



SHS/2008/PI/H/8

Second MOST Intergovernmental Council (IGC) Bureau Meeting 2008

**UNESCO Headquarters, Paris
1 – 2 October 2008, Room XVI (Bonvin Building)**

Minutes (Revised version 21 January 2009)

Wednesday 1st October 2008

1. Opening session. Welcome by IGC Chairperson and ADG/SHS and introduction round by IGC Bureau members and SHS staff.

The Opening session was conducted by Hon. Zola. S. T. Skweyiya, Chairperson of the IGC MOST and Minister of Social Development of South Africa and by Mr Pierre Sané, ADG/SHS. They pointed out some of the decisions to be taken at the end of the meeting, such as the Guidelines on MOST/NLCs, the selection finale of the new members for the MOST/SAC and the Terms of reference of the MOST Mid-term review". The welcome address was followed by an introduction round of presentations of IGC Bureau members and SHS staff (see "List of participants").

2. Report on MOST Activities

ADG/SHS briefly report on the recent MOST activities (Cf "Interim report on MOST field activities January-September 2008). The "work in progress" presentation was conducted by going through the written report.

Discussions on the most important themes and near activities of the Programme followed. Among others were mentioned: the need of visibility; enhancing the impact and scientific quality of MOST output; National research systems and the role they can play to deliver policy advise; the importance of the Poverty Eradication and its relationship with unemployment in Africa and in Asia; the need to enhance the MOST presence in Central Asia and to develop the Human Security. On partnerships, it was suggested to try to enhance the work with UNDESA. ADG/SHS underlined that themes need to be flexible and that we are working under regional arrangements and developing inter-regional exchanges.

On emerging issues, ADG/SHS addressed the horizontal cooperation called for by ministers, and the fact that the IGC is supposed to facilitate all regional exchanges

with identification of further actions. On the issue of the Mediterranean meeting on Human Security to be organized by Greece, ADG suggests a meeting between the Greek National Commission and T. Melasuo to avoid duplicating efforts.

3. MOST and the Global Review of Major Programmes II and III of UNESCO

ADG/SHS explained shortly the outcomes of the **Review of Major Programmes II (Natural Sciences) and III (Social Sciences)** of UNESCO in relevance with the MOST Programme. He highlighted a better focus on the science's programmes and the need to create a synergy between both programmes. Following, he detailed the recommendations of the UNESCO overall review and the way we better implement the "Sciences Overall Review Recommendations". Other important aspect highlighted by ADG/SHS was how we better integrate social sciences (Cf. "Addressing the recommendations of the overall review of UNESCO's science programmes").

Dr Skweyiya's presentation at the "**Science partners**" meeting followed.(Cf. document MOST Chairperson's presentation at the "Science Partners" meeting). At the end of the presentation it was suggested to enhance cooperation between the so-called UNESCO "Category 2" Institutes/Centres devoted to research and science with Social Sciences Centres.

4. Regional and Sub-Regional Fora of Ministers of Social Development: New developments

C. Golden presented the topic on "**Regional and Sub-Regional Fora of Ministers of Social Development**". Some comments followed on issues such as: the need of more inclusive approach and that the Secretariat activities to go beyond all obstacles mentioned; the need of "National focal points" to follow-up the forums; and the importance of the MOST/NLC to cover the gathering ministerial functions.

A discussion was set up about a more global approach for the forums, saying that we should be ready to cooperate with all relevant ministers not only with those of Social Development, given the global character of social issues. On the meaning of "Social development" just as a miscellaneous item for governments and therefore the need to strengthen the national authority and capacity of social ministries mainly on policy formulation in each government. A question was raised on how to ensure the continuity of the fora. C Golden referred to the "Draft Concept paper" and proposals were expressed which would be included in a future review document.

Argentinean Minister of Social Development, Alicia Kirchner, presented the **MOST grant in Latin America** founded this year in Buenos Aires. She explained some of the main aspects of the grant, such as Action-Research, Local development, alternative tourism, social policies, health, energy and housing as various aspects of the social development in Latin America. The "Confederacion de cooperativas de Argentina" devoted 20.000 USD for each aspect of the grant. Next steps will be done for the presentation of new projects in March 2009. ADG/SHS congratulate Minister Kirchner for promotion of young researchers and enhance visibility of the MOST programme in Latin America. He encourages doing similar work in other regions.

