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منظمة الأمم المتحدة
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联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

**SEXENNIAL REPORT BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD TO THE GENERAL
CONFERENCE ON THE CONTRIBUTIONS MADE TO UNESCO'S ACTIVITIES BY
NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOs) (2001-2006)**

OUTLINE

Source: Section V, paragraph 3, of the Directives concerning UNESCO's relations with non-governmental organizations.

Background: Under the above-mentioned provision, the Executive Board submits to the General Conference a sexennial report on the contributions made to UNESCO's activities by non-governmental organizations. The last report was submitted to the General Conference at its 31st session.

Purpose: This report, which was examined by the Executive Board at its 176th session, provides information on the contributions made to the Organization's activities by non-governmental organizations during the period 2001-2006.

Decision required: Paragraph 166.

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Summary

(i) Over the past two decades there has been an unprecedented increase in civil society's influence and its ability to act. This increase has both been a response to the phenomenon of globalization and has occurred alongside it. The subsequent social transformations, together with the displacement and proliferation of decision-making forums and the development of communication technologies, have resulted in an expansion of citizens' movements both nationally and internationally. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have become increasingly important within the international community by taking a greater part in political dialogue and defending before international bodies those worldwide priorities that would not have received the same attention had they not been mobilized.

(ii) In the light of these developments, the United Nations system has begun a process of global reflection on its relations with civil society and on the possibilities for redesigning international decision-making mechanisms with a view to greater democratization. The Cardoso report* published in June 2004 recommended four lines of action aimed at improving relations between the United Nations and civil society and making them more effective: looking outward, working with many stakeholders, establishing links between the local and the global, helping bring democracy into the twenty-first century.

(iii) In this context, UNESCO, which has historically maintained special links with NGOs and has built genuinely strategic partnerships with a number of them, must be able to play to the full its role as catalyst in international cooperation and strengthen its relationship with NGOs in its fields of competence, in particular with those in developing countries.

(iv) The analysis carried out for the preparation of this sexennial report reveals the changes that have taken place in UNESCO in this regard. First of all, the revitalization of the Executive Board's Committee on International Non-Governmental Organizations, part of the reform of the relations between the three organs, reflects the Organization's determination at the highest level to strengthen links with NGOs. At the same time, the five programme sectors, through a wide range of formal and informal initiatives, have taken the necessary steps to respond to recent changes. As a result, NGO involvement in major international conferences has been increased and improved, their participation in the Organization's standard-setting activities has been enhanced, and their attendance at consultations on UNESCO's priorities has been increased, including at the national level. Furthermore, NGOs have played a crucial part in enhancing the Organization's visibility and reaching the public at large, thanks above all to advocacy and awareness-raising efforts.

(v) Cooperation at the national and regional levels was also fruitful as borne out by the contributions made by National Commissions and field units. This is pivotal since it is not only focused on implementation partnerships, but also the expertise of the NGOs is turned to account for framing policies, drawing up and implementing projects and providing technical assistance.

(vi) UNESCO's current relations with NGOs are productive and wide-ranging, and they remain fully relevant for the effective discharge of the Organization's tasks. Nevertheless, while relations are now geared to better political dialogue and cooperation that is intellectual rather than financial, during the period under review the resources allocated to NGOs steadily fell.

(vii) The possible ways of enhancing cooperation between UNESCO and the non-governmental world lie primarily in the need to develop a genuine culture of partnership. Mindsets and practices must therefore be changed so that NGOs can at long last be seen as the Organization's strategic partners. To flesh out this culture of partnership, notion must be incorporated into all of the

* Report of the Panel of Eminent Persons, chaired by the former President of Brazil, Fernando Henrique Cardoso, on relations between the United Nations and civil society, entitled "We the peoples: civil society, the United Nations and Global Governance", United Nations, 11 June 2004 (A/58/817).

Organization's strategic documents and it must be advocated and supported at the highest level, not least by training everyone involved in the partnership.

(viii) Since the reclassification exercise which followed the adoption of the *Directives concerning UNESCO's relations with non-governmental organizations* in 1995 and their modification in 2001, there has been little change in the landscape of NGOs maintaining official relations with UNESCO, and their number and geographical distribution have remained stable, despite a slight increase in the number of regional organizations. It cannot be overlooked, however, that in recent years cooperation has grown with NGOs not maintaining official relations with UNESCO, both international and nationally. At the international level, the selection of partners often takes place informally, without using the list of NGOs maintaining official relations. At the same time, NGOs whose vital expertise is sought by programme sectors are barred from this formal relationship, often because they are unaware of the existing procedures, flexible and dynamic as they may be. At the national and regional levels, where the situation is similar, National Commissions and field offices should be better informed of the existing statutory framework for cooperation, on the one hand, and, on the other, of the national and regional members of the international NGOs maintaining official relations with UNESCO.

(ix) If the Directives, which contain every component needed for establishing all kinds of cooperation, were better applied, even at the national level, it would be easier to have a vision more in line with the reality of current partnerships and to provide a better structure for the arrangements, especially financial, in place for that cooperation. At the same time, there is a need to enhance knowledge of the respective roles among all the stakeholders in the NGO/UNESCO partnership and to disseminate information on NGOs' expertise and their places of work in official relations.

(x) The evaluation of the collective mechanisms for cooperation with NGOs has revealed the need to improve the synergy between these mechanisms and UNESCO's priorities and to create the right conditions to improve NGOs' representativeness. We should therefore recommend harmonizing the timing of these mechanisms, such as the International Conference of NGOs, with UNESCO's programming cycle so as to allow the NGO community to become more involved in programme formulation. At the same time, the Joint Programme Commissions (JPCs) should work towards becoming genuine permanent tools for collective cooperation and devise the necessary mechanisms to enable the entire NGO community to play a part in official relations.

Introduction

1. In accordance with Section V.3 of the *Directives concerning UNESCO's relations with non-governmental organizations*, the Executive Board must submit to the General Conference every six years a report on the contributions made to UNESCO's activities by organizations maintaining formal relations with it and on the results of the cooperation with organizations maintaining operational relations with UNESCO.

2. To that end, the Executive Board's Committee on International Non-Governmental Organizations set up a working group composed of six of its members: Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Canada, Egypt, Mali and Venezuela, six representatives of NGOs appointed by the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee, and six representatives of the Secretariat appointed by the Director-General. The group, which was chaired by the representative of Canada, met on five occasions between June 2006 and February 2007. The Section of International Non-Governmental Organizations of the Sector for External Relations and Cooperation provided the secretariat.

