

**SECOND MEETING OF THE LIAISON COMMITTEE (LC)
19 March 2013 (10am – 5pm)**

Present for the Liaison Committee: Patrick Gallaud (President of the ICNGO), World Association of Girl Guides and Scout Scouts(WAGGGS) (Martine Lévy), International Council for Adult Education/ICAE (Nelida Cespedes), International Council for Education on Teaching/ICET) (James O’Meara), the International Council of Museums/ICOM (Lydie Spaczynski), Dhaka Ahsania Mission (Kazi Rafiqul Alam and Wolfgang Vollman), International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity /IFCD (Diego Gradis), Skozopol Foundation (Ivelina Kyutchoukova), Forum of Africa Women Educators/FAWE (Aicha Bah Diallo), International Office of Catholic Education/IOCE (Thierry Brault), Rotary International (Cyril Noirtin).

Present for UNESCO: Genc Seiti (Director of the Division for National Commissions and Civil Society), Sabina Columbo (Chief of Section, NGOs), Maria del Mar Marcos (NGO Section)

M. Eric Falt, Assistant Director-General for External Relations and Public Information, was really sorry not to be able to attend the meeting

The meeting was opened at 10.00

- Patrick Gallaud welcomed His Excellency M. Mohamed Sameh Amr, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of the Arab Republic of Egypt near UNESCO, who presides the Committee on NGOs of the Executive Board, the Representatives of UNESCO who wished to participate in this second meeting of the Liaison Committee, saluted and thanked for their presence the members of the Liaison Committee who were all present.
- He thanked Mr. Falt for offering the meeting room and simultaneous interpretation.
- Each member introduced him or herself.
- Patrick Gallaud stressed the importance of this meeting during which decisions would be taken concerning the organization of four Forums and a number of celebrations of International Days over the next two years during the mandate of this Committee.
- His Excellency Amr expressed his conviction that the NGOs were particularly important partners contributing to UNESCO’s success in implementing its programs thanks to their experience on the ground.

- Patrick Gallaud recalled that the NGOs represented in Paris had met twice having fully accepted the idea of this new form of working instigated by the Directives voted by the General Conference in 2011: preparation of Forums and International Days.
- The most important point in Mr. Seiti's intervention concerned the draft plan of action (the first) coming out of the Tripartite Working Group meeting (Member States, National Commissions and Secretariat), which took place on 21 and 22 February 2013 and in which more than 100 countries participated. He read the following: "The Tripartite Working Group also recommends that the National Commissions actively cooperate with civil society and the NGOs based in their respective countries including the national branches established legally within international NGOs in official relations with UNESCO in conformity with the new '*Directives concerning the partnership of UNESCO with non-governmental organizations*'. They should contribute to promoting UNESCO partnership with the NGOs by identifying and helping new nongovernmental partners interested in the prospects of joining the UNESCO-NGO network." This is a very important recommendation.
- The report of the International Conference of NGOs of 12 December 2012 has been finalized and will be posted on the renovated internet site when it will be set up mid-May 2013.
- During the next meeting of the Executive Board Committee on Nongovernmental Partnerships, which will take place on 11 April 2013, the President of the Liaison Committee will intervene in plenary session on behalf of the NGOs.
- The Headquarters Committee continues to consider the situation of NGOs with offices at UNESCO: whether to continue their rent-free status or not, in this period of financial difficulty for UNESCO.
- The next meeting of the Liaison Committee will take place on 11 June if necessary, otherwise on 26 September during the first Forum (27 September). A point will be added to the agenda for the next meeting of the Liaison Committee concerning a modification of the new Directives with respect to the election of the president.

**LIST OF DECISIONS TAKEN
DURING THE LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING OF 19 MARCH 2013**

Decision 1 concerning the Forums which will be organized by the Liaison Committee:

1. The first Forum will take place at UNESCO, Paris, the 26 and/or 27 September 2013 Its theme will be *Quality education for world citizenship*. The lead organizer will be Diego Gradis assisted by James for the preparation.

2. The second Forum will take place in Vietnam in November 2013. Its theme will be *The role of women in the struggle against poverty*. The lead organizer in the Asia/Pacific region will be Kazi Rafiqul Alam of Bangladesh.
3. The third Forum will take place in an African country (possibly Côte d'Ivoire) in May or June 2014. Its theme will be *Water, women and youth* or *Water in the MDGs post 2015*. The lead organizer will be Martine Lévy. She will be assisted by a person from the host country
4. The fourth Forum will take place in Bulgaria in September 2014. Its theme will be *The role of youth in the protection of immaterial cultural heritage*. The lead organizer will be Ivelina Kyutchoukova, assisted by the Sozopol Foundation.

Decision 2 concerning the preparation of the Forums

Patrick Gallaud and Cyril Noirtin will draft a road map for the preparatory groups and responsibilities/accounting by the organizing countries which will include the following points among others: length (2/3 days), number of participants (about 100), simultaneous interpretation in 2 languages. Deadline: End of April.

Decision 3 concerning International Days

The Liaison Committee retained the following proposals (with the provision that certain established criteria be met: calendar, finance, etc.)

Proposal presented by OMEP, IAU, ISAPA, IMA, EUROALFA, ATD Third World International, ICCB

Theme: *Literacy, essential stage on the way to Education for All throughout life*

Date: 8 September 2014 (International Literacy Day)

Proposal presented by a group of 22 NGOs in either association or consultative status with UNESCO

Theme: *Marionettes for Peace*

Date: 21 September 2013 (International Peace Day)

Proposal presented by ISOCARP, IAC, IAW, ICBC, ICW, IFHE, OMAEC, SOROPTIMIST in the framework of the CIONG Resolution "Social inclusion and eradication of poverty"

Theme: *Highlighting migrant experience: Mobility, reception, dreams, hopes, difficulties, tenacity or discouragement; consider the person and not the migratory flow*

Date: 18 December 2014 (International Migrant Day)

Proposal by ATD Fourth World

Theme: *Show that a sustainable world of solidarity cannot exist without the intelligence and experience of the very poor*

Date: 17 October 2013 (International Day for the elimination of poverty)

Proposal by the group of NGOs "Article 31"

Theme: *"Article 31: Acting Human Rights"*

Date: 10 December 2013 (International Human Rights Day)

Decision 4 concerning the Internet site

The Liaison Committee accepted the proposals made by Cyril Noirtin for an internet site that is easier to access within a reasonable budget and which should be up and running by the middle of May 2013

Decision 5 concerning finances

A small group composed of Lydie, Cyril and Patrick Gallaud will meet to

1. Establish a provisional budget for 2013
2. Draft an explanatory letter to be sent to NGOs to ask that they pay the contribution for 2013 which remains at 125 euros.

Martine Lévy
Secretary of the session
29 March 2013