

**REPORTS OF THE REGIONAL
MEETINGS OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSIONS FOR UNESCO
ON THE PREPARATION OF THE PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2018-2021 (39 C/5)**

Shanghai, 15 June 2016

Representatives from 112 National Commissions for UNESCO met in Shanghai, (People's Republic of) China, from 13 to 15 June on the occasion of the annual inter-regional meeting of the National Commissions for UNESCO. On 15 June, regional meetings of the National Commissions were organized on the preparation of UNESCO's Programme and Budget of the Organization for 2018-2021 (39 C/5).

The present document contains the reports of these regional meetings.

AFRICA

Three topics were discussed and the Africa Group agreed as follows:

I. UNESCO's Role

- a) Africa agrees in Principle with the Online Survey undertaken by the Member States on the consultations of the Draft and Budget for 2018 -2021.
- b) Africa endorses UNESCO's relevance and recognizes that it is well-positioned in Agenda 2030 and requests UNESCO to strengthen understanding of SDGs to National Commissions.
- c) National Commissions will work closely with governments to ensure the comparative advantage of UNESCO in the UNDAF is realized.

II. Priorities in the 5 Programmes

In the five Major Programmes, the Africa group recommended that UNESCO prioritizes the following:

A. Education

- Inclusive education
- Quality education especially **quality teachers** and **relevant curriculum**
- ESD
- TVET
- Peace Education
- STEM Education

B. Natural Sciences

- Science Technology and Innovation Policy
- Water
- Sustainable energy

C. Social Human Sciences

- Studies on inclusion,
- Gender
- Youth
- Human rights

D. Culture

- Ratification of conventions
- Illicit trafficking of cultural properties
- Promotion and protection of ICH
- Protection of heritage
- International dialogue on peace

E. Communication and Information

- Freedom of expression
- Protection of journalists
- ICT for knowledge society

III. Intersectorality

- a) Increase financing
- b) Capacity build National Commissions in the implementation of agenda 2030
- c) Strengthen positioning of National Commissions
- d) Strengthen staffing of regional offices
- e) Introduce a Youth Desk in National Commissions
- f) Organize and support regional and national forums
- g) Strengthen ASP network.

ARAB STATES

Outcomes of the regional meeting on the consultation for the preparation of UNESCO draft programme and budget for 2018-2021.

1. The Arab Group recognizes the positive role of UNESCO to achieve SDGs, especially in its mandatory fields. Also, it recognizes UNESCO's efforts in producing the indicators for achieving all UNESCO relevant SDGs by UIS. Finally, the Arab Group would express the need of some countries for capacity- building.

2. The priorities for the Arab Group

The group validates the results of the survey and underlines the following specific points:

- a) Education for Global Citizenship – has intersectoral relations between education, youth, work and resistance against violence;
 - b) Education during conflict.
3. The Arab Group suggests that programmes obtaining less than 40% support in the survey analysis be funded by extra-budgetary funding to enhance implementation of the top priorities.

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

The group was divided into three smaller groups with each group reporting back separately but the ideas were collated.

This group holds the view that all SDGs are important and inter-related but in keeping with today's assignment, we have focused on those in which we believe UNESCO can play a lead role. But this focus should not be interpreted as diminishing the importance of any other SDGs.

1. Strategic Focus

The strategic focus for the UNESCO has to be aligned with the comparative advantage.

- a. SDG 4 – Ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education for all
- b. SDG 5 – Gender Equality and empowerment
- c. SDG 13 – Climate Change, very important for the pacific but discussion on which should be the lead organization. Majority didn't feel that UNESCO should necessarily be the lead agency.
- d. SDG 16 – Peace & Justice and strong institutions
- e. SDG 11 – Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable – protection of culture and strong educational foundation/institutions are key to achieving this goal.

2. Target Groups

- a. Youth
- b. Marginalized communities

3. Functions

The main function of UNESCO should be as laboratory of ideas and standard setting. However, in terms of specific functions, the UNESCO could focus on Teacher Training, ICT in education and TVET considering that these would be the key to achieving SDG4.

