

Minutes of Meeting #9 of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee – 5 June 2020

NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee

1. Marie-Claude Machon Honoré - Chairperson
2. Philippe Beaussant - Vice Chairperson
3. Richard Apeh - Executive Secretary
4. Marie-Christine Gries - Treasurer
5. Diego Gradis – Member
6. Cyril Noirtin – Member
7. Abdelbasset Ben Hassen – Member
8. Fatima Lahnait – Member

Observers

- Sabina Colombo - UNESCO Secretariat
Armin Ibrasimovic – UNESCO Secretariat

1. Approval of the agenda

Finance is added as an agenda item after Communication. Approved

2. Approval of the minutes of meeting #8

Approved

3. Forums & international days

• **Global citizenship**

A new version of the preliminary concept note, in line with the initial recommendations and considering the sanitary crisis, was submitted to the working group. The updated version was sent to the Chairperson of the Liaison Committee (LC).

Given the sanitary crisis, no venue nor date has been identified so far, the current situation making it difficult to schedule a forum even for the last quarter of the year 2020. 2 to 4, depending on costs, webinars dedicated to the subject of Global Citizenship will be organized to keep the NGOs involved and to carry on the reflection. The Secretariat will provide technical support.

The president of the LC will send an official email to the NGOs to update them on the Forum's situation.

- **Science, technology, innovation and entrepreneurship in support of SDGs**

The organization of the forum is scheduled for the next biennium, after consultation with the 2020 ICNGO.

- **International Day of Peace and of the Girl Child**

The activities currently under discussion will be postponed to 2021.

4. Working groups

- **Preparation of the ICNGO (December 2020)**

Dates for the ICNGO will be 16 – 18 December 2020 with option of an NGO space. The LC and Secretariat will assess traveling options to Paris for the conference, as well organizing possible attendance by virtual modes, with the issue of the legality of the vote and that of costs.

The theme of the conference will be discussed during a special session on June 15 together with the Secretariat, and then submitted for final validation to the Secretariat.

- **CCNGO/Education2030**

The CCNGO working group under the aegis of the Liaison Committee regularly and collectively contributes to the input to CCNGO Coordination Group meetings for the Steering Committee SDG4 as an element of civil society . Latest CCNGO contribution of a 4 pager was on the futures of education.

- **High-level Committee on the Future of Education**

There are a number of online consultations on the webpage on the Future of Education. There is also an online consultation with a call to draft a 1000-words article for all those interested in education and a questionnaire too, opened to all but with a deadline of end of July 2020. There will also be a second consultation on the zero draft of the publication.

The Secretariat will initiate with the Education sector a communication to all the NGO partners to invite them to participate in the consultative processes.

- **Strengthening NGO-UNESCO partnership**

The Working Group will finalize the document on Relations between NGOs and Member States. The Liaison Committee will be kept informed of other topics the Working Group may decide to work on, strengthening the relations between NGOs and UNESCO, as mandated by the 2018 ICNGO.

Liaison Committee's working procedures; finances

The revised version of the document to which no member of the Committee made amendments following the last meeting (#8) will now include the wording on finances which appeared in the first draft.

Code of conduct

An option is to have some of the elements from the current draft Code of conduct to be added to the existing document sent to all NGOs calling for candidates to the Liaison Committee prior to the ICNGO.

- **Climate campaign /youth**

NGOs will be consulted to continue to coordinate the work on the climate campaign.

Youth; no action planned after the resignation from the Liaison Committee of the member in charge of youth

5. Communication

A communication will be sent out to NGOs informing them of the communication tools and channels at their disposal including the blog. The Liaison Committee will catch up on the communication strategy proposal and especially about the website.

6. Finances

There is an urgent need to send a call for voluntary contribution to NGOs. Some information on passed and planned activities will be annexed. The treasurer will propose a draft communication to the President.

A decision should be made by Canon on the review of passed invoices for the copy-machine which seem to be wrong.

7. Miscellaneous

- **Internship**

No need for an intern in the present circumstances is identified.

- **Endorsement of events by the Liaison Committee**

It is suggested that a set of criteria should be established to study requests of endorsement of events.

8. Other Business

Information from the CMA Global Lifelong Learning Committee is passed on and also on two online forums, including one on global citizenship.

Information on a collective action initiated by a group of NGOs on COVID 19, is passed on as a good practice to respond through a set of actions to the pandemic situation.

The Secretariat informs that although the number of responses to its consultations of NGOs on the C4 and C5 received more answers than the previous one (close to 100 answers) it was hoping to get more reactions than it did.

8. Next Liaison Committee meeting

Virtual meeting to be scheduled after the summer, early September.