



THIRD MEETING OF THE NGO-UNESCO LIAISON COMMITTEE

24 September 2013 (10.00-17.00)

(Original: French)

Liaison Committee: Patrick Gallaud (President of the ICNGO), World Association of Girl Guides and Scouts/AMGE (Martine Lévy), International Council for Adult Education/ICAE), Ilich Ortiz representing Nelida Cespedes, excused), International Council of Museums/ICOM (Dora Peter), Dhaka Ahsania Mission (Kazi Rafiqul Alam), International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity (IFCD) (Diego Gradis), Sozopol Foundation/SF (Petya Zelenski), Federation of African Women Educators (Hendrima Doroba), International Office of Catholic Education/IOCE (Thierry Brault and Philippe Richard, Rotary International (Cyril Noirtin and Serge Gouteyron).

Excused: International Council for Education on Teaching (James O'Meara); Forum of African Women Educators (Aicha Bah Diallo)

UNESCO: Eric Falt (Assistant Director General for External Relations and Public Information), Genc Seiti (Director of the Division for National Commissions and Civil Society), Sabina Colombo (Chief of NGO Section), Maria del Mar Marcos (NGO Section).

The meeting was opened at 10.00

Patrick Gallaud, President of the Liaison Committee:

Greeted the UNESCO representatives who participated at this third meeting of the Liaison Committee;

Welcomed and thanked the Liaison Committee members and their substitutes;
Presented Ms. Dora Peter who is replacing Lydie Spaczynski for the International Council of Museums/ICOM, and

Thanked the UNESCO/ERI services which had provided the room and simultaneous interpretation.

Adoption of the agenda

Request to move item 6 higher up on the Agenda: *“Information on the relations between the Liaison Committee and the Collective Consultation of NGOs for Education for All”*

A discussion takes place regarding the formulation of item 9 of the agenda: *“Evaluation of implementation of the 2011 Directives, notably the composition of the Liaison Committee (proposal by Diego Gradis)”*

The following formulation is adopted: *“Evaluation of implementation of the 2011 Directives”*.

The Agenda thus amended is adopted.

Adoption of the report of the meeting of 19 March 2013.

The report is adopted.

Intervention by Mr. Falt (ADG/ERI)

Mr. Falt is very pleased with the cooperation between the NGO partners and UNESCO. He recalls that the Secretariat is doing its utmost to support the Liaison Committee.

The 1st Forum on Education of 23 September organized in cooperation with UNESCO was a great success. 260 participants including 20 Permanent Delegations, 4 Ambassadors and 102 NGOs were present. An article on the Forum was published in a Singapore newspaper.

The major challenge for future forums will be their organization outside UNESCO Headquarters.

All the NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO will be invited to the General Conference. Their participation will be facilitated and their visibility will be increased thanks to a space reserved for them at the Conference site.

An orientation seminar on the General Conference will be held on 25 September for NGO partners.

During the General conference, the Director-General will report on the contribution of NGOs since relations between UNESCO and NGOs are in a transitional phase.

To respond to the request by Member States a survey of NGO partners was sent out. 150 replies out of 397 were received (NGOs and foundations). Since the database is incomplete, it must be updated. It should be operational at the beginning of 2014.

The Headquarters Committee met in July 2013. It requests that all NGOs pay rent in either the short or medium-term. All relevant NGOs have received a letter to this effect.

Some questions were addressed to Mr. Falt:

How can the partnership be developed in the field?

What about video conferencing for Liaison Committee meetings?

Is it possible that Spanish be taken into consideration?

Further information from Mr. Falt:

The President will address the plenary session on behalf of the NGOs

Closer ties with NGOs in the LAC region should be established, and possibly a forum could be held there.

Information on the relations between the Liaison Committee and the Collective Consultation of NGOs on Education for All

Thierry Brault and Philippe Richard presented the situation since Dakar 2000 through the post-2015 prospects as they represent the Liaison Committee within the Collective Consultation and the Steering Group.

Thierry Brault pointed out to the Committee that Patrick Gallaud had invited the IOCE to take up the seat attributed to the Liaison Committee with the Coordinating Group of the Collective Consultation of NGOs for Education for All (CCNGO/EFA). Philippe Richard, as permanent representative of the IOCE to UNESCO and his official substitute, Thierry Brault, will occupy this seat.

Philippe Richard spoke of a strong commitment by the Liaison Committee to be associated with the EFA Goals and particularly with the post-2015 process. It is important to make NGO action visible to Member States, to UNESCO and to all civil society actors. The Liaison Committee has just organized a Forum on Education on 23 September, which led to the adoption of a Strategic Plan and a list of collective priorities for the post-2015 Agenda.

It is thus necessary to develop a platform of NGOs on education, which can provide expertise in partnership with the CCNGO/EFA, as the principal UNESCO mechanism to facilitate this dialogue and the partnerships with the NGOs. The Liaison Committee is now present in the coordinating group, which includes 9 other elected members of NGOs and can thus contribute to the implementation of the EFA goals.

Periodic Liaison Committee Report (March-September 2013)

Follow-up to the Forums and International Days

The members of the Liaison Committee are divided into preparatory groups for the forums and International Days in order to ensure coherence with the Committee Strategy.

Relations with UNESCO

Interventions by the President to the NGP Committee of the UNESCO Executive Board (April and September 2013) and to the Plenary of the Executive Board (April 2013). The relations take place on a daily basis between the Liaison Committee and the NGO Section.