3. Some 583 questionnaires were sent out to NGOs, National Commissions, field offices and the programme sectors at Headquarters. Overall, the average response rate was higher than that obtained for the previous report. Replies were sent by 58% of NGOs (89% of NGOs in formal associate relations, 63% of NGOs in formal consultative relations and 55% of NGOs in operational relations) and 63% of field units, compared to 51% and 45% respectively in 2001. The response rate of the National Commissions was the same as six years ago, namely 37%, the average rate of response to consultations of this kind.

4. Although the purpose of the report was to examine relations with NGOs maintaining official relations with UNESCO, to judge by the contributions from various sectors it transpired that cooperation with other NGOs, in other words those not maintaining statutory relations, could not be disregarded. Whereas the part of the report given over to quantifiable data exclusively covers NGOs maintaining official relations for which statistics are available, the qualitative parts take account of relations with other NGOs, particularly at the national and regional levels, in order to offer a complete picture of the Organization's cooperation with NGOs.

5. In accordance with the provisions of Section V.3 of the Directives, a list of organizations whose lack of cooperation over the last four years should result in the automatic termination of official relations is contained in Annex III of this document.

6. Document 176 EX/INF.6 contains the analytical reports by NGOs and the sectors' evaluations of the implementation of framework agreements under Section V.3 of the Directives on NGOs. It also contains a brief account of UNESCO's cooperation with foundations and similar institutions, in accordance with the *Directives concerning UNESCO's relations with foundations and similar institutions*.

PART ONE RELATIONS WITH CIVIL SOCIETY: THE INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

7. In the reform process under way since 1997 within the United Nations system, the question of relations with non-State actors has taken on great importance. What is needed is a worldwide debate to address the issues of greater democratization of world governance and better-coordinated use of all available resources to ensure that the many challenges facing United Nations agencies and programmes are met.

8. In this context, now that civil society has been increasingly influential for several decades, the United Nations is now aware that the large variety of non-governmental actors which, using their own methods and sometimes working outside the usual channels, are fully involved in

identifying today's fundamental issues and in finding solutions to them, must be integrated into programme formulation and implementation mechanisms.

9. In February 2003, the United Nations Secretary-General established a panel of eminent persons, chaired by the former President of Brazil, Fernando Henrique Cardoso, and tasked with reviewing through broad consultations all aspects of the relationship between the United Nations and civil society, including parliamentarians and the private sector. The Group published its report in June 2004 (hereafter the "Cardoso report") that includes 30 proposals for the future, taken into account to analyse the challenges to the Organization.

10. A similar process of reflection is also under way in other intergovernmental organizations and will be the subject of Section III below, which is based on the examples of the Council of Europe and the World Health Organization.

I. International context

11. While democracy, as a mode of government, is reaching farther than ever before, two phenomena are emerging: citizens' growing loss of interest in the traditional forms of democracy and, at the same time, increasingly widespread use of civil society mechanisms for the purposes of political expression.

12. This situation is linked to the globalization process which has resulted, *inter alia*, in the transfer of decision-making from the national sphere to the international arena. A growing number of decisions taken at the intergovernmental level have a direct impact on the lives of citizens who in turn wish to have an influence on those decisions and on the setting of world priorities. The new information and communication technologies (ICTs), which permit an extremely rapid flow of information and a diversification of sources, have also contributed to the development of informal forums for reflection, dialogue and exchange.

13. To this end many political and social priorities have thus come to the forefront and have been placed on the agenda of intergovernmental bodies owing to the involvement and action of non-governmental organizations or what the Cardoso report defines as "global communities of interest". This is true in particular of issues relating to the environment, gender equality and the treatment of HIV/AIDS.

14. In this context, the World Social Forum, launched in 2001 as an alternative to the World Economic Forum, is an illustration of recent trends in world politics. The Forum is the outcome of reaction against "unjust" economic development, on the one hand, and the desire to take an alternative stance focused on human beings, cooperation and social justice, on the other. These forums, which now meet regularly, have the distinctive feature of being the preserve of civil society, in which governments and major world institutions are not in any special position. Without claiming to be representative bodies of world civil society but rather to be forums for enabling exchanges, promoting participatory democracy and bringing together social stakeholders from all backgrounds, they have led to changes in the traditional mechanisms of representative democracy.

15. It is difficult to gauge the impact of these forums. It is undeniable, however, that they have led to more dynamic world political and social reflection and have enhanced the visibility and networking of civil society organizations active, both locally and internationally, outside the usual international bodies.

16. All of these phenomena make it vital for the United Nations system as a whole to inquire into the ways and means of building a sound partnership with civil society and, in particular, with non-governmental organizations, so that their contributions to international debates can be given more weight without calling into question the essentially intergovernmental character of decision-making at that level.

17. To take up these challenges, the Cardoso report identifies four paradigm shifts aimed at strengthening and improving the relationship between the United Nations and civil society, namely become outward-looking, embrace a plurality of constituencies, connect the local with the global and help to bring democracy into the twenty-first century. These four policy thrusts should become the basis for bringing about a genuine culture of partnership within the Organization.

II. Challenges facing UNESCO

18. UNESCO has, from the outset, distinguished itself by playing a pioneering role as a forum for exchange and future-oriented research bringing together eminent persons, intellectuals and scientists, all belonging to what is covered today by the expression “civil society”. That has been reflected, in particular, in the Organization’s participation in the establishment of NGO federations in its fields of competence, with which it has established a true partnership through formal associate relations. It is crucial for the Organization to maintain this position which constitutes one of its assets in the United Nations system.

19. For that purpose, it must widen the range of non-State partners, while taking recent developments into account and recognizing the important contribution of NGOs to its action. UNESCO is in fact often identified in the landscape of United Nations agencies and programmes as an organization that defends what are sometimes known as “soft” development issues, namely education for all, cultural diversity and freedom of expression. In all its fields of competence, it draws on the support of non-governmental organizations that share its defence of a different, and often broader, more complex vision of development than that of other intergovernmental organizations

20. In view of UNESCO’s particular stance, which means that it is represented in both the World Economic Forum and the World Social Forum, it must play its unifying and catalyst role in international cooperation to the full. In becoming more outward-looking, the Organization must act as a facilitator of dialogue between NGOs and governmental bodies and may even, where necessary, play the role of mediator whenever sensitive issues arise.

