

Activity Report NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee 2020/2022

The Committee elected at the 2020 International Conference of NGOs (ICNGO) has worked to implement the recommendations with a special effort in trying to revitalize the network of NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO by reaching out to as many of them as possible. Moreover, it has put a lot of effort in anchoring its programme and strategy with UNESCO major actions and calendar.

Being entirely composed of volunteers, the functioning of the Committee relies on the engagement of elected NGO representatives and their alternates. This Liaison Committee has operated across regions and languages and tried at its best to take advantage of the use of online tools supporting remote connections to ensure its best functioning and to engage with all NGOs in official partnership.

Its work has therefore focused on these two aspects while at the same time following the recommendations adopted by the ICNGO at its last meeting in December 2020.

The precious support of the Unit in charge of Civil Society Partnerships has been a pillar of the work of the Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS 2020

The International Conference of NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO, meeting by videoconference from 16 to 18 December 2020, on the theme "*Envisioning a better and sustainable future: a new paradigm for civil society*", adopted [these](#) recommendations to the Liaison Committee.

The Liaison Committee agreed at its first meeting that these recommendations would serve as the main roadmap to be followed, while at the same time, try to engage in new opportunities as much as possible.

In May 2021, an online meeting to present the Strategy and the Roadmap for the Recommendations was organized by the Liaison Committee, most of its members were present and exchanged with the various NGOs representatives.

INTELLECTUAL COOPERATION WITH UNESCO

At the beginning of the mandate, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee had a meeting with UNESCO Director General to lay the basis of a closer cooperation and illustrate their plans for a more efficient collective cooperation more anchored to UNESCO programmes and calendar. On this occasion, several ideas were presented and the Director General reiterated all her support to the Liaison Committee.

The current Committee has reinforced its intellectual cooperation with UNESCO on various occasions. Among the most important included participation (observer) on the International Expert Group (IEG) for the revision of the 1974 Recommendation concerning education for international understanding, cooperation and peace and education relating to human rights

and fundamental freedoms, participation at the 5th UNESCO Forum on transformative education for sustainable development, global citizenship, health and well-being (November 2021) with a view on connecting it with the 12th International Forum of NGOs, and participation in designing the first webinar organized by the Unit in charge of Civil Society Partnerships on the “Ocean Decade: Catalyzing support & engagement” (September 2022) which proved to be a springboard for the Liaison Committee’s 13th International Forum.

Moreover, the Chair had meetings with the Assistant Director General for Culture and the Assistant Director General for the Social and Human Sciences. These meetings resulted in all NGO partners receiving an official invitation to Mondiacult 2022 as well as in exchanges focusing on how to strengthen NGO participation in the actions carried by the Social and Human Sciences sector. The Chair was also invited to attend Mondiacult 2022 and had the opportunity to [take the floor](#).

Concerning the IEG on the 1974 Recommendation, four revision phases have taken place since January 2022. The Liaison Committee was invited to serve as an observer in many of the revision phases.

Revision Phase 1 (occurring from January - March 2022) began by UNESCO conducting a global survey to collect the views of individuals who are engaged in the areas that are concerned by the 1974 Recommendation on a personal or professional level to collect ideas to update the recommendation to address contemporary challenges.

During the second revision phase (from Mid-March-May 2022), UNESCO reached out to, and consulted with, a variety of stakeholder groups, including UN and other global and regional multilateral partners, non-governmental organizations, practitioners, individual experts, academics, and youth to collect preliminary ideas on the possible scope of the revisions to be prepared by UNESCO; discussed region-specific issues that need to be considered in the revision, and collected inputs in terms of vision, structure, and any other new ideas. The consultations, including regional webinars, also aimed to identify opportunities of cooperation within the regions to promote the revised Recommendation once adopted by the General Conference.

Phase 3 is currently in progress (September 2022 - December 2022) and is focusing on formal consultation with Member States. UNESCO plans to submit the first draft of the revised 1974 Recommendation to Member States for their comments and observations by mid-December 2022.

Phase 4, scheduled to occur from January - June 2023, will integrate the comments received by Member States into a second revised draft to be discussed in the context of the Intergovernmental Special Committee meeting that will take place in May/June 2023 at UNESCO Headquarters. Observers will be invited to attend, including a representative of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee, which will provide a wonderful opportunity for the next Liaison Committee to monitor the final revisions of the 1974 Recommendations.

All the activities to date are available online [on the dedicated page](#).

INCLUSION

- Regional Webinars

Seven webinars took place covering all regions (Africa, Arab States, Asia Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Europe and North America). The objective of the regional webinars was to ensure a more inclusive collective cooperation and to encourage the greater participation of NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO around the world in both NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee activities and in those of UNESCO, thus strengthening and revitalizing the NGO community, starting from those based in underrepresented regions.