Forum on a Culture of Peace in Africa (Angola, 2013)

The President participated in this event at the request of the Africa Department (Accommodation and ticket were covered by the Department). An action plan was adopted and sent to all the NGOs.

Offices

Following the Headquarters Committee decisions, 4 NGOs housed in the NGO House should pay rent at the end of 2013. After an examination of the financial situation of 8 other NGOs, these should pay rent. The Liaison Committee organized information and discussions sessions for these NGOs to assist them throughout this process.

Internet

The new site and Facebook page have been well received and provide a dynamic image of the NGO community. The first numbers of visits are very good.

Finances

Cyril Noirtin has accepted to fulfill the role of temporary Treasurer following Lydie Spaczynski's departure from ICOM.

Results of the Forum of 23 September 2013

- Large participation (see Mr. Falt's intervention above)
- The support by both ERI and the Education Sector were major factors in this success.
- The documentation given to participants was considered very informative.
- The interventions selected by the Preparatory Group were of a high quality.
- This first Forum illustrated a new dynamic and showed a new image of the NGOs.
- A Strategic Plan 2014-2015 and post-2015 Priorities were adopted. These are not statutory texts but rather general orientation for the NGOs. They will be communicated to the Director-General.

Comments:

The effectiveness of the Preparatory Group was underlined (conceptual note, relations with UNESCO preparation of documents to be adopted).

Need to ensure the follow-up in particular with the CCNGOs on Education for All.

Send out the two texts adopted by email to all the NGOs and then post them online.

Preparation of the future 3 Forums and International Days

Forums

Forum 2: Women and the struggle against poverty (Asia, 1st semester 2014)

- Three possibilities include Vietnam, China (with the Chinese National Commission), or India (through James O'Meara).
- The preparatory working group will be established after the General Conference (end of November 2013).

Forum 3: Women and Youth: Access to Safe Drinking Water (Africa, July 2014)

- Place: Côte d'Ivoire has been invited. The preparations at Headquarters and in Côte d'Ivoire are well advanced. The decision of the government is awaited.
- Other possibilities are still being envisaged: Ghana, Senegal, etc.
- Association of the Science Sector in preparatory work as well as Rotary International, which is interested in the theme of water.

Forum 4: Youth and Heritage (Europe: Bulgaria, 2nd semester 2014)

- The Working Group headed by Sozopol Foundation and Diego Gradis will be put in place at the end of November 2013.
- A working meeting will be held between the Foundation and several Liaison Committee members during the General Conference.

International Days:

International Day for the Elimination of Poverty

- 17 October 2013, Room IX, 15.30
- Confirmed cooperation with the Social Sciences Sector
- The idea of setting out a commemorative monument or plaque will be announced publicly.

Article 31: Actor for Human Rights”, International Human Rights Day

- 2 December 2013, Room I, 11.30 to 18.00; 1000 young people are expected
- Opening by a well-known individual
- Mr. Andrea Agnelli, President of the Juventus of Turin and a player will be present and other young people
- 10 project leaders were selected by the international jury on 27 September.

Marionettes for Peace, International Day for a Culture of Peace

- The group meets regularly and will present a detailed programme that will be submitted to the Liaison Committee in relation to UNESCO.
- Thierry Brault will represent the Liaison Committee in the group.

Literacy and Education for All, International Literacy Day

- The group is preparing a colloquium for International Literacy Day 2014
- It would like to submit a preliminary proposal to UNESCO (ERI and relevant sectors)

International Migrant Day 2014: 2nd semester 2014

- The group has invited SHS (a Programme Specialist working on migrants) then Sabina Colombo (Chief of NGO Section at ERI)
- Nelida Cespedes, member of the LC, has taken an active role as link with the entire LAC region.

UNESCO General Conference 2013: 5-20 November

- An orientation seminar for NGOs took place on 25 September
- A space at the Conference site will be co-managed by the NGO Section and the Liaison Committee. A schedule will be shared to encourage exchange with the National Commission representatives, invitation to Delegates from the Youth Forum, presentation of the collective activities of the NGOs...
- The Liaison Committee has already submitted its request to speak in the General Policy Debate.

Evaluation of the implementation of the 2011 Directives

A group, composed of Dora, Cyril and Diego, was asked to think about the positive and negative aspects and then to report to the Liaison Committee before the end of 2013.

Internet site and Facebook page

- The site and Facebook page are complementary. The site provides information and Facebook addresses ongoing news. The site is in French and English.
- Registration on-line for the Forum of September worked very well and facilitated greater publicity.
- The Facebook page has been very successful, particularly with youth NGOs.
- Cyril is responsible for updating and would like the texts to be sent to the President for validation prior to communication to him.

Nomination of Treasurer and financial questions

- The call for contributions of May 2013 needs to be renewed since it only brought 65 payments.
- UNESCO has provided the first part of its 2013 contract (4000 euros) and contributed to the Education Forum (simultaneous interpretation and the room).
- The 2 December Day is completely externally sponsored.
- Cyril Noirtin was named Treasurer following Lydie Spaczynski's departure from ICOM.

Nomination of a new ICOM representative

The Committee welcomed Dora Peter, representative of ICOM to the Liaison Committee until the end of 2014.

An informal meeting of the Liaison Committee will be held during the General Conference.