

Information meeting Report - NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee 23.02.2017

President: Philippe Beaussant

Chair of communication & relations with CCNGO: Marie-Claude Machon-Honoré

Vice-President Youth & Public Relations: Victoria Lovelock

Vice-President Forum & International Days: Patrick Gallaud

Treasurer: Marie-Christine Griès de La Barbelais

Secretary in charge of Youth: Richard Apeh

Assistant in charge of Youth: Leonardo Martins

NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee

Introduction of the meeting Liaison Committee's members by the President, Philippe Beaussant, who informs the audience of his decision to create a second vice presidency in charge of Youth, one of UNESCO's priorities, and to entrust each member with a specific task to fulfill the Liaison Committee's mission.

Philippe Beaussant reads UNESCO Director General's letter of congratulations to the Liaison Committee's president and members and informs the audience the letter has been sent to the delegations of Member State with already positive feedbacks. Mrs Irina Bokova will meet the members of the Liaison Committee on 20th March.

A road map was adopted for the next two years taking the 39/C5 into account and sent with the ICNGO's conclusions to NGOs. The Liaison Committee's next meeting will take place on 21st March.

Strategy of Communication presented by Marie-Claude Machon-Honoré: « the medium is the message »

The ICNGOs' conclusions have underlined the need for the Liaison Committee to improve its communication and make NGOs' actions more visible. The Liaison Committee has been encouraged to initiate a new strategy of communication. Three media available: Facebook, the NGO-UNESCO Liaison committee website and Twitter (to be confirmed); a quarterly newsletter will be posted on FB and sent by e-mails (one in-between as necessary) to inform NGOs on the news of the Liaison Committee, UNESCO, and with a space entirely devoted to NGOs for their events and news.

The Liaison Committee has a role to play with CCNGO and Agenda 2030. Philippe Beaussant supports Marie-Claude Machon-Honoré's representation of the Liaison Committee at the World Education Forum in Cambodia (Siem Reap) 8-10 May 2017, to make our activities visible; Marie-Claude reports on the two meetings she attended with CCNGO coordination groups, in preparation of her mission.

Forums 2017-2018

Vice President Patrick Gallaud explains the international fora are prepared by mixed working groups : NGO Liaison Committee, NGOs, Unesco and the host country. They must absolutely be organised in partnership with the relevant UNESCO sectors.

3-4 May 2017: first international NGO-UNESCO Forum in Riyadh on Youth and social impact

7-8 September 2017 : Second forum on climate change ; the forum planned in Morocco (COP 22) was cancelled and the work already done and same theme will be taken up for the next COP 23 due in Germany.

Philippe Beaussant has met with Germany's Ambassador.

2018 : Two international NGO-UNESCO fora are planned:

- Forum on Science
- Forum on Education and young Migrants

UNESCO General Conference will take place from October 30 to November 14, 2018 with a space devoted to NGOs like two years ago.

International Days are at the sole initiative of NGOs:

International Day of Peace

- Photography exhibition (China Folklore Photographic Association - Sen Che) 21/09/17
- Drones for Peace, planned for 2018 beyond Unesco (proposed by Michel Thouzeau): « It is absolutely necessary to promote this special day and to have children participate through drawings on peace and robots different from the usual warrior robots ; the idea is to have as many children participate as possible. »
- International Day of the Girl Child (planned in 2018)

Vicky Lovelock, Vice President in charge of Youth presents the themes that will be discussed during the Forum in Riyadh

- The Digital : role of the media ; online radicalization and Hate speech ;
- International and national volunteer work ; youth commitment to NGOs ;
- Sustainable development (education to Sustainable development)
- Roadmap for a possible follow-up with a network of youth for peace

Steering group working on the programme of the forum: Philippe Beaussant, Patrick Gallaud, Vicky Lovelock, Richard Apeh, Léo Martins, Teresa Kennedy, Abdel Basset Benhassen.

