

ENGLISH

NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee
Meeting 7
18 September 2025

Present:

Svetlomira Stoyanova
Sanjiv Layek
Davide Grosso
Isabela Carrozza Joia
Nisrine Ibn Abdeljalil
Olga Legacka
Stanislav Semerdjiev
Cyril Noirtin
Nireen

1. Opening of the Meeting and adopting the Agenda

The agenda was adopted after moving point 5 before point 4, Sabina joining the committee later to give information on point 4.

2. Discussion about upcoming Forum #1 and its Satellite events (proposals)

Cyril mentioned that a meeting with the Education Sector was held to confirm their interest in co-organizing the Forum. The Save the Date for the brainstorming session on 30 September was sent to NGOs in official partnership to gather their interest in participating in the Forum and in the Steering Committee. It was suggested to reach out to NGOs with proven experience in the field of greening education, prior to the session, to encourage their participation.

The visual identity of the Forum is currently being developed, along with the introductory note presenting the Forum, which will be discussed during the brainstorming session. This note will be sent to NGOs prior to the meeting, following its approval by the UNESCO Secretariat. A more detailed concept note will later be prepared by the Steering Committee to define the Forum's agenda.

Interpretation in English, French, and Spanish has been confirmed for the brainstorming session. The Forum, which will be held online, is planned for late November or early December, depending on the availability of the Education Sector, with whom it is being co-organized. It will take place over two (or possibly three) afternoons to allow participation across multiple time zones.

It was noted that communication around the Forum should be prepared in advance, including both pre- and post-event communication. Regarding side events, it was suggested to ensure that all visual materials share a consistent identity linking them to the main Forum. It was also recalled that side events will not be financed by the Liaison Committee, and while interpretation is encouraged to ensure wide participation, it remains optional. Several side events were proposed during the meeting, and it was suggested to create a shared template and upload it to a drive so that NGOs within the Liaison Committee can express their interest in organizing side events and provide details about them. Cyril and Nisrine will then follow up with NGOs to discuss side event proposals, once the main theme of the Forum has been finalized with the Education Sector.

3. Discussion about upcoming Forums in 2026 and tasks related to the Programme of work

It was suggested to start planning the upcoming forums to be organized in 2026, as their preparation requires considerable time, particularly for in-person events, which demand greater attention in terms of organization and logistics. These also involve significant financial contributions to facilitate participation. It was noted that the new management of UNESCO may introduce new opportunities or topics for future forums, which should be taken into account when planning.

Given these challenges, it was recommended to organize only one of the remaining forums in person and to hold the others online, especially since the International Conference of NGOs (ICNGO) is scheduled for December 2026.

To optimize organizational, financial, and logistical efforts, one idea would be for NGOs to identify events already taking place within their networks and consider linking or integrating the forum activities with them.

4. Information about upcoming events until the end of 2025 (who will attend and how)

Sabina joined on time, and the agenda was followed as initially planned.

• 43rd Session of the General Conference (30 October – 13 November, Samarkand, Uzbekistan)

Sabina mentioned that around 30 NGOs are registered, which is a good number considering the location. NGOs will have a 16 m² shared space with National Commissions, where they can meet, network, and organize short activities such as discussions or presentations. The most suitable time slot for these activities is between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. (lunch break, between the plenary and the commissions), keeping in mind that other side events will be taking place simultaneously. Coordination with the National Commissions will be needed to manage the shared use of space and time.

• 14th UNESCO Youth Forum (27–28 October 2025, Samarkand, Uzbekistan)

Isabela will represent the Liaison Committee at the Youth Forum and will also attend the first days of the General Conference.

• **MondiaCult and Civic Agora (Barcelona, 26 September – 1 October)**

Svetlomira and Davide will participate and speak at the Civic Agora on a topic related to creative ecologies. Svetlomira will also deliver an intervention during MondiaCult.

• **Committee on Non-Governmental Partners (NGP) – Executive Board (222nd session, 3 October)**

Svetlomira and several other NGO representatives will attend the session.

• **Reception of 1 October**

Invitations to the reception scheduled for 1 October have been sent.

• **Upcoming In-Person Meetings**

A suggestion was made to hold an in-person meeting with Liaison Committee members who will be in Paris during the NGP Executive Board meeting. Svetlomira noted that it would be valuable for the Committee to meet during the in person Forum to strengthen connections. Stanislav also mentioned an event organized by Cilect in Brussels as another potential opportunity for in-person connection.

Svetlomira encouraged all members to continue reflecting on the organization of the in-person Forum, suggesting that a realistic timeframe would be late winter or early spring.

5. Youth Working Group – Results from Questionnaire sent to NGOs in July and discussion

Svetlomira recalled the Terms of Reference that had been shared with Liaison Committee (LC) members, outlining how the Youth Working Group should operate during the current mandate. Members were invited to propose any necessary updates promptly so that the revised version can be shared with the Youth Working Group before its first meeting with LC representatives.

Following the questionnaire sent to NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO, the Youth Working Group now includes around 90 representatives. An email was sent to inform them that the LC will soon provide further details regarding the group's functioning and to invite them to the reception on 1 October at the EU Delegation to UNESCO.

It was suggested to invite the Youth Working Group to participate in the upcoming brainstorming session and to include one of its representatives in the Steering Committee for the preparation of the upcoming Forum on the Greening Education Partnership.

Isabela proposed to work with Jovana from IAESTE as focal points between the LC and the Youth Working Group.

6. Requests from NGOs for Collaboration and/or Aegis

This point will be discussed at a future meeting.

7. Other Matters

- Additional Topics Raised by Liaison Committee Members: Several questions and points were discussed during the meeting.
- Scheduling of Next Meeting: The date for the next meeting will be determined at a later time.