The 90-minute meetings provided an opportunity to meet the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee, to learn more about our plan of action and current activities. In addition, detailed presentations about the institutional framework, the work of the Unit for Civil Society Partnerships at UNESCO, and presentations from invited UNESCO field offices were communicated.

In this respect, the meetings were a successful example of cooperation with the following UNESCO offices invited by the Unit for Civil Society Partnerships :

- UNESCO Beijing Office;
- UNESCO Bangkok Office;
- Kingston Office, UNESCO Cluster Office for the Caribbean;
- OREALC/UNESCO Santiago;
- Quito Office, Cluster Office to Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, and Venezuela;
- Havana Office, Regional Office for Culture in Latin America and the Caribbean - Cluster Office to Cuba, Dominican Republic, and Haiti;
- UNESCO Yaounde Office; and the
- UNESCO Abuja Office.

The feedback received was positive and allowed the Liaison Committee to have a greater idea about the needs of each region and the perception that NGOs have in relation to the work of UNESCO and the Committee. On the other hand, it also made it possible to update the information on the topics on which the work of the UNESCO offices in each region and/or country is focused, thus opening possibilities for greater dialogue and joint work that will need to be strengthened in the future.

It is worth noting that attendance of NGOs in underrepresented regions was not always as large as it could have been. This is probably due to the already low numbers of NGOs in official partnership located in these regions and since NGOs in some regions have been disconnected for a very long time.

A recommendation would be to build on the work done by continuing to hold these webinars as a regular exchange platform between the Committee and the NGOs.

It is worth highlighting that, for the first time ever, in 2022 all regions are represented for the forthcoming elections without the need to send an additional call for nomination of candidates. This is a clear and tangible result of the work done in reaching out to as many

NGOs as possible and especially in underrepresented regions. Moreover, the Committee has witnessed an intensification of the exchanges with NGOs that were silent for many years.

- Dialogue with NGOs

Dialogue with NGOs remains essential both online and offline. The Chair as well as all other members of the Committee had regular exchanges with NGO representatives on many occasions.

Moreover, the Chair and the Treasurer have also assured a constant presence at the office and met bilaterally with a number of NGOs visiting UNESCO such as Arterial Network, FIVA (Fédération Internationale des Véhicules Anciens), URTI (International Radio and Television Union), WMAU (World Martial Arts Union), Société Nationale de l'Acadie, International Theatre Institute, Observatory for Cultural Policies in Africa, WFSW (World Federation of Scientific Workers), ISIC (International Student Identity Card), Lifelong Learning Platform among others.

The Committee's office has also been used by some NGOs for their meetings.

The chair has been invited and represented the Committee at various events such as the celebration of the International Day of Peace, the General Assembly of FIVA, the Grand Prix URTI, the IDC (International Dance Council) General Assembly, the WFUCA (World Federation of UNESCO Clubs) 40th anniversary, the AIC (International Academy of Ceramics) Congress, Association Nationale Cultures du Monde General Assembly.

COMMUNICATION

A review of the Committee's communications was conducted in February 2021, at the start of the new mandate. It identified challenges and potential solutions, and was adopted by the Committee.

A major problem was having a website plus a separate Forum platform, and multiple social media accounts that did not have regular posting. Additionally, the use of official and unofficial email addresses also caused confusion.

Recommendations included creating a new website with updated content enabling better user functionality when working on tablets and mobile devices, and securing the new website with an SSL certificate, a digital certificate that authenticates the website's identity and enables an encrypted connection. The site would include the Forum Platform and survey opportunities, and event registration. The [new website](#) went live in April 2021, 2 months after the decision to implement the review, built by Liaison Committee member Nick Newland and supported by ACWW. It was agreed that all unofficial email should be discontinued, and for purposes of accountability and data protection, only the official Liaison Committee account should be used.

A new Privacy Policy was written and posted on the website as required by European law for organisations processing personal data.

At the core of the Recommendations is that our external communications are the public identity of the Committee, and all NGOs in Official Partnership with UNESCO. It is with this in mind that the new website has also offered the opportunity for NGOs to promote their events and activities, and has been regularly updated with information. A key challenge remains, as effective communications are hugely time consuming, and require a team effort to be successful; this is something that can hopefully be strengthened in future. We are aware that no process can be perfect, but have strived to learn lessons along the way, and serve the community of NGOs.

The new website receives over 4,000 visits per month, approximately 150% higher than the previous site at the end of the mandate – meaning there has already been success in reaching a wider audience – and gives the next Committee a good basis to build on.

In addition, the management of some social media channels such as the Facebook page and the Youtube channel were reinforced notably with the regular posting of NGO and UNESCO news on Facebook and by reordering and creating playlists on the Youtube channels.