21. To take up the challenges raised by globalization, sound and effective partnerships must be forged and a genuine culture of partnership must be created. The first step towards this goal is to ensure that all stakeholders at all levels recognize one another as partners. That involves, as stressed in the Cardoso report, changing mentalities and practices and thus instilling genuine institutional will to that end.

22. The major challenges to be taken up include the issue of the under-representation in international bodies of the developing countries’ civil society organizations, which are nonetheless vibrant and active. UNESCO should find appropriate means, in particular through its decentralization policy, to draw closer to these organizations and involve them fully in its work. The aim for UNESCO is genuinely to come to terms with the wide range of civil society stakeholders, which is reflected by the diversity of skills, points of view and cultures, in order to move towards a more human and more democratic form of globalization.

III. Practices of other intergovernmental organizations

23. To guide UNESCO’s discussions on its relations with non-governmental organizations, this report draws attention to current practices in other intergovernmental organizations. The system of working relations at the World Health Organization has several interesting features that could be applied to UNESCO’s operational relations. Furthermore, the participatory status of NGOs at the Council of Europe is a noteworthy model for their integration.

A. Framework of working relations and cooperation at the national and regional levels: World Health Organization (WHO)

24. WHO recognizes only one category of formal relations: official relations. It also has “working relations”, which are governed by the Organization’s Principles Governing Relations with Non-governmental Organizations.*

25. As a prior condition to the establishment of official relations, WHO provides for the establishment of working relations for a two-year period. The relations are formalized by an exchange of letters setting out details of the activities to be undertaken and the resources required for the cooperation, the subject of an assessment that may lead to its continuation or to admission to official relations for international NGOs.

26. Such working relations may also be established with national or regional NGOs and are then negotiated by the regional office concerned. In addition, in order to take advantage of the potential contribution such NGOs can make beyond the execution of programmes, they may, if the regional Directors deem it necessary, and in consultation with the regional committees, be granted the same privileges as international NGOs maintaining official relations: observer status to the WHO governing bodies and the possibility of submitting memoranda to the Director-General, which may then be submitted to the Executive Board and conveyed to the World Health Assembly.

B. Participatory status for NGOs: the Council of Europe

27. The Council of Europe provides for only one status of cooperation with international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), formerly “consultative” and now “participatory” status. Since 2003, this new status has been based in part on the logic of the “Quadrilogue”, an arrangement involving the systematic consultation of four partners representing political institutions and civil society alike: governments, parliaments, local and regional authorities, and civil society. Its aim is to strengthen cooperation among the three main Council of Europe bodies (Committee of Ministers, Parliamentary Assembly and Congress of Local and Regional Authorities) and NGOs. Concurrently, over the last 30 years, the Council of Europe has created a specific mechanism to encourage direct participation by youth NGOs.

28. It is worth noting the following aspects of this new status:

- explicit reference to the participation of NGOs in the definition of Council of Europe policies, programmes and actions;
- encouragement of collective action through:
 - the possibility of granting observer status with the Committee of Ministers (the main decision-making body of the Council of Europe) to the Liaison Committee or thematic groupings, not to individual NGOs;
 - a constant reference to the Liaison Committee and thematic groupings as key partners, alongside individual NGOs;
- involvement of NGOs in the accreditation process: the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe must solicit the opinion of the Liaison Committee regarding the granting of participatory status to any new organization.

29. In 2003, the Council of Europe also adopted a resolution on partnerships for the implementation of programmes with national NGOs.

* For many years WHO has been reconsidering its relations with NGOs and this may result in a change to the prevailing principles.

30. The Council of Europe also has a unique mechanism to encourage youth NGOs to participate in the work of the Directorate of Youth and Sport, which consists of a system for joint decision-making on policy priorities in the youth sector and the joint management of youth activities organized by the European Youth Centres in Strasbourg and Budapest. The statutory body with responsibility for joint decision-making and management with youth NGOs (the Consultative Youth Council) also advises other sectors and bodies of the Council of Europe (Secretary General, Parliamentary Assembly and Congress of Local and Regional Authorities). A specific link has been established to the Liaison Committee of NGOs having participatory status. The Consultative Council sits as an observer on the Liaison Committee and vice versa.

**PART TWO:
STATUTORY FRAMEWORK FOR COOPERATION
WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

31. In 1995, when UNESCO adopted the new Directives concerning its relations with non-governmental organizations, it renewed its commitment to work with NGOs as much on the conceptual level as in the execution of programmes and activities on the ground. The previous sexennial report (31 C/27) gave an overview of the Directives in paragraph 17, the main elements of which are as follows:

- (a) the establishment of a **partnership** based on (i) the **representativeness** of the NGO (headquarters, membership, structures and location of activities); (ii) its **dynamism** (active association of members from grass-roots level to the top); (iii) the **nature** and **regularity** of its cooperation (activities, projects, etc.) with UNESCO;
- (b) the establishment of two main types of **formal relations**, limited to a **renewable period of six years**;
 - **associate** relations, open to a very small number of umbrella NGOs that are broadly international in membership, with which close and ongoing working relations exist, and which are capable of providing opinions on the preparation and execution of programmes;
 - **consultative** relations, open to representative international NGOs (INGOs) with the means and desire to contribute effectively to UNESCO's objectives;
- (c) the establishment of **operational relations**, a more flexible and dynamic framework, so that the needs of cooperation with NGOs are better reflected. They are open:
 - to INGOs that only partially meet the conditions for the establishment of formal relations;
 - to national, local or field NGOs;
- (d) the diversification of the cooperation arrangements:
 - **Intellectual cooperation:**
 - intellectual contribution:** (i) advice, consultancy; (ii) provision of programme specialists, experts/lecturers; (iii) documentation;
 - moral support:** patronage, use of the Organization's name and logos, etc.;
 - **Financial cooperation:**

contracts for: (i) programme execution; (ii) the implementation of framework agreements;

contributions to activities under the Participation Programme;

grants;

▪ **Material cooperation:**

making **premises** available on a long-term or exceptional basis: (i) offices; (ii) rooms for meetings or performances; (iii) exhibition areas.