5. Theoretical work on research-policy linkages

G. Solinís presented the **Theoretical work on research-policy linkages activities** carried out during 2008. He explained that the definite course of action is intended to make explicit what we understand by the relationship connecting social science research and public policy making, both from a theoretical and methodological point of view. The focus is on capitalizing the work done during the MOST/IFSP in 2006. To carry out this undertaking we essentially fall back on two kinds of resources: internal SHS experience and externally-generated knowledge produced by specialists in their respective domains. The goal is to determinate our “critical mass” and to draw-up the “state of the art” on the issue (Cf. document and Power Point presentation “Theoretical and methodological reflection on the linkages connecting research and policy”).

ADG/SHS added that we are doing this because we want to draw some lessons from the experience on what work and what doesn't work. The aim being also to be able to train researchers and policy makers. During the general discussion, some suggestions exposed were: To look into the UNU/IAS and the Academic of Finland and work developed by the UK which has interesting research on Policy-research links. The convenience of identify research agendas at the national level, the importance of the evidence to solve some of our most important problems and the particular value at the regional level, which could be our added value.

6. International Social Science Journal: New developments

Cf. “The future of the international Social Science Journal. Outline of the new strategic partnership”.

Thursday 2nd October 2008

7. MOST Online Tool development

Cf. document and Power Point presentation “MOST Policy research Tool. Draft activity report January-September 2008”.

8. Guidelines for MOST National Liaison Committees

On the issue “**Guidelines for MOST National Liaison Committees**” ADG/SHS informed about the process of developing Guidelines for the establishment of Bioethics committees, and circulated the booklet “Guide No.1” with the guidelines for this which was prepared in 2005 and that might serve as a base for the MOST/NLC whose guidelines should be adopted by the 9th session of the IGC which is foreseen to take place in July 2009. ADG/SHS drew the attention to the evaluation of NLC elaborated in 2005 by Dr Chitoran and endorsed by the 8th session of the IGC in 2007 (Cf. “Evaluation report of the MOST NLCs”). It contents important findings and recommendations to be kept by drafting the guidelines. ADG/SHS drew furthermore attention to the “MOST Organizational Chart” (p. 26 of the evaluation). The development of the Guidelines will follow the hereunder timeline:

- the outcome of the discussions of the MOST staff retreat in November 2008 will be taken into account for a revised proposal which will be circulated to other UNESCO Science Programmes in December 2008 for their feedback;
- in March 2009, there will be a meeting with the new SAC to review the guidelines;
- in April 2009, the revised proposed guidelines will be sent to the IGC Bureau for comments;
- in July 2009, the guidelines will be presented to the IGC for adoption.

ADG/SHS indicated that “Liaison” could be removed from the title, as the committees shall have a more active role than just being “Liaison”. Thus, the “National Committees” functions may be established as follows:

- National committees can serve as national fora bringing together policy-makers, research community and civil society;
- the themes they will work on can be assigned by the IGC, by the National Committees themselves or by the government pending on the relevant needs in each country;
- depending on the theme, they will bring in the relevant actors accordingly;
- their first task would be to do a literature review of the theme(s) the Committee is focusing on.

The Committees should furthermore:

- propose policy recommendations
- be an advocate vis-à-vis the government;
- set up research networks;
- organize exchanges at the level between the regional and international National Committees;
- publish policy briefs which also subsequently will feed into the MOST on-line tool.

Each National Committee should in principle be composed of 15 members. MOST could assist Member States who would like to establish a LC.

A discussion followed. It was asked that to give more support to the Vice-President for each MOST IGC region in order to assist in setting up appropriate cooperation structures in the subregions for which they have responsibilities. In Uzbekistan, they have both a Bioethics committee and a National Liaison Committee. One person is member of both committees, and it was proposed that this should apply for other countries. It was also suggested that since the UN is supposed to “Deliver as one” it would also be important that the National Committees to be involved in the work of the UN-system in the respective country and that the Committees could play the role of “go between” between the UN country team and the Ministries. But we have to remember that the National Committees are not UNESCO. It was also suggested that the Committees may contribute to that science outcome is validated by practitioners. It would be positive if the same Ministers participating in the Regional Fora use the National Committees to contribute to the implementation of the results of the regional forum at the national level. It was finally indicated that there would be some financial implications as concerns the work of the Committees in order for them to have tangible results. The President of IGC stressed that the IGC Bureau members will continue to reflect about the guidelines for establishing National Committees, and he looks forward to receive the draft Guidelines next year. ADG/SHS concluded by

saying that the comments which have been made during this session of the IGC Bureau will be integrated into the draft text concerning the development of Guidelines.