A LinkedIn account was created as well.

FORUMS

Achieving Global Citizenship (December 2021)

The 12th International Forum of NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO, focusing on Global Citizenship, was delayed from the 2018-20 mandate due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Liaison Committee, Forum Steering Committee and UNESCO Secretariat agreed that the Forum should take place virtually. We aimed to find, through common values, the vital link between humans and nature of which they are part, elevating the importance of living together in harmony.

The Steering Committee did their best to ensure diverse participation and representation in every element of the Forum, ensuring the inclusion of a Youth Panel with young representatives of NGOs, an intergenerational approach that resulted in broad participation. Following regional webinars, the Forum had simultaneous interpretation in English, French, and Spanish. 21 invited speakers participated, from 18 countries. We welcomed representatives of 14 Permanent Delegations and National Commissions, as well as 386 individuals registered for the Forum. Confirmed attendees participated from 47 countries.

Our survey on Global Citizenship received 191 NGOs responses, with 12.5% that identified Global Citizenship as No.1 priority. Of these, 73% reported that safeguarding human rights is the most critical action, and 60% reporting prioritization of strengthening solidarity in the service of vulnerable people.

The Committee received positive feedback from participants, speakers, and UNESCO.

Mobilizing NGOs for the International Decade of Indigenous Language and Ocean Decade (Nov 2022)

The 13th International Forum of NGOs in Official Partnership with UNESCO entitled *“Mobilizing NGOs for the International Decade of Indigenous Language and Ocean Decade”*

occurred in Ottawa, Canada, on 21-22 November 2022, sponsored by Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW), the YOU Foundation for Children in Need, the Universal Esperanto Association, Air Canada, and Ottawa Tourism. The Forum took place at the Canadian Museum of Nature, where all participants had also the opportunity to experience an amazing, curated visit through the Museum's Arctic Gallery.

The Forum focused on building synergies between the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) and the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022-2032), resulting in an extremely powerful event. The Forum followed a hybrid format, with simultaneous translation in both English and French, as an effort to broaden participation of NGOs interested in learning how to become involved in both Decades.

The programme included high level presentations from UNESCO and from the advisory board chairs and leadership coordinating both Decades. Additionally, experts in language education and culture alongside scientists leading global efforts in ocean research collaboratively discussed strategies for building synergies between both Decades; international engagement, global communication and information management systems in support of the Decades; development of solutions, resources, materials, and initiatives promoting capacity building and literacy; building a community of practice, as well as international mechanisms for dialogue and cooperation aimed at increasing international cooperation; encouraging cross-disciplinary actions to build resilience and creative solutions; and the importance of education and lifelong learning leading to action by civil society on behalf of both Decades. A youth session served as the mechanism for summarizing why the Decades must succeed and the importance of NGOs taking action in both initiatives.

We are pleased to share that the Forum included 40 speakers from many nations sharing their expertise and insights for involvement in both initiatives, and that we welcomed over 200 attendees in person and online from more than 40 countries – including participants from the four corners of Africa, the Pacific Islands, across central and south Asia, as well as from Europe, South America, and North America. In addition, we received pledges of action from NGOs in five countries during the closing sessions, as well as follow-up from several National Commissions and other NGOs.

Webinar on Science, Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship in support of SDGs

The international webinar on Science, Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship in support of SDGs took place in May 2022, in lieu of an NGO-UNESCO forum recommended by the 2018-2020 ICNGO but postponed.

Table I -Women (of all ages)'s empowerment enabled through non-traditional Education (STI, STEM, at academic level &TVET) & Entrepreneurship (Good practices and Challenges) on the African continent.

Table II-Water and Gender in Climate Change-Education and Training in Water Technologies on the African continent.

In response to educational, climate, health and humanitarian crises, and the need for transformative strategies to achieve the SDGs in 2030, the event led by BPW International, in cooperation with Women For Water Partnership, World Federation of Scientific Workers, CMAtlv was designed as a first step to build capacity and raise awareness on the vital role of

STI to face challenges including persisting gender inequalities in these areas.

Priority was given to the African region where entrepreneurship is seen as a unique source of female empowerment and economic growth. This webinar was an opportunity to recall the key role of equitable and inclusive quality education, and promote girls' and women's access to scientific and technical training in the professional fields of water & sustainable development ; it brought together different stakeholders in a transversal and multilateral approach with UNESCO Head of Education & Inclusion-Gender Equality section as keynote of the 1st round table and WWAP programme specialist for the 2nd one.