4. Comparative Advantage

With regard to the strategic focus, UNESCO enjoys comparative advantage in the following way:

- a. Organizational advantage – In most of the member countries, there is an organization structure of NATCOMs, generally located in the Ministry of Education. UNESCO is thus, well prepared to leverage the strength of NATCOMs for realizing SDG 4;
- b. Global presence – While some other UN agencies are focused on specific set of countries/regions, UNESCO is present in all member countries, which helps it to elicit support from and peer-learning across developed, developing and Least Developed Countries.

5. Positioning with UN Partners

From the programme point of view, education and culture are the distinct fields of competence for UNESCO. UNESCO should be the lead agency for SDG4 and if the budgets permit SDG 16. However, it should provide inputs and support other UN agencies, which are leading other SDG goals in its programme areas.

6. Intersectoral approach

In terms of intersectoral approach, the Education programme should be leading the SDG 4 initiative with other four programmes providing support to it. Culture programme should play an important role as it addresses issues relating to safeguarding and protecting cultural heritage; learning to live together, global citizenship and inter-cultural dialogue.

7. Regional Priorities

With environment related challenges in the region, SDG 6, 7, 12,13,14 and 15, essentially environmental priorities, would likely be high priorities in a number of countries.

8. General Issues

From a regional perspective, disaster risk management and freedom of expression (beyond media freedom) should figure prominently. There was also a commitment to retention of indigenous knowledge. The group felt that each of these could also be the focus of UNESCO.

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

This report is composed of the group's overarching recommendations, followed by detailed points.

UNESCO's constitutional role and that of multilateral organisations are as relevant as ever. Ours is a time of increasing instability, with conflict and crises now and the seeds of future conflict being sown. There is an unchangeable need for the defences of peace to be built meaningfully in the minds of men and women. The need to do this work needs to be understood and communicated. UNESCO must always check that its work is relevant and impactful, in order to be valued by and present in the minds of people and their policy makers in the Member States.

Recommendations and challenges for UNESCO and its Member States:

- UNESCO must build on its work in global policy setting. It helps set the global education policy agenda, but what about UNESCO's other areas of competency such as science, communication and culture? UNESCO is a great platform for independent science. It could play a lead role in defining world science policy priorities. It should enhance its role in providing upstream policy advice.
- The structure of the Major Programmes does not imply a sectoral structure. There must be flexibility.
- UNESCO needs to get back to its constitution and do fewer things better. Everything it does should be prioritized and evaluated against its role of building the defences of peace in the minds of men and women. What happened to UNESCO's prioritization exercise carried out by member states and when will it be repeated?

- The group strongly applauds the integrated budget: it provides the structure for an even more transparent, accountable, and effective UNESCO.
- The UNESCO National Commissions can build on their value adding role through more effective coordination with their national capitals and Permanent Delegations. The National Commissions' role is set out in the UNESCO constitution as co-operating bodies with civil society. The National Commissions and the Inter-Regional meetings must be in the C5.
- UNESCO must be more meaningful to people and its member states. How can it monitor and evaluate this? How could UNESCO better ensure it understands what is meaningful to people?
- Agenda 2030 is a great focus for UNESCO. It is clear that SDG4 is relevant to UNESCO and will reintroduce UNESCO's leading role in education, including its unique work as a multi-lateral on Quality Education. UNESCO brings a great depth and understanding of education to the global policy forum.
- It is essential that the relevance of other SDGs is not lost and that UNESCO's work to deliver them is mapped and understood at UNESCO and national level. UNESCO national designations can help deliver the SDGs.
- UNESCO's Conventions are often piecemeal. They must and should be integrated in a more coherent way. When will an analysis be done and recommendations produced?
- UNESCO needs to take a more integrated approach in its work at a policy level and between UNESCO designations, for example between MAB, Chairs and Natural and World Heritage Sites. This is a core part of UNESCO's added value.
- Agenda 2030 is a great guide for sunset clauses. Sunset clauses should be automatic unless clear criteria are met demonstrating why there should not be one.
- The group welcomes work building on steps to make the UNESCO secretariat's work with National Commissions more effective and asks what the next steps will be? The determination of these next steps should be done in consultation with and with the participation of all National Commissions.
- Priority Gender and Africa must be effective. Inter-cultural dialogue is more needed than ever, but exactly is being done to demonstrate it is working as it should?
- *UNESCO must always ask itself:*
 - What can it do better than any other body?*
 - What can it do that no other organisation can?*
 - Is this work within its constitutional role of building the defences of peace?*