32. The Directives also introduced several reforms whose implications may be summarized as follows:

- (a) in regard to operational relations, UNESCO is able to cooperate with a wider variety of NGOs: national, local or field organizations (in consultation with the National Commissions established in Member States and field offices);
- (b) at the national level, greater priority is given to the establishment of a triangular partnership among NGOs (whether national organizations or national sections of international organizations), National Commissions for UNESCO and field units of the Secretariat;
- (c) to put relations on a more rational basis, NGOs with similar interests are encouraged to establish closer ties and to cooperate closely with each other, either by forming groups, federations, coordination structures or umbrella organizations or – simply – by holding joint meetings;
- (d) in this respect, particular stress is placed on making arrangements for collective consultations: International Conference of NGOs, regional consultations and thematic consultations;
- (e) furthermore, the role of the standing committee (now known as the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee) has been strengthened so as to improve the collective representation of NGOs to UNESCO and to provide the link between UNESCO and NGOs maintaining official relations.

33. We shall see in the detailed evaluation below how the Directives have been applied and whether it has been possible actually to implement the reforms.

PART THREE ASSESSMENT OF COOPERATION BETWEEN UNESCO AND NGOS

I. Analysis of quantifiable data

A. Classification of NGOs maintaining official relations – developments since 2001

34. The 1995 Directives were adopted in order to strengthen UNESCO's cooperation with non-governmental organizations by tightening links with the NGO community in the Organization's priority fields, on the one hand, and by expanding the panel of organizations maintaining official relations in order to improve geographical representativeness on the other. On the basis of quantified data taken from the database of the Section for Non-Governmental Organizations and replies received from NGOs, developments since 2001 are set out below.

(1) Number of NGOs maintaining official relations

35. The downward trend in the number of NGOs maintaining official relations with UNESCO that started when they were reclassified after the adoption of the 1995 Directives has continued. The number has fallen from 588 NGOs maintaining official relations in 1995 to 344 in 2001 and 335 in 2006. The drop is a result of the reclassification process that only really came to an end in the early years of the decade, when a number of NGOs that no longer had links with UNESCO were placed in the informal relations category and some organizations were placed in “another category” of relations. In addition, 20 NGOs have been admitted for the first time to official relations since 2001.

36. Another aspect linked to reclassification is the change in the number of NGOs in the various categories. UNESCO currently maintains official relations with a total of 335 NGOs broken down as follows:

- **19** NGOs maintaining formal associate relations;
- **67** NGOs maintaining formal consultative relations (including 13 networks);
- **249** NGOs maintaining operational relations.

37. The proportion of NGOs maintaining operational relations has increased slightly compared to that of NGOs maintaining formal relations (74% of the total against 71% in 2001). At the same time, the number of NGOs maintaining formal consultative relations has dropped by 13% and that of NGOs maintaining formal associate relations has risen from 17 in 2001 to 19 in 2006. The increase in the number of NGOs maintaining operational relations seems to be in line with the Directives’ aim of extending UNESCO’s cooperation with a wide range of NGOs to implement the activities provided for in its programmes. It will be seen, however, that the number of admissions to official relations of local, national and field organizations, as provided for by the Directives, remains small.

(2) Geographical spread and concentration

38. With regard to the **geographical distribution of NGOs in terms of the country where their headquarters are located**, the Europe and North America region is still well ahead: 81.8% of NGOs have their headquarters in that region. The situation may be explained in part by the fact that historically a large number of NGOs established their headquarters near to those of intergovernmental organizations for the purpose of better cooperation. However, the situation is changing slowly, as that figure has fallen by 3% since 2001, mainly in favour of the Asia and the Pacific and the Latin America and the Caribbean regions, thus moving towards the aim expressed in the Directives of “promoting the emergence of new organizations that are representative of civil society in those regions of the world where such organizations, for historical, cultural or geographical reasons, are isolated or weak”.

39. At the same time, NGOs’ worldwide geographical coverage (that is, their presence in terms of members or activities) has improved during the period under consideration. NGOs reporting a presence in more than 112 countries now account for 9% of all NGOs as opposed to 6% in 2001. Furthermore, although a majority of NGOs have their headquarters in Europe and North America, many have members and activities in other regions. Accordingly, 65% of NGOs with headquarters in Europe state that they have members or activities in all five regions.

40. With regard to the **geographical concentration** of NGOs by region, they are still concentrated in Europe and North America, with 42% of NGOs present in more than half of the region’s countries. In Africa, Latin America and the Arab States, some 16% of NGOs are present in more than half of the countries in these regions, while in Asia the figure is only 8%. However, an NGO that is highly active in one particular region may also be so in other regions. For instance, about 50% of the NGOs present in more than half of the countries of the Europe and North America region are also present in more than a third of African States.

41. The number of **regional or subregional NGOs** accounts for 19% of all NGOs, up 2% in relation to 2001: 30% are in Europe and North America, 25% in Latin America and the Caribbean, 18% in Africa, 14% in Asia and the Pacific, 11% in the Arab States and 2% are regional NGOs present around the Mediterranean. Furthermore, their presence is relatively significant: in all regions, 75% of regional NGOs are present in more than a third, and 49% in more than half of their region's countries.

42. Lastly, with regard to the **20 NGOs admitted to official relations since 2001**, the statistics are in line with the figures provided for all the NGOs, although 30% of them are regional in scope, which reflects the aim of the Directives to strengthen or support networks of organizations at the regional level. At the same time, no local, national or field NGO has been admitted to official relations during the period despite the provisions thereon explicitly set out in the Directives. The concern that there might be a mass entry of NGOs, as was the case for the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), could explain a certain reluctance to promote the admission of such NGOs to official relations. Better information about the provisions could be transmitted to the National Commissions and field offices, which should be the natural channel for these NGOs.

43. In conclusion, there has been an improvement in the geographical representativeness of NGOs. Efforts should be made, however, to strike a balance among the various regions more quickly. This could be achieved through greater involvement of field units and National Commissions in identifying NGOs or NGO networks in the least favoured regions.

(3) Sectoral distribution

44. The information in the database on sectors with which NGOs are affiliated shows that the Education Sector comes way ahead with 42% of NGOs working with it. It is followed by the Social and Human Sciences Sector (23%), the Culture Sector (16%), the Communication and Information Sector (16%) and lastly the Natural Sciences Sector (11%). It should also be stressed that 18% of NGOs are involved in programmes linked to priority groups or a cross-cutting programme (youth, women and the culture of peace). The figures demonstrate the intersectoral nature of NGOs as 20% of them are affiliated to more than one sector.

