

## ENGLISH

**NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee**  
**Meeting 6**  
**29 July 2025**

**Present:**

Svetlomira Stoyanova  
Davide Grosso  
Isabela Carrozza Joia  
Nisrine Ibn Abdeljalil  
Nick Newland-Ešner  
Cyril Noirtin  
Ramneek Ahluwalia

### **1. Opening of the Meeting and adopting the Agenda**

The agenda was adopted after point 5 was removed, to be discussed at the following meeting at Olga's request as she wasn't able to attend this meeting and was significantly involved in the youth working group.

### **2. Requests from NGOs for Collaboration and/or Aegis**

#### **- Open discussion on procedures and criterias**

In relation to this matter, it was suggested to draft a document outlining the procedure for processing NGOs' requests for support, including the use of the logo and other relevant elements. It was recommended that the procedure be kept broad, flexible, and adaptable to accommodate the diverse nature of NGOs seeking support, with a focus on granting moral support to activities aligned with the LC programme of work and UNESCO priorities.

A discussion was held regarding the appropriate terminology for granting moral support, as the term 'patronage' cannot be used. The use of 'under the aegis of' was proposed, though Sabina indicated that this would need to be confirmed to avoid overlapping with expressions already used by UNESCO.

Svetlomira prepared a draft of the document, which she will first send to Nick for review, before sharing it with the LC in a second phase.

### **3. Call for Contributions**

#### **-Draft communication to NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO**

It was recalled that the call for contributions is issued annually and that contributions are made on a voluntary basis by NGOs in official partnership. It was also noted that the suggested contribution amounts are based on the size of the NGOs, with smaller ones asked to contribute less. However, some proposed that contributions should instead be determined based on NGOs' capacities, such as their operational budgets. The President suggested that this matter be discussed in future meetings in preparation for next year's call for contributions.

The letters will be sent by the UNESCO Secretariat during the coming week, with reminder letters scheduled to be sent in September.

### **4. Upcoming Events – 2025**

#### **- Discussion and brainstorming session**

#### **- Proposals for NGO involvement and Liaison Committee visibility**

The president recalled that four forums must be organized during the LC mandate, and that the first one—on the topic of greening education—will take place around November this year, as previously discussed with ADG Education.

It was also noted that the forums' topics are drawn from ICNGO recommendations or could arise from requests made by the program sectors. To prepare the forums, the committee coordinates with the program sectors to develop the concept notes, identify potential hosts, and select a steering committee from among interested NGOs.

Nick mentioned that he had shared with Svetlomira and Sabina a document outlining the requirements for hosting a forum. It was suggested that the document be reviewed and, if necessary, completed, with the aim of adopting it as a formal procedure to clearly define what hosting entails for all interested NGOs.

Sabina reminded the group that, although the forums are organized by NGOs, they are held under the umbrella of UNESCO, which makes the program sectors actively involved in their

preparation. She also emphasized the importance of engaging NGOs in the forum organization process, including brainstorming for topics and providing input.

In relation to the organization of the next forum, particularly the satellite events, Nisrine and Isabella proposed to host online satellite events either before or after the main forum, jointly or separately. Svetlomira mentioned that she would coordinate with the Education Sector to explore how the committee can collaborate on the overall organization of the forum, including defining the topics for both the main event and the side events.

She will also ask Cyril, who serves as the focal point for forum organization, to draft a document providing an update on the progress of preparations with the Education Sector.

She will prepare a document for the next meeting outlining the main topics and structure of the forum, and clarifying how NGOs can contribute to the organization of satellite events.

Additionally, she recommended initiating discussions on the three forums to be organized in 2026, including identifying potential topics, deciding whether they should be held online or in person, and determining how best to communicate with NGOs to encourage their participation and contributions.

## **6. Short discussion on the Withdrawal of the United States from UNESCO**

It was reminded that the LC is not a political tool and that it will continue working with all NGOs, involving them in all its activities.

## **7. Other Matters**

### **- Additional topics raised by Liaison Committee members**

-Mondiacult : Sabina stated that Svetlomira should be able to attend the intergovernmental Mondiacult meeting in Barcelona as an observer and that she would confirm her attendance this week. Meanwhile, IMC is exploring ways for the LC to participate in the civil society forum, organized by the Spanish authorities, which will take place concurrently.

### **Scheduling of next meeting**

The members of the LC are invited to read the terms of reference for the functioning of the youth working group, which will be discussed at the next meeting.