

NGO-UNESCO LIAISON COMMITTEE - MEETING MINUTES

9 September 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: Giovanna Mode (GM) CMA: Alexandre Ginoyer (AG) FAPE: Christian Grégoire Epouma (CGE) ICASE: Teresa Kennedy (TK) Sozopol Foundation: Petya Zelenski (PZ) WOSM: Thaís Queiroz (TQ)
UNESCO	Jean Yves Le Saux (JYLS) Sabina Colombo (SC) Armin Ibrisimovic (AI)
Excused	CCIVS: Ingrid Danckaerts (ID) left meeting 00:32.
Absent	CLADE: Nelsy Lizarado (NL)

Decisions taken

Actions for Committee Members

Actions for Paris Office

1. Opening

Mr. Jean Yves Le Saux, Director of the Bureau of Strategic Planning, provided a greeting to the LC.

JYLS: Thanked the LC for their ongoing work and stated that he regrets that meetings cannot occur in presencia and hopes that we can resume face-to-face meetings soon. He explained that UNESCO is focused on the upcoming October and November meetings, the establishment of the budget, and the election of the DG, with the current DG (Audrey Azoulay) as the only person on the ballot.

JYLS thanked the LC for providing the comments made by NGOs and explained that UNESCO's work to fight against inequities can be more successful with collaborations with NGOs and hopes that these collaborations will be more prevalent in the future.

JYLS shared that he met with Davide in July and discussed critical programmatic convergency between the NGOs and the Secretariat and shared that the DC said that she would be happy if the NGOs anchored their events within the larger programs of UNESCO.

JYLS stated that he was impressed by numerous initiatives underway by the LC, especially regarding the online forum for Global Citizenship which will receive \$10,000 support from UNESCO. He also stated that he was impressed by the youth initiatives underway and congratulated TQ, thanked VL for leading the newly established regional webinars, and acknowledged MCHM for her ongoing work. JYLS left the meeting after his greeting.

2. Adoption of the agenda

Updates:

- Christian Breuil is quite ill and therefore AG will now be the official representative of CMA on the committee.
- Access to the Dropbox – those in need of assistance should contact DG.

Additions requested to the agenda:

- Communication (in reference to additional information needed for the planning of the Africa Webinar). To be discussed under Item 4.3.
- Partnership (in reference to correspondence sent by the NGOs on the working group and partnerships be discussed. To be discussed under Item 5, Updates.

Action: All LC members should send their requests for additions to the agenda to DC prior to each meeting. Items will be added for discussion.

Agenda unanimously approved with comments made.

3. Adoption of the minutes of the last meeting

Minutes of the last meeting unanimously approved.

The format of all future minutes will consist of a short summary of the topic or reference to documents located in Dropbox; decision(s) made; notation of difference of opinion (if needed); and actions needed (recommendations or next steps). TK will download the recording and place it with the minutes in the Dropbox.

4. Work Programme - Follow Up on Recommendations

4.1 Forum on Global Citizenship

NN: Provided an update on all items in the process of planning and shared the draft agenda and the concept note describing the Forum. He is working with the Secretariat to ensure full participation of the Education Section.

- PINE software has been approved for use. It is multilingual; each user will use the platform in their home language. We also have a full commitment to training and accessibility for the platform users.

- UNESCO accepted to contribute \$10,000. Preliminary budget has been established and the final budget will be shared as soon as it has been completed.
- Live forum will include a space for NGOs to network, in English and French, with side stage and gallery for videos collected.
- 10 NGOs that said that they wanted to contribute a video; 8 have been received.

Actions for the Committee for the Forum on Global Citizenship:

- Nick will respond to any questions via email.
- Vicky will work to resolve communication issues for CGE.

4.2 Celebration of UNESCO 75th anniversary

TQ: Provided an update of the July meeting with 45 youth representatives from NGOs in Official Partnership with UNESCO to discuss the development of a position paper on youth. The purpose of the meeting was to promote communication, stressing the importance of allowing the youth to report out to their respective NGO. Additional LC members present for the first meetings include Davide and Vicky to provide an opening. Two meetings with a smaller drafting committee also took place to complete a consultative process, where the youth take a leadership role working with their organizations, with the goal of their organizations signing the position paper in support of youth. The next youth meeting will take place later in September to review draft 1 as well as organize the lounge that will occur during the 75th Anniversary Celebration.

4.3 Regional Webinars

GM: The first informal webinar in Latin America took place in June to get to know the NGOs in the region (7 out of 15 responded; 5 joined the webinar). Contact updates occurred and we are now planning the formal webinar. We are currently planning the agenda, speakers and learning about their expectations for the event. The UNESCO regional office will be invited to the webinar to strengthen this connection as well. Representatives at the next meeting will include Nelsy, Giovanna, Sabina and Davide.

DG: Requests to have a telephone call with Mr. Epuma so that they can discuss plans for the future Africa Regional Webinar, with the goal of trying to engage as many NGOs as possible and facilitate their participation.

4.4 Webinar on Science, Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship

MCMH: Created a concept note/proposal and shared it with the LC.

5. Other. DG explained that the Consultative Group of Former Presidents (CGFP) was formed to take note of past work and to continue it. They will present their

findings to the LC. The reason for the formation of the President's group is to find common reoccurring themes and not repeat things from the past and the formation of a new working group. The President's Committee is happy to have a meeting with the former Partnership group.

Past History: This former Partnership group sent a letter last April. The discussion became harsh. To attempt to resolve a bad situation, DG proposed that we bring together all former presidents since the adoption of the new directives in 2013 to come together to discuss the issues that this group was pointing out—strengthening partnerships—the reflection on the directives 10 years after they were established and adopted. The LC voted for this solution. I wrote to all past presidents and MCMH refused and Bernard Loing refused to participate. The rest said yes. Bernard Loing sent a mail that he didn't receive the invitation and he was told that he was still welcome to join. The former Presidents have had successful meetings. They are putting everything together to not repeat what has been done in the past and to find the reoccurring themes so that they can propose a way forward, a new working group. Ultimately, the LC will decide if they agree with the recommendations of the President's Committee.

The President's Committee invited the former Partnership group to have a meeting to learn more about their concerns and they refused.

AG and DG: Engage in discussion about the Terms of Reference in French [refer to recording].

AG: Accepted the proposal to have a meeting with the President's Committee and expressed his **satisfaction that we had reached an agreement** (namely that it is the President who invites and not the Committee of Former Presidents).

Motion:

DG: The President of the LC calls for a brainstorming meeting where he calls for the Consultative Group of Former Presidents (CGFP), created by the LC, members of the LC and the former group to listen to each others.

Discussion:

- **NN:** The open consultation should include all NGOs.
- **MCHM:** Their work has been approved by the ICNGO.
- **DG:** The former Presidents are not substitutes of the NGOs, they are just there to take stock of what this group and all the other groups have worked on. They will state that this is what our opinion is and then the LC will decide if a new group will be assembled. Nick's point will be addressed in the next step. The Consultative Group of Former Presidents (CGFP) will then report to the LC and a new group to address the issue of Partnerships can be formed.

Consensus reached

Next Meeting: TBD A Doodle poll will be sent.

End of meeting: 6:50pm CET - Paris