



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

ERC/RSC/NAC/23
Paris, February 2005
Also in French

INTERREGIONAL TRAINING SEMINAR FOR NEW SECRETARIES-GENERAL OF NATIONAL COMMISSIONS FOR UNESCO

21-25 February 2005

Paris, France

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United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture

Agenda and Timetable

**INTERREGIONAL TRAINING SEMINAR FOR NEW
SECRETARIES-GENERAL OF NATIONAL COMMISSIONS FOR
UNESCO**

21-25 February 2005

UNESCO Headquarters
Room IV (Fontenoy Building)

Monday, 21 February 2005

9:30 **Formal Registration** of Participants in front of Room IV, Fontenoy Building

10:00 **Opening of the Training Seminar**

Opening Address by Mr. Ahmed Sayyad, Assistant Director-General for External Relations and Cooperation (ADG/ERC)

- *Introduction of participants and adoption of the Agenda and Timetable*

Presentation by Ms Mary-Louise Kearney, Director, Division of Relations with National Commissions and New Partnerships (ERC/NCP)

11:00 Coffee Break

11:15 **UNESCO's Reform and Strategic Planning**

- *UNESCO in the UN system and its reform process; Preparation of the Draft Programme and Budget (33 C/5)*

Presentation by Mr. René Zapata, Deputy-Director, Bureau of Strategic Planning (BSP)

13:00 Lunch

15:00 **The Governing Bodies of UNESCO**

- *The General Conference and the Executive Board: an overview*
- *An update on the preparation of the 171st Session of the Executive Board and 33rd Session of the General Conference*
- *The relations among three organs of UNESCO*

Presentations by Mr. Armoogum Parsuramen, Secretary of the Executive Board (SCX) and Ms Birgitte Moller, Secretary a.i. of the General Conference (SCG)

16:45 Coffee Break

17:00 **Preparation for and participation of National Commissions in the General Conference**

Presentation by Mr. David A. Walden, Secretary-General, Canadian National Commission for UNESCO

18:00 End of the session

18:30 Cocktail hosted by Mr. Ahmed Sayyad, Assistant Director-General for External Relations and Cooperation (Conference Bar, 1st Basement Fontenoy Building)

Tuesday, 22 February 2005

10:00 Major orientations and programme priorities

- *Major Programme IV – Culture*

Presentation by Mr. Mounir Bouchenaki, Assistant Director-General for Culture (ADG/CLT)

11:15 Coffee Break

11:30 Major orientations and programme priorities (Cont.)

- *Major Programme II – Natural Science (including intergovernmental scientific programme activities)*

Presentations by Mr. Walter Erdelen, Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences (ADG/SC); Mr Mambaelele Mankoto, Programme Specialist, World Network of Biosphere Reserves and Regional Networks Support Section (SC/ECO/NBR); Ms Alice Aureli, Programme Specialist, Section of Hydrological Processes and Climate (SC/HYD/HPC); Mr Robert Missotten, Senior Programme Specialist, Observation from Space and Capacity-Building in Earth Sciences Section (SC/GEO/OBS)

13:00 Lunch

15:00 Major orientations and programme priorities (Cont.)

- *Major Programme I – Education*

Presentations by Mr. Bernard Combes, Programme Specialist, Section for Education for Sustainable Development (ED/PEQ/ESD); Ms Sigrid Niedermayer, Programme Specialist, International Coordination of Associated Schools Project Network (ED/PEQ/ASP); Mr. Nicholas Burnett, Director, EFA Global Monitoring Report (ED/EFA/MRT)

16:30 Coffee Break

16:45 *Major Programme I – Education (Cont.)*

Presentations by Ms Winsome Gordon, Chief, Section for International Cooperation in Higher Education (ED/HED/ICE); Mr Abhimanyu Singh, Director, Division of International Coordination and Monitoring for Education for All (ED/EFA)

18:00 End of the session

Wednesday, 23 February 2005

10:00 **Decentralization and interface with field offices**

Presentation by Mr. Philippe Ratte, Senior Programme Specialist, Bureau for Field Coordination (BFC)

