivoire, Sustainable Culures, 15-16 April 2024
- The forum was a success and met expectations:
    - Well-represented NGOs in status and from Africa
    - Number of participants: 150 participants from 40 countries
    - Most of the sessions are available on the website (1000+ people followed): <https://ngo-unesco.net/culture-2024>
    - Many networking with NGOs, between NGOs and also LC (Nick) and UNESCO representatives
  - Thank you to Monza (Arterial Network) & Davide (IMC) for organising such a great event
  - Report to be provided.
6. Brief report from **Olga Legacka** on Thematic Mapping
- 156 submissions in total (37%)
  - 22 new submissions since April'24 (after re-launch)
  - To be launched by the ICNGO: a database of NGOs and NGOs search/mapping on the website.
  - The next step of the Secretariat is to follow up with the NGOs individually (one by one). The focus will be on the NGOs with the associate status.
  - We have to show the Non-Governmental Partners Committee (NGP Committee), is to have the next meeting occur on 11th October.
  - Every single member of the LC should
7. C5 consultation: Participation is very important. The current participation rate is negative.
8. Building the credibility of the LC requires us to be role models, participate in surveys, pay voluntary contributions, etc.
9. **Greening Education Forum** - Discussion
- Cyril Noirtin, Rotary, is leading the forum
  - It's going to be a Virtual Forum

- Dates: September (exact dates to be confirmed) [Summit of the Future in NY is happening]
- Cyrils is working on setting up the meeting with the Secretariat, forming the Steering Committee and defining Concept Note.
- Meeting next week: Jessica, Yubo, Nick, Cyril & Sabina.

## **10. Youth Working Group**

- What do we want the Youth Working Group to do:
  - Should exist & participate in the events
  - 1-2 Youth Working Group representatives should participate in the Steering Committees of the Forums
  - Trigger long-term change to increase the number of young people participating in UNESCO activities and encourage more NGOs to appoint young representatives.
  - Special session for the ICNGOs: organised and led by the Youth Working Group
  - Having youth speakers on each panel during Forums is appropriate.

***Decision: Jovana Kocavska, IAESTE, was accepted as a co-opted member of the LC, invited to all LC meetings, and will coordinate the Youth Working Group.***

## **11. International Conference of NGOs (December 2024)**

- Rules of procedures of the ICNGOs
- **Agreed dates: 17-19 December 2024**
  - start Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
- Theme: should be in connection with the priorities of UNESCO
  - Building Capacity for Action of NGOs
  - “Capacity building camp”
    - Learning from good practices
    - Examples of what worked and what didn't
    - Working with the sector, working with the national commissions
  - Community, Sustainability, Leaving Together (how to use education, science, and culture to engage people), follow up on the findings/results; strategic orientations on how the IC and LC can bring their contribution around the future
- Provisional agenda (statutory items)
- Preparation: LC activity report
- UNESCO Budget (C5 consultations), DG will propose the draft
  - NGOs to respond to the survey (now) or comment directly on the ICNGO
  - Challenge: how to facilitate the process
- Procedures for the elections
  - Fix some criteria related to elections (September - December)
- Learnings from the past

- We need to prepare a draft of recommendations and the draft to be shared well before the event.
  - It's not to stop the debate but to give more time to prepare
- It's possible to support some NGOs from the Secretariat (who never participated) to be present at the ICNGO
  - LC will not be involved in selecting the NGOs supported
- Elections:
  - Teresa Kennedy will not stand for re-election to the LC as ICASE has reached its term on the committee. Additionally she believes it would be too difficult to serve as President due to the travel distance (US to Europe) and the need to be in Paris at least monthly. She accepted the LC nomination to work with Sabina to prepare for the election process.

## 12. Any other business

- Next meeting: in July