



**Collective Consultation of NGOs
ON EDUCATION FOR ALL
Consultation Collective des ONG
SUR L'ÉDUCATION POUR TOUS
Consultación Colectiva de las ONG
EN EDUCACIÓN PARA TODOS**



Working Procedures¹

1. Introduction

Since its creation, UNESCO considers NGOs key partners in fulfilling its mandate. In 1984, the Education Sector created the Collective Consultation of NGOs (CCNGO) on Literacy as the mechanism to facilitate dialogue between UNESCO and NGOs on the theme. Over the years, the scope of the CCNGO has evolved to cover the Education for All (EFA) goals.

At the World Education Forum (Dakar, 2000), the international community recognized the central role of civil society in the achievement of the EFA goals. Since then, civil society's involvement in education has expanded considerably and strong national coalitions have emerged, alongside regional and global networks. Civil society, and notably non-governmental organisations (NGOs), are now considered a crucial EFA partner along governments, UN agencies and the private sector.

As we approach the target date set for EFA, the EFA partnership must intensify its efforts towards the achievement of the six EFA goals as well as work together closely to shape the international education and development agenda beyond 2015. Further, there is a need to rethink the concept of education for all, to encourage innovations, to promote quality lifelong learning for all and education as a human right.

These working procedures set out the role and functioning of the CCNGO/EFA in this respect.

2. Purpose of the CCNGO/EFA

The CCNGO/EFA is UNESCO's key mechanism for dialogue, reflection and partnerships with NGOs in the framework of the EFA movement. It is taken into account in UNESCO's regular programme. Recognizing NGOs as key partners in EFA and as a source for innovation and knowledge, especially in reaching the marginalized, the purpose of the CCNGO/EFA is to

¹ Revised in 2012 as part of the EFA Global Coordination reform process, the current Working Procedures supersedes and replaces the 2003 version.

- Facilitate NGO participation and their collective expression in EFA related programmes, meetings and mechanisms, including regional and global EFA coordination structures (e.g. regional EFA meetings, the Global EFA Meeting, the EFA Steering Committee);
- Facilitate the collaboration of the CCNGO/EFA as a network, and of individual CCNGO/EFA members, with education specialists at UNESCO Headquarters, regional bureaux and field offices and institutes;
- Foster exchanges and cooperation among the NGOs and in the framework of the wider EFA partnership;
- Facilitate the participation of NGOs in monitoring and evaluating EFA goals;
- Contribute to the development of a global vision of education for all, to the concept of lifelong learning and to the definition of international education agendas;
- Contribute to building the knowledge base on EFA.

3. Membership

The CCNGO/EFA membership consists of (1) NGOs with official partnership status² (consultative status or associate status) with UNESCO and (2) organizations and networks of organizations not maintaining official relations with UNESCO provided that:

1. They are non-governmental and not-for-profit;
2. They work in the field of Education for All in the comprehensive sense of the Dakar Framework;
3. They have been in existence for a minimum of two years;
4. They supply a written request to UNESCO's contact team for the CCNGO/EFA with the following documents and information: statutes, instrument of legal recognition, latest activity report, list of members of the organization, and contact persons and contact details;
5. The request is validated by UNESCO³.

CCNGO/EFA members are encouraged to work in a spirit of cooperation, tolerance and solidarity while respecting cultural diversity, UNESCO's mandate as defined by its Constitution and the working procedures of the CCNGO/EFA.

4. Global Meetings

The CCNGO/EFA may be convened by the UNESCO Director-General, every two years, in turn at UNESCO headquarters and in the regions⁴. To prepare for this meeting, regional and global consultations of the NGOs will be undertaken. The purpose of the biennial meeting is as follows:

- Evaluation of past and present work;
- Consultation and reflection on specific EFA themes;
- Constitution of the CCNGO/EFA Coordination Group;

² Partnership status: institutionalized partnership established between UNESCO and NGOs. The criteria for establishing official partnership status can be found in the most recent version of the Directives concerning UNESCO's partnership with non-governmental organizations, adopted by the General Conference at its 36th session in 2011 (Resolution 36C/108).

³ Membership requests are processed twice a year: those received before end of June are processed in July and those received before end of December are processed in January.

⁴ The regions as defined by UNESCO are as follows: Africa, Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean (please visit <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/unesco/worldwide/> for a list of countries belonging to each region).

- Adoption of thematic priorities for joint activities;
- Adoption of recommendations concerning EFA;
- Interaction with UNESCO.