9. Final selection of three MOST Scientific Advisory Council Members

The President of the IGC/MOST introduced the **revised terms of reference and the new composition of the MOST Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC)** issue. The term of office of the SAC expired at the end of 2007. As defined by the recommendations of the 6th MOST/IGC session and endorsed by the Executive Board of UNESCO at its 166th session, the MOST SAC is made up of 6 independent experts representing the 6 electoral groups/regions of UNESCO for a term of office of 3 years. In accordance with MOST Statutory Texts, the experts are to be appointed by the Director-General upon recommendations made by the MOST IGC Bureau. The SAC proceeded to the selection of qualified candidates from nominations received in response to the Secretariat international call to Member States in Groups I, II and III, as well as to Scientific NGOs. The Secretariat received 18 high-level nominations whose details were communicated to IGC members in July 2008, for a first screening exercise (Cf. document "Nominations for MOST/SAC").

Upon the recommendations made by the IGC Bureau at their first 2008 Session (January 2008), it was decided to renew for a second term of office the mandate of 3 of the former members.

- Professor Nazli Choucri, Arab Region,
- Professor Charly Gabriel Mbock, Africa,
- Professor Masanori Naito, Asia-Pacific Region).

After examination of the synoptic table with the results of the e-mail voting process, a discussion was held and Bureau Members decided unanimously to propose to the Director General for appointment for a three-years-term of office the following candidates:

- Professor Luk van Langenhove, Director, UNU-Centre for Regional Integration Studies, Bruges, Belgium; Vice-President of ISSC (Europe and North-America);
- Professor Zdenka Mansfeldova, Head, Department of Sociology of Politics and Deputy Director, Institute of Sociology of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic (Eastern and Central Europe) and
- Professor Lourdes Sola, President of the International Political Science Association (IPSA), Member of the Brazilian Academy of Sciences, Brazilian Order of Scientific Merit (Latin America and the Caribbean).

10. Terms of Reference for MOST Mid-Term Review

G. Solinís presented the terms of reference for MOST Mid-Term Review. He explained that the draft was the result of collective exercise within the MOST Secretariat and the SHS/EO Office and with the assistance of UNESCO/IOS (Cf. document and Power Point presentation "Formative Mid-Term review of UNESCO's MOST Programme, Phase 2, 2004-2008) The ToR in its first draft were already presented to discussions during the last IGC/Bureau first meeting (January 2008). He recalled the background, purpose and scope of the review, methodology and

logistics. The schedule was set up as follows:

<u>October 08:</u>	Final approval of Terms of Reference
<u>October-November 08:</u>	Identification and contracting of evaluator(s)
<u>December 08:</u>	Production of an inception report including the review methodology approach, planning matrix, list of interviewees
<u>January 09:</u>	Data collection, analysis and draft report
<u>February 09:</u>	Discussion and comments on draft report
<u>March 09:</u>	Submission to the Secretariat, to MOST/IGC/Bureau and MOST/SAC
<u>May 09:</u>	Translations of the final report
<u>July 09:</u>	Final report to be submitted to the 9 th session of the MOST IGC.

Thus, the next step will be the identification and contracting of evaluator(s). On the proposed text to go out when requesting proposals of evaluators through the MOST/IGC Member States, the purpose will be to get proposals for the midterm review of MOST Phase II (January 2004 to December 2007). They will be requested to submit a proposal for conducting the review, according to the ToR (a concise proposal of approximately 2 pages should include details on the approach, methodology, timing and deliverables). The proposal should specify the number of person-working days required for each major phase of the assignment (desk review, conduct of the review, data collection and analysis, report writing). A budget of approximately USD 12.000 has been allocated for the assignment. The Consultant to be retained will fulfil the following minimum requirements:

- advanced university degree in the social sciences, humanities, public policy, or related field;
- previous professional experience in leading programme and project evaluations of relevance to policy-making;
- excellent communication and report writing skills in English
- demonstrated knowledge of, or experience in, the main working areas of MOST, e.g. the research-policy linkages.

11. Closure, IGC President and ADG/SHS