



13 May 2005

## Evaluation of the MOST National Liaison Committees (NLCs)

### Questionnaire

*The purpose of the Questionnaire is to gather information on how MOST-related issues are dealt with at the national level, whether handled by National Liaison Committees (NLCs) or by another appointed body/structure/ institution. It begins with questions relative to their structure, composition and legal and institutional status, proceeds to their roles and functions and focuses on their performance, their outreach capabilities in promoting the research-policy interlink and the impact of their action. Other questions refer to their links to, and communication with the MOST Secretariat, with the national Commissions for UNESCO, with the other NLCs and with co-operation partners at the regional and international levels. It is also intended to collect information about perceived difficulties encountered in their work and proposals to overcome them.*

*In order to cover the highly diverse situations in various countries and regions, the questions have been phrased very broadly. For this reason, some of them may seem less relevant for the NLC in your country. Others, on the contrary, may seem too broad and encompassing, so that elaborate studies would be required in order to answer them properly. In order to render their task easier, the questions have been divided into two categories:*

- *simple questions of the yes/no or multiple choice type that can be answered by simply ticking the appropriate boxes;*
- *questions that ask for examples to be given or to make qualitative appraisals about the respective items. In their case, please try to give brief and pertinent answers. Whenever relevant documents, previous analyses and studies are available (preferably on the Internet) indicate them and the way they could be accessed by the evaluator.*

## **Structure/composition/legal and institutional status/roles and functions of the MOST NLC in your country**

### **1. The structure of the NLC and how it is legally and institutionally anchored**

1.1. What institution/body or structure handles MOST in your country? *(Please indicate the appropriate response by ticking out the corresponding box).*

- a) A National Liaison Committee (NLC)
- b) Another body/institution or structure, such as:
  - Social science research council
  - Research institute
  - Other
- c) The National Commission for UNESCO or one of its (sub)committees

1.2. What is the legal and institutional status of the MOST NLC or equivalent body in your country? *(Answer briefly and indicate where fuller information could be found, especially if available on the Internet).*

### **2. The composition of the NLC or of the body in charge of MOST in your country**

2.1. Does it include representatives of:

- (a) main scientific research institutes or centres
- (b) universities
- (c) ministries or other governmental bodies
- (d) other institutions/associations, etc.

2.2. Is its composition interdisciplinary so as to cover the fields of interest of MOST?

- Yes
- No

2.3. Give examples (if existing) of how the NLC encourages the participation of female researchers and of young scientists in MOST related activities in your country.

### **3. The primary roles and functions of the NLC**

3.1. Does it focus on its function as: *(Please tick out as many functions as it performs)*

- a) Promoter and facilitator of research on trends

- in social transformation
- b) Mediator of the research-policy interlink
- c) Policy design and implementation
- d) Consultancies
- e) Platform for intellectual debate
- f) Communication and networking facilitator
- g) Advocacy
- h) Monitoring/evaluation and elaboration of indicators  
of social transformation and sustainable development
- i) Capacity building and training activities
- j) Standard setter
- k) Collection, processing and dissemination of  
information relevant to MOST

3.2. Does your NLC have links with:

- (a) governmental authorities
- (b) decision making bodies
- (c) universities
- (d) research centers
- (e) NGOs and civil society groups

*Please specify for each case how the links are established.*

3.3. Does the NLC help build up links between MOST and:

- a) existing research policy networks
- b) UNITWIN networks and UNESCO Chairs
- c) UNESCO's other scientific programmes  
(MAB, IHP, IGCP, IOC, etc.) at national level
- d) other activities coordinated by the National  
UNESCO Commission in education, science,  
culture and communication
- e) UNDP, ECOSOC, UNICEF, WHO and other  
UN Joint ventures in your country
- f) Projects/programmes supported by  
the World Bank, IMF, etc. in your country
- g) Projects/programmes in MOST - related fields  
supported by IGOs and by donor  
agencies and foundations

3.4. Does it reach out to:

- a) the parliament
- b) the media
- c) the trade unions
- d) the business community in your country
- e) NGOs and other actors of civil society in general

*(Click the appropriate link(s), provide basic information and indicate where additional information could be found).*

3.5. With relation to questions 1, 2 and 3 above, indicate:

- a) key factors that either facilitate or prevent the NLC from carrying out its roles/functions in an optimum manner;
- b) what changes in the structure, composition and functions of your NLC are – to your mind - needed in order to improve its overall action?

