

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF NGOs**  
*UNESCO Headquarters, 15-17 December 2014*  
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<b>Resolution</b>
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As a result of its proceedings, the International Conference of NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO, meeting in Paris from 15 to 17 December 2014 under the theme "Re-enchanting the world for the post-2015 development agenda", adopted the following resolution:

**Recognizing** that UNESCO seeks to achieve its overarching objectives of a Culture of Peace and Sustainable Development in its fields of competence (education, the sciences, culture, communication and information), around its global priorities (Africa and Gender Equality) and for identified priority groups (Youth, Least developed Countries as well as Small Island Developing States);

**Noting** that the UNESCO partnership with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) representing civil society constitutes a valuable cooperation for achieving these objectives among organizations concerned with matters within the competence of the Organisation;

**Considering** that NGOs play a key role in complementing the action of governmental and intergovernmental bodies such as UNESCO because they operate on the ground, are flexible and independent of government politics, able to create awareness and to mobilize;

**Recalling** the Directives concerning UNESCO's partnership with NGOs adopted by the 36<sup>th</sup> session of the General Conference of UNESCO;

**Bearing in mind** the UNESCO medium-term strategy (2014-2021);

**Acknowledging** the December 2014 Synthesis Report of the UN Secretary-General on the Post-2015 Agenda "The Road to Dignity by 2030";

**Supporting** the need for measurable, realistic and inspirational targets, we make the following recommendations:

**1. To the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee**

- Supportive of the strategic approach adopted by previous Liaison Committees, we encourage the incoming Committee to develop a Plan of Action that clearly reflects consideration of the goals of the post-2015 development agenda ;
- Recognising the important opportunity that NGO fora in different regions of the world offer to involve local, national and regional NGOs in the collective work of NGOs, we invite the Liaison Committee to continue the organization of these fora on issues related to the post-2015 development agenda;
- Convinced that the geographical diversity of the Liaison Committee is a major asset for the collective collaboration of NGOs, we invite the Committee to maximize the joint potential of its members when implementing the Plan of Action and defining its working methods;

- Convinced that a wide geographical representation of NGOs is an asset for the overall collective collaboration and can enhance impact substantially on the ground, we invite the Liaison Committee to reach out to NGOs across regions and to involve them fully in the preparation of NGO fora and other activities;
- Acknowledging the value of the advice and suggestions gathered during the brainstorming session of the International Conference (*see Annex*), we invite the Liaison Committee to take them into account when elaborating its Plan of Action;
- In light of the intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda which take place at the UN until September 2015, we invite the Liaison Committee to steer NGO collaboration across fields of competence in order to advocate an agenda that addresses the broad range of concerns that NGOs are working on today.

## **2. To the NGO Community**

- Acknowledging the limited time remaining for influencing the preparation of the post-2015 development agenda, we urge the NGO community to thoroughly examine the key documents of this process and to express their views for the final agenda to allow all stakeholders to build "the future we want";
- Encouraged by the general consensus on the need for cross-cutting collaborations, we challenge NGOs in all regions to form strategic alliances with partners from other areas of competence to contribute to the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda via jointly prepared studies, projects and events, including as appropriate the celebration of international days;
- Having taken note of the reports on the three NGO fora held during the past biennium, we invite NGOs to work individually and collectively to follow up on the outcomes of these fora and of the thematic debates held at the International Conference, notably 'Enhancing cultural heritage and fostering cultural expression diversity', 'The commitment of NGOs for the promotion of quality education in the post-2015 Agenda', 'Water and sustainable development: from awareness raising to decision making', 'Climate change: acting now';
- We encourage NGOs to consider strategies for the inclusion of marginalized groups of people as both actors and beneficiaries of their work.

## **3. To UNESCO Member States and the Director-General**

- Committed to maximizing impact of efforts when working towards the targets of the post-2015 development agenda, and concerned over the risk of fragmentation of these efforts, we call upon UNESCO Member States and the Director-General to
  - a. work with the Liaison Committee to continue to enhance the procedures for consultation and cooperation between UNESCO and NGO's in official partnership with a view to further improving these processes;

- b. promote cross-cutting initiatives by reinforcing partnerships with NGOs across all regions and where feasible, providing support for cross-cutting collaborations.
- Encouraged by the positive experience of the NGO fora, we strongly recommend that Member States and the UNESCO Secretariat continue to support these and explore ways of taking into account the conclusions and recommendations of these fora.