It was the occasion to engage in an intergenerational dialogue with young women working in the field in Benin and Morocco for girls education in STEM & digital technology and an academic from ANCEFA-CCONG-ED2030, focusing on entrepreneurship education in a trans-disciplinary approach (first round table). A researcher & sociologist from Guinée Bissau, moderated the 1st round table underlining systemic social inequalities to the detriment of women in these areas. The WfWP Advocacy Lead engaged experts, from OECD, private sector, University & CSOs from CI and Morocco in a dialogue on water, training, governance and politics in the 2nd one.

Given the high need for more women getting an education in STEM fields at academic and vocational levels, we recommend to explore better opportunities for mentorship, design a program for teachers on gender bias, figure out how to reach parents to accelerate gender equality in the next webinar.

Youth Engagement

In December 2021, the Liaison Committee organized a celebration for the [75th Anniversary of UNESCO](#) through an online event. During this occasion, a Position paper on Youth and Advocacy was launched, which brings recommendations written by young delegates of NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO to help NGOs build a sustainable work environment using synergies with and among youth. The process of establishing the recommendations began in June 2021 under the leadership of the WOSM Youth Representative Thaís Queiroz.

Fifty-nine young delegates were enrolled by their NGOs to take part in the process. During the meetings among these youth representatives, discussions were held to brainstorm what meaningful engagement meant to young people and how to achieve it through the work of the NGOs. Some of the young delegates volunteered to draft the recommendations, which were later approved by all, and to organize the launch event, which celebrated the work done for youth at UNESCO during the past 75 years.

Among the volunteers that contributed specially for these efforts were Mrittunjoy Guha Majumdar (Mission Ramakrishna), Ayushi Kundu (Soroptimist International) and Ola Eloranta (ICODE) in the drafting efforts and L. Yasmin Knight (IFBPW), Aashiyana Adhikari (Southeast Asia Foundation), Ruxandra Stroe (FEDE), Joelle Khayat (JMI), Melissa Mejía Flórez (New Humanity), Júlia Pérez (CCIVS), Alex Gagliano (IAU) and Giulia Zaghini (IMC) for the organization of the event itself.

The event included a keynote speech by the representative of the Assistant Director-General for the Social and Human Sciences of UNESCO, Ms. Angela Melo, and input from the

WOSM Youth Representative Nadine Shili. The document launched at the occasion can be [found here](#) and has been used in advocacy processes inside the NGOs for youth engagement.

Currently the Committee is exploring ways to continue this work and anchor more with the UNESCO Youth Sector. A first meeting was held in May 2022 and a follow-up is currently being organized.

Strengthening Partnership

Following the process conducted during the previous mandate by a working group on Strengthening Partnership, the Liaison Committee decided to form an advisory group composed of former LC chairs (since the adoption of the new directives) to have an overview of what has been done in the past ten years.

The main objective was to take stock of what has been done by previous Committees and working groups, avoid duplication, and propose suggestions on the main aspects that the Committee should consider when tackling Recommendations 1 and 2 of the ICNGO 2020.

The advisory group, coordinated by the current Chair, elaborated a [document](#) containing a deep overview as well some recommendations. Following its adoption by the Committee, a series of actions were launched such as a working group on strengthening partnership with UNESCO National Commission and - as requested by the 2020 ICNGO Recommendations - a survey on the implementation of the 2011 Directives.

In parallel, as requested by the 2020 recommendations, a revision of the Working Procedures and the Code of Conduct adopted in 2020 was completed.

Working group on strengthening cooperation with UNESCO National Commissions

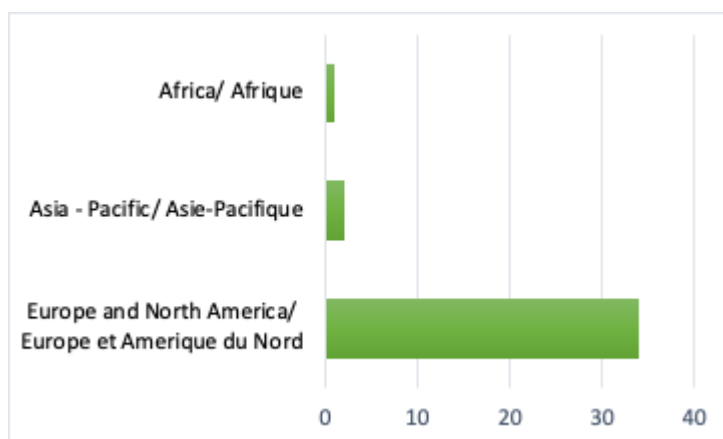
The Liaison Committee received a report from the Advisory Group of Former Chairs (2011-2022) which issued Recommendation No.1, calling for a Working Group on NGO cooperation with National Commissions. The mandate for this Group was to establish recommendations for the benefit of NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO on how best to strengthen partnership with National Commissions, and to better understand the reasons behind the current lack of interaction between NGOs and the National Commissions. The Working Group was established in July 2022 with Nadine Shilli (WOSM) and Nick Newland (ACWW) co-chairing the group; 110 NGOs registered to participate in the Working Group, and feedback has been received between July and November 2022. Initial documents were circulated for consultation in September, and a letter to all National Commissions was sent in November inviting their input. Recommendations were circulated for endorsement in early December 2022, which will be presented at the ICNGO.