### **Activities (operations, practices and processes)**

#### **4. Research Themes and Projects; Enhancing the Research-Policy Link**

4.1. Does the NLC assist in the identification of priority research themes that are of direct relevance to MOST in your country?

- Yes   
 No

*If yes, please list some of them.*

4.2. Does the NLC assist in the elaboration of research projects and in setting up research networks for their execution?

- Yes   
 No

*If yes, list a few examples and indicate where additional information about them could be found, especially if available on the Internet.*

4.3. Indicate whether a research project is planned on the priority research theme identified by MOST for your Region. (The priority research themes are: *Regional Integration Processes* for Africa; *Human Security* for the Asia-Pacific region; *Fighting poverty* for Latin America and the Caribbean; *the Role of the State in Social Development*

for the Arab States; *The Social Science Policy Interface* for Europe, including Eastern/Central Europe; *Sustainable Social Development* for the Small Islands Development States (SIDS).

Yes   
No

4.4. Does your NLC encourage and facilitate the building up of linkages and maintain continued dialogue between national researchers and policy makers?

- a) Yes, on a regular basis
- b) Yes, occasionally
- c) No

*If yes, give examples of how this has been done.*

4.5. Does your NLC provide or mediate provision of expert knowledge to policy and decision makers?

- d) Yes, on a regular basis
- e) Yes, occasionally
- f) No

*If yes, give examples of how this has been done.*

4.6. Does it engage itself in advocacy activities so as to increase awareness of MOST for:

- a) policy and decision makers
- b) the research community
- c) public opinion and civil society
- d) the media
- e) other

4.7. What modalities are in place for monitoring trends in social transformations at national/regional level, and keeping MOST up-dated on a regular basis? Is the NLC in any way involved in keeping track of them? (*Provide basic information and indicate where additional information could be found*).

4.8. Do decision makers in your country feel that the NLC provides a useful service for the research-policy link?

- a) Yes, very much so
- b) Yes, on some issues
- c) Only rarely
- d) Not the case

4.9. In general, how would you evaluate the interest of the decision and policy making bodies of your country in MOST activities?

- a) High or very high
- b) Moderate
- c) Rather low

4.10. Does your NLC provide media with MOST information on its activities for the public at large?

- a) Yes, on a regular basis
- b) Yes, occasionally
- c) Rather rarely
- d) Not the case

4.11. In general, how would you evaluate the interest of the public in MOST activities?

- a) High or very high
- b) Moderate
- c) Rather low

4.12. Does the NLC contribute to strengthening the role of the social sciences through the dialogue between researchers and policy makers?

- a) Yes, very much so
- b) Yes, in some domains
- c) Only rarely
- d) Not the case

## 5. Capacity building and training

5.1. Does the NLC contribute to strengthening scientific, professional and institutional capacities in your country through capacity building and training activities?

- Yes
- No

5.2. If yes, please specify how this is done:

- (i) through:
- a) special training courses
  - b) summer schools,
  - c) other forms of training

(ii) with the support of:

- a) universities
- b) research institutes
- c) other institutions

(iii) for what target beneficiaries:

- a) social scientists - especially young scholars
- b) professionals involved in social work and planning for social development
- c) national and local policy-makers
- d) MOST National Liaison Committees
- e) University social science departments
- f) mass media professionals
- g) NGO activists
- h) other

5.3 Have special materials been developed for training purposes?

- Yes   
No

*If yes, indicate sources where they can be examined (preferably by Internet, if accessible)*

5.4 Are new training materials being envisaged?

- Yes   
No

*If yes, specify*

## 6. Collection, Processing and Dissemination of Information

6.1 Is there a *national data bases* on social science research?

- Yes   
No

If yes, does it include inventories of:

- a) research institutes   
b) research networks on specific issues   
c) on-going and past research projects   
d) bibliographical references   
e) other

6.2. Are they linked to similar data bases abroad?

- Yes   
No

6.3 Do regional data bases exist, or are there plans to build them in the future?

- Yes   
No

*If yes, please specify*

6.4. Does your NLC (and researchers linked to MOST in general) use the *MOST Clearing House facility* ( [www.unesco.org/shs/most](http://www.unesco.org/shs/most) )?

