

Minutes of Decisions of NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee #4, 22 May 2019

Present

Marie-Claude MACHON-Honoré , President
Philippe BEAUSSANT, Vice President
Richard APEH, Secretary
Marie-Christine GRIES, Treasurer
Fatima LAHNAIT, Member
Diego GRADIS, Member

Present on Skype

Cyril NOIRTIN, Member
Abdel Basset BEN HASSEN, Member

Observers

Sabina COLOMBO, UNESCO Secretariat
Gloria ELIAZOR, (2 weeks Intern at the LC office)

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Agenda was unanimously adopted

2. Approval of the minutes of meeting of 15 March 2019

Include Cyril as Communication focal point and Richard and Andrew as Climate change focal point.

3. Report of Bureau meetings since LC meeting and meeting with DG

The meetings (5) of the Bureau focused mainly on the Preparation of forum, organization of work of the committee among other things.

4. Meeting with DG

The DG Interested in the work of the committee and the thematic working groups
On climate change, encourages to pay attention to the aspect of Biodiversity as this is a core interest for UNESCO.

The NGO reflection should also focus on the future of education and open science
She shares the concern that 4 forums in a mandate of 2 years is a lot as it requires lots of work in preparation.

The DG encouraged the committee to work in close collaboration with the UNESCO Sectors as well as the field offices

The DG encouraged the NGOs' proposal of contribution to the International Day of Education

5. Status of Forums preparation

Forum #11 on Inequalities

Taking into the time needed for adequate preparations (developing the program, identifying and inviting interveners), the date of the 11thth forum of NGOs on the theme of "Challenging Inequalities" is postponed to September 23 – 24.

Venue : Paris UNESCO HQ

Preparation: A meeting with UNESCO sectors was scheduled for 23 May 2019 at 11h room 6082 UNESCO Hq, and will be attended by the NGO focal point of all the sectors.

Funding: As customary, the LC usually allocate € 2500 for each forum, the actual amount

Funding: AS customary, the LC usually allocate € 3500 for each forum, the actual amount spent most times varies but the amount estimated is insufficient. When forum is organized in Paris, UNESCO secretariat usually bears the cost of logistics (Venue, interpretation, security etc).

Coordinators, schedule of preparation: The co-chairs should work out a schedule of preparation to make it easier for NGOs to participate in the organization of the forum

Preparation groups: NGOs in the region should be involved in the preparation process. Regional Focal Points are also encouraged to mobilize in their regions.

Other Forums

Forum on Intangible and Tangible Cultural Heritage

We should consider:

Broadening the scope to focus on ICH/ITCH generally speaking

Organizing the forum in the context of the celebration of 150 birthday of Ghandi (India could be the venue)

Forum on Global Citizenship

Tentative date May/June 2020

It has been decided that the forum on Global Citizenship should be held separately from the International Peace Day.

Forum on Science, technology and innovation, and Entrepreneurship in support of SDGs

May be hosted in Africa Discussion is open to other venues

Diego Gradis will be in touch with Daves for feedback on the possibilities.

Follow-up to the invitation letter of province of GIPUZCOA Pais Vasco, Spain proposing to organize an Event with a choir and host a forum on peace in 2020.

6. Collective work/ working groups: progress report

Strengthening the partnership between NGOs and UNESCO

General discussion on the general working of the partnership especially forum, funding etc in context of the Article of the directives related to organization of forum

A proposal might be submitted to ICNGO for consideration to reduce the number of forums organized by the committee from 4 to 2 in biannual (one at the end of the first year and second in the middle of the 2nd year)

Guidelines for the welcoming of new NGOs and helping them understand the working of UNESCO. The group is finalizing its first report on Forums, with a "guide" which will be presented to the LC for possible adoption and then to be discussed with the Secretariat before going to the ICNGO

16 NGOs attended the meeting.

Education / CCNGO

Meeting was organized via skype with discussion centered on:

- Role of families in education
- Importance of competences for new jobs/skills for life
- Education for an inclusive and sustainable future

Climate change Campaign

Next meeting to be held on 11th June ROOM VI Fontenoy

The focal point should ensure and coordinate the consultation with NGOs on the subject of biodiversity

7. Communication: progress report

Website

Once the work on the blog is completed, Cyril will start work on the revamping of the website
Timeline: July – August 2019

Blog

Blog already up and running and can be accessed on blog.ngo-unesco.net
Some articles have already been posted

There is place for comment following each article.

A guideline for publishing of articles will be sent from the LC to all NGOs

All articles must be signed by the sending organization

A disclaimer will be drafted by Diego and added to the blog

Each member of the committee should also work on monitoring the comments that are posted on the blog

Online platform (Follow-up to Tunis forum)

A list of questions have been developed for the platform on Migration forum follow up

Suggestion is made of a platform to be used for all other forums (Marie-Christine and Cyril will reflect on the implication of this and report back to LC).

8. Finances

Current situation (balance sheet and income statement):48 000€ (two accounts) and 857 USD

2019 NGOs Financial contributions (status): collected at the end of the month :4 200€
About 20 NGOs who have responded to call for voluntary contribution

UNESCO contribution (request) : 150€ basic. About 80 NGOs contribute regularly per year

2019-2020 Budget status and adjustments:

Provisional estimate for a platform:3 000€

Provisional expense for Forum on inequalities in Paris: 10 000€

9. Miscellaneous

Report on Youth

Richard and the President to speak with UNESCO Youth Desk regarding the youth forum and LC visibility

The Youth Forum this year will be held during the general conference , proposal of a youth by the liaison committee for the youth forum.

Internship/ Volunteers (Status report) Gloria who is currently on an internship with the committee for two weeks.

There is a second application for internship in September – November 2019

The next liaison committee meeting will be on the week of (8-12) July 2019.