

## REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE IESALC GOVERNING BOARD ON THE REVIEW OF ITS GOVERNANCE, PROCEDURES, AND WORKING METHODS

Out of the 131 recommendations being made, 50 recommendations concern the General Conference and the Executive Board and 74 concern UNESCO's international and intergovernmental bodies, including 10 for category 1 Institutes. The majority of the 74 recommendations concern bodies that are managed by a large elected bureau, ruled by complex procedures, which is not the case of the IESALC Governing Board.

Many of these broader recommended measures have been, as a matter of fact, standard procedure at IESALC since its very origins, as stated in the statutes (e.g. reduce term limits to two consecutive mandates for each Board Member). On the general recommendations for all international and intergovernmental bodies (recommendations 54 to 80), IESALC has already made relevant progress towards the following:

**How to improve efficiency:** The IESALC Governing Board meets in full session twice a year for only a two-day meeting. From the outset, the Board has been implementing some cost-efficiency measures such as: **a)** Organization of virtual meetings and conference calls when consultations with Board Members are needed; **b)** Holding of meetings under the auspices of a host institution (usually a Latin American or Caribbean University that provides facilities for free, and in some occasions, contributes to defray some costs -in kind- associated to the setup of the Board meetings); **c)** Reduction of the size of Board composition from 12 to 9 Members (2002); **d)** Digitalization of documents, which are always forwarded electronically to Board Members prior to the corresponding meeting; **e)** Reduction of both the number of documents produced and their length; **f)** Holding of telephone conversations and working documents forwarded prior to ordinary or extraordinary sessions of the Governing Board; and **g)** The last ordinary session (XV) introduced an exclusive agenda item with a view to better determining the role of the Board as a facilitator of the interlocutions with the States they represent.

**How to improve the harmonization of the role of the Bureau and transparency of its work:** The size of the IESALC's Governing Board is comparatively small (9 Members) considering its geographical mandate. The rules of procedure and statutes were not adopted by the Board itself but by the UNESCO General Conference. Both normative instruments are well known by Board Members, by the GRULAC as well as by the Latin American and Caribbean Associations of Rectors and regional University Networks -which is crucial given their role in the renewal of Governing Board members.

**Alignment with overarching priorities of UNESCO:** the Chair of the IESALC Governing Board submits orally a succinct 1450-word report to the Education Commission in the framework of the UNESCO General Conference. It would be advisable, considering the physical

presence of both IESALC's Chair of the Governing Board and the Institute's Director, to organize a public discussion on the IESALC's program of work.

**Coherence, coordination and synergies, and sharing best practices:** Unfortunately, The Members of the Governing Board of the IESALC do not have any relationship with any other UNESCO governing bodies, which would certainly be very favorable and would allow IESALC Governing Board to benefit from good practices. In this regard, IESALC's Board recommends to UNESCO to assemble the Chairs of UNESCO governing bodies to favor harmonization and information exchange among its representatives, taking advantage of their stay in Paris within the framework of the UNESCO General Conference.

The only one specific recommendation made to the IESALC by the Working Group on Governance was the fact the Institute's website should be available in English. For a number of reasons, the website was down for some months and now has been completely revamped and runs smoothly. The English version will be fully operational on the first of November 2019. The same solution has been taken with the staff email boxes in an effort to improve the reliability and communication effectiveness of the Institute.

Said the above, the IESALC Governing Board welcomes the set of recommendations submitted by the Working Group on Governance, procedures, and working methods of the governing bodies of UNESCO, and Invites its Chair to present this conclusive document to the President of the UNESCO General Conference.