

## NGO-UNESCO LIAISON COMMITTEE - MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, 19 July 2022 – 4:00 – 6:00 pm CET

NGO Members	Representative(s)
	Davide Grosso (DG) – President/Chairperson
<b>ACWW</b>	Nick Newland (NN) – Communications Officer
<b>IFBPW</b>	Marie-Claude Machon-Honoré (MCMH) – CCNGO Liaison Alternate: Lesha Witmer (LW)
<b>CCIVS</b>	Victoria Lovelock (VL) – Vice President
<b>CIOFF</b>	Philippe Beaussant (PB) – Treasurer
<b>CLADE</b>	Nelsy Lizarado (NL)
<b>CMA</b>	Alexandre Ginoyer (AG) – International Days Alternate: Pat McCann (PM)
<b>ICASE</b>	Teresa Kennedy (TK) – Executive Secretary
<b>WOSM</b>	Nadine Shili (NS) – Youth Liaison
<b>UNESCO</b>	Sabina Colombo (SC) Armin Ibrisimovic (AI)
<b>Absent/Excused</b>	FAPE, Christian Grégoire Epouma (CGE) Sozopol Foundation, Petya Zelenski (PZ)
All committee documents are stored in this shared area. Documents will be identified with reference to their respective Folder during each meeting. For this meeting, access the folder entitled <b>Documents for Meetings - July 2022</b> .	

### Decisions taken

### Actions for Committee Members

### Actions for Paris Office

#### 1. Opening – 4pm CET – 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the NGO Liaison Committee

-DG thanked everyone for connecting and noted that everyone received the agenda, and that the corresponding documents are available on the dropbox. MCHM requested to provide a follow-up on the STIA webinar. This topic has been added under item AOB. PB will also add information about voluntary contributions from NGOs.

#### 2. Adoption of the agenda

*Agenda located in Dropbox - Documents for Meetings; July 2022.*

**Agenda unanimously approved.**

#### 3. Adoption of the minutes of the last meeting

Minutes of the June 2022 meeting and summary document containing all requests for revision are located in the **Dropbox – Documents for Meetings; July 2022, Folder 3**. Revisions were shared on the screen as requested by MCHM, who also requested that the acronym of BPW be changed to IFBPW. DG confirmed that it will be updated on all future documents.

**Action:** MCHM requested that all past minutes posted on the website be updated with the correct acronym of IFBPW.

LW stated that their official acronym registered with UNESCO is IFBPW. SC confirmed that it is officially registered as BPW, consistent with how it is listed on their website. LW explained that while the official acronym is IFBPW, they often use the acronym BPW since it is easier

for the public. SC requested an official letter to explain the situation and request revision on all documentation at UNESCO.

**Action:** LC will work with IFBPW to send SC an official letter.

**Minutes of the last meeting unanimously approved** *Report located in Dropbox Folder 3.*

## 4. Work Program

### 4.1 Survey on the implementation of the directives

VL explained that the questionnaire is in draft form (written by DG and VL as decided in the last meeting). It will be shared with the LC after it has been reviewed with SC, regarding the directives and language included in the survey. The aim of the survey is to gather information from all NGOs so that the results can be provided to the UNESCO DG. Everyone will be invited to view the survey and provide feedback/input to the survey prior to distribution to the NGOs. Expected timeline: Survey distribution at the beginning of September, and provide ~2 months for responses.

**Action:** DG and VL will review the draft with SC prior to providing the draft to LC.

### 4.2 Working group on strengthening partnership with National Commissions

NN provided an update: Notifications have gone out with a reminder that was sent today. NS has agreed to serve as co-chair for the group.

Summary of responses: 38 in total with good geographic variety of NGO who have registered (including across Asia, Africa, North America, with 2 from South America). There is an option on the registration form inviting NGOs to submit their comments if they are unable to attend the first meeting; and it also indicates that they can still attend the second meeting if they were unable to attend the first meeting. The event is widely open and there has been a good response so far. Simultaneous Interpretation will occur during the meeting. Note: Some comments have been received citing difficulty accessing the French link. However, to date, there have been 7 responses on the French and link 31 registered on the English link.

