

NGO-UNESCO INTERNATIONAL FORUM 2016 / COP22

TO BE HELD IN MOROCCO, WELCOME COUNTRY FOR COP22, FALL 2016

"CHANGE THE MINDS, NOT THE CLIMATE" ("THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY")

(provisional title for the moment)

One of the objectives of the International Conference of NGOs (ICNGO) is that the UNESCO-NGO International Forums could be held outside UNESCO HQ in a view of the active participation of all the regions in the world, allowing by the way regional or local NGOs to attend them and better know the work done in cooperation with the concerned UNESCO Sectors of Program.

Five forums were held since 2013, three of them outside HQ: in Côte d'Ivoire, in Bulgaria and in China. It is why it looked interesting to held the Forum "Ocean and Climate", probably on September 2016, in Morocco, since this country will be the hosting country of the COP22 on November 2016.

In order to think of the possibilities to organizing such a forum, a first informative meeting was held on last 16 March.

The role of civil society, in addition to proposing advocacy to take into account the Ocean in the preparation of the forum, should be to promoting concrete actions, conducted at the local level, in partnership with some other NGOs and in cooperation with UNESCO.

Three preparatory groups were then set up for the preparation of this important international event organized by the NGOs official partners of UNESCO, in close cooperation with the different Sectors of the Organization:

- Ocean and climate change;
- Impact of climate change on societies;
- Cultural heritage, Reserves of Biosphere and climate change.

In a view to establish a road map, a meeting of the Group 1 was held on last 7 April, a brief report of which you will find herewith, as well as a proposal for action during and after the forum, suggestion I proposed as ISOCARP representative near this working group.

MEETING OF GROUP 1 HELD ON 7 APRIL 2016 / BRIEF REPORT

"OCEAN AND CLIMATE CHANGE"

The International Forum NGO-UNESCO could be held before the COP22, what will allow to preparing some proposals and examples of concrete actions set up by NGOs at the local level.

In the framework of UNESCO, the meeting with the Representative of Morocco was really fruitful, since the project looks very important face to the different examples of reflection and action.

Besides, linked with the UNESCO Oceanographic Intergovernmental Commission (OIC) and the Ocean and Climate Platform, launched in June 2015 in order to "put into light the debates of COP21 relating to the inter-action oceans-climate"; taking into account the decisions of the meeting of 8 June at UNESCO and of the proposals of this collective platform, the Preparatory Group 1 focused on three topics for reflection:

- Oceans sources of eco-innovations,
- Citizen involvement,
- Oceans within the climate system.

During the launching of the Platform, we could notice that "climate change means ocean change (and) has to be taken into account during the negotiations". The role of the Ocean, that is part of the sources of life with Air and Sun, can be compared with the role of forests face to the absorption of CO²: by the way, oceans must have a more important place, as well as the level of negotiations, as at the level of sensitization of the civil society, role that the NGOs can play along their training informative programs on the matter.

Taken into account that the Group will have at disposal (as the two other preparatory groups) half a day during the venue of the forum on next Fall, the meeting of Group 1, held at UNESCO on 7 April 2016, had an overlook on those objectives and proposals.

The topic "oceans" has been estimated too much wide and the Group wished, in conclusion, to inviting one representative of UNESCO/ICO and one of the Platform "Oceans and Climate", during the venue of its next meeting on 4 May.

SUGGESTIONS FOR A WORKSHOP AND FOLLOWING UP ACTION

By Janine Marin as ISOCARP Representative near UNESCO

We can read, in the verbatim of the meeting of Group Ocean And Climate, held on 7 April, two interesting sentences for NGOs:

- "We will have to evoke oceans and the modifications they have on climate"
- The "very important role of civil society in implementing such actions".

The NGOs and their National branches could conduct, at the local level, some actions such as those conducted to sensitizing on the determining role of forests, as lung of Earth, absorbing CO² and providing oxygen.

Such a perspective could be part of the two topics of the Group, since the two aspects can be linked;

- "Oceans within climate system",
- "Citizen Involvement".

In order to basically sensitizing on the matter, four topics could be set up in a view of organizing a workshop during the Group 1 participation in the forum "Ocean and Climate change":

So, the proposal focusses on four points:

1. Oceans: surface and depth of oceans as a plus for human kind

A second but main lung for Earth besides forests (the area of which is over 2/3 of Earth surface and the depth of which is very often unknown) has to become a reality, relating which NGOs educators could sensitize civil society and help to becoming conscious of this cornerstone for climate.

