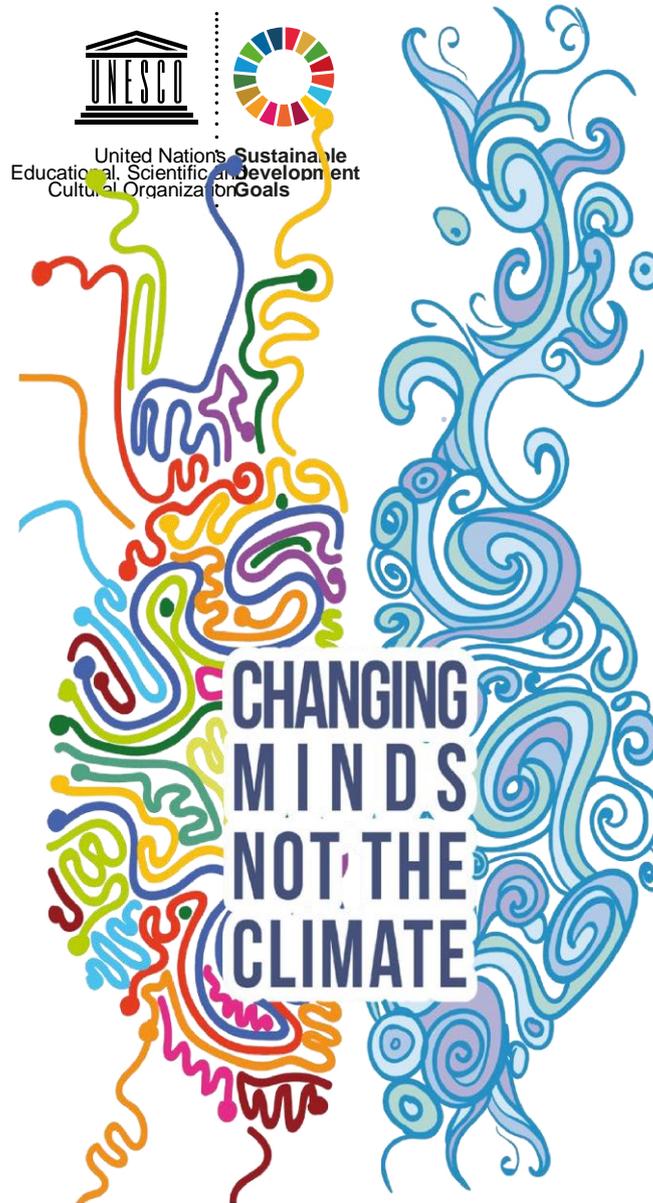


# 8TH NGO UNESCO FORUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE

7-8 December 2018 UNESCO HQ

## “Changing Minds, Not the Climate: the Role of NGOs”



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Updated Strategy against Climate Change

## CONCEPT NOTE EXTRACTS

... “Climate change is a complex question that has consequences on all the worldwide matters, particularly on poverty, economic development, population growth, sustainable development and resources management. So, it will not be a surprise if solutions are coming from all fields of research and development.

Acting in favor of climate is one of the corner stones to succeed in reaching sustainable development. It looks urgent to give a new orientation to our technologies, sciences, finances, and, above all, our minds, in order to transforming our economies and providing a sustainable future for all.

At the end of the COP21, held in Paris on December 2015, the International Community succeeded, at last, in adopting a worldwide agreement on climate change.

The moment has then come for anyone – States, NGOs, enterprises – to go to action, to set up the proposals listed in the Paris Agreement.

UNESCO, thanks to its multidisciplinary mandate through education, natural and social sciences, culture and communication, presents a unique position to adopt a holistic answer to climate change. Within these different programs – Hydrology, Geosciences, Man and Biosphere, Oceans, Management of Social Transformations, Education – UNESCO provides us with tools and precious data bases, as well as with possible solutions to reduce climate change and let us better adapted in this view.