Marie-Christine Griès de La Barbelais, the Liaison Committee's Treasurer, informs the audience that the Liaison committee's budget is limited and that financial means are necessary; as a consequence there will soon be a call made to NGOs for voluntary contributions and NGOs' representatives are kindly asked to ensure that their presidents' offices do contribute and make a second call for contributions if necessary.

ADG ERI, Mr Eric Falt's presentation of the 7th international NGO-UNESCO forum on Youth and social impact,-Saudi Arabia

The Director General follows NGOs' cooperation with UNESCO more closely than ever.

The forum will take place in Riyadh and should have 1500 participants; this forum is all the more important as it is focused on Youth, representing the majority of the population of Saudi Arabia with 60% who are less than 25 years old.

This forum is being prepared in close cooperation with the MiSK Foundation, founded by Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

The previous fora were successful particularly because it was the first time they had taken place in those regions as for example in China.

This year only Saudi Arabia proposed a venue in the Arab region.

UNESCO partnership with the MISK Foundation is rapidly evolving. This forum will be prepared in cooperation with the UNESCO Human and Social sciences Sector (SHS).

This forum opens up new opportunities such as the invitations made to all NGOs in partnership with UNESCO.

It is also the first time that travel and accommodation expenses are covered by a sponsor. The facilities provided are unique: all the participants will be accommodated at the Four Seasons Hotel. Local NGOs will also be present.

Besides, the MISK Foundation is clearly very much committed as they are asking for a follow-up to the post forum and a monitoring of the outcomes so as to identify what actions should be taken after the forum. Suggestions have been made on the creation of a network of youth for peace.

Although Mr Eric Falt has asserted that « nothing in terms of parameters during the conference will be similar to ours », it has been admitted that all women participating in the forum will have to wear the Abaya in the public space but that it shouldn't be mandatory inside the hotel. It has been assured that apart from the obligation of wearing the Abaya in the public space, the conditions of participation (Speaking time, themes of discussion and debates, tone of exchanges) would be the same for women and men.

The Liaison Committee is in constant contact and has a two hours' meeting by SKYPE with the MISK Foundation every week. The Liaison Committee aims at establishing a participatory method. Through their exchanges, there seems to be a common thread with the same objectives. During those meetings, the following topics have been addressed: names of speakers for panels; types of competences to be promoted and debated (formal, non-formal, digital);

Benefits for NGOs: visibility as this forum will be promoted at a global level with famous keynote speakers and facilitation of networking between the young locally and elsewhere.

Among the themes addressed: digital tools ; role of the media ; online radicalisation ; how the youth commitment to NGOs can transform them, ; education to sustainable development.

Working groups will prepare resolutions; possibility for NGOs to send experts.

Objective of a follow-up: setting up of a network of young people for peace funded by Saudi Arabia to promote their commitment and activities; other objectives will include enabling the coordination of young associations, taking into account the youth interests and reinforcing a culture of peace among them.

The follow-up to Forum 4 on the role of women in fighting poverty is currently under way (Marie-Claude Machon-Honoré, Marie-Christine Griès de La Barbelais (moderators) and Gabrielle de Milleville (for the online platform) : a test and free online questionnaire has been launched and sent to 25 volunteer respondents before the official one to be circulated soon. The goal is to create a network of NGOs focusing on the theme and sharing their best practices.

Follow-up to Forum 2: Access to water for all in Africa

Josette Rome Chastanet is invited to talk about the follow-up on the Forum in Côte d'Ivoire and progress of the project on water technicians and hydrologists. It turns out to be a good experience with the Unesco sectors and the Member States' delegations.

The first field technicians are trained with 2IE in Ouagadougou (7 men and 7 women) from Madagascar, RDC, Côte d'Ivoire. The participation programme has provided an allocation of 50000\$ or 16000 €. Sustainability is as important as the works to create (feedback from local NGOs).The trainees must now become trainers once they have completed their training period.