- Yes   
No

*If yes, could you assess how often and whether it has been found useful?*

6.5 Do you contribute at present to its updating and/or are you willing to do so in the future?

- Yes



No

## 7 Use of ICTs by the NLC

7.1 Is your NLCs equipped to use ICTs in its activity?

- Yes, well equipped   
Yes, for limited purposes only   
Not at all

7.2. Does it use ICTs for any of the following functions (*Tick the boxes that apply. Provide any additional information you may wish to give*):

- a) to facilitate research   
b) to network researchers   
c) for training purposes   
d) for the collection, processing  
and dissemination of information   
e) for communication at the national,  
regional and international levels   
f) other

7.3. Does the NLC (and the research institutes, university departments, etc. in your country) make use and contribute to the updating of the *MOST Website* established by UNESCO?

- Yes   
No

*If yes, please specify how you would like it to be further developed, particularly in order to improve its interactivity.*

7.4. Do you envisage upgrading the use of ICTs in your future work?

- Yes   
No

*If yes, please specify in what way and with what means.*

## 8. Communication and co-operation with UNESCO

8.1. Does the NLC receive MOST information (newsletters, publications etc.)?

- a) Yes, regularly
- b) Yes, occasionally
- c) Rarely
- d) No

8.2. What kind of support would your NLC expect from UNESCO?

- a) Intellectual and technical
- b) Financial and material
- c) Other (*please specify*) .....

8.3. With whom in the MOST Secretariat do you interact more frequently?

(Indicate persons/units and how would you like such communication to be improved.)

8.4. Is your NLC ready to assist the UNESCO MOST Secretariat to set up thematic *research networks* and to produce *Policy Papers*, as planned for MOST Phase II?

- Yes
- Yes, but need more information  
about the proposed networks and themes
- No

8.5. Does your NLC inform regularly the MOST Secretariat on MOST-related activities at the national level?

- a) Yes, regularly
- b) Yes, sometimes
- c) No

8.6. Would your NLC support the proposal to introduce a periodic report system (annual or biannual) to the MOST Secretariat, to be presented to the IGC sessions?

- Yes
- No

## 9. Regional and International Co-operation of your NLC

9.1. Does the NLC communicate with other NLC of the region/ world-wide?

- a) Yes
- b) Yes, but on a limited scale
- c) No

9.2. Has it forged alliances with other NLCs in your (sub-) region?

- a) Yes
- b) Not yet, but intending
- c) Not the case

9.3. Does your NLC support the initiative to set up a MOST Regional Forum of Ministers for Social Development?

- a) Yes
- c) No

9.4. Is your NLC in favour of establishing a structure/platform for the promotion of regional co-operation among the NLCs of a region/sub region?

- Yes
- No

9.5. What possible alliances and partnerships do you see at the regional and international levels and how could UNESCO assist you to achieve them?

## 10. Added value and Impact: Enabling research to be useful, usable and used

10.1. To what extent does the NLC consider its action as bringing an added value in terms of its contribution to the goals and objectives of MOST?

- a) High
- b) Moderate
- c) Rather low

10.2. To what extent is your NLC proactively creating opportunities for research to play its role alongside the other stakeholders and actors shaping social policies in your country?

- a) To a large extent
- b) To a moderate extent
- c) To a rather low extent

10.3. What does your NLC do differently as a result of having received UNESCO support? *(Please list a few successful activities / achievements).*

10.4. What do NLC target groups do differently as a result of having received NLC support, as demonstrated by several successful activities / achievements? *(Please describe).*

## 11. Funding

11.1. Has the NLC trained personnel for securing funding of activities (project formulation, identification of potential donors, submission of projects in keeping with donor requirements, etc.)?

