



Working Group on the Governance, Procedures and Working Methods of the Governing Bodies of UNESCO

Informal Summary of Contributions from Member States

A. “Structure, composition and methods of work of the Governing Bodies (General Conference and Executive Board)” (Sub-Group 1)

Proposed dates for the meetings of Sub-Group 1

Proposed by the Bureau of the Working Group and approved on 1 April 2016 by the Working Group:

- 2 June 2016
- 23 September 2016

Overarching issues

- Balance of decision-making powers between the two governing bodies according to their constitutional mandates
- Enhanced and institutionalized dialogue and cooperation between General Conference and Executive Board
- Relations between the General Conference, the Executive Board and the Secretariat of UNESCO.
- Governance reform to focus on effectiveness and efficiency
- Cost-cutting approach is not an aim *per se* (move beyond)
- Small delegations to contribute to all reforms
- Participation of all Member States and the governing bodies of the international and intergovernmental entities of UNESCO in the drafting of the C/4 and C/5
- All proposed reforms should be costed
- Ensure visibility of the work of the Organization and its Governing Bodies

1. General Conference:

- Timing/schedule and flexibility of Commissions – possibility of permanent Commissions
- Simplification of agenda items, grouping of items and taking note items. Annotated agenda
- Review the National Policy Statements to provide guidance to the Executive Board and the Secretariat in the formulation of the C/5 and to focus on key programme areas and on selected items (cf: dedicated round table of Ministers/Ministerial Round table on the preparation of future C/5)
- Role of the Bureau and distribution of minutes of Bureau meetings

- Proposed amendments to the Rules of procedure of the General Conference on Rule 82 on voting rights (document 38 C/WG/1/4)
- Large participation and geographical balance in reform decision- making

2. Executive Board:

- Limitation of (consecutive) terms
- Review the Executive Board's own reforms of its structure and working methods
- Organizational meetings at the beginning of the two-years cycle to determine provisional agendas and programmes of work, open to all Member states
- Increased participation of all Member States in the debate of the C/5 programme design
- Reduction of agenda items, reduction and grouping of items, taking note items, annotated agenda
- Reduction/Abolition of the general debate for national statements
- Open ended informal consultations on proposed draft decision before discussions in Commissions and Plenary
- Role of the Bureau and distribution of minutes of Bureau meetings
- Improved reporting by the Executive Board to the General Conference on its own activities and on programme implementation, including the Board's evaluation
- Thematic Debate during and outside the formal session of the Executive board
- Interactive sessions of dialogue between the DG and the Executive Board on the report on the programme implementation
- Review the debate on staffing issues
- Participation and geographical balance in reform decision making

B. "Structure, composition and methods of work of UNESCO's international and intergovernmental bodies (IIBs)" (Sub-Group 2)

Proposed dates for the meetings of Sub-Group 2

To be agreed

Overarching issues

- Coherence with the Organization's Programme and priorities
- Enhanced visibility of results
- Streamlining activities of IIBs to contribute to C/5 expected results
- IIBs to address UNESCO's role in the implementation of the 2030 agenda
- Coherence and synergies, noting different geneses and legal status of various bodies and independence of some of them
- Balance between equity and efficiency in participation of Member States
- Each IIB to review the recommendations of the external auditor in line with resolution 38 C/101

Harmonization of methods of work

- Harmonization of working methods and of Rules of Procedure
- Streamlining reporting formats
- Common practices and procedures
- Clarification of the mandates of Bureaus versus main organs

Alignment with C/5 and overarching priorities

- Involvement of IIB in the preparation of UNESCO's Programme and Budget - Consultation of IIB in the preparation, in particular on the format and timing
- Contributions of IIB to deliver the C/5 and the expected results once approved by the General Conference - Presentation of the approved C/5 to IIB, planning of activities of IIB based on the consideration of the approved C/5 and IIB reporting on contribution to the Expected Results of the C/5.
- Priority setting mechanism
- Development of result framework – a theory for change of the IIB.

Efficiency of results delivery

- Annotated agendas with discussion points
- Reinforced use of ICTs and availability of documents online
- Measures to enhance transparency of the work of IIBs
- Visibility and communication on respective mandates
- Improving efficiency of meetings (length, participants, technical aspects, dissemination of results)

Enhanced coordination with and among IIBs

- Merging IIBs with similar or related programme focus.
- Regular meetings of the presidents of treaty bodies
- Harmonization of the global calendar of meetings over the biennium
- Relation between IIBs and the General Conference, including reporting

C. Date of the forthcoming meeting of the Working Group

- 3 October 2016