

## **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF NGOs UNESCO DECEMBER 2016**

### **CONTRIBUTION OF THE NGOs COMMUNITY IN OFFICIAL PARTNERSHIP WITH UNESCO TO THE 39 C/5**

A circular letter of 18 April 2016, sent by the Director General, launched a consultation on the Project of program and budget for 2018-2021 (39 C/5) particularly near NGOs in official relations with UNESCO. 84 NGOs, foundations and other similar institutions sent their answers to the Secretariat before 20 May 2016.

According to the Directives relating to the relations between UNESCO and the NGOs (2012), the International Conference of NGOs (ICNGO) was invited to send a collective answer to the Director General.

This contribution firstly presents a brief synthesis of the answers sent by the NGOs on the general context of UNESCO and the evaluation of their cooperation with the Organization; then some prospective proposals relating to the new Sustainable Development Program for 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) to be integrated in the 39 C/5.

#### **OBSERVATIONS AND PROPOSALS FROM NGOs FOR THE 39 C/5.**

The majority of NGOs answering considered "intercultural dialogue, strengthening peace and fighting against all kinds of discriminations", "education towards world citizenship, integrating prevention against violent extremism", "education in a view of sustainable development", were the highest priorities.

Other issues were put into light, for instance the promotion of culture and contemporary creative industries as a good impulse for sustainable cities, implementation of rules relating to the new technologies and fight against hate diffused through the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT).

Concerning the target groups, the majority of NGOs considered that the highest priority had to be for the young people. Other target groups were quoted such as displaced children due to conflicts and disasters, early childhood, girls and women particularly mothers.

#### **OBSERVATIONS FROM NGOs, RELATING TO THE MAIN PROGRAMS: (FROM THE EVALUATION OF THE NGO-UNESCO COOPERATION)**

**Education:** within their cooperation with UNESCO, NGOs have privileged adult literacy and long life learning, training for teachers and access for all to a quality education, gender equality, girls and women empowerment, multilinguism and technologies.

**Exact and Natural Sciences:** the NGOs mentioned their fruitful collaboration, particularly with the Program MAB, the International Hydrologic Program (IHP) as well as COP 21. They specially mentioned the necessity to strengthen access to fresh water in Africa, as well as the empowerment of women in the follow up of water resources.

**Social and Human Sciences:** 64% considered as important their recent collaboration with UNESCO, specially within the programs relating to peace, intercultural dialogue, rapprochement of cultures, gender equality and women rights.

**Culture:** a majority of NGOs put into light their cooperation relating the heritages safeguarding, the promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions; some have also quoted creative cities, urbanism, protection of cultural heritage in case of armed conflicts.

**Communication and Information:** it is in that field that NGOs estimated less important their results thanks to the support of UNESCO. However, they quoted with interest the Tongues World Atlas, support of media to communities, gender equality and ethics for initiatives linked with communication and information.

## TOWARDS A COLLECTIVE COOPERATION NGO-UNESCO 39 C/5 AND PROGRAM 2030

The ICNGOs gathered in Paris from 12 to 14 December think that the Sustainable Development Program for 2030 and the included SDG provide a new framework for the cooperation in the field of development for the 15 coming years.

The ICNGOs consider that the 2030 Program is a universal program, testimony of a world in complete mutation within a new knowledge of complexity and challenges face to development.

In order to face the situation, the ICNGOs propose that the 39 C/5 takes into account for all the programs the main principles of the 2030 Program.

In addition to the individual NGOs answers, the ICNGOs:

**Estimates that**, in a view of the realization of the 2030 Program, UNESCO could play a significant role face to 8 SDG: SDG 4 (education), SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 6 (water), SDG 9 (scientific research), SDG 11 (cities enclosing focus on heritages and inclusion), SDG 15 (biodiversity), SDG 16 (peaceful societies). The ICNGOs will be involved, according to its missions, to provide its help through forums and major events organized at UNESCO HQ as well as outside.

**Reaffirms** the necessity to promote inclusion, ("do not leave anyone by the wayside"), through the participation of all in the process of sustainable development. The NGOs, members of the ICNGOs, will try to use the ICT in a view to edifying inclusive knowledge societies and universal access to knowledge, also for disabled people, linguistic minorities, populations living far from the others, as well as other marginalized and vulnerable groups. Face to difficulties of inclusion due to crisis, conflicts, displaced populations, education to resilience appears like one of the essential topics in the 39 C/5.

**Underlines strongly**, that peace, understanding between cultures et world citizenship are essential for the programs of UNESCO, linked with SDG 16 that engages the international community to promoting peaceful and fair societies, free from fear and violence. The ICNGOs involve itself in supporting all non-governmental initiatives contributing to the realization of this objective: rapprochement of cultures in the formal or non-formal educational programs; programs of education aimed to promoting values of heritage, creativity and cultural diversity, particularly through the network of Creative cities and the program Memory of the world.

**Underlines also** the necessity to reinforce, in the coming C/5, the promotion of the youth participation through the "Operational Strategy on Youth" (2014-2021). The ICNGOs engage itself to provide UNESCO with its multi-disciplinary expertise to give the young the means to participate in their community life: enhancing capacities to be grown up, citizen involvement, democratic participation, fight against violent extremism.

Even if the sport is not only for youth, the ICNGOs will encourage any initiative promoting the sport to the service of peace and development in the framework of the mandate of the UNESCO International Charter of physical education, physical activities and sport.

**Reaffirm finally** the necessity to be working with the Organization in a view to massively use the social networks and ICT in order to widely diffuse the UNESCO priorities, ideals and programs. The ICNGOs yet recently proposed, during the Querétaro Forum, to set up an international network of youth for peace; it does want to support any kind of initiative in the same field. The ICNGOs also wish to contribute to the implementation of the orientations of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). It wishes that access to information and knowledge, tele-training, cyber-science, cultural and linguistic diversity, ethics dimensions of the Information society, could be in the 39 C/5.

The ICNGOs think that, face to access to information and knowledge, equality remains one of the main keys for the implementation of the goals and focus groups relating to sustainable development for 2030.

Contribution presented by  
Patrick GALLAUD Vice-President  
NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee