

# ngo-unesco

## liaison committee

**7th Liaison Committee Meeting**  
**7 December 2023, 13.00-14.30 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. **ARTERIAL NETWORK: Mr Limame Monza Kame**
4. **CLADE: Ms Patricia Gainza**
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, 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. Approval of minutes from the previous meeting.**

Minutes have been approved via email.

**3. International Forums updates**

- o Update on **AI & Youth** (13-14 December 2023),  
<https://ngo-unesco.net/ai-%26-youth-2023>
  - 197 people registered as of 7 December
  - 33 speakers, 12 moderators (5 from UNESCO, 26 countries represented)
  - Co-chairs: Ms Teresa Kennedy, Ms Patricia Gainza, Ms Celie Denez
  - Steering Committee:
    1. Fasika Lachore – ICMS Pax Romana
    2. Marc Neesam – International Baccalaureate Organization
    3. Prisca Koffi – International Catholic Student Youth
    4. Rémi Loison – Federation for European Education
    5. Goran Zelic – UNIMA
    6. Israel Coelho Quirino – CLADE
  - Congratulations to Ms. Teresa Kennedy for her extraordinary work
- o Update on **Transforming Mentalities** (24-25 January 2024)
  - Venue, Paris, UNESCO HQ & online, confirmed for Room XI
  - Steering Committee:
    1. Janani Ramanathan - World Academy of Art and Science (WAAS)
    2. Stéphane Teicher - B'nai B'rith International
    3. Caroline de Senneville- Make Mothers Matter
    4. Gilles Petreault - OMEP-World

- 5. Claire Boursier - ICSSPE
    - We had the first meeting and proposed content. This has been discussed in detail with the SHS Sector, and we will have the next meeting next week.
    - A letter of invitation will be sent next week to NGOs
  - o Update on **Culture** (15-16 April 2024)
    - Formal confirmation of collaboration with MASA, in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

#### 4. Working Groups updates

- o National Commissions—We held a fantastic meeting in the Partnerships Hub with the Secretaries-General of the National Commissions from Côte d'Ivoire, France, Uganda, and the UK. Also present were the Sec-Gens of Austria, Canada, Finland, Germany, and the Republic of Korea. 90 audience members attended, and we had superb feedback from all the NatComs and our NGO colleagues. We have contributed text based on the previous work of the National Commission working group to the new edition of the French NatCom's publication.
  1. Propose to end the mandate of the Working Group and publish these activities on our website.
  2. Open to continuing work with National Commissions, particularly around forthcoming Forums

#### 5. Update from General Conference

- o Meetings during the General Conference—The President had bilateral meetings with more than 30 NGO representatives, 12 National Commissions, 4 Ambassadors, the President of the General Conference (Romanian Ambassador), and a 40-minute meeting with the Director-General (DG) during the General Conference.
- o The DG offered her full and vocal support for the Liaison Committee's work and has asked the BSP to consider options for supporting our work.
- o 32 NGOs took the floor in the General Policy Debate, as well as the President on behalf of the Liaison Committee. (All videos on the website - <https://ngo-unesco.net/42nd-general-conference>)
- o Representing the Liaison Committee, Olga Legacka took the floor during the debate on the Quadrennial Report and did a great job at the last minute because of changes in the schedule.
- o The President thanked Teresa Kennedy, Cyril Noirtin, and Olga Legacka for their significant participation and support during the General Conference
- o Potential for a Forum on Science for Sustainable Development, working with Basic Science, and supported by Qatar. Further discussions in the new year.
- o The following GC will be in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

#### 6. Budget

##### o Support for Travel

1. **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 11 December.** Speakers include the EU Ambassador to UNESCO, ADG for Social and Human Sciences, President of the General Conference, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, the CEO of the Global Human Rights Fund, Chair of UNESCO Economic and Social Rights Committee, UN Human Rights laureate, plus President of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee.
2. Request for €168 for Nick to fly from Prague to Paris for 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 11 December:

***Decision: It was unanimously agreed to cover the additional costs (€168) of changing the President's flights to attend the event.***

##### o UNESCO General Conference

***Decision: It was agreed that the President's representative costs (€100) would be***

***covered during his 22-day stay in Paris at the UNESCO General Conference. ACWW met all other costs as donations to the LC's work.***

**o Youth Forum**

We initially agreed €100 to support the attendance of our Youth Representative, Melissa Mejia Florez. Her NGO, New Humanity, paid for her accommodation, not her travel or food. She has requested €346.96 with receipts, or ideally €436.96, including meals to cover the costs she has had to meet personally.

***Decision: It was agreed that the attendance costs (€436.96) of our Youth Representative Melissa Mejia Florez, New Humanity, in the Youth Forum should be covered.***

**5. Any Other Business**

- o The committee is grateful to Mr Julien Pellaux for his efforts to try to find financial support for future activities, including the Forum on Culture next year, with the aim of mobilising NGO attendance.
- o Thanks to Ms Sabina Colombo for her tireless work during the General Conference to support the LC, and Mr Luis-Alberto Vargas Rojas for his hard work ensuring NGOs were looked after on-site and in preparation.
- o A strong wish from the LC to Mr Julien Pellaux + BSP is to try to find a full and final solution at the earliest opportunity – a long-term solution to the legal status of the LC. Not to lose more time, and find a solution by the end of January 2024.

**6. Next Meeting**

It will be decided via Doodle.