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

I. Global Priorities

Recommends that SIDS be added as a 3rd global priority in addition to Africa and Gender Equality with the confirmation of the SIDS Action Plan at the (199th session) of the Executive Board and the outcome of the COP 21.

II. Regional Priorities for the Major Programmes

Education

- Quality Education
- Literacy and how it relates to crime and violence.
- Education for Sustainable Development
- Support for Global Citizenship
- The Promotion of STEM in the education system

Culture

- Governments to ratify culture conventions and seek to have more sites assigned to World Heritage Lists
- Capacity-Building and training to implement culture convention and policies as outlined in the regional work plan for culture in LAC 2016-2021 which was supported and signed by the Ministers of the Region
- Elevate the Transatlantic Slave trade Project in light of the Decade of People of African Descent and designate the appropriate resources as this is important the LAC region
- Creative Industries for Job Creation

Natural Sciences

- Climate Change with special focus on SIDS
- Water management
- Biodiversity
- Man and Biosphere Programme

Social and Human Sciences

- Emphasize our support of the MOST Programme
- What needs to be Addressed is the issue of the aging population which relates to SDG 3 – Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- Illegal immigration as an emerging issue was also discussed and should be considered and addressed

Communication and Information

- Freedom of Expression, safety of journalists, Access to Information, The Information for all programme
- Ethical use of information and communication technologies
- Preservation of documentary heritage via the Memory of the World programme.

List of participants in the third Interregional Meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO

(Shanghai, People's Republic of China, 13-15 June 2016)

Participants by region

AFRICA		
Country	NAME	TITLE
Benin	Mr N'dah Marcel OYA	Secretary-General
Botswana	Mr Oteng Mokowe	Secretary-General
Burundi	Mr Bernard NAHIMANA	Assistant Secretary-General
Cabo Verde	Ms Glória Ribeiro	Secretary-General
Cameroon	Mr Sally Mairiga	Secretary-General
	Ms Mengue Ango Valerie	Chargée d'études
Central African Republic	Ms Georgette Florence Koyt-Deballé	Secretary-General
Chad	MR Abdelkerim Adoum Bahar	Secretary-General
Comoros	Mr SAID ABDOU Abdou Ahamada	Secretary-General
Cote d'Ivoire	Mr Lou Mathieu BAMBA	Secretary-General
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Mr Liema Ibongo-Botie Lazare	Permanent Secretary
Djibouti	Mr ISMAN IBRAHIM ROBLEH	Secretary-General
Ethiopia	Mr Mebratu Berhan Berhe	Secretary-General
Equatorial Guinea	Mr Santiago Bivini Mangué	Secretary-General
	Mr Robustiano Nkulu Obama Abeme	Chief of Delegation
	Mr Máximo Antonio Bibang Oye	Member of the COM NAT
Gambia	Mr Ousmane Sengor	Principal Programme Officer
Guinea-Bissau	Mr Alexmandro Onurma Correia	Director of Service Division of Social Science and Human Rights
Kenya	Mr John Mireri	Deputy Secretary-General
	Ms Evangeline Njoka	Secretary-General
Lesotho	Ms Lilly Palesa Montsi	Secretary-General
Liberia	Mr Caston Bob Harris	Deputy Secretary-General
Madagascar	Ms Hanta Nirina Raboanary	Secretary-General
Malawi	Mr Francis Mkandawire	Executive Secretary-General
Mali	Ms Sangaré Coumba Touré	Secretary-General
Mauritius	Mrs A. Ghoorah	Assistant Secretary-General
Mozambique	Ms Elia Bila	Assistant Secretary-General
Niger	Mr Issa Namata	Secretary-General