NGO affiliation to programme sectors					
ED	SC	SHS	CLT	CII	Other (youth, women, culture of peace)
140	36	78	52	55	61
42%	11%	23%	16%	16%	18%

B. NGO participation in institutional consultation mechanisms

45. In the previous report, the figures concerning the Director-General's consultations on the C/4 and C/5 documents took into consideration only those NGOs which had replied to the questionnaire on the sexennial report, which explains the impression of a high participation level. In regard to this report, it was decided to take all NGOs maintaining official relations into account, drawing on information published by the Bureau of Strategic Planning (see table below).

Rate of NGO participation in the Director-General's consultations on the C/4 and C/5 documents			
	NGOs maintaining formal associate relations (reply obligatory)	NGOs maintaining formal consultative relations (reply obligatory)	NGOs maintaining operational relations (reply optional)
31 C/4 (2002-2007) and 31 C/5 (2002-2003)	59%	19%	10%
32 C/5 (2004-2005)	47%	21%	13%
33 C/5 (2006-2007)	50%	16%	7%
34 C/4 (2008-2013) and 34 C/5 (2008-2009)	47%	15%	12%

46. The relatively low level of participation in the consultations is probably linked to the rather complex questionnaires for the preparation of the C/4 and C/5 documents, which are deemed quite often too technical. This problem is further compounded for some NGOs by the lack of human resources and expertise required to reply within very tight deadlines. For highly specialized or regional NGOs, the usefulness of the general consultation on all of UNESCO's programmes is not apparent. Several NGOs have thus stressed in their replies that the human resources assigned to the consultation are too great, in view of the unquantifiable impact of their contributions and the lack of feedback from the Secretariat on their contributions.

47. With respect to participation in General Conference sessions and International Conferences of NGOs, the figures for both are around 50% of NGOs attending at least one session in the period (with a higher participation of NGOs maintaining formal relations, at around 60%). The International Conference of NGOs has moreover recorded a constant fall in participation since 2001 (40% of NGOs present in 2001 down to 29% in 2005). The trend is slightly different for the General Conference, 30% in 2001, 40% in 2003 and 30% in 2005. With regard to the joint programmatic commissions (JPCs), 31% of NGOs are involved in at least one of these commissions, there again with higher participation by NGOs maintaining formal relations.

48. However, there does not seem to be any real correlation between the type of relation and NGO participation in these various consultation mechanisms, which is linked more to the question of means (organization with headquarters in Europe or representative present in Paris) and interest. In order to improve NGO participation in these consultations, the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee might envisage, together with the Secretariat, setting up mechanisms to inform and assist NGOs in the preparation of their replies to the questionnaires on the C/4 and C/5 documents.

49. In addition, NGOs' intellectual cooperation cannot be confined to their participation in institutional consultations. Indeed, several NGOs referred in their contributions to informal consultations with sectors in the preparation of the C/4 and C/5 documents or in the context of specific projects. Similarly, several National Commissions and field offices also reported on consultations organized at their level on various matters. It will be seen below that other, often informal, forms of consultation exist which respond better to interests and needs in terms of effectiveness.

C. Financial arrangements for cooperation

50. There are two kinds of financial arrangements for cooperation: arrangements for NGOs provided for by the Directives (Participation Programme, contracts and subventions) and NGOs' own financial contributions to UNESCO programmes.

51. To these must be added direct financial investments by NGOs in projects implemented in cooperation with the Organization, which do not always pass through its accounts. Very often, UNESCO's contribution forms only a small part of all the funds dedicated to a project. Lastly, tribute must be paid to all the members of NGOs, often working as volunteers, who take an active part in the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee and the smooth conduct of joint activities.

52. Over the years, the rules governing access by international NGOs to the **Participation Programme** have become increasingly structured and specific. At first, from 1999, access to the Programme was granted only to international NGOs maintaining official relations with UNESCO. Subsequently, the number of requests that could be submitted has been reduced gradually from five in the 2000-2001 biennium to two in the 2006-2007 biennium, indirectly in response to criticisms by NGOs, which considered that it was futile and time-consuming to submit five requests when it was highly unlikely that more than one request per NGO would be approved. Lastly, the threshold of the total amount that could be allocated to international NGOs has been set at 5% of the envelope set aside for the Participation Programme in the regular programme.

53. With regard to the implementation of the Participation Programme during the 2000-2001, 2002-2003 and 2004-2005* biennia, there is some stability in the number of requests approved. This suggests that, out of concern for egalitarianism, a specific sum has been granted to a greater number of NGOs instead of allocating larger amounts to a smaller number of projects.

Number and amount of requests approved under the Participation Programme (2000 and 2005)			
	Overall amount approved	Number of requests approved for INGOs	Total amount of requests approved for INGOs
2000-2001	24,830,000	63	1,016,850
2002-2003	22,000,000	65	988,000
2004-2005	23,000,000	66	1,015,000

54. The 194 requests approved in the 2000-2005 period concerned a total of 110 NGOs, several of which benefited under the Programme in each biennium. Furthermore, eight of the NGOs that received such allocations (some received one per biennium) had signed framework agreements. In view of the constant fall in available resources and out of concern for equity, it would be desirable for NGOs that already benefit from substantial allocations under these framework agreements to limit their requests under the Participation Programme to specific projects of benefit to developing countries.

55. National NGOs may benefit from the Participation Programme through requests submitted by Member States. The figures relating to this type of cooperation are not available at present, but a large number of the National Commissions which replied to the questionnaire stated that they have supported requests benefiting national NGOs. It is difficult now to ascertain whether these allocations went wholly or partly to these NGOs, or whether they were granted to them as a partner in a project submitted to the Participation Programme.

56. In regard to the **contractual arrangements** that have replaced the old subventions, there are now two main types of contract: framework agreements, which concern the provision of expertise and the overall implementation of a sector's priorities, and second, contracts (activity funding or fee contracts) which concern the implementation of a specific aspect of the programme.

* Since not all the requests for the 2006-2007 biennium have been evaluated, this biennium has not been taken into account.

57. The various approved Programme and Budget documents up to document 32 C/5 provide data on these two kinds of arrangement in tables entitled “Recapitulation of the distribution of programme allocations by principal modality of action” and “Regular budget summary by main object-of-expenditure”. Although these figures are only forecasts of expenditure and do not reflect all the contracts signed for the purpose of programme execution, they provide interesting pointers as to the downward trend in the budgets allocated to NGOs.