Thanks to formal and non-formal education, education towards a sustainable development is one of the flag programs of UNESCO; on another hand, the International Hydrologic Program (IHP) plays a major role in “ensuring water security” threatened by climate change. The Platform Ocean and Climate, in close cooperation with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), is representative of a partnership between civil society, scientific institutions and governmental instances, and its aim is to sensitize governments and citizens on the major role of the ocean within the climate system. In addition, the sites of World Heritage of UNESCO, the Reserves of Biosphere, the Geoparks, are places where the impacts of the climate change can be yet observed; they are privileged places to studying social and cultural impacts of climate change for some communities and particularly indigenous peoples. As well, the peoples “carrying” and “acting” in the framework of the intangible heritage are real watchers relating to climate change.” ...

## OPENING CEREMONY

**Ms Audrey AZOULAY**, the new UNESCO Director-General, opened the International Forum of Non-Governmental Organizations official partners of UNESCO in close cooperation with UNESCO Secretariat.

“It was important for me to be with you today, right at the start of my mandate. Over time, the relationship between UNESCO and NGOs has varied in intensity, but what remains more true than ever today, is the need to preserve and nurture this essential cooperation to cope with the challenges of today’s world and adapt to those of tomorrow. In this sense, the theme chosen for this 8<sup>th</sup> International NGO Forum – Climate Change – is a good example of our shared responsibility towards this key challenge of our time.

The privileged partnership between NGOs, which are laboratories of civil society, and UNESCO can enable advances in this regard. As frontline partners of our work, NGOs cannot act alone without the relays provided by our Organization, and I am committed, in the wake of renewed cooperation in recent years, to continue in this direction of constructive and mutually fruitful collaboration.”...

“Over two days of debate, the Forum aims to identify ways of action for NGOs to support the work of UNESCO and make recommendations to the Organization in its various fields of competence. The debates will focus on three central themes: the role of civil society organizations in addressing climate change; Ocean and climate change; and World Heritage, Biosphere Reserves, and the knowledge and actions of indigenous peoples. The discussions will also define a concrete plan of action in relation to [UNESCO's Declaration of Ethical Principles relating to Climate Change](#), recently adopted by the General Conference of the Organization.” ...

... “This is the collective action the world needs more than ever today. This is not a technical issue. This is about human rights and dignity, this is about resilience, about giving women and men values, skills and tools to adapt to change.

This calls for collective intelligence, for the pooling of experience and commitment. This is the importance of this Forum. We meet on the eve of the second anniversary of the Paris Declaration on Climate Change – five days before the opening of another important Forum, the **One Planet Summit** here in Paris – which I will attend.” ...

“Master your mind and you’ll master your destiny” says Mr Kam, to whom I wish to renew my deep gratitude for his support to our action and cooperation. Your words, Mr Kam, echo indeed UNESCO’s own vision to “Change minds, not the climate”.

“Thank you for your attention, I wish you productive discussions.” said the Director-General.

**Philippe BEAUSSANT**, President of the International Conference of NGOs, delivered a speech focussing on the New Directives adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO, in 2011. “These guidelines, which we have favourably welcomed, have allowed a fruitful change in the role of NGOs, and their better and more systematic involvement in UNESCO’s fields of action. We are convinced that this link with UNESCO, which is still developing, will gain new impetus under your mandate, Madam Director-General. In this spirit, we are delighted to hold the 8<sup>th</sup> International NGO Forum, an inclusive and participatory mechanism which is a response to the expectations of the 2011 guidelines, and that is an opportunity to propose paths for concrete action.”

**Kenneth KAM**, President of the Kenn Foundation, in his speech, wished “a new involvement of Non-Governmental Organizations. This International NGO Forum, which provides a truly global environment, can help to reflect and act on issues of importance to UNESCO, the international community and civil society.

The theme chosen for this 8<sup>th</sup> Forum is particularly important, and I want to say here how much I believe in UNESCO’s mission, and I hope that we will continue to consolidate our cooperation.”