11: 30 Coffee Break

11:45 **Cooperation with civil society partners**

- *NGOs*
- *Parliamentarians, UNESCO Clubs and cities*

Presentations by Mr. Massoud Abtahi, Chief, Section for Non Governmental Organizations (ERC/RIO/ONG); Ms Marie-Ange Théobald, Chief, Section for UNESCO Clubs and New Partnerships (ERC/NCP/PTS)

13:00 Lunch

15:00 **Meeting with Mr. Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO**

A group photo will be taken on this occasion

16:00 **Trends and challenges in world education: from an IIEP point of view**

Presentation by Mr. Gudmund Hernes, Director, International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP)

16:30 **Individual meetings and appointments with HQ units and services concerned**

Thursday, 24 February 2005

10:00 **Major orientations and programme priorities (Cont.)**

- *Major Programme III – Social and human sciences*

Presentation by Mr. Pierre Sané, Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences (ADG/SHS)

11:30 Coffee Break

11:45 **Major orientations and programme priorities (Cont.)**

- *Major Programme V – Communication and information (including WSIS activities)*

Presentation by Mr. Abdul Waheed Khan, Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information (ADG/CI)

13:00 Lunch

15:00 **Mainstreaming issues**

- *Africa*

Presentation by Mr. Noureni Tidjani-Serpos, Assistant Director-General for Africa (AFR)

- *Youth and Women*

Presentations by Ms Maria Helena Henriques-Mueller, Chief, Section for Youth (BSP/YTH) and Ms Lydia Ruprecht, Programme Specialist, Section for Women and Gender Equality (BSP/WGE)

16:45 Coffee Break

17:00 **Cooperation with extrabudgetary funding sources**

- *Multilateral and bilateral funding sources*

Presentations by Mr. Colin Nichol and Ms Patricia Safi, Division of Cooperation with Extrabudgetary Funding Sources (ERC/CFS)

18:00 End of the session

19:00 Boat Trip on the Seine (optional)

Friday, 25 February 2005

10:00 Project formulation and management

- *The Participation Programme*

Presentation by Mr. Malick M'Baye, Chief, Participation Programme Section (ERC/RMS/PP)

11:00 Coffee Break

11:15 Advocacy and visibility

- *UNESCO portal*
- *Media relations*
- *Database and Master Website for National Commissions*

Presentations by Mr. Bassam Mansour et Mr. Richard Cadiou, Editorial and New Media Section (BPI/ENM) ; Mr. Claude Van Engeland, Chief , Audiovisual Section (BPI/AUD); Ms Mirta Lourenço, Programme Specialist, Section for National Commissions (ERC/NCP/NAC)

13:00 Lunch

15:00 Enhancing the role and capacities of National Commissions in the reform process

- *Basic status and functions; relations with the Government including the Permanent Delegation and partners; good practices; involvement in UNESCO programme planning, implementation and evaluation; capacity-building, etc.*

Presentations by Mr. Jean-Pierre Boyer, Secretary-General, French National Commission for UNESCO; Mr. David Walden, Secretary-General, Canadian National Commission For UNESCO; Mr Manuel Teodoro Quarta, Permanent Secretary, Angola National Commission for UNESCO; Mr. Xiaolin Cheng, Programme Specialist, Section for National Commissions (ERC/NCP/NAC)

16:30 Evaluation and Closing

Moderated by Ms Mary-Louise Kearney, Director, Division of Relations with National Commissions and New Partnerships (ERC/NCP)

**Séminaire interrégional de formation pour nouveaux
Secrétaires généraux de Commissions nationales pour l'UNESCO**
(21-25 février 2005 au Siège de l'UNESCO, Paris, Salle IV)

