

## **UNESCO SC Retreat**

Paris, France

8-10 September, 2015

### **Facilitators' Report**

Prepared by

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## Background

Facilitators were identified and a Working Group of staff members established. Together, they decided to set up an anonymous survey with a few questions to ascertain the expectations of staff for the retreat. Based on this data, the facilitators and the Working Group produced the objectives for the retreat and then designed the agenda (See below). Detailed session designs were also produced.

## The Retreat Agenda

Tuesday, September 8th	Wednesday, September 9th	Thursday, September 10th
<p><b>8.00 Arrival of participants at UNESCO HQ, 7 place de Fontenoy.</b></p> <p><b>08.20 'Status of the Post-2015 Development Agenda'</b> John Hendra, Senior UN Coordinator, 'Fit for Purpose' for the Post-2015 Development Agenda</p> <p><b>9.00 Departure from HQ to Venue</b></p> <p><b>11.00 Check in at Venue</b></p> <p><b>11.30 Opening Remarks</b> <i>Flavia Schlegel, ADG/SC</i></p> <p><b>Gallery Visit</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Getting to know each other</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>9.00 How do we best position ourselves within the Post-2015 Agenda?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group work – participants divided by region/Inter-Agency</li> <li>• What's our added value?</li> <li>• What are our strengths?</li> <li>• Where are the synergies?</li> <li>• Regionals: Identify one potential high impact multidisciplinary SC project per region</li> <li>• Inter-Agency: What are the inter-agency mechanisms where UNESCO can assume a leading role? How?</li> </ul> <p><b>Coffee break</b></p> <p><b>Fund Raising &amp; Partnerships</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Setting the scene</li> <li>• Sharing good practices</li> <li>• Group work – reaching our goals/ERs through FR and P</li> </ul>	<p><b>9.00 Gallery</b></p> <p><b>Consolidation and Development of Action Plans</b></p> <p><b>Coffee break</b></p> <p><b>Groups Present Recommendations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Who does what by when</li> </ul>
<b>13.00 LUNCH</b>	<b>13.00 LUNCH</b>	<b>13.00 LUNCH</b>
<p><b>14.00 Introduction to the programme</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Survey Summary</i></li> <li>• <i>Objectives</i></li> <li>• <i>Agenda</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Opening Inquiry in pairs, 3 questions</b></p> <p><b>Post-2015 Agenda</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>What is it &amp; why is it important?</i></li> <li>• <i>Where do we fit?</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Coffee break</b></p> <p><b>Post-2015 Agenda (continued)</b></p> <p><b>18.00 Closing</b></p> <p><b>Evening: Open Space for Thematic sessions and informal group gatherings/meetings</b></p>	<p><b>14.00 Knowledge Management &amp; Communication</b></p> <p>Tools, methods and good practices How good are we at knowledge management and communication?</p> <p><b>Coffee break</b></p> <p><b>Group work on identifying ways to ensure effective communication &amp; collaboration</b></p> <p><i>Between Divisions</i> <i>Between HQ &amp; Field Offices</i> <i>Among Field Offices</i> <i>Among category 2 centres,</i> <i>Chairs and other networks</i></p> <p><b>18.00 Closing</b></p> <p><b>Evening: Open Space for Thematic sessions and informal group gatherings/meetings</b></p> <p><b>Evening Social Event</b></p>	<p><b>14.00 Groups Present Recommendations (cont.)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Who does what by when</li> </ul> <p><b>Evaluation</b></p> <p><b>Closing Remarks</b></p> <p><b>16.00 Closing</b></p> <p><b>17.00 Departure to UNESCO HQ</b></p> <p><b>18.00 Address by UNESCO Director General Irina Bokova</b></p>

## Summary of Workshop Proceedings

### Address by John Hendra, Senior UN Coordinator, 'Fit for Purpose' for the Post-2015 Development Agenda

The Retreat started at UNESCO Headquarters, with an address by John Hendra, Senior UN Coordinator, 'Fit for Purpose' for the Post-2015 Development Agenda on the 'Status of the Post-2015 Development Agenda'. Mr Hendra offered brief remarks highlighting the main novelties of the new Development Agenda as well as opportunities therein to strategically reposition UNESCO's work in different contexts. This framework set the stage for discussions that followed in the Retreat.



### Opening Remarks

The Retreat began with opening remarks by the ADG/SC, Flavia Schlegel. This was a very informal, personal and positive account, which set the scene for the Retreat. It was much appreciated by the participants.

The ADG/SC recalled the SC Strategic Goals and stressed that the Retreat was a great opportunity to interact with all staff members from the SC sector and to develop simple but realistic plans for action in the future to position UNESCO Science in the Post-2015 Development Agenda, to find resources and partners to implement what the Sector plans and wants to achieve with respect to the SDGs and to do so as an effective and united team.

### Art Gallery visit

Prior to the Retreat, participants were asked to produce a one-pager introducing themselves with a photo. All of these were posted in a Gallery and participants were invited to visit the Art Gallery in semi-silence to learn more about each other.

Colleagues from the Regional Offices also organized exhibits around the venue with publications and posters to illustrate their respective work.





## Evening Open Space for Thematic Units

Two open space thematic discussions were organized, one on the 'International Hydrological Programme' and a second one on the 'Man and Biosphere Programme'. Both sessions were attended by numerous participants from HQ and the Field, who valued the opportunity of being in a retreat and to have such focused discussions. This was repeated on Wednesday evening at the initiative of participants themselves with another two themes: 'UNESCO Global Geoparks and the I.G.G.P.' and 'PCB Today and Tomorrow'.