Financial cooperation with NGOs according to Programme and Budget documents (C/5)
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Biennium	Framework agreements	Financial allocations to NGOs	Total	Total amount of the programme budget	Percentage
2000-2001	\$8,007,600	\$11,291,900	\$19,299,500	\$110,566,700	17%
2002-2003	\$6,405,400	\$8,873,950	\$15,279,350	\$112,989,500	14%
2004-2005	\$2,302,900	\$10,361,300	\$12,664,200	\$148,243,800	9%
2006-2007	\$3,051,400	\$6,286,650*	\$9,338,050	\$128,888,900	7%

58. During the period under consideration, 11 **framework agreements** were signed with organizations maintaining formal associate relations, most of them including a financial element. On the whole, the implementation of these framework agreements is considered to be satisfactory both by NGOs and by the sectors concerned, even though several NGOs regretted a fall in the resources allocated. Nevertheless, some NGOs acknowledged that, despite the reduction, UNESCO’s moral and financial support made it easier for them to raise funds from other bodies. One NGO stressed that it was prejudicial to the development of a genuine culture of partnership to consider the framework agreements as financial agreements when they should form a strategic foundation for cooperation with NGOs maintaining formal associate relations. A detailed evaluation of each framework agreement can be found in document 176 EX/INF.6.

59. With regard to contracts, an analysis of the replies from the various administrative services of the programme sectors and the Division of the Comptroller (DCO) (whose effort to retrieve this information is laudable) shows that, despite the introduction of new management tools (SISTER and FABS), an exhaustive list of contracts signed with NGOs cannot readily be drawn up. A more rationalized use of the computer system appears to be needed in this regard to facilitate analysis of financial cooperation with NGOs.

60. Owing to the constant fall in available resources, the provisions concerning the “new” **subventions** introduced in 1993 by the General Conference have not been implemented. Likewise, the very concept of subvention no longer seems appropriate for current forms of cooperation which, when they do have financial implications, are implemented through contracts. To reflect this situation, it would be desirable to delete this type of financial arrangement from the Directives.

61. Furthermore, all contributions linked to participation in consultations and the implementation of projects that cannot be pinpointed or quantified must be considered. These include, for instance, making contributions to the travel and accommodation costs of NGO representatives, making charge of meeting rooms available free of charge and offering services in kind.

* The figure for the financial allocations to NGOs for the 2006-2007 biennium is based on document 33 C/5 as this information was not included in document 33 C/5 Approved.

62. In addition, as provided for by the Directives, premises are made available to NGOs maintaining formal associate relations. During the period under consideration, the NGOs benefiting from these provisions were grouped together in a single building called “NGO House”.

63. With regard to **financial contributions** made to UNESCO by NGOs, the analysis concerned data provided by DCO about funds received from entities other than governments and United Nations agencies. It can be difficult to identify contributors as NGOs or members of an NGO from among the various entities contained in the tables. The data below include contributions by university institutions and national entities that are members of regional and international networks maintaining official relations with UNESCO.

Voluntary contributions by NGOs to the UNESCO programme			
Biennium	Total amount of funds received	Amount of funds received from NGOs	Percentage of the total
2000-2001	\$20,829,900	\$1,514,900	7%
2002-2003	\$24,180,744	\$1,707,670	7%
2004-2005	\$56,180,080	\$4,447,405	8%

64. Voluntary contributions by NGOs in the biennia 2000-2001, 2002-2003 and 2004-2005 accounted for between 7% and 8% of the total amount of voluntary contributions to the UNESCO budget. Since the 2006-2007 biennium is not over, it is too early to assess the movement of financial contributions for the period, which stood at \$2,114,687 in 2006. There was, however, a significant increase in the volume of contributions between the 2002-2003 and 2004-2005 biennia, reflecting a general upward trend in voluntary contributions. Of these funds, 75% were contributed by NGOs maintaining official relations or by their members.

II. Qualitative assessment

65. UNESCO’s cooperation with NGOs is rich and extremely varied. Without claiming to be exhaustive, a synopsis is provided below of the main aspects of the sectors’ cooperation with NGOs, together with an analysis of the three main forms of cooperation: cooperation to define programmes and strategies – also known as upstream cooperation – which seems to be becoming the main form of cooperation with NGOs; collective cooperation, a form explicitly provided for by the Directives in order to promote coordinated action; and local, national and regional cooperation, which is developing exponentially owing to the increasingly dynamic nature of civil society at this level and the Organization’s decentralization policy. These forms of cooperation are not wholly separate but very often coincide.

A. Cooperation with the programme sectors

(1) Education

66. “The collaboration with civil society is relevant to all levels and aspects of education and contributes to the Sector’s mandate of advancing, exchanging and developing knowledge and best practices around learning” (Education Sector Strategy in Cooperating with NGOs, 2003).

67. The Education Sector works with several hundred NGOs, some of which maintain official relations with UNESCO; it also works with a large number of organizations that do not have statutory relations. Some 500 NGOs have thus been involved in the Sector’s two mechanisms for collective consultation: the thematic Collective Consultations on Education for All (see Annex I) and Higher Education. The NGOs taking part in the Collective Consultation on Education for All mostly work in basic education and literacy, in particular by means of advocacy, networking and monitoring the implementation of the Plan of Action of the Dakar World Education Forum. The Collective Consultation on Higher Education brings together NGOs representing the various stakeholders in the field (teachers, researchers, students, associations of universities, feminist

groups, and so on) who offer their expertise, the lessons of their experience and critical analyses in relation to UNESCO's policies and actions.

68. Some NGOs maintaining official relations have, over the period under consideration, been close and effective partners and have provided specific expertise, advice and high-quality interventions in several fields. They have helped raise the profile of UNESCO's objectives and actions and expand the scope of the Organization's activities with thousands of institutions and millions of individuals.

69. With regard to forms of cooperation, the Sector relies on the various functions of NGOs as providers of alternative and innovative services, informed critics, advocates and policy partners. The last two roles seem to be on the increase but are difficult to quantify as they often involve informal consultations and conversations.

70. Partner NGOs are not only chosen from the list of NGOs maintaining official relations but most often through consultation of colleagues, partner organizations, National Commissions, and so on.

71. Furthermore, in the context of United Nations reform and the harmonization of aid policies, UNESCO is a stakeholder in numerous partnerships at national and international levels (EFA movement, inter-agency teams, United Nations country teams) and is therefore working with a large number of civil society organizations that UNESCO is not alone in identifying.