Liste des participants

Pays	Nom
1. AFGHANISTAN	M. Khalil Meenaway
2. ALBANIE	M. Teodor Osoja
3. ALLEMAGNE	M. Roland Bernecker
4. BAHAMAS	M. Haldane Chase
5. BARBADE	Mme Harriett M. Daisley
6. BELGIQUE	Mme Karen Groffils
7. BENIN	Mme Adélaïde F. Allagbada
8. CHILI	Mme Carolina Rossetti
9. COLOMBIE	Mme Maria Claudia Parias Duran
10. CROATIE	Mme Rut Carek
11. DANEMARK	Mme Hjordis Dalsgaard
12. EQUATEUR	Mme Mélida Pavón Villacis
13. ESPAGNE	M. Pablo Barrios Almazor
14. ETATS UNIS D'AMERIQUE	Mme Marguerite Sullivan
15. GHANA	Mme Charity Amamoo
16. GUINEE BISSEAU	M. Carlos Pereira Da Silva
17. HAITI	M. Jean Coulanges
18. INDE	M. Sudeep Banerjee
19. ITALIE	M. Luca Daniele Biolato
20. JAMAHIRIYA ARABE LIBYENNE	M. Bashir A. Said Lagaa
21. JAMAÏQUE	M. Everton Hannam,
22. MAURITANIE	M. Dieh Ould Cheikh Saad Bouh
23. NEPAL	M. Vidyadhar Mallik
24. NORVEGE	Mme Ellen Lange
25. OMAN	M. Said Bin Selim El Kitani
26. OUGANDA	M. Augustine Omare Okurut
27. PAKISTAN	Mme Parveen Shahid
28. PANAMA	Mme Patricia Rojas Pardini de Aizpurúa
29. PEROU	M. Carlos Vasquez Corrales
30. POLOGNE	Mme Lidia Milka-Wieczorkiewicz
31. REPUBLIQUE DE COREE	M. Samuel Lee
32. ST KITTS AND NEVIS	Mr Antonio Maynard
33. SUISSE	Mme Madeleine Viviani
34. ZAMBIE	Mme Felicitas M. Chinanda

OBSERVATEURS :

35. BOTSWANA	Mme Baruti
36. CHILI	Mme Virginia Brinkmann
37. ETATS UNIS	M. Nilse Ryman
38. HAITI	M. Dieufort Deslorges
39. NORVEGE	Mrs Ellen Alfsen

PERSONNES RESSOURCES:

CANADA	M. David A. Walden
FRANCE	M. Jean-Pierre Boyer

Summary Report

Interregional Training Seminar for New Secretaries-General of National Commissions for UNESCO

(Paris, 21-25 February 2005)

1. The above training seminar was held from 21 to 25 February 2005 at UNESCO Headquarters. The Seminar was conducted in English, French and Spanish. 34 newly-appointed Secretaries-General of National Commissions for UNESCO from all five regions, including the recently re-established USA and Afghanistan National Commissions, attended the event. A staff member of Botswana National Commission joined this seminar as an observer. Mr David Walden, Mr Jean-Pierre Boyer and Mr Manuel Teodoro Quarta, Secretaries-General of Canadian, French and Angola National Commissions were present as resource persons (see List of Participants in Annex I). The Division of Relations with National Commissions and New Partnerships (ERC/NCP) assumed the coordination and organization of the seminar.

2. Mr Ahmed Sayyad, Assistant Director-General for External Relations and Cooperation (ADG/ERC), opened the training seminar on behalf of the Director-General of UNESCO. In his opening speech, Mr Sayyad emphasized the uniqueness of National Commissions within the UN system, which constitute a special resource for UNESCO in achieving its strategic objectives. In UNESCO's reform process, National Commissions are called upon to assume greater responsibilities in such areas as decentralization, mobilization of partners, raising the visibility of UNESCO and follow-up to international conferences. To this end, there is a real need for UNESCO and the Member States to strengthen their skills and competence through training, networking and enhancing the communication capacities. ADG/ERC recalled that this training programme started 50 years ago. The current training session was held at a moment when UNESCO was reviewing its decentralization policy and formulating its future priorities and actions at the forthcoming sessions of the Executive Board and the General Conference. Mr Sayyad wished that National Commissions could actively participate in and make their contribution to this exercise (see Opening Speech of ADG/ERC in Annex II).