Summary Report of the implementation on the implementation of the 2011 Directives

Following the 2020 recommendation of the International Conference of NGOs to conduct “an analysis of the implementation of the 2011 Directives after ten years of their publication,” and the recommendation made by the advisory group of Former Chairs, the Liaison Committee sent a questionnaire to NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO.

Based on the replies we received we can share the following summary report.

There were 16 respondents in English and 21 respondents in French from the following regions: Africa, Asia-Pacific and Europe and North America. 73% of the organizations hold consultative status and 7% associative status. 21 organizations held membership status before 2011 and 6 after that year.



In terms of the understanding about the provision in the directives, 9% replied very well, 25% well, 35% fairly well, and 9% not at all.

The following table shows the replies regarding the statutory advantages as an NGO:

Replies	Advantages
27	Exchange information and documents on initiatives, activities, and events of UNESCO as well as on all other matters of joint interest
19	Participate in consultations about UNESCO’s strategy and programme
18	Participate in UNESCO meetings and consultations, including in collective consultations organized by UNESCO on specific subjects, in connection with the implementation of its programme
23	Participate, as observer, in the sessions of UNESCO’s Governing Bodies (General Conference and Executive Board), including the meetings of the Committee on Non-Governmental Partners (also known as NGP Committee)
11	Make statements, on matters within your organization’s competence, in commissions, committees and subsidiary bodies of UNESCO’s Governing Bodies, on the authorization of the Chairperson or relevant authority
6	Submit written statements to the Director-General on UNESCO programme matters within your organization’s competence

7	Make use of UNESCO's conference rooms and facilities on the most favourable terms
4	Conclude memorandum of agreement on the execution of one or more specific projects
12	<p>Have access to financial procedures for cooperation, including:</p> <p>(a) contributions for the implementation of a framework agreement [Associate status only]</p> <p>(b) contracts for the execution of activities forming part of UNESCO's programme; and, (c) contributions under the Participation Programme</p> <p>The replies mainly refer to the Participation Programme and one Framework Agreement.</p>
1	None.

The following advantages have been enjoyed by the NGO respondents:

- Implementation Partnership agreements;
- Participation programme;
- The multi sectoral platform UNESCO and its Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport provide for an effective information exchange and programme planning;
- Participation in the ICNGO;
- Using working rooms as participants of working groups;
- Cooperation with the youth sector;
- International Networking;
- Collective consultation;
- Increased efforts towards NGOs;
- Strengthened advocacy; and
- NGO Forums.

The reasons shared for preventing NGO partners to make use of the advantages were:

- Lack of financial support to maintain IPA with UNESCO;
- Not aware of all of the opportunities;
- Takes time to understand how things work in UNESCO; and
- Meeting rooms are too expensive.

Official partnership status was reported to be beneficial to the work of the NGO respondents in the following ways:

- Recognition;
- Participation of UNESCO in NGO events;
- Partnership for advocacy;
- Connection with other NGOs;
- Dialogue with member states; and
- Access to relationships with other stakeholders.

In terms of the Forums organised by the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee in cooperation with UNESCO, 31 of the respondents said that they had participated in the Forums and 6 had not. 86% of the respondents view these NGO Forums as very useful or moderately useful.

38% of the respondents had stood for election to be part of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee or for election as Chairperson. Some of the reasons shared why NGOs may not

have stood for election are listed as: not well known enough, not enough human resources, no candidates available, and lack of financial resources.

47% of the respondents found that the redesign by the 2011 Directives of the composition of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee had a moderately important impact, 22% considered this as slightly positive, and 19% as very positive.

The reasons given for this reply included the following:

- The role of international NGOs not being taken into account;
- Because being elected for a region does not imply representing the region (the status of many NGOs are in Europe but they are often represented in all the regions) and seats for the region need to be filled so it means the NGO is not voted in if the only candidate is like the other ones;
- The regions are under represented (outside Europe);
- Difficult for NGOs to be involved if they are not based in Paris; and
- The thematic way of working pre-2011 allowed for a better follow-up.