Country	NAME	TITLE
Senegal	Mr Aliou LY	Secretary-General
Seychelles	Ms Vicky Gendron	Assistant Secretary-General
South Africa	Mr Carlton Mukwevho	Secretary-General
Togo	Mr Koffi Michel AGBOH	Secretary-General
Uganda	Ms Rosie Agoi	Assistant Secretary-General
United Republic of Tanzania	Mr Moshi M. Kimizi	Secretary-General (a.i.)
Zambia	Ms Heather Munachonga	Education Programme Officer
Zimbabwe	Ms Margaret Julia CHIRAPA	Secretary-General

ARAB STATES

Country	NAME	TITLE
Egypt	Mr Hussein Ibrahim	Culture counsellor Beijing
Mauritania	Mr Ismail Ould Chouaib	Assistant Secretary-General
Morocco	Mr Mohammed Benabdelkader	Secretary-General
Palestine	Mr Feras Ghannam	Director of Programs and Projects Department
Qatar	Ms Hamda Hassan Al-Sulaiti	Secretary-General
Saudi Arabia	Mr Mansour Alosaimi	Counsellor of Education
Sudan	Mrs Huda Mohamed Ismail Abdelatif	Assistant Secretary-General for Education
	Msr Wafaa Nouredin	Assistant Secretary-General for Natural science
Syrian Arab Republic	Ms Mouna Aljoldi Alabssi	Secretary-General

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Country	NAME	TITLE
Afghanistan	Mr Mohammad Shakir Habibyar	Secretary-General
Australia	Mr Adam Illman	Secretary-General
Bangladesh	Mr Taz Uddin	Programme Officer
China	Mr Du Yue	Secretary-General
	Mr Zhou Jiagui	Deputy Secretary-General
	Mr Hou Jian	Director
	Ms Guo Wei	Programme Officer

Country	NAME	TITLE
Cook Islands	Mr Gail Townsend	Secretary-General
	Joshua McKenzie Mitchell	
Fiji	Mr Amani Cirikisuva	Secretary-General
India	Mr Alok Mishra	Department of Higher Education
	Mr Saroj Kumar Choudhary	Section Officer Department Higher Education
Indonesia	Mr Arief Rachman	Executive Chairman
	Mr Danumr Bramanto	Member of National Commission
	Mr Dedimr Karyana	Head of International Facilitation Division, Bureau of Planning and International Cooperation
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Mr S Nasiri Gheydari	Secretary-General
Japan	Mr Kazuki Fukuda	Deputy Secretary-General
Kazakhstan	Ms Assel Utegenova	Secretary-General
	Ms. A.Oraziman	Member of NATCOM
Kiribati	Mrs Kaaro Neeti	Director of Education
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Mr Samboun MASOUVANH	Secretary-General
Marshall Islands	Mr Catalino Kijiner	Associate Commissioner for Finance and Budget
Mongolia	Mr Gundegmaa Jargalsaikhan	Secretary-General
Nepal	Mr. Balaram Timalcina	Secretary-General
New Zealand	Mr Ian McKinnon	Chairperson
	Ms Vicki Soanes	Secretary-General (Acting)
Palau	Mr Andrew Tabelual	Secretary-General
Papua New Guinea	Mr Andrew Angobe	Secretary-General
Philippines	Ms Virginia A. Miralao	Secretary-General
Republic of Korea	Mr Dong Seok MIN	Secretary-General
	Mr Jinsung JEON	Director Division of International Relations
	Ms Song KWON	Programme Officer, Division of International Relations
Samoa	Ms Karoline Fuatai	Chief Executive Officer Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture

