

NGO-UNESCO LIAISON COMMITTEE - MEETING MINUTES

13 December 2021 – 4:00 – 6:00 pm CET

Members	Chairperson: Davide Grosso (DG), IMC ACWW: Nick Newland (NN) BWP: Marie-Claude Machon-Honoré (MCMH); Lesha Witmer (LW) CCIVS: Victoria Lovelock (VL) CIOFF: Philippe Beaussant (PB) CLADE: Nelsy Lizarado (NL) Giovanna Mode (GM) CMA: Alexandre Ginoyer (AG) ICASE: Teresa Kennedy (TK) Sozopol Foundation: Petya Zelenski (PZ) WOSM: Thaís Queiroz (TQ)
UNESCO	Sabina Colombo (SC) Armin Ibrisimovic (AI)
Absent	FAPE: Christian Grégoire Epouma (CGE)

Decisions taken

Actions for Committee Members

Actions for Paris Office

1. Opening – 4pm CET

-DG thanked everyone for connecting and noted that CGE is not able to attend.

Action: Some have had difficulty accessing the Dropbox. Those with issues will be assisted and the issues will be resolved.

2. Adoption of the agenda

Agenda located in Dropbox - Documents for Meetings; December 2021.

-DG confirmed all requested additions have been added to the agenda.

Agenda unanimously approved.

3. Adoption of the minutes of the last meeting

Minutes of the September 2021 meeting, Zoom transcript and recording located in Dropbox Folder 3.

-The minutes from this day forth will consist of a concise summary and list of actions with reference to background documents located in the LC Google drive. The recording of each meeting will also be placed into the Dropbox.

Minutes of the last meeting unanimously approved.

Action: Ensure that final minutes are uploaded to the LC website. All items posted will be shared with the committee prior to posting.

4. Finances

Financial Report located in Dropbox Folder 4.

-PB provided an overview of the LC budget from January – November 2021, including the 2021 balance in comparison to the 2020 balance. The 2021 balance is higher than in 2020 due supporting one forum instead of two as in the past.

Action: NN will have a follow-up meeting with online provider to obtain the final invoice and will place PB in touch with the providers as needed to settle all finances associated with the event within the next week.

-A positive balance results which will allow for enhancements to translation, technology, and communication (among other priorities) in 2022.

Action: Proposals for anticipated expenses of 2022 events should be sent for review and approval in advance of the planning.

-Thank you to UNESCO for their additional funding contribution (14,000 Euros) contributed to the Global Citizenship Forum.

Action: PB will provide SC with a general report including financial details prior to the end of December 2021.

-A proposal to reduce the requested NGO annual voluntary contribution from past years (150 Euros/300 Euros each mandate) to account for financial challenges experienced. Typically 80 out of 406 NGOs make an annual voluntary contribution. NGOs would be requested to contribute only 200 Euros for 2021-22, and include a suggestion for increased contribution if possible.

Proposal was unanimously approved.

Action: The contribution request letter sent to NGOs will include an explanation of the reason for the change in mandate and include how contributions are/will be spent.

5. Updates

- UNESCO General Conference

Chairman report located in Dropbox Folder 5.

DG summarized NGO participation. NGOs were well represented through a welcome and information desk which brought great visibility to the LC as it was placed in the center of the UNESCO building. 124 representatives of 70 NGOs were present, with 28 NGO interventions and 14 NGOs taking the floor. Additional interventions took place during the commissions (Eg. Education, Science, Culture, Communication) in which NGO's are experts which is good for their visibility and advocacy.

Action: All NGO interventions will be requested and published a specific page for the conference on the LC website (NGO corner promotes the activities of all NGOs).

LC: Noted concerns regarding an unequal balance between participation of member states and NGOs, particularly those not located in Paris and those who do not have technology to enable participation online as well as challenges associated with electronic communications. Suggested mailing printed materials.

Action: Need to invest time to develop a strategy for improving easier NGO participation and communications venues to ensure flexibility and encourage participation so all civil society can have their voice heard. DG, NN, MCHM and LW will begin a discussion in January (everyone is welcome to join).

