

2016 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF NGOS

UNESCO Headquarters, 12-14 December 2016

Conclusions

At the outcome of its proceedings, the 2016 International Conference of NGOs, which met in Paris from 12 to 14 December 2016 under the theme “The challenge of the digital revolution for NGOs”:

- *Recalls* the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which, in its 17th Goal (SDG 17), calls for a reinforced partnership with civil society, *affirms* its commitment to include future activities in the context of the 2030 Agenda, its 17 Goals and 169 targets, and *calls* on NGOs to strengthen their role in the implementation of the Agenda.
- *Takes note with great satisfaction* of the presence of the Chairperson of the Committee of Non-Governmental Partners of the Executive Board and of several representatives of Member States at the 2016 International Conference of NGOs.
- *Reiterates* the importance of the promotion of dialogue between Member States and NGOs for the development of a fruitful cooperation and *welcomes* the new impulse from Member States of the Executive Board in this regard. *Invites* the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee to be a bearer of this message and to contribute to the creation of new opportunities of interaction and dialogue in order to further strengthen the cooperation with Member States.
- *Reaffirms* the importance of the forums organized in consultation with UNESCO in different parts of the world, and *invites* the Liaison Committee to pursue its efforts in this respect in order to take into account the cultural and geographical diversity of civil society. Also *invites* the Liaison Committee to further involve new organizations from around the world in the realization of these forums using all means available including digital ones, such as online platforms, in order to strengthen the forums’ impact on the field.
- *Recalls* the central role of NGOs in giving an operational follow-up to the Forums and *invites* UNESCO to accompany them in this process. Also *invites* the Liaison Committee to keep itself informed of the follow-up given by NGOs to the Forums.
- *Invites* the Liaison Committee, in the elaboration of its roadmap for 2017-2018, to take into account the reflection already initiated by NGOs on the themes “climate change” and “education and migrants”, as well as new proposals formulated during the Conference such as “sciences and education”, “inclusive urbanism”, “cultural heritage” and “culture of peace”.
- *Reiterates* the importance of the International Days’ celebration and *invites* the Liaison Committee to examine the proposals expressed during the Conference, such as the International Day for Peace and the International Day of the Girl Child, as well as any other proposal which would be submitted by NGOs. In this regard, *invites* the NGOs to find the needed resources for their realization.
- *Requests* the Liaison Committee to improve its communication, in particular by regular reporting, and to reflect upon new modalities of the NGOs’ collective cooperation by using new information and communication technologies (ICTs), including online forums.
- *Also requests* the Liaison Committee to foster the visibility of the actions and good practices of the network of NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO, according to available resources.

- Acknowledging the importance of youth within NGOs, *invites* the Liaison Committee to foster a stronger participation of young people and youth organizations in the events it organizes, and to further cooperate with the UNESCO Youth programme in the framework of the organization of the next Youth Forum which will be held at UNESCO Headquarters alongside the 39th session of the General Conference of UNESCO in 2017. Also *invites* NGOs to facilitate the establishment of an international network of youth for peace.