

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

International Co-ordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme

Thirty-first session

UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, Room IV (Fontenoy Building)

17 – 21 June 2019

ITEM 15 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA: MAB Youth Activities and MAB Youth Forum 2019

1. Within the overall framework of the UNESCO Operational Strategy on Youth (2014-2021), aimed to ensure that young women and men are engaged in policies and programmes affecting them, the organization of the 2017 MAB Youth Forum has marked a turning point in MAB's engagement with youth. The 1st MAB Youth Forum was organized to offer an opportunity for young people who care about the special territories in which they live in to become active in the MAB Programme and to contribute to the sustainable development of their communities, in line with the Lima Action Plan. On this occasion, participants agreed on a shared vision for the future of youth in biosphere reserves and stated it in their final declaration, which is provided in Annex 1.
2. The 1st MAB Youth Forum has set many youth related activities in motion:
 - a. The first regional forum - the IberoMAB Youth Forum – was held at the Bosques de Paz TBR (Ecuador and Peru) in December 2018, with 89 participants who elaborated the final declaration given in Annex 2;
 - b. Workshops on, and organized by, MAB Youth have been held during the 2019 EuroMAB Conference in Dublin (final outcomes given in Annex 3 and 4);
 - c. A first project targeting MAB Youth, funded by the Flemish government of Belgium, will be launched in 2019, aiming to improve the socio-economic development of young people living in BRs in the LAC Region;
 - d. From 6 to 9 September 2019, the Rhön BR will host the first German MAB Youth Forum in which around 80 participants are expected to take part;
 - e. Several countries will organize a national MAB Youth Forum in the near future, and various national or local MAB Youth Associations have already been created.
3. In September 2019, the Changbaishan BR (North of China) will host the second global MAB Youth Forum, during which strong emphasis will be put on biodiversity conservation (see the first announcement in Annex 5). This Forum will be followed by activities targeting MAB Youth Leaders in view of their involvement in the debates of CBD COP 15 and further commitment to actions related to the post-2020 Agenda.
4. The MAB Council is invited to discuss and share its youth related experiences, lessons learnt and good practices, and to provide its guidance and recommendations regarding the strengthening of youth participation in the MAB Programme and its World Network of Biosphere Reserves. Members of the Council are also invited to consider the possibility to support the participation of young delegates of their respective country in the above mentioned activities, in particular in the second global MAB Youth Forum and follow-up activities leading to the CBD COP 15 and, beyond, to the post 2020 Agenda.