72. We may therefore conclude that the Sector's cooperation with NGOs reflects, on the one hand, the need to forge partnerships with solid and internationally recognized actors so as to reinforce policy dialogue, consultations and advocacy activities and, on the other, the need to develop open and direct dialogue and cooperation at the local and national levels, rather than through international secretariats.

(2) Natural Sciences

73. In the field of the natural sciences, partnerships are an effective way of encouraging activities on a larger scale than those that UNESCO would be able to oversee by itself. Having recourse to such partnerships has not only enabled greater efforts of integration with a broad range of actors and stakeholders, but has also in many cases provided extrabudgetary resources to support the Organization's basic programmes. The partnerships thus established are mainly characterized by their transdisciplinarity and the large number of stakeholders (non-governmental organizations, government institutions and private sector). They concern both highly specialized scientific fields (pure and applied chemistry, biological sciences and biotechnology, etc.) and cooperation for sustainable development (biodiversity, natural resources management, natural disaster prevention (see Annex I), and so on).

74. The Natural Sciences Sector has established highly significant international cooperation with many NGOs, in particular through framework agreements with two of the most broadly representative professional organizations in the sciences, and in engineering and technology. Joint cooperation takes the form of, among other things: planning and coordinating international and interdisciplinary research programmes; ensuring that scientific activities are in line with development policies; representing the international scientific community in various United Nations bodies and in other international bodies; working to build the scientific capacities of developing countries in every field and promoting the principle of the universality of science.

75. Alongside international coordination activities, the Sector also undertakes field and development action with NGOs at the national and regional levels. These mostly involve interdisciplinary programmes involving several of the Organization's sectors and many local and national NGOs. By way of example, these have included the platform to enhance coastal regions and small islands (CSI) through respect for the environment, social equity, adaptation to local

cultures and economic viability. In this context, non-governmental organizations fulfil several functions: advice and technical support to governments, an environmental watch function, capacity-building and awareness-raising activities. In these cases, cooperation is often established with local and national NGOs that do not maintain official relations with UNESCO.

76. In addition, NGOs play a fundamental role in raising the awareness of the general public as to the implications and challenges linked to the sciences and in the field of popularizing science. NGOs have also taken an active part in events linked to the various international years concerning science, such as International Year of Mountains (2002), International Year of Freshwater (2003) and International Year of Physics (2005).

77. We may therefore conclude that cooperation with professional NGOs maintaining official relations with UNESCO is very close and productive. They make an effective contribution to the Organization's programmes and enable greater visibility of the Sector's priorities. It may nevertheless be noted that a number of major "development" NGOs do not maintain statutory relations even though they are involved in cooperation.

(3) Social and Human Sciences

78. Given the nature of the Social and Human Sciences Sector's activities and priorities, NGOs are essential partners in programme implementation. The period 2001-2006 saw developments in the Sector's relations with its partners, with a move towards increasingly closer cooperation with three types of social actor: policy-makers, scientific researchers and members of civil society. This movement has been linked in particular to a substantial revival of civil society, as the relevance of its functions and interventions has enabled the Organization's programmes to become more firmly rooted in society. In addition, the emergence of new forms of governance has required the links with these various actors to be consolidated. At the same time, as UNESCO's practical and specific actions on the ground have strengthened, the direct linkage between the programme and the field activities traditionally carried out by local and national NGOs has been highlighted.

79. Cooperation takes place either in an ad hoc way, according to the needs and nature of each activity, or regularly with particular NGOs maintaining official relations with UNESCO. With respect to work at the local level, partnerships are usually established between field offices and local NGOs or national members of international organizations. In these latter cases, although cooperation at the local level may be satisfactory, it has been noted, however, that there are significant problems in the transmission of information to the bodies of NGOs represented at the level of UNESCO Headquarters.

80. The main themes dealt with in cooperation with NGOs are the fight against poverty, gender equality, human rights, the ethics of science and bioethics, the management of social transformations, philosophy and foresight and, since early 2006, physical education and sport.

81. In this context, NGOs mostly contribute in the fields of standard-setting, professional expertise, and awareness-raising or advocacy. Their contribution to the intellectual watch function is rarer but occurs in particular through participation in foresight studies. Moreover, there is an increasingly active presence of trade union and professional associations, conveying the interests and values of various professions in the standard-setting process (ethics of science, equality and human rights). For example, NGOs working in bioethics and human rights made substantial contributions to the elaboration of the International Declaration on Human Genetic Data (2003) and the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights (2005). NGOs also played a key role in the presentation and dissemination of the UNESCO World Report *Towards Knowledge Societies*.

82. We should not forget the cooperation carried out as part of the 20 intersectoral projects coordinated by the Sector in the field of combating poverty. These projects are innovative models of intersectoral and multiparty cooperation with a direct impact on vulnerable communities in the countries where they are implemented. As a result of this tangible impact, several projects have

benefited from extrabudgetary funding, and cooperation with other agencies of the United Nations system and several NGOs from developed countries active in the field has been strengthened.

83. Of the eight Joint Programmatic Commissions (JPCs) active during the period under consideration, four concern themes directly related to the Social and Human Sciences Sector. Although the assessment of JPCs by various programme officers is positive on the whole, there is still room for improvements that would strengthen cooperation and, in particular, bring the work done by the JPCs closer into line with the Sector programmes.

84. The JPCs ought to forge direct links with the main civil society forums (World Social Forum, Universal Forum of Cultures, International Economic Forum of the Americas and so on), which afford genuinely fruitful opportunities for disseminating the Organization's aims and establishing useful partnerships.

85. Similarly, an effort should be made to improve cooperation with NGOs in the Sector's flagship thematic fields, such as the ethics of science, and in understanding and responding to the new challenges of the contemporary world.

86. In September 2004, in cooperation with the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee, the Sector held the first information meeting at which the Sector's programme and officers were introduced to NGOs maintaining formal relations. Nearly all JPC members attended. This initiative should be repeated at the beginning of each biennium and ideally should be taken in each programme sector.