DG noted that some of the registrants are a direct result of the regional webinars; re-engaging NGO that participated in the past. He thanked NN and NS for their work. MCHM and LW shared problems with accessing UNESCO systems (accessing websites, webinars, conferences, etc.), requesting UNESCO to access their system since it is not working well and many are having trouble accessing events, etc. This is important since UNESCO is considering more hybrid meetings. LC stated there have been at least 20 meetings in the last year that have not been accessible.

**Action:** LW to share list of meetings which were difficult to access with SC.

**Action:** SC will share the message with the conference service and requested LC members to send all specific comments and information so that it can be shared.

MCHM and LW requested revision of the instructions on the survey to indicate that registrants can attend the second meeting if they cannot attend the first meeting.

DG asked that next time feedback be received on documents and surveys when requested so that revisions can occur during the edit period.

LW asked that a small explanation be added to the website and materials to clearly explain to non-state actors how they can become a member, what is a double registration (UNESCO and ECOSOC), and information about the UN system, etc.

DG explained that on the LC website, as well as on the UNESCO website, all information needed is provided.

**Action:** SC invited LW to discuss recommendations with her.

### 4.3 Revision of Code of Conduct, Working Procedures, Guide of the Forum

Working group included DG, NN, MCHM, AG and PM. NN thanked all members of the committee for their collaborative work and the collaborative process that was followed. AG assembled all feedback, followed by a collaborative meeting where every sentence of the document was reviewed and discussed. PM and NN worked to ensure a direct translation was created, after which collaboration with MCMH resulted in an agreed upon translation.

**Action:** DG asked that all LC members review the documents, that will be placed in the dropbox, as soon as final translations are completed. *Report located in Dropbox Folder 4.*

### 4.4 ICNGO 2022 - Brainstorming

ICNGO will occur on 14-16 December in Paris. Please begin planning for attendance (book flights, etc.) as it is important for LC members to be in Paris for the event.

Discussion regarding a theme for the event (to be discussed internally and then validated by UNESCO DG). DG suggested three points that the event could focus on:

1. The Post-COVID world. What does Civil Society as such mean and will mean in the future? What does Civil Society is and will be post COVID.
2. The work that the LC is engaged in; especially in regard to inclusion (regional webinars, surveys about implementation, etc.). To promote a reflection on how to make the most of the community and how it can be a driving force.
3. How to strengthen the contribution from NGOs to UNESCO programs. How can UNESCO make more efficient use of the 400+ NGOs. NGOs are the driving force.

LC: Proposed two points be considered for the ICNGO:

(1) Look forward. What happens next, after COVID. Consider: How can we respond to new viruses, new bacteria and problems; how do we develop resilience to these types of threats to our livelihood; what did we learn from COVID and how can we address the next problem. (2) Discussions that ensure that there is enough space for non-state actors to participate in the UNESCO meetings. How do we respond and explain to member states that we are the driving force when space for NGOs has been reduced.

#### **Discussion related to the potential theme of the ICNGO 2022:**

LW: Let's break the barriers. How to involve other stakeholders, connect?

For example: How the LC can participate in the following events: (1) Groundwater conference in December 2022 at UNESCO, and (2) UN Water conference in March 2023 in NYC (the first one in 47 years).

MCHM: The importance of not working in silos, and the importance of gender equality across the sectors to ensure not leaving anyone behind.

NL: Intersectionality, collaborative work, support, and a plan to move forward after all we have learned from the Pandemic.

NN: Important not to replicate past themes; good idea to break silos.

TK: Could we assemble a list of past themes to avoid replication of past themes? (in chat)

PM: Alone fast; Together far. (Shortened from Alone we go fast; together we go far.)

MCHM: Let's break the ice between ourselves (theme offered in chat).