The following points were shared for improving the NGO respondent's relationship with UNESCO:

- Ensuring equitable partnerships;
- A dedicated page/source for information specifically directed to NGO partners;
- Being valued for expertise and contributions at no cost;
- Enhancing the collaboration with UNESCO National Commissions;
- Receiving 30 days' notice for all opportunities that could include NGOs, even as observers;
- Direct links/references in our activities to the UNESCO programmes;
- An NGO focal point in all the sectors to facilitate the partnership and work;
- Civil society organizations often have the knowledge and expertise to advise on programmatic documents and specific directives; however, the level of involvement that Member States are willing to accept is often very limited. A more robust advocacy activity to ensure a meaningful and strategic consultation of NGOs in policy processes would benefit UNESCO as a whole. For instance, instituting a mechanism to monitor to what extent policy recommendations made by NGOs are taken on board would be a meaningful first step to ensure inclusion in strategic plans;
- Invitation to NGOs as contributors to UNESCO events;
- Create a functional database of NGO partners;
- Restart collective consultation of NGOs;
- Have a greater consultation between the Liaison Committee and the NGOs between two International Conferences, this could be led by the regional representative; and
- Allowing the President of the Liaison Committee to have more than one mandate.

24 of the respondents were NGOs familiar with the work of the NGP Committee (Committee on Non-Governmental Partners) and 13 were not.

The Liaison Committee could contribute to fostering this dialogue by:

- Organizing more online sessions/consultations/opportunities for dialogue and cooperation;
- Collecting more data on how NGOs contribute to UNESCO program implementation and participation, such as publishing data as incentive for increased dialog;
- Providing an opportunity for NGOs to have some input into the agenda of the NGO conferences in a more direct way through a survey from the Liaison Committee, collectively preparing the debates;
- Support in facilitating discussions or forming discussion groups of NGOs, on the topics connected to the NGP Committee; and

- The Liaison Committee plays a privileged role. While we are sure that it represents very well the interests of NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO, we would like to see a more robust advocacy work to position relevant NGOs in key policy processes (depending on the field and sector of expertise).

78% of the NGOs replied that they are familiar with the resolutions adopted by the ICNGO (International Conference of NGOs) and 92% of NGOs shared that their organisation is familiar with the work and initiatives of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee and they have participated in the following manner:

- Participation in online events;
- NGO Forums'
- Questionnaires and surveys;
- Working groups; and
- Webinars.

65% of the NGOs find they can easily engage in the different actions of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee and this is mainly through working groups or webinars. Those that replied no, shared that the communication is not interactive enough, there is a lack of consultation and timely communication, a lack of meetings and consultation by distance, and a lack of working groups.

The suggestions shared for improving the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee and/or its work included:

- Regular communication;
- Sharing information about working groups and how to contact them;
- Webinars/online interactions;
- Publishing contact details of additional resource persons in collaborative projects with NGOs;
- Online Meet-and-Greets between UNESCO partner NGOs/ digital platform for communication;
- Keeping the website updated; and
- Developing working groups to put into place the recommendations of the ICNGO.

To conclude, we have kept the questionnaires open and we hope that those NGOs that have not replied will share their feedback. We ask the newly elected Liaison Committee follow-up on the replies received and continue working toward the inclusion of feedback and comments received from NGOs.

Revision of Work Procedures and Code of conduct

These two documents, along with the Guide of the Forum were adopted at the 2020 ICNGO. The Recommendation 2020 suggested to the Committee to: *“Ensure the cohesion and good functioning of the LC by monitoring the implementation of the three documents: guide of the forums, operating rules and code of conduct of the LC, adopted by the 2020 ICNGO; provide for the possibility of adjustments in connection with a working group on partnership and, if necessary, their submission to the next CIONG for approval.”*

After having implemented these documents in its day-to-day work for some months, the Chair proposed to the members of the Committee to make suggestions for improving the last two documents.

It was noted that existing information needed to be updated and that certain linguistic and translation questions be addressed. Over the summer of 2022, a Working Group within the

Committee devoted much time to proposing and circulating improvements to the text. Suggested changes were discussed among the Working Group and then by all the members of the Committee. Given that the current Committee is the first one working under these documents, it wasn't considered necessary to create an external ad-hoc working group or to submit the updated version for approval to the ICNGO.

The final version [was adopted unanimously](#) by the Committee at its meeting in October 2022. The Guide of the Forum wasn't considered in need of an adjustment.

CCNGO Education 2030

In 2018, SDG4 was not on track, implying that the current mechanism for cooperation in line with the Incheon Declaration on Education 2030 was not effective enough to meet the expectations of the Framework For Action. COVID19 was a wake-up call.

NGO partners through my representation to the CCNGO coordination group, on behalf of the Liaison Committee, were collectively engaged in the intensive work throughout the pandemic (articles, questionnaire, report) and the long consultation process of the co-creation of a new vision for Education2030.