Country	NAME	TITLE
Solomon Islands	Ms Christina Bokalo	Chief Education Officer
Thailand	Ms Chitralada CHANYAEM	Foreign Relations Officer
Timor-Leste	Mr Francisco Barreto	Coordinator of mother tongue Education Programme
Tonga	Ms Lucy Moala-Mafi	Secretary-General
Tuvalu	Mr Tofiga Tinilau	Programme Officer
Viet Nam	Mr Pham Sanh Chau	Secretary-General
	Mrs. Nguyen Minh Hanh	Desk Officer for UNESCO Social Sciences and Cultural Heritage

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

Country	NAME	TITLE
Albania	Mr Sokol Gjoka	Director of the International Organizations MFA
Andorra	Mr Jean-Michel Armengol	Secretary-General
Armenia	Mr Vahram Kazhoyan	Secretary- General
Austria	Ms Mona Mairitsch	Deputy Secretary-General
Azerbaijan	Ms Gulnara Aghalarova	Secretary-General
	Ms Lala Mehdiyeva	Attaché of the Commission
Belarus	Mr Andrei Tribush	Secretary-General
Belgium	Mr Tijs D'Hoest	Secretary- General
Bulgaria	Mrs Maria Donska	Secretary-General
Canada	Ms Christina Cameron	President
Czech Republic	Mr Karel Komárek	Secretary-General
Estonia	Ms Margit Siim	Coordinator of Culture Programmes
Finland	Ms Zabrina Holmström	Secretary-General
France	Mr David FAJOLLES	Secretary-General
Georgia	Ms Ketevan Kandelaki	Secretary- General
Germany	Mr Lutz Moeller	Deputy Secretary-General
Greece	Ms Maria-Aikaterini Papachristopoulou	President
	Mrs Ismini Kriari	Member of the Executive Board of the NATCOM
Hungary	Mr Gábor Soós	Secretary- General
Iceland	Ms Áslaug Dóra Eyjólfsdóttir	Secretary-General

Country	NAME	TITLE
Israel	Ms Dalit Atrakchi	Secretary- General
Luxembourg	Ms Simone Beck	Chairperson
Poland	Mr Sławomir Ratajski	Secretary-General
Portugal	Ms Rita Brasil de Brito	Secretary-General
Romania	Mrs Daniela Popescu	Head of the Subcommittee for interdisciplinary Programmes
Russian Federation	Mr Vladimir Cherepanov	Head of division
	Ms Irina Kuzmina	Second Secretary
Serbia	Ms Jasmina Stankovic Tatarac	Secretary-General
Slovakia	Ms Edita Filadelfiova	Secretary General
Switzerland	Mr Nicolas Mathieu	Secretary-General
Turkey	Mr Öcal Oğuz	Chairperson
	Ms İrem ALPASLAN	Assistant Secretary General
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr James Bridge	Secretary General

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARRIBEAN

Country	NAME	TITLE
Anguilla	Ms Jasmin-Ann Phillip-Garraway	Secretary-General
Belize	Mr Rudolph Anthony	Secretary-General
Cuba	Ms Gonzalez Guittierez	Secretary-General
Curacao	Ms Marva C. Browne	Secretary-General
Dominican Republic	Ms María Mercedes Brito-Feliz	Secretary-General
	Mr Ramone Feliz	Consultant in Natcom
Grenada	Mrs Kisha Gellineau	Secretary-General (Acting)
Haiti	Mr Dieufort Deslorges	Assistant Secretary-General
Jamaica	Mr Everton Hannam	Secretary-General
Mexico	Mr Benito Mirón López	Secretary-General
Paraguay	Mr Lucas Franco Godoy	1st Secretary Permanent Delegation
Saint Kitts and Nevis	MR Antonio Maynard	Secretary-General
Sint Maarten	Ms Marcellia Henry	Secretary-General
Suriname	Ms Anuradha Kamtasing	Secretary-General
Trinidad and Tobago	Ms Susan Shurland	Secretary-General