**Patrick GALLAUD**, Liaison Committee Vice-President in charge of the forums, reminded the previous editions of International NGO Forums and presented the 8<sup>th</sup> Forum and particularly the Thematic Session on “Ocean and Climate Change”

Previous editions of the International NGO Forum, according to the wish of the Organization, were held outside UNESCO HQ, in Beijing (China), Querétaro (Mexico), Riyadh (Saudi Arabia), Sozopol (Bulgaria) and Yamoussoukro (Côte d'Ivoire); some others at UNESCO HQ. Their topics focussed on Education, Access to water for all, Rapprochement of cultures, Women and poverty, The role of youth

in safeguarding cultural heritage. Those forums allowed the creation of several local and international initiatives such as networks, contributing today in the realization of UNESCO's program and priorities. Held two years after the **Paris Climate Agreement**, the 8<sup>th</sup> NGOs Forum brings together more than 300 representatives of the civil society, in order to share their visions of the contribution of NGOs in fighting against climate change, and more specifically to take into account the implementation of **UNESCO's updated Strategy** for addressing climate change, adopted by the General Conference of the Organization at its 39th session in November 2017.

**KEYNOTE CONFERENCE**

**Flavia SCHLEGEL**, Assistant Director General for Natural Sciences presented to the participants the “UPDATED UNESCO STRATEGY FOR ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE” focussing particularly on SDG 13: **“Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impact”**



**© UNESCO SDG 13 on Climate change**

- “• 13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries
- 13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning
  - o 13.2.1 Number of countries that have communicated the establishment or operationalization of an integrated policy/strategy/plan which increases their ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development in a manner that does not threaten food production
- 13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning
  - o 13.3.1 Number of countries that have integrated mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning into primary, secondary and tertiary curricula.

o 13.3.2 Number of countries that have communicated the strengthening of institutional, systemic and individual capacity-building to implement adaptation, mitigation and technology transfer, and development actions

- 13.A Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilizing jointly \$100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible

o 13.A.1 Mobilized amount of United States dollars per year starting in 2020 accountable towards the \$100 billion commitment

- 13.B Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities \* Acknowledging that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change.

o 13.B.1 Number of least developed countries and small island developing States that are receiving specialized support, and amount of support, including finance, technology and capacity-building, for mechanisms for raising capacities for effective climate change-related planning and management, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities.”

## THEMATIC SESSION

### “Ocean and Climate Change”

#### UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK ON CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (UNFCCC)

**Mr Nick NUTTALL, Director of Communication and Outreach/Spokesperson of UNFCCC**, has a strategic role to promote “efforts to increase the actions on climate change” through different conferences, channels of communication and social media.

Addressing the audience, he focussed on “the recent and current political and practical developments in the work on climate change”. He noticed the importance of the NGOs and their involvement to draw the attention of the citizens on the main and crucial issue of the role of the ocean as source of life, that must be respected and protected anywhere around the world. So, a better information, education and action of the civil society is necessary all around the world through NGOs networks.

#### INTRODUCTORY REMARKS ON IOC AND UNESCO MEDIUM-TERM STRATEGY 2014-2021

**Ms Kristen ISENSE, Program Specialist of the Intergovernmental Oceanic Commission**, drawn the attention of the audience on the importance of the oceans as one of the three sources of life on our planet, taking into account “the realization that building regional know-how is essential for facilitating solving regional economic and social problems.”

Since it is the only one Organization in the UN System, worldwide devoted to the science, IOC is a basic platform within UNESCO focussing on ocean and sustainable future for human life, facilitating the International cooperation and the decisions of the member States. The IOC played an important role near the Member States for the implementation of the Paris Agreement of COP21.

Since the ocean is a cornerstone for the climate on our planet, it is crucial to focus on the information and education of the civil society, “an unhealthy ocean in a changing climate can yield great environmental, economic and social imbalances”.

By the way, IOC can contribute, in the framework of the Medium-Term Strategy, as “an efficient platform for coordination, information and sharing of knowledge to contribute to sustainable and peaceful development”.

The Global Ocean Observatory System (GOOS), in cooperation with the UNFCCC, works as a part of Global Climate Observation System (GCOS) focussing many of their studies on the danger of acidification of the ocean.

The IOC brochure “One Planet, One Ocean”, as well as the brochure webpage “The United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021-2030” could be useful to better understand the issue of Ocean in Climate Change.

## **INTERACTIVE ROUND TABLE**

**Mr Vladimir RYABININ**, Secretary General of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC-UNESCO) conducted the interactive round table where 4 NGOs were the invited panellists.