The Global Education Cooperation Mechanism (GCM), was coined after an 18-month consultation process and led to the SDG4-Education 2030 High Level Steering Committee and supporting structures. The cross-partner structure was to draw on the capabilities and resourcing of all stakeholders: CCNGO, SDG4Youth, Multilateral Education Platform, Global Education Forum.

The CCNGO-Ed2030 represents CSOs in the GCM with seats in the SDG4-Ed2030 HLSC, the Sherpa Group & the Technical Cooperation Group on SDG4 indicators.

Inter alia, LC-NGOs collectively contributed to an independent CCNGO report for the Futures of Education- *The role of Civil Society Organisations in 2050 focusing on education as a human right and transformative concept in the face of rising challenges, trends and future horizons*- and to the SDG-Ed 2030 SC's inputs to the January 2021 HLPF- *Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development* , to ESD declaration (May 2021) & July GEM-technical segment.

10th Global CCNGO meeting (Dec 2021)- *Collective Consultation of NGOs on Education – a Global Cooperation Mechanism Platform* (LC representative as speaker).

CCNGO-CG consultation for inputs to UNESCO Pre-Summit in May and June & UN TES Sept 2022 & LC participation.

Inputs to the HLP-SC SDG4, 8-9 December 2022.

The future plan is to determine what concrete measurable actions we collectively can take to accelerate the achievement of SDG4 through the TES follow up pillars.

International Days

Two groups of NGOs working on the celebration of International Days worked under this Committee:

1. International Day of Peace

This group has been active for many years and has successfully organised many events and actions. Under this mandate, the group published a book on a previous action “Robots and drones for Peace” and also organised a celebration day in cooperation with UNIMA and the City of Tolosa (Spain).

The [International Day of Peace 2022](#), took place on 17th September 2022 and was hosted by the International Puppet Centre of Tolosa (TOPIC) and the city of Tolosa. [A panel on “Peace, art and youth”](#) was organised in the morning while in the afternoon several choirs from all over the world participated in a parade for peace. The day ended with a [final concert](#) with all choirs.

The group has also produced a [video](#) illustrating the project Choirs for Peace.

2. International Day of the Girl Child

This group of NGOs exists also since many years and has worked to celebrate and raise awareness about the situation of girl child all around the world. For 2022, a celebration in cooperation with ICESCO (Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization). After some exchanges and a visit in Rabat where the Chair of the Committee along with two representatives of NGOs coordinating the group met with ICESCO and other local organisations and institutions, the plan for 2022 faded out due to the short timeframe.

However, the group has continued to explore opportunities for future actions and has elaborated a [roadmap](#) with some proposals for the next two years.

Another group on inter religious dialogue, has recently started to discuss potential axes of action.

The Committee wishes to congratulate all NGOs contributing actively to these celebrations and invites other NGOs to join them or to join efforts with other NGOs and propose other celebrations.

Space at General Conference

On the occasion of the 2021 UNESCO General Conference, a dedicated space for the Liaison Committee was set up in cooperation with the Unit in charge of Civil Society Partnerships. The space was intended as an information space for NGOs to provide guidance on the various moments of the Conference and explain modalities of participation.

The space was coordinated by the Unit and gave some additional visibility to the Liaison Committee, notably because it was placed in a prominent space and many NGOs came either to ask for information or to meet members of the Liaison Committee that were present.

It was a nice occasion to meet representatives, explain to them the work of the Committee, its strategy, and the opportunities for cooperation.

PNG Committee

During the mandate, there were two meetings of the UNESCO Committee of Non Governmental Partnership (NGP). Thanks to the online streaming, these meetings were attended by a large number of NGOs and those attending in person were also able to take the floor.

The Chair of the Liaison Committee took the floor in both occasions to update the NGP Committee on the work done, invite Members States to work closely with the Committee, invite them to participate more actively in the International Fora, and to capitalize on the role of the Liaison Committee as the catalyst of NGOs contribution to UNESCO's programmes.

Moreover, in September 2021, the Committee was consulted by the former Chair of the PNG Committee (Ambassador Tamara Rastovac Siamashvili), on the idea of initiating a reflection regarding thematic debates and asked the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee's views on the theme "geographical diversity of the network of NGO partners and how to foster it." In his answer, the Chair of the Liaison Committee reiterated the importance of taking into account that many NGOs are based in Europe but operate internationally and gave the Liaison Committee's full support for the choice of the theme, as well as all initiatives undertaken in this regard.

Meetings of the Liaison Committee

The Liaison Committee conducted 15 official online meetings, each of which lasted, at a minimum, 2 hours in length, and each of the meetings was attended by at least half of its members.

Differently from the past, all documents are now stored in a shared online folder which will serve as an archive and will be transmitted to the newly elected Committee as soon as it is installed.

Since the beginning of the mandate, the Chair reiterated the importance of following the adopted *Code of Conduct* and the *Working Procedures*.