5. UNESCO contact team

UNESCO's Education Sector designates a focal point and a contact team responsible for the following tasks:

- Providing conceptual, technical and administrative support to CCNGO/EFA activities and meetings;
- Connecting UNESCO's regional bureaux, field offices and Education Sector units with the CCNGO/EFA for substantive cooperation (e.g. policy consultations, information sharing, joint advocacy, studies);
- Maintaining a website, a CCNGO/EFA membership list and global and regional emailing lists for communication with and among the CCNGO/EFA membership;
- Regularly sharing information on UNESCO's activities, the EFA partnership, other education-related developments and opportunities for NGO participation, including in the form of a global CCNGO/EFA newsletter.

6. Coordination Group

6.1 Purpose and Mandate

A *Coordination Group* will facilitate the coordination of the work of the CCNGO/EFA and communication and cooperation with the UNESCO Secretariat.

The role of the Coordination Group is to:

- Propose a biennial work plan;
- Collaborate with UNESCO in the coordination and follow-up of the workplan and CCNGO/EFA activities;
- Report regularly on activities, including at the biennial CCNGO/EFA meeting;
- Promote the CCNGO/EFA and strengthen its membership and action within the different regions and internationally;
- Facilitate the monitoring and sharing of information on EFA-related issues and activities between UNESCO and the CCNGO/EFA members;
- Identify opportunities for joint action and advocacy between UNESCO and the CCNGO/EFA;
- Assure representation of the CCNGO/EFA in global and regional EFA Meetings convened by UNESCO (in which also other CCNGO/EFA members and NGOs might participate);
- Facilitate consultations on candidatures for the functions of regional and international focal points;
- Collaborate with UNESCO in preparing the biennial CCNGO/EFA meetings;
- Select two members among the Coordination Group to represent civil society organisations in the EFA Steering Committee; and

- Ensure that the recommendations formulated by the CCNGO/EFA are voiced at the sessions of the UNESCO governing bodies (General Conference and Executive Board) in accordance with the rules of procedure (representatives of NGOs in official relations and of the UNESCO-NGO Liaison Committee).

6.2. Membership

The Coordination Group is composed of ten NGO representatives, including five regional focal points, two international focal points and two further representatives of the CCNGO/EFA membership at large. Ex officio, one representative of the UNESCO/NGO Liaison Committee will also be a member. The other nine members will be elected every two years, in connection with the global meeting. The candidates must:

- Be nominated by their respective NGO which commits to mobilize and put at disposal of their representative the necessary means for the fulfilment of her/his mandate;
- Have expertise and experience in the area of Education for All;
- Commit to actively engage in the work of the Coordination Group for the full two-year term and to participate in its virtual meetings or designate a replacement if they are unable to attend;
- Commit to be accountable to the group of CCNGO/EFA members (regional or international) which they represent and to regularly consult with them and report to them;
- For regional focal points: candidates must work at the regional level for a regional NGO or network which has members or outreach capacity in at least one third of the countries in their region⁵;
- For international focal points: candidates must work at international level for an NGO with official partnership status with UNESCO.

6.3 Establishment of the Coordination Group

The Coordination Group is established through a procedure of consultation and consensus-building. Organizations may submit only one candidature.

1. Prior to the biennial CCNGO/EFA meeting, UNESCO invites interested members of the CCNGO/EFA to submit their candidate for becoming regional or international focal point, or for representing the CCNGO/EFA at large, by filling in a form.
2. UNESCO shares the candidatures for regional and international focal points with the Coordination Group who facilitate the pre-selection of candidates by consensus or elections in their respective region/international constituency.
3. UNESCO circulates the results of the selection process to the CCNGO/EFA membership for final comments.
4. The pre-selected candidates/candidate organisations introduce themselves to all member organisations at the CCNGO/EFA biennial meeting which validates the selection.

⁵ The regions as defined by UNESCO are as follows: Africa, Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean (please visit <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/unesco/worldwide/> for a list of countries belonging to each region).

5. The two additional “general” candidates will be elected by consensus or by show of hands by the participants during the biennial meeting, on the basis of candidatures received by UNESCO.

7. Modification of the CCNGO/EFA working procedures

The present working procedures may be modified at the CCNGO/EFA biennial meeting with the approval of UNESCO. Member NGOs may propose modifications to the CCNGO/EFA Coordination Group and UNESCO. The Coordination Group will disseminate the proposal to the CCNGO/EFA membership for advice.