2. Plankton development: a close relation between temperature and life

Oceanic ecosystem has to be better understood, and its complexity to be explained in order to demonstrating how it allowed life on Earth. So, that ecosystem must be, by the way, "maintained in good health" in order for its aim could be going on. Information from early childhood, on what is the food chain and on the risks of overusing what Ocean provides us, should be a positive contribution to become conscious on the matter.

3. Hot and cold oceanic streams, winds and climate:

Information, relating to wet and dry Monsoons, for instance, should sensitize, thanks to precise examples, on the role of winds when they are coming from the ocean or from the continent. The publication of UNESCO relating to "El Niño" and the reference to its recent impacts on unexpected flowers in America, should be an amazing kind of sensitization of children, young and adults.

4. Oceans and Sun: how to respect ecosystems facing risks of climate change

By informing on oceanic ecosystems, challenges face to overfishing and other overexploitation of resources, NGOs could sensitize to the danger of reduced absorption of CO² by the Ocean and to the dramatic consequences following up. Maintaining or restoring mangroves and sea side ecosystems, at the local level, could be a basic sensitization of civil society training and in the field of competence of NGOs.

Thus, during the Forum, and before the venue of COP22, a network of NGOs could be set up, decide of a series of main objectives to be reached, implement a kind of NGOs platform acting in the framework of a common vision of the current situation and of the possible actions to foresee, at the civil society level, in accordance with the UNESCO Programs.

Janine Marin (ISOCARP) Paris, 28 Avril 2016
Contribution to the reflection of Group 1

This proposal was distributed during the meeting of Group 1 that was held on Wednesday 4 May, in presence of ICO and Ocean and Climate Platform Representatives, invited in order to deliver all necessary precisions for the Group, as foreseen during the meeting of last 7 April.

MEETING OF THE GROUP OCEAN AND CLIMATE OF 4 MAI 2016 / BRIEF SYNTHESIS

We can listen from the meeting of the preparatory group, held on last 4 May, four very interesting main points putting into light the active and waited contribution of International NGOs in close cooperation with their National branches or local associations acting at the grassroots level:

- **The necessity of educational training:** informing in order to sensitizing and mobilizing, what is totally in accordance with the objectives of numerous NGOs, yet for many years.
- **The link between human kind and the source of life** that Ocean represents, by working on oceanic flora and fauna and, by the way, explain which role the Ocean played at the eve of life on Earth.
- **The link between the World Ocean Day**, celebrated by the UN System, on 8 June, everywhere in the world and particularly at UNESCO's HQ: two topics are in complete agreement with the Day and with the four actions foreseen by the ICO: pollution directly linked with the theme of 8 June, seaside erosion that "withdraws" the protection role played by the Ocean and put into risk the diverse populations who live along the seaside, fishermen villages or inhabitants of cities.
- **The necessity to establishing an active link with the grassroots people** who very well know the risks and the necessary actions to provide sustainable solutions, even if they have not the means to implement those solutions; the forum could contribute in helping them.

In fact, all these possible actions eventually linked with the Ocean and Climate Platform, should enrich the round table foreseen by the group during the forum, and provide the session a real added value. The meeting of 26 May has, as objective, to prepare a draft program for the round table that will give the floor to panelists from

IOC, Ocean and Climate Platform, NGOs official partners of UNESCO and local associations acting at the grassroots level.

Thus, the venue of this important event could provide concrete proposals from NGOs gathered on the occasion of the forum, on September, towards the coming COP22 on November 2016.

MEETING OF GROUP 1 HELD ON 26 MAY / BRIEF SYNTHESIS

The meeting focused on the organization of the half a day session devoted to the Group 1 in order to prepare a possible time table.

So the session "Ocean and Climate" could have three moments:

- **A one hour round table** the topic of which could be: "From COP21 to COP22: the role of civil society". The aim could be "Turning into reality what is the wish of 195 States: an urgent matter". Panelists could be IOC, Ocean and Climate Platform, one NGO partner of UNESCO, a local NGO.
- **A one hour workshop(s) session** could provide debates on the topic "Education/sensitization: ocean actor and victim". This session could set up one or several kinds of proposals to implement the COP21 Decisions in order to go towards positive results around concrete projects.
- **A plenary session** to conclude the debates, give the floor to the audience and give some conclusions.

MEETING OF GROUP 1 / 31 MAY 2016 / BRIEF SYNTHESIS

At the end of the meeting, it has been decided to set up a draft agenda, suggesting the contribution of different experts, International and local NGOs, and integrating ISOCARP suggestions for sensitization and information relating to Ocean and climate issues. In addition, a brief questionnaire will be send to all the NGOs of the International Conference, for them to let the Preparatory Group 1 know their proposals concerning the implementation of the COP21 decisions in a view to go from words to concrete actions.

Janine Marin 3 June 2016