The minutes of each meeting [were posted](#) to the Liaison Committee website to ensure clear and transparent communication of our work on your behalf. In some cases, the French translation of the minutes arrived later because of the time needed for translation. after the adoption.

It is recommended to continue with online meetings and online tools for collective work. It is also recommended to elaborate strategies regarding the simultaneous translations of the meetings as sometimes, members of the Committee speak one language only.

Finances

The Committee began its work in a good financial situation due to the fact that the previous Committee was unable to carry out many of the planned actions due to complicated challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

During each mandate, the Committee makes an annual call to NGO partners for a 150 euro voluntary contribution. The current Committee taking into account its good financial standing, and understanding that NGOs were facing the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, decided to ask only for a one time voluntary contribution of 200 euros for the biennium 2020-2022.

This strategy proved to be less successful than intended: as of December 5, 2022, some 50 NGOs partners donated an amount of 9,200 euros which constitutes a lower income compared to the previous biennium.

Major expenses during this mandate, as it is often the case, were related to the two Fora organized. On the occasion of the 13th Forum, for the first time ever, the co-funding came as a cooperation between various NGOs partners as described earlier in the activity report.

Financial details can be found on the table below.

DEPENSES /EXPENSES	2021-2022	TOTAL	RESSOURCES/ RESOURCES	2021-2022	TOTAL
Charges de fonctionnement /Operating expenses			Ressources de l'exercice/financial resources		
maintenance copieur et divers	1 100,00 €		contributions volontaires des ONG/ NGO voluntary contribution 21/22	9 232,83 €	
site internet abonnement OVH, maintenance	2 217,65 €		sponsors et/ and UNESCO	4 000,00 €	
fournitures de bureau/ office supplies	2 123,91 €		intérêts du CSL /saving account interest		
frs bancaires courants/ current bank charges	547,91 €		<i>Gifts in kind received from NGOs / Services paid directly by NGOs on behalf of the Liaison Committee = €27,500</i>		
frais de déplacements, missions Comité/ travels,Committee missions	2 166,66 €		<i>Dons en nature reçus des ONG / Services payés directement par les ONG au nom du Comité de Liaison = 27 500 €</i>		
TOTAL des charges de fonctionnement/ total operating expenses		8 156,13 €	Contribution UNESCO Forum 12	10 000,00 €	
Charges des actions forum et journées/ Actions charges			Dons ONG Forum 13	4 500,00 €	
forum 12	15 635,00 €				
Days celebration	632,32 €				
forum 13	15 591,76 €				
CIONG 2020 reliquat /ICNGO 2020 remains	30,00 €				
webinaires/ regional webinar	2 300,00 €				
Total des dépenses des actions /total actions expenses		34 189,08 €	Total des ressources d'exercice/ Total resources		27 732,83 €
TOTAL CHARGES /EXPENSES		42 345,21 €	TOTAL RESSOURCES/ RESOURCES		27 732,83 €
EXCEDENT DE L'EXERCICE /SURPLUS			DEFICIT EXERCICE		14 612,38 €
TOTAL BALANCE		42 345,21 €			42 345,21 €
TRESORERIE/ CASH BALANCE					
solde compte courant/ balance account 31/12/2020	46 944,82 €				
solde compte courant /balance ord. Account 12/31/2022	28 637,00 €				
compte livret EU /saving account EU	4 562,05 €				
compte en USD USD account	585,72 €				



Conclusion

The Liaison Committee elected in 2020 has elaborated a strategy which proved to be successful in bringing the Recommendations adopted in 2020 to life. It has also paved the way for a more inclusive and efficient collective cooperation at UNESCO.

Challenges remain, especially those linked to the participation and availability of the members of the Committee and the NGOs partners. Improvements also in the area of communication and internal procedures of the Committee are worth exploring.

From a world where the Committee used to meet officially as well as more informally at the offices located at UNESCO headquarters, this Committee has conducted all its meetings online thus allowing for a more efficient participation of all its members.

It has also strengthened its online presence and communication to foster participation from all NGOs regardless of them having a representative in Paris or not.

In person meetings among members of the Committee as well as with NGO representatives remain essential and were organised when possible, especially in connection with Forums and other events such as the UNESCO General Conference and the PNG Committee.

After 2 years, 15 official meetings, 7 regional webinars for NGOs, 2 International Fora, 1 webinar, 3 participatory processes and 1 brand new website among the major activities, this Committee considers that it has fulfilled at its best the mandate given by the ICNGO 2020 and recommends to the next Committee to continue on this path as much as possible while following the Recommendations that the ICNGO 2022 will adopt.

Paris, 08.12.2022

Presented by Teresa Kennedy – Executive Secretary