



ONG comité **UNESCO**
de liaison
c o n f é r e n c e i n t e r n a t i o n a l e

1, rue Miollis, 75732 Paris Cedex 15. Tél : +33 1 45 68 36 68
www.ong-unesco.org Facebook : Ngo-Unesco Liaison Committee

COMITEE ON THE NON GOVERNEMENTAL PARTNERS
(6 October 2016)
INTERVENTION OF MARTINE LEVY
President of the International Conference of NGOs

Mr. President of the Executive Council,
Mr. President of the Committee on Nongovernmental Partners,
Mr. Deputy Director General for External Relations and Public Information,
Excellencies, friends of NGOs, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Liaison Committee I have the honor to chair is the second to work within the guidelines adopted by the 2011 General Conference that transformed both the work of the Committee, by asking to organize forums, and its composition by asking to extend its geographical representation in the world.

The sixth Forum will take place very soon. This means that there have been five since 2011:

- ⊕ Forum on Education at the headquarters in Paris in 2013,
- ⊕ Forum on access to drinkable water in Côte d'Ivoire in 2014,
- ⊕ the forum on heritage and young people in Bulgaria in 2014
- ⊕ Forum on the role of women in the fight against poverty at the headquarters in Paris in 2015,
- ⊕ Forum on Rapprochement of Cultures in China in 2015.

As a forum must not be just a onetime event, NGOs make the follow up of many of these forums

So what is this sixth forum? it will take place in Queretaro, Mexico, on 3 and 4 November 2016.

The theme quite answers the questions posed by these extremely troubled world period: "From promoting to building Peace with NGOs."

Each session refers to one of the recurring themes of UNESCO; they were selected following an online consultation of the 380 NGO partners of UNESCO;

- "Education: a path for lasting peace";
- "The Engagement of youth for Peace";

■ "Culture and sport: tools for Peace".

Interventions by experts and project presentations by NGOs will take place.

The inscriptions, also online, show a strong participation of NGOs in Latin America or of Latin America national branches of international NGOs.

This sounds simple, but be aware, Excellencies, of the complexity of the organization of forums outside the Headquarters.

For a State to agree to finance such a forum, while NGOs and their work is little known or not, we need specific approaches. Personal relationships of members of the Liaison Committee with officials can help, as it was the case for the Ivory Coast, Bulgaria, China, Mexico.

Mr Falt, Assistant Director-General for External Relations and Public Information, wrote in his monthly letter of 27 September 2016, that he hopes to continue to strengthen the dialogue between Member States, NGOs and the Secretariat.

The dialogue between NGOs and the Secretariat works well; work is well tested and, if it is not simple, the desired result is always achieved.

Unfortunately the dialogue between NGOs and Member States has not yet reached that level. But we must always hope.

In document 198 EX / Decisions of December 3, 2015 it is written that the Committee on Non-governmental partners would be made for the biennium 2016-2017, 24 members; there is no need to mention them; they are in this room. Thank you, Excellencies. This means 4 countries by electoral group.

Mr. President, Excellencies, how to initiate dialogue and gradually strengthen it?

The document EX 23, page 3, shows that the number of NGOs based in the countries of these regions is extremely low except in Europe and North America (in Eastern Europe there are only ten).

The Secretariat wishes to expand its partnerships with NGOs around the world.

Mr. President, Excellencies,

- ✿ help us to expand these partnerships, particularly in the Arab region that has never nominated a candidate to the Liaison Committee since 2011 when guidelines called for a geographical representation on the Committee and where no forum has been organized.
- ✿ Give us the opportunity to be, we also, "Ambassadors" ... but those of NGOs and of the Liaison Committee.
- ✿ Give us the opportunity to go and explain you more widely than 3 minutes what we do and what we hope.
- ✿ Give us the opportunity to come and let you know the collective work of the NGO partners of UNESCO.
- ✿ Give us the opportunity to come and learn what you expect from us.

And let us see far away, see the future; in 2017 there will be 24 new countries for two years; new contacts, other actions ... What guidance shall we have to give to Forums so that they meet your expectations?

But as long as you are members of the PNG Committee and after your replacement maybe you could be our ambassadors in your electoral groups.

But in a much closer future, let us look into the International NGO Conference to be held on 12, 13 and 14 December and which will see the election of a new Liaison Committee; in this occasion its objectives will be set for the next two years, 2016-2018.

Statutory issues, of course, but also a subject on which the Liaison Committee and NGOs are working, "the digital revolution in education, culture, communication and science. "

We look forward to welcoming you.

Thank you
MartineLévy