

**INTERNATIONAL NGO CONFERENCE
16-18 December 2020**

RESOLUTION

At the end of its work, 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 the following resolution:

Referring to

- UNESCO's Constitution and mission as follows: "*As a specialized agency of the United Nations, UNESCO contributes to building a culture of peace, the eradication of poverty, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through education, science, culture, communication and information.*"
- the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, and in particular SDG 17 ;
- the Director-General's preliminary proposals concerning the Draft Medium-Term Strategy for 2022-2029 (41C/4) and the Draft Programme and Budget for 2022-2025 (41C/5) ;
- the Rules of Procedure of the ICNGO (art.1/1.4) empowering the ICNGO to make recommendations to UNESCO Director-General.

Reaffirming

- the essential role of NGOs, as actors of civil society, in the development and implementation of UNESCO's programmes in its five fields of competence (Education, Social and Human Sciences, Culture, Natural Sciences, Communication and Information), and in supporting individuals and communities at risk of marginalisation.

Taking fully into account

- the historically unprecedented global context created by climate change and the health crisis affecting all populations, particularly the most vulnerable;
- the need and urgency to act collectively in the face of worsening inequalities, to build a more inclusive, solidarity-based and economically viable world of peace.

The 2020 International NGO Conference

Invites the Director-General of UNESCO to

Recommendation 1: Promote health education, access to literary, artistic and scientific culture and access to sport as an integral part of the right to education for all and as resources necessary for human equilibrium. Take into account the essential role of informal and non-formal education, especially in times of crisis, and ensure inclusive ICT training including the prevention of online harassment.

Recommendation 2: Strengthen the right to equitable and inclusive quality education from early childhood and throughout life, especially for children with special needs and for girls, in an unprecedented economic and health crisis, when 11 million girls are at risk of not returning to school due to poverty, soaring forced marriages and unwanted pregnancies ; envisage the

promotion of collaborative pedagogies involving young people and the development of Third Places, social infrastructure complementary to teaching and research institutions, allowing intergenerational exchanges with local education stakeholders.

Recommendation 3: Emphasise the importance of education for the mental health and well-being of children and families, taking into account the impact of the health crisis on early childhood. A parenting support programme would be necessary in view of the role of families in the fight against the pandemic. Consider a strategic programme for youth sport, linking mind-body culture in mental health and public education. Set up support programmes for cultural actors in a situation of moral and economic distress due to the current crisis.

Recommendation 4: Pursue reflection on this crisis by closely involving the expertise of NGOs for a world of peace based on international solidarity. Act for a fairer world, recognising the links between climate justice, social justice and health justice, in compliance with international agreements. Support access to natural resources and basic services for every citizen.

Recommendation 5: In line with the preliminary draft Global Recommendation on Open Science as an Instrument of International Law (UNESCO, 09/30/2020), make science more open and accessible to as many people as possible by promoting a more participatory process, both at the level of the scientific community and at the level of societies. Support the initiation from an early age to the scientific spirit and argumentative debate and develop critical thinking skills in order to combat misinformation and prejudices.

Recommendation 6: Reduce inequalities by taking into account the point of view of the groups most at risk of marginalisation so that no one is left behind. Integrate their expertise in the development of possible solutions to issues that concern us all, in solidarity, particularly for the protection of the weakest, respecting the need for each person to express themselves in their own languages. Promote actions in their favour carried out by local associations for better training and inclusion. Act against the digital divide and for a more inclusive innovation, especially for women.

Recommendation 7: Promote education for peace and non-violence in school curricula and the fight against all forms of discrimination especially in post-conflict countries, in line with SDGs 4.7 and 16. Encourage teachers and educators to celebrate international days and entice young people to participate in the celebrations.

Recommendation 8: Ensure respect for human rights and promote global citizenship in particular through appropriate cultural programmes. Guarantee freedom of the press while combating disinformation, and academic, scientific and artistic freedom, while protecting the conditions of exercise of the professions concerned, particularly in times of crisis. Support audio-visual communication media, including public service media.

Recommendation 9: Mobilise joint international action with NGOs to save education in Lebanon. Strive to take into account the lack of financial resources of NGOs in these times of crisis in order to continue implementing UNESCO's programmes.

Addresses the following recommendations to the Liaison Committee:

Bearing in mind that, in line with the Directives, it should *"implement the resolutions adopted by the International Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations and make preparations, in consultation with the Director-General, for the subsequent session of the International Conference."*

Recommendation 1: Strengthen the partnership between UNESCO, NGOs and Member States; foster collaboration with UNESCO programme sectors, field offices, National Commissions and UNESCO centres.

Recommendation 2: 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. Propose an analysis of the implementation of the 2011 Directives, ten years after their publication.

Recommendation 3: Promote communication between NGOs and their visibility vis-à-vis UNESCO; Improve the rapid dissemination of the minutes of the LC meetings on the Liaison Committee's website and, if necessary, issue alerts via the NGOs' web messaging systems; Strengthen collaboration with NGOs in the regions; Provide for the 2022 ICNGO an online platform for the elections, a tool that has proved to be efficient, rapid while guaranteeing integrity of the ballots.

Recommendation 4: Mobilise NGOs, drawing on the creative force of young people to respond collectively and in conjunction with UNESCO to humanitarian emergencies (pandemics, natural and other disasters).

Recommendation 5: Continuing or supporting projects initiated under the previous mandate, in particular forums which as of now can take place virtually:

- the Forum on Global Citizenship; an opportunity to promote intergenerational and co-responsible solidarity in the face of contemporary and future challenges;
- the Forum on Science, Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, to fight poverty and in support of SDGs; an opportunity to promote access of girls and women to scientific and technical training and professional equality between women and men;
- the creation of the platform dedicated to human migration, decided in the framework of the follow-up of the Tunis Forum, in 2018; action which could be based on the celebration of the International Day of Migrants (18/12) or Refugees (20/06).
- the exemplary and replicable collective project of a group of NGOs, dedicated to the training of hydrologists in Africa, launched in the follow-up to the Yamoussoukro Forum for access to water for all, with the support of UNESCO.

Recommendation 6: Support, in cooperation with the UNESCO sectors, the celebration of the planned International Days, initiated by NGOs under the aegis of the Liaison Committee:

- International Day of Peace and the planned Choir Festival in this framework
- International Girls' Day
- other initiatives in the framework of the 75th anniversary of the creation of UNESCO, allowing to mobilize young people and to promote NGOs' activities since its creation.

Calls on NGO-UNESCO partners to

Recommendation 1: Support and facilitate the work of the Liaison Committee through their various skills and networks.

Recommendation 2: Support the advocacy of the Liaison Committee through the CCNGO Education 2030 Coordination.

Recommendation 3: Encourage the involvement of young people in the various events organised in connection with the LC; and make the voices of those most at risk of marginalisation be heard.

Recommendation 4: Develop exchanges between NGOs, via the dedicated platform on the LC website.