- International Days

International Day of Peace (*documentation located in Folder 5, ID Peace*).

AG represents the LC with this planning group and will keep the LC informed.

Proposal received to the LC to fund 1,000 Euros toward the publication of a book commemorating the 10th Forum of NGOs in Tunia entitled *Dessine-moi un drone ou un robot pour la paix*. Funding has been given to past working groups to support expenses

related to the event organization; however funding has never been awarded for the production of commercial products. The book will be available in French only.

Proposal was not approved as additional information is needed (explanation regarding what the funding will cover, who will receive the funding, precedent resulting from this).

Action: MCHM will work with the group to submit a revised request for consideration at the next meeting of the LC.

- **Day of the Girl** (*documentation located in Folder 5, AG Day of the Girl*).
AG represents the LC with this planning group and shared the draft concept note and explained the need to begin planning for the October 2022 event.
Action: AG will represent the LC on all matters pertaining to the planning of the event.
- **Strengthening partnership** (*documentation located in Folder 5, AG Strengthening...*).
AG shared the RDP group report which included a summary of the meeting between the Former Presidents and the RDP Group and a proposal for the RDP to move forward with AG and MCHM leading the group.
Proposal was not approved (7 no; 2 yes).
Action: MCHM agreed to join the Group of Former Presidents. DG will provide MCHM with the date for their next meeting.
- **CCNGO** (<https://events.unesco.org/event?id=20303331266544&lang=1033>)
MCHM: the 10th Global meeting of the collective of NGOs will take place online on 14 December. MCHM and NL have worked with their planning team. All are invited to attend.
Action: MCHM will continue to share progress.
Note: Announcements can be placed on the LC website when provided in advance.
Keep in mind that items arriving with little to no lead time may not be posted in time.

6. Work Programme – Follow up on Recommendations

6.1 Celebration of UNESCO 75th anniversary / Youth involvement

TQ shared that an open event will present the “Position Paper on Youth.” A space on Gather Town will be used as a space for questions to be responded to one hour before the presentation can be seen from the platform and one hour after the presentation.

The Youth Position Paper has been posted to the LC website. http://www.ngo-unesco.net/unesco_75.html All NGOs are invited to endorse the Youth Position Paper.

6.2 Regional Webinars / Next steps

(*documentation located in Folder 6, 6.2 Regional Webinar LAC region*).

VL: Regional event occurred on 26 October occurred in Spanish for organizations in the LAC region and UNESCO Regional Office. Technical issues occurred on the day of the event. The video is available for all to view on the YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BeCd99_ZAQQ

All NGOs can request connections to the Regional Offices by contacting SC.

The same format will be used for the Africa region; in English and French.

Proposal to spend funds on interpretation for the Africa webinar unanimously approved.

Action: DG and VL will work with CGE to create a proposal and budget for the Africa webinar to be submitted for review at the next LC meeting.

6.3 Forum on Global Citizenship

(documentation located in Folder 6, 6.3 Forum on Global Citizenship).

NN summarized the successful event of 6-7 December. Highlights include more than 380 attendees (including NGOs in official partnership, other Civil Society, governmental and Member State representatives) from 35 countries; 21 speakers from 16 countries with all ages, gender and geographical representation; and an additional 11 NGO representatives who took the floor; 128 representatives took part in the online digital networking platform.

Action: NN will distribute a final report by the end of the week.

6.4 Webinar on STI and Entrepreneurship in support of SDGs

(documentation in Dropbox: Documents for Meetings; September 2021, Folder 4.4).

The decision previously taken was for the event to be a 2-hour Webinar. MCHM met with several NGOs at the General Meeting that are interested in collaborating. The proposal previously shared with the LC is located in the Dropbox.

NN agreed to facilitate the Webinar with communications, technical reach, and the rural women's network.

Action: MCHM will submit a revised proposal, with a narrower focus and a timeline, to be shared at the next meeting.

7. AOB – Questions

No questions.

8. Next Meeting: TBD

A Doodle poll will be sent out to determine the date of the next meeting.

End of meeting: 6:08pm CET - Paris