DG: Important outcome of the ICNGO 2022: Content of the conference should allow the NGO's an opportunity to make new contacts and feel that they are really a part of the community of NGO's in partnership with UNESCO.

AG: The role of NGOs in 10 years. How we stay relevant.

**Action:** Continue thinking so at the next meeting we can continue the discussion.

## 5. Updates

### - IEG on the Revision of the 1974 UNESCO Recommendation

TK has participated (as an observer) in several of the webinars (4-6 am in U.S.). She will prepare a written report on the outcome of the meetings at the next LC Meeting.

SC added the following information on the process of the revision: These webinars are the first step in a long process in the revision. The expert group was nominated by the UNESCO DG and NGOs are attending as observers (the LC as well is an observer). The process will continue next year, including an intergovernmental meeting. SC is working with the education sector to try to ensure that all the NGOs will be invited as observers in the meeting next year.

### - CCNGO 2030

DG: Thanked MCHM for her informative summary document which also includes the idea to organize a webinar to explain to NGO's in official partnership with UNESCO. *Report located in Dropbox Folder 5.*

MCHM: The webinar would include information about the CCNGO and also about a new cooperation mechanism in education. This covers the CCNGO coordination group, Education 2030, partnerships, building synergies and connecting together, and to open up the group to more NGOs and serve as the voice of civil society. Refer to summary document in the Dropbox. MCHM recommends including a session on education at the ICNGO. MCHM reminded the LC that the seat on the CCNGO is Ex-Officio

**Action:** MCHM and NL will plan for an information session for NGOs. MCHM requested TK to join to provide information about the Revision of the 1974 Recommendations.

### - Webinar on the Decade of Oceans

SC: A series of webinars will provide NGOs with information on UNESCO programs and initiatives, including ways to be involved or contribute. The documents in the dropbox explain the general format of the first webinar "*Ocean Decade: Catalyzing support*" that will take place on 13 September 2022, 2:00 – 3:15 pm. The webinar will follow the general webinar format: (1) Presentation from the Secretariate; (2) NGOs sharing experiences; and (3) Online Q&A. *Report located in Dropbox Folder 5.*

The LC will be invited to propose a non-specialised NGO to participate. DG pointed out that it should not be someone on the LC to leave space for others.

LW suggested to be involved since she was one of the experts that spoke at the Ocean Conference in Lisbon on maritime water.

### - Follow-Up position paper on Youth

NS shared update about the meeting with the Youth Sector at UNESCO to discuss opportunities and how they can collaborate. UNESCO is preparing a communication platform for young people and preparing information on the Youth Forum. There is a clear will to cooperate and build on the NGO Youth group.

## 6. AOB – Questions

- DG was invited to attend Mondiacult 2022 by the Assistant Director General of Culture. The Unit in charge of Civil Society Partnership has offered to purchase an airline ticket to the event. This sets a precedent that future chairs of the LC will be invited. Hotel and per diem are not provided.

PB: Suggests that the LC cover expenses related to the Hotel.

NN: Seconds the suggestion.

- PB provided an update on the number of NGO's having wired a voluntary contribution: 40 have contributed so far (approx. 8,000 Euros). More are coming after the letter send by DG. PB encouraged all NGOs represented into the LC to contribute and reminded that it is a voluntary contribution.

LW asked for the list of NGO's that have contributed to the LC. NN pointed out that sharing a list would infringe the GDPR (EU law on privacy). DG pointed out that interested LC members can ask PB to check the accounts.

- MCHM provided a follow-up on the first webinar. It was successful in spite of the technology issues. A follow-up webinar in fall 2022 is desirable.

**Action:** MCMH to work with other NGOs involved and provide a more detailed plan including technical needs.

- MCHM stated that NGOs believe that the LC website is not informative and needs update. DG provided a tour of the LC website on the screen.

**Action:** Title of the article about Webinar on STIE will be corrected.

## **7. Next Meeting: TBD**

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

**End of meeting: 5:59 pm CET - Paris**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Teresa Kennedy, LC Executive Secretary, 7/26/2022.