- Yes
- No

11.2. Does the NLC succeed to secure funding for research projects and other MOST activities from national sources?

- a) ministries or other governmental bodies
- b) research institutes and university departments
- c) donor agencies and foundations
- d) private sector
- e) other

*Tick the corresponding boxes and give examples of projects funded that way.*

11.3. Is funding for MOST-related projects secured from IGOs, the World Bank, regional development banks, international and bilateral donors, etc?

- Yes
- No

*If yes, please give examples.*

11.4. Indicate how, to your mind, could strategic alliances be struck, how fund raising skills could be strengthened and what kind of support you would expect from UNESCO in this regard.

## **12. Feedback**

12.1. Give your opinion on:

(a) How to maintain and/or expand the NLC over time?

(b) How to assert and generalize “best practices” and management procedures so as to allow NLCs to perform better and have increased impact and visibility of their own action and of MOST in general?

12.2. What are the NLC’s views about:

(a) UNESCO’s overall action in areas related to MOST and of the MOST Secretariat

(b) The action to be taken for the Phase II of MOST

(c) This evaluation

*Add any further information you consider relevant. Insist in particular on most salient achievements through which you consider that the NLC has made an impact on the decision making process in your country.*

### **13. ANNEX on behalf of the MOST Secretariat:**

#### **MOST-Phase II Regional Priority Themes and related Policy-Research Networks**

13.1 The Recommendations of the Sixth Session of the IGC MOST ( February 2003), 32 C/REP.18 Annex – Para “Goals and Priorities” ( c ) state :“The research problems should build on the previous thematic areas of MOST and the expertise and networking resulting from the past two periods with the prospect of including new themes deemed critical. These new priorities and themes should be defined through consultation process at regional and other levels taking into account the priorities of UNESCO.”

13.2 In line with the above recommendation, a complex consultation process drawing upon:

- Social Science consultation meetings held in all Regions in 2002/03;
- Secretariat consultations with MOST Member States by e-mail;
- 33 C/5 Consultation Meetings with National Commissions in 2004 (Programme for 2006/07)

identified, by paying due tribute to

- a majority of expressions of interest, as well as to
- the need to foster convergence between the substance actions of the Social Science Sector,

**the following Regional Priority Themes for MOST Phase II :**

- **Latin America and the Caribbean: Combating poverty**
- **Africa: Regional Integration Processes**
- **Arab States: the Role of the State in Social Development**
- **Asia-Pacific: Human Security**
- **Small Islands Development States: Sustainable Development**
- **Europe, including Eastern/Central Europe: The Social Science -Policy Interface in Social Development**

13.3 The Secretariat is herewith making **a plea** to interested member states to kindly contribute to the constitution of policy-relevant MOST networks under the above identified priority themes, by suggesting the names of

- interested national policy-makers,
- representatives of interested research institutions,
- advocacy NGOs active in the identified priority area and, if applicable,

with a view to enrich the multi-partite MOST-Phase II networking process at regional level. The multi-partite networks are to help promote closer interconnectedness of the policy-making and social sciences research spheres.

<b>Thank you for your cooperation</b>
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## ADDENDUM

SHS-05/CONF.205/8C ADD



### Replies to the Questionnaire for the Evaluation of the MOST NLCs (As of 24<sup>th</sup> June 2005)

Filled in Questionnaires	Other replies	Promised
<b>Europe and North America</b>		
1. Bulgaria	Czech Republic	Canada
2. Finland	Cyprus	Israel
3. France		Austria?
4. Germany		
5. Hungary		
6. The Netherlands		
7. Norway		
8. Poland		
9. Romania		
10. Sweden		
11. Switzerland		
12. Turkey		
<b>Africa</b>		
13. Cameroon	Madagascar	
14. Tanzania		
15. Uganda		
<b>Arab States</b>		
16. Algeria	Lebanon	Qatar?
17. Kuwait	Iraq	
18. Libya		
19. Tunis		
<b>Asia and the Pacific</b>		
20. Australia		Indonesia
21. Iran		
22. New Zealand		
23. Philippines		
24. Sri Lanka		
25. Uzbekistan		
<b>Latin American and the Caribbean</b>		

26. Columbia	Honduras	
27. Peru	Barbados	
28. Chile		
29 Uruguay		