

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Programme

Second Meeting of the Bureau

UNESCO House, Paris, Room XIV (Bonvin Building), 2-3 September 2002

Item 4 of the provisional agenda

**Conditions and criteria for admission to meetings of the Council of
representatives of intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental
organizations and of experts**

SUMMARY

The Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Programme, at its first session, requested the Bureau to establish conditions and criteria for admission to meetings of the council for representatives of intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), taking special note of those organizations that maintain official relations with UNESCO, as well as other experts.

The present document proposes a set of conditions and criteria for examination by the Bureau with a view to its submission to the Council for adoption.

Decision proposed: paragraph 6.

1. In implementation of the provisions of its Constitution, UNESCO has built up over the years a valuable network of cooperative relations in its fields of competence with NGOs representing civil society. Given the pre-eminent role that the founders of UNESCO intended NGOs to play, this partnership bears witness to the importance of the work of those organizations alongside government-sponsored action in international cooperation in the service of peoples for development, equality, international understanding and peace.
2. These relations are designed, on the one hand, to enable UNESCO to secure advice, technical cooperation and documentation from NGOs and, on the other, to enable such organizations, which represent important sections of public opinion, to express the views of their members.
3. On the threshold of the third millennium, an increasingly active role is being played by organizations representing civil society in all the areas of competence of UNESCO. This is particularly true in the area of communication and information where civil society is the key actor in building up the Information Society.
4. With this development in mind, the Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Programme, at its first session, requested the Bureau to establish conditions and criteria for admission to meetings of the Council for representatives of intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), taking special note of those organizations that maintain official relations with UNESCO, as well as other experts.
5. The present document proposes a set of conditions and criteria for examination by the Bureau (Annex I) with a view to its submission to the Council for adoption. The document also includes a comparative table on the admission to meetings of other intergovernmental bodies of UNESCO programmes of representatives of IGOs and NGOs (Annex II).
6. The Bureau may wish to adopt the following decision:

The Bureau of the Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Programme,

1. Having examined document IFAP-2002/Bureau.II/4 entitled “Conditions and criteria for admission to meetings of the council of representatives of intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and of experts”,
2. Decides to submit the “Conditions and criteria for admission to meetings of the Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Programme of representatives of international governmental organizations and international non-governmental organizations and of experts”, as set out in Annex I of this decision, to the Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Programme at its next session.

ANNEX I

Conditions and criteria for admission to meetings of the Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Programme of representatives of international governmental organizations and international non-governmental organizations and of experts

A. Preliminary requirements

1. Subject to the applicable Rules,¹ the Council for the Information for All Programme, on the proposal of the Secretariat or the Bureau, shall designate the international governmental organizations (IGOs) and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) whose representatives will be admitted to the meetings of the Council.
2. The official representatives of IGOs with which agreements have been signed by UNESCO, and NGOs maintaining formal consultative and associate relations with UNESCO and whose fields of activities are linked to the objectives of the Information for All Programme, may participate in the meetings of the Council.
3. Likewise, NGOs not maintaining formal consultative and associate relations with UNESCO and IGOs with which agreements have not been signed by UNESCO, and which have made a formal request to that end, will be admitted to the meetings of the Council after a decision of the Bureau based on the criteria hereunder.
4. The Council may invite non-Member States of UNESCO to send observers to the meetings.
5. Experts, chosen on the basis of their personal competence and not as representatives of Member States, may be admitted to the meetings of the Council in their personal capacity.
6. Consideration may also be given to the participation of representatives of the private sector who have made substantial contributions to the execution of the Information for All Programme during a given period of time.

B. Criteria for the admission of NGOs to the meetings of the Council.

7. NGOs whose representatives are admitted to the sessions of the Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Programme should satisfy the following criteria:
 - (a) command specific skills and be active in one or more priority fields of the Information for All Programme² and enjoy international recognition;

¹ Rules of Procedure of the Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Programme.

“Article 7 – Observers

1. Member States and Associate Members of UNESCO which are not members of the Council may send observers to all meetings of the Council or its working groups, except meetings of the Bureau.
2. Representatives of the United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system may take part, without the right to vote, in all meetings of the Council and its working groups, except meetings of the Bureau.
3. The Council shall lay down the conditions under which other international governmental or non-governmental organizations may be invited to participate in its proceedings without the right to vote. The Council shall also lay down the conditions under which certain particularly well-qualified persons might be consulted on matters within their competence.”

² The preservation of information and universal access to it; participation of all in the global information society; the ethical, legal and societal consequences of ICT developments.

- (b) possess adequate structures enabling the body to follow the work of the Information for All Programme in the long term and to participate effectively in the various consultations conducted under the Programme;
- (c) pursue programme objectives consistent with those of the Information for All Programme³ and cover in their action the target groups as identified in the Information for All Programme.

C. Criteria for admission of IGOs and NGOs to meetings of the Bureau

8. IGOs and NGOs whose representatives are admitted to meetings of the Council shall, after consultation, elect two representatives to attend the meetings of the Bureau without the right to vote.

³ Promote international reflection and debate on the ethical, legal and societal challenges of the information society; promote and widen access through the organization, digitization and preservation of information; support training, continuing education and lifelong learning in the fields of communication, information and informatics; support the production of local content and foster the availability of indigenous knowledge through basic literacy and ICT literacy training; promote the use of international standards and best practices in communication, information and informatics in UNESCO's fields of competence; promote information and knowledge networking at local, national, regional and international levels.

ANNEX II

Admission to meetings of other intergovernmental bodies of UNESCO programmes of representatives of intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations

Comparative table

Name of intergovernmental body	Council/Committee plenary
Intergovernmental Council of the UNESCO International Bureau of Education (IBE)	No criteria or conditions defined for IGO (other than the United Nations agencies) and NGO participation.
International Coordinating Council of the programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB)	No criteria or conditions defined for IGO and NGO participation; decisions taken after examination of the nature of the organization having expressed its wish to participate in the work of the Council.
Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP)	Scientific NGOs (less than 10) working in the field of water and having similar objectives are invited.
Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation	No criteria or conditions defined. Meetings are open to the public and it is up to the Committee to decide on the observers.
Executive Committee of the International Campaign for the Establishment of the Nubia Museum in Aswan and the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization in Cairo	Three observers (ICOM, ICOMOS and IFLA) are listed in the Rules of Procedure.
Intergovernmental Council of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC)	No criteria or conditions defined.
Intergovernmental Council of the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme	No criteria or conditions defined.
Intergovernmental Committee established by the Statutes of the International Bioethics Committee	IGOs and NGOs with similar objectives to those of the IBC may be invited to take part as observers in the meetings of the IBC (Statutes, Article 4).
Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport (CIGEPE)	IGOs belonging to the Permanent Consultative Council of CIGEPE (WHO, UNDP and IOC) are invited. International non-governmental organizations maintaining official relations with UNESCO (ICSSPE, WFSGI and FIB) are also invited.
Governing Board of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS)	No criteria or conditions defined.
The World Heritage Committee	NGOs listed (Rules of Procedure – III.(6)); representatives of other IGOs or NGOs with similar objectives may attend the meeting of the Committee in an advisory capacity and upon written request.