## How do we best position ourselves within the Post-2015 Agenda?

The next morning, ADG/SC Flavia Schlegel offered introductory remarks to frame the objectives of the session: to take stock of ongoing work and re-position it where necessary to align it with the SDGs; to consider reinforcing or developing new multidisciplinary projects that are feasible and with a good chance of being resourced. The five regional groups discussed their added value and strengths and were asked to identify where they could see synergies before identifying one high impact multidisciplinary project per region. The sixth group was on inter-agency coordination mechanisms. They were tasked with identifying inter-agency mechanisms where UNESCO can assume a leading role and to come up with recommendations as to how that can be achieved.



## Fundraising and Partnerships

Anathea Brooks, SC/EO Programme Coordinator, and Jessica Jeavons, BSP/CFS, introduced the session by giving a picture of where the Sector stands in terms of fundraising and partnerships.

This was followed by 15 short 'best-practice' presentations by the participants, each focusing on their experience with a given donor or partner.

A short Q&A followed and participants were welcomed to write down on a post-it any questions or comments they had.

## **Knowledge Management and Communication**

Anne Candau, Executive Officer, SC, briefly introduced the session and the two main invited speakers, Vincent Defourny, Director ERI/DPI and Sergei Novikov, Chief, Knowledge Sharing and Open Access Unit.

Sergei Novikov elaborated on the different tools for knowledge management. Vincent Defourny introduced the communication and outreach segment and talked about publications, the website, social media, the press, branding and logos. Participants were then asked in groups to discuss the CONNECT-U Maturity Ladder and their own experiences of using these and other KM tools.

### **Group work on identifying ways to ensure effective communication and collaboration**

Participants were divided into 8 groups, with two groups discussing and agreeing on proposed ways to ensure effective communication and collaboration:

- between Divisions
- between HQ and Field Offices
- among Field Offices
- among Category 2 Centers, Chairs and other Networks

The day closed with a 'social event'.

### **Gallery**

The morning started with a Gallery visit of the outputs from the six Post-2015 regional groups and of the outputs from the four communication and collaboration groups. These ten 'stands' were posted around the plenary. One person from each of these groups was asked to stand-by their 'stand' for any clarifications about the outputs presented. Participants were then invited to visit each of the 'stands' and add any 'interested' comments on each of them.

### **Consolidation of Action Plans**

Participants were asked to go back to their original groupings and consolidate the new information offered by participants during the Gallery with their work, develop a proposed action plan and prepare to present it in plenary.

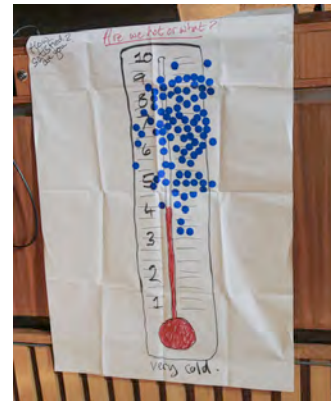
### **Groups Present Recommendations**

Each group was given five minutes to present their proposed action plan. ADG/SC Flavia Schlegel offered comments on each of the proposals at the end of presentations. The ADG praised all working groups for the action plans proposed and invited all to further develop them, while verifying the proposals against SC strategic priorities and SDGs.

## Evaluation

A short written evaluation was prepared by the facilitators to seek feedback on the Retreat. Ninety-eight participants filled out the evaluation form and ninety-four participants expressed their wish to have another Global Retreat in the future.

Participants were also asked to show their satisfaction level by placing a dot against a thermometer with a scale of one to ten (10 being Hot).



## Closing Remarks

The ADG/SC, Flavia Schlegel, closed the retreat expressing her thanks for all the hard work put in by all participants, the working group and the facilitators. Her final remarks emphasized the importance of trust, sharing, relevance and confidence. The ADG concluded with great enthusiasm for the interaction that occurred during the three-day retreat.

## Address by UNESCO Director General, Irina Bokova

Back at UNESCO Headquarters, participants were welcomed by UNESCO Director General, Irina Bokova. On behalf of many, three participants expressed their gratitude to both the DG and ADG/SC for the opportunity to attend the three-day retreat, which they said had been an excellent opportunity to network, build alliances within the Sector and strategize on the way forward, within the context of the SDGs. ADG/SC also briefed the DG on the three-day work and outputs. UNESCO DG congratulated all and officially closed the Retreat.



**Photos of the Retreat can be found at:**

<https://flic.kr/s/aHskjKiFCp>

### **Facilitators' Recommendations**

1. SC should hold a retreat every two years. The last one was 6 years ago and it was very clear that the participants had a lot to learn from each other. The 'buzz' in the room was palpable and the 'team building' essential.
2. The 10 working groups that have been set up have their proposed action plans and when these are approved they will need to be monitored and coordinated to ensure they are implemented. A follow-up plan shall be communicated to participants, to ensure proposals, energy and commitment created during the three-days are kept alive.
3. While the resort where the Retreat took place was very pleasant, the meeting venue as such was inadequately prepared to manage the presence of such a large group of people on site. Under staffed, the venue was unprepared to respond to set schedules (coffee-breaks, lunch, dinner) and to provide for basic conferencing services timely and professionally during the three-day meeting (water, cleanliness of the room, functioning coffee machines, etc.). The plenary room was too small to comfortably accommodate such a large group as well.