4. Culture

87. Cooperation continued between the Culture Sector and those NGOs maintaining official relations with UNESCO which operate in the field of culture and, in some cases, it was renewed in a way that was generally satisfactory throughout the six years covered by this report. In addition to the five NGOs with which framework agreements were executed in optimal conditions, another four organizations maintaining formal associative relations, 12 out of 13 maintaining formal consultative relations and 20 out of 24 maintaining operational relations were identified as regular partners. While most of these NGOs operate in the fields of heritage and creativity, all in all every aspect of the Culture programme was covered, including cultural policies and intercultural and interreligious dialogue.

88. The Sector's assessment revealed that, since 2002, some NGOs had ceased to make a genuine contribution to the Culture programme. Some faced operational difficulties of their own or were restructured. In other cases, it would be more accurate to speak of looser links: correspondence and even informal meetings have continued but have not amounted to more than a mere exchange of information.

89. Two positive aspects merit emphasis. First, many "culture" NGOs did, in the spirit of the Directives, follow changes in UNESCO's policy-making, sometimes operating at the very heart of the Organization's priorities. Second, the circle of NGOs widened to include organizations that had been vocationally closer to other Sectors, such as the Social and Human Sciences and the Communication and Information Sectors, an apparent indication of progress towards greater interdisciplinarity.

90. In the field of culture, the period 2001-2006 was marked by high achievements in terms of standard-setting and in the provision of support for initiatives to develop and expand UNESCO's functions as a laboratory of ideas and clearing house. It is through all of these activities that NGO contributions were most prominent and most sensitive; they played an advisory, or awareness-raising role, or implemented specific activities.

91. Primarily of an intellectual nature, cooperation with NGOs took different forms in response to different needs: for example, enabling UNESCO to benefit from those who can help to raise public

awareness of major issues, such as HIV/AIDS, or taking part in prize-awarding juries and other such bodies. Complementarity between these activities has generally proved fruitful.

92. Whereas Headquarters continued to work above all with international NGOs – albeit not exclusively, since major activities carried out in developing countries were often undertaken with national members of international NGOs – reports from the field offices suggested that cooperation with regional and national NGOs has increased, even with many NGOs not maintaining official relations with UNESCO. Similarly, at Headquarters, NGOs maintaining working relations – be it to take part in discussions, offer technical expertise or implement an operational project – do not all maintain official relations with the Organization.

93. It can be deduced from these observations that UNESCO's non-governmental environment has been rejuvenated in the cultural sphere, as cooperation has broadened informally in scope, in a way that is flexible, pragmatic and constructive. Undoubtedly, the Culture programme has benefited greatly from the strategy of strengthening links with civil society.

5. Communication and Information

94. During the period under consideration, the areas in which the Communication and Information Sector cooperated with NGOs underwent a sea change. The processes of globalization, the rapid expansion of ICTs and the transition from information societies to knowledge societies not only created new needs and opened new opportunities for genuinely multipartite cooperation, but also introduced new constraints.

95. In this regard, UNESCO's robust mobilization of its traditional partners, namely NGOs but also to a certain extent community and citizen networks, for the preparation of both World Summits on the Information Society (WSIS) (in Switzerland in 2003 and Tunisia in 2005), gave rise to changes in the Organization's philosophy on cooperation with NGOs for the Sector (see Annex I). These changes show that there can be no fair information society without the active participation of civil society, local authorities and the private sector.

96. In this context, cooperation between UNESCO and NGOs in the field of information and communication has tended to be mostly of an intellectual kind, drawing on human rather than financial resources. It has enabled a number of activities with a clear knock-on effect to be carried out while stressing its multidisciplinary character and improving the promotion, dissemination and impact of UNESCO's objectives and ideals.

97. Generally speaking, the Sector cooperated with groups established to defend the freedom of expression and freedom of information, regional broadcasting bodies, institutions involved in media development and education, and professional organizations active in the field of information management and conservation.

98. The Sector and the NGOs cooperate essentially on three levels: identifying needs and devising and executing projects; framing strategies and policies; and technical assistance and advisory services.

99. The Sector's policy on cooperation with NGOs was twofold. On the one hand, it relied on its non-governmental partners' efforts to adapt to change and, on the other hand, it emphasized interaction with those NGOs which have successfully kept up with the pace of those rapid changes, and have met the new needs and taken up the new challenges.

100. On the one hand, that meant creating efficient cooperation by network in order to make full use of ICTs and thus establish links with an optimal range of partners in order to share and exchange resources and experience, and so forth. For example, UNESCO made considerable efforts to mobilize NGOs under the partnership to assist the media in post-conflict zones.

101. The Sector encouraged the formation of a wide-ranging coalition aimed at avoiding duplication and promoting synergy among the NGOs rather than forging isolated and piecemeal links with individual NGOs. For example, in partnership with NGOs and local, regional and international professional organizations involved in media-related activities, UNESCO has devised a global approach to media development. It has also established a solid working relationship with major professional organizations that do not only play monitoring and implementation roles, but also advise on matters concerning the media sector (relevant legislation, capacity-building for media officers, developing journalism and promoting twinning).

102. Experience in three areas has yielded lessons to be learnt, thereby helping to increase the efficiency of cooperation between the Communication and Information Sector and NGOs:

- activities carried out during the worldwide process relating to both phases of WSIS, in 2003 and 2005, provided an international framework for a focused discussion of information and communication policies and led to the formulation of a specific action plan for all actors in the international community;
- cooperation with the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee's JPC on communication and Information, which enabled the Sector to deal directly with the relevant NGOs and include them in its work on policies and its operational activity;
- participation by NGOs in the Sector's two intergovernmental programmes – the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) and the Information for All Programme (IFAP) – and in their intergovernmental bodies in order to strengthen the expertise and relevance of both programmes.

103. A number of good practices have proved their worth in the past and should be further developed in the years to come. These consist mainly in:

- regularly taking stock of resources to ensure that the Sector constantly has up-to-date information at its disposal on all NGOs operating in the field of communication and information;
- keeping the NGOs concerned abreast of the Sector's activities;
- encouraging the NGOs to take part in all forms of online interaction, such as discussion forums, electronic newsletters, etc.;
- establishing framework agreements even though these have sometimes proved too inflexible to be implemented efficiently and have given rise to some difficulties.

6. Bureau of Strategic Planning

104. The **Section for Women and Gender Equality** works mainly with NGOs that do not maintain official relations with UNESCO. A highlight of this cooperation is the celebration of International Women's Day on 8 March of every year. Cooperation on International Women's Day takes the form of joint round tables, lectures, exhibitions on themes as varied as gender equality and HIV/AIDS, participation by women in decision-making and the role of