

Hundred and seventy-first session

171 EX/63
PARIS, 25 April 2005
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**REPORT AND DRAFT DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE
ON INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

1. The Executive Board's Committee on International Non-Governmental Organizations held one meeting, on the morning of Friday, 15 April 2005.
2. With Mr Darko Strajn (Slovenia) in the Chair, the Committee conducted its business in the presence of the Assistant Director-General for External Relations and Cooperation, Mr Ahmed Sayyad, representing the Director-General. Other members of the Secretariat, as well as the Chairperson of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee and a number of representatives of international non-governmental organizations in official relations with the Organization, also took part in the session. Furthermore the Committee was privileged to receive the visit from the Chairman of the Executive Board, Mr Hans-Heinrich Wrede, who commented on the significant role of civil society and welcomed the work of the Committee which he described as a model.
3. After the opening remarks of the Chairman and the representative of the Director-General, the Committee proceeded with the election, in accordance with Rule 16.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, of the temporary Chairman, Mr Andras Lakatos (Hungary). The Committee then adopted its agenda, consisting of **items 21 and 49**.

Item 21 – Report by the ad hoc working group on relations between the three organs of UNESCO (171 EX/16 and Corr.)

4. After considering this item, the Committee on International Non-Governmental Organizations transmitted its comments to the Special Committee which examined this item later.

Item 49 – Relations with international non-governmental organizations, foundations and similar institutions (171 EX/39 and Add.)

5. This agenda item was introduced earlier in the statement by the representative of the Director-General who provided background information on the results of the evaluation process under consideration. Several Committee members, in expressing satisfaction about the documents provided, underlined the need for the NGOs that maintain official relations with the Organization, to recommit themselves to getting involved in more concrete activities of UNESCO, in addition to their customary participation in conferences and meetings that the Secretariat organizes.

6. A member (Slovenia) recalled previous recommendations concerning the UNESCO National Commissions-NGO relations and invited the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee to establish a list of the national branches of NGOs maintaining official relations with UNESCO, with a view to building a national NGO committee at the local level. In this connection, another member (Indonesia) stated that there was obviously a need to clearly define guidelines for the cooperation of NGOs with UNESCO National Commissions. On this same issue, another member (Venezuela) observed that NGOs contact the UNESCO National Commissions only when they need support for the preparation of their Participation Programme projects.

7. As concerns the preparation of the evaluation sheets on NGOs, one member (Mauritius) called for a greater consistency in the respective evaluation made by UNESCO and a given NGO when reporting on their mutual cooperation.

8. Another member (Burkina Faso) referring to earlier activities related to NGOs in Africa underlined the importance of African NGOs and the need for their mobilization for UNESCO's objective in that important region that constituted a priority area for the Organization.

9. With reference to Parts III and IV of the document (171 EX/39), several members welcomed these two sections of the document and praised the efforts made on collective cooperation, notably that of the mobilization of NGOs in international conferences such as the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) (Tunis, Tunisia, 16-18 November 2005) and its follow-up activities.

10. One member (China) drew attention to the importance of resolution 7/11 concerning "International non-governmental organizations maintaining relations with UNESCO and in which bodies or elements linked with the Taiwan authorities are still participating". The representative of the Director-General recalled that UNESCO's position on this was clear and the Organization, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions recognizes only one China and declared that the Secretariat will again send out another circular letter to that effect to all NGOs in official relations with UNESCO.

11. The Chairperson of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee also took the floor during the debate and provided further information on the forthcoming international conference of NGOs in official relations with UNESCO to take place in December 2005.

12. Another member (Hungary) expressed satisfaction with the website which provides access to the list of NGOs and related documents.

13. The representative of the Director-General and other members of the Secretariat provided clarifications and replied to questions raised during the discussion.

14. A member of the Committee (Slovenia) supported by Hungary, China, France, Indonesia and Yemen proposed an amendment to the draft decision contained in paragraph 25 of document 171 EX/39. This amendment is reflected in operative paragraph 9 of the draft decision.

15. The Committee adopted, as amended, the draft decision contained in paragraph 25 of document 171 EX/39.

Proposed draft decision adopted by the NGO Committee

16. The Committee recommends to the Executive Board that it adopts the following draft decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Recalling 165 EX/Decision 9.5, 166 EX/Decision 9.2, 32 C/Resolution 60 and 170 EX/Decision 8.2,
2. Having examined document 171 EX/39 and Add.,
3. Takes note of the information contained in paragraphs 2 to 24 of document 171 EX/39 and in paragraphs 1 to 3 of its addendum;
4. Decides on the basis of the Director-General's recommendation to renew the formal consultative relations for a further period of six years with:
 - African Council for Communication Education;
 - Association of Arab Universities;
 - Commonwealth Press Union;
 - European Academy of Arts, Sciences and Humanities;
 - European Broadcasting Union;
 - International Association for Educational Assessment;
 - International Dance Council;
 - International Federation of the Phonographic Industry;
 - International Ocean Institute;
 - Jeunesses Musicales International;
 - Latin American Social Sciences Council;
 - SIL International;
 - Simon Wiesenthal Center;
 - Traditions for Tomorrow;
 - Union of Latin American Universities;
 - World Jewish Congress;
5. Takes note of the Director-General's decision to place the following organizations in operational relations:
 - Arab Lawyers' Union;
 - Development Innovations and Networks;
 - International Federation of Translators;
 - International Planned Parenthood Federation;
6. Takes note of the Director-General's decision to continue on an informal basis its cooperation with the International Association of Literacy Critics (IALC);
7. Invites the Director-General to submit to the 174th session of the Executive Board additional information to be provided by the City of Peace Foundation (UNIPAZ/UNIPAIX) concerning its application for operational relations;
8. Decides to admit to formal consultative relations the Arab Institute of Human Rights (AIHR);
9. Also decides to include in the agenda of its 174th session, an item on the improvement of methods of the work of the Committee on NGOs.