## **AT + OR - 5 METERS FROM THE SURFACE OF THE OCEAN**

**Dr Joe BUNNI**, Photographer Diver, Founder and President of “SOS Océans” presented “Pister l’Ours Polaire”, a video from a TV series focussing on the risk of ocean facing pollution, since the oceans are source of life for human beings and, pollution in any place of the world has always a negative impact on the other places of the world. We can easily imagine that cities along the seaside or the rivers will have to face that kind of pollution, since the urban population is over than 50% of the world population.

All around the world, with a mask and a tuba, Joe Bunni is a photographer who provides us with a lot of wonderful photos just above or under the surface of the oceans. Then, the richness of animal and vegetal life appears to our eyes, from Greenland to Antarctic, in the Indian, Atlantic or Pacific Oceans, along the coast of Africa or even the Mediterranean Sea. Unforgettable spectacles!

Joe Bunni published also, in 2011, a book of pictures, under the title “**Pister l’ours polaire**”.

But, in addition to the wonderful pictures published, he had the idea to ask 14 authors around the world to write a poem in their own languages and decided to have all these poems translated into the 13 other languages!

An amazing idea in the framework of sustainable diversity of languages, what is very important for UNESCO.



© Joe Bunni SOS Océans

Cover of the Book published by SOS Océans in 2011

## DIARIES OF THE OCEAN

**Ms Jina TALJ**, Founder and Coordinator of the NGO Diaries of the Ocean, Lebanon, presented her NGO and focussed on necessary concrete actions, often conducted by volunteers, to sensitize on the role of seas and oceans in sustainable development.

## TARA EXPEDITIONS

**Mr André ABREU**, Chief of International Policies, Foundation Tara Expeditions devoted to the science of the ocean, presented different projects of the Foundation aimed to sensitize the civil society on the positive impact of the respect of the oceans for a sustainable development. Information, education of the young generations, will contribute to play advocacy in order to make the ocean a common issue all around the planet, thanks to a positive cooperation with scientist experts.

Tara Expedition is also involved in the Sustainable Development Goals of the UN Agenda 2030.

## SURFRIDER

**Ms Aines ARIZMENDI**, responsible of “Initiatives Ocean Project” and “Educational Projects of Surfrider on Atlantic Ocean”, presented the European program aimed to sensitizing the population thanks to the involvement of volunteers working along the seaside.

She is coordinator for programs and events occurring in different countries of Europe.

## DISCUSSION WITH THE AUDIENCE

## INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE (IPCC)

### CONVERSATION WITH Ms Valérie MASSON DELMOTTE

**Valérie MASSON DELMOTTE** Paleo-climatologist is Co-Chair of the Working group I “Physical Basic Science” of the IPCC, Director for Research within Atomic Energy Committee, and works in the Climate and Environment Sciences Laboratory on “Dynamics and Climate Archives”.

She participated in the report on “Antarctic Climate and Environment” and in different reports of GIEC.

But, at the same time, thinking that climate change is not an issue for experts but also for the civil society, she published a series of books on climate to be correctly aware on the matter.

Furthermore, she implemented a fruitful cooperation with teachers from Pre-schools to High schools, to make understand, thanks to an appropriate education, the climate mechanisms linked with the seas. So, she published several books for children, for instance, in French translated into Chinese, Italian, Korean and Spanish, among which we can quote “150 Questions on Ocean and Climate” Le Pommier Editor, in 2012.

#### **CONCLUSIONS OF THE TRMATIC SESSION “OCEAN AND CLIMATE CHANGE”**

1. Support to the scientific community and provide information on the possibilities to collect data, with the involvement of the local population
2. Increase visibility and reinforce binding mechanisms in international conventions, including the Human Rights European Convention
3. Ensure full visibility of the irreversible consequences of climate change on human and animal populations and habitat
4. Prioritise the question of marine pollution and in particular that of the floating plastic
5. Insisting on the emergency of the oceans
6. Ensure the sharing of knowledge and expertise about the ocean between scientists, local population and the private sector at global level.

**Mr Peter DOGSE**, Program Specialist for Climate change, UNESCO Sector of Natural Sciences, focussed on the basic role of NGOs, their actions and activities to “change minds, not the climate”.

Janine Marin  
Member of the Preparatory Group  
“Ocean and Climate Change”