3. A wide range of topics and issues of great relevance to UNESCO and National Commissions were dealt with during the seminar as follows: **UNESCO's reform and strategic planning; UNESCO's Governing Bodies and relations among them; preparation for and participation of National Commissions in the General**

Conference; major orientations and programme priorities of the Organization; decentralization and interface between National Commissions and field offices; mainstreaming issues; cooperation with programme networks and civil society partners; cooperation with extrabudgetary funding sources; the Participation Programme; advocacy and visibility; role, functions and capacity-building of National Commissions in the reform process (see Agenda and Timetable in Annex III).

4. Working sessions were chaired by the Secretaries-General themselves on a rotational basis. Some thirty speakers and resource persons from various sectors and services at UNESCO Headquarters and National Commissions introduced the items, including the Assistant Directors-General for Natural Sciences, Social and Human Sciences, Culture, Communication and Information, and the Africa Department. The participants took part in the discussion and shared their views and experiences with the Secretariat as well as with their colleagues. These interactive sessions and exchanges were followed by individual and group contacts outside the working hours, which also proved useful and beneficial to them.

5. Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO, had a special meeting with the participants on 23 February, during which the essential role of National Commissions in the promotion of UNESCO's ideals and visibility in their respective countries was highlighted. The DG stressed the importance of National Commissions in the decentralization process, which is one of the key components of UNESCO's reform launched five years ago, and wished to see further synergy forged between National Commissions and field offices and their active involvement in UNESCO's 60th Anniversary celebrations. He also promised to pursue his effort in the capacity-building of these bodies. Several participants made their remarks and suggestions on how to strengthen the National Commissions' role and their cooperation with UNESCO's field offices.

6. An assessment questionnaire was circulated to all participants. A short evaluation session was held at the end of the seminar. Over 28 replies received from 39 participants, nearly half of them thought the objectives of the seminar as well as their own expectations were met while the other half conveyed that they were partly met. Participants commonly agreed that this seminar was a good investment for UNESCO and much useful and beneficial to them as the new Secretary-General of their Commission.

7. Many participants agreed that this seminar had a positive impact on their future National Commissions' work. In this regard, encouraging observations and comments were made, such as: "I had better understanding of the role of National Commissions", "it helped me to more efficiently relate to the partners and more meaningfully advise the Government", "I had a clearer vision of UNESCO and could work more confidently at home". One participant even noted that he learnt more in one week than he had in one year since his appointment.

8. According to their replies, participants were most interested in the following items: **UNESCO's reform and planning, programme priorities, EFA, preparation for and participation in the General Conference, relations between National Commissions and field offices, project formulation and management, budget allocation, UNESCO's cooperation with UN, Member States' access to extrabudgetary funding sources, civil society partners, visibility and advocacy, media relations, communication tools, role and capacity-building of National Commissions, regional and bilateral cooperation among National Commissions.** They preferred that these subjects would have been treated in more detailed and deeper way.

8. As for the organizational aspect of the seminar, individual appointments with Headquarters services and units appeared necessary and appreciated. There was a general feeling however that five working days were too short to deal with such a great number of issues on the agenda. Because of the time constraints at all sessions, many participants regretted the few time left for questions/answers and views exchange with speakers. Some of them preferred to have shorter presentations from the Secretariat and more informal group discussions among Secretaries-General themselves in order to learn from each other. They also suggested that future presentations be more analytical than descriptive and the whole training & documentation modalities be reviewed and adjusted to the new ICT context.

9. Since this was the first time that a group of some 40 participants from different regions and language backgrounds met at a one-week long seminar, the working conditions proved not the same as with 20 people for a two-weeks long seminar. In this context, participants were welcomed to send further remarks and suggestions for improving future training activities.

10. At the closing session, many participants expressed their satisfaction with this seminar and their willingness to keep in touch with their fellow Secretaries-General and share acquired information and knowledge with their colleagues at home. All participants were thanked for their active participation and the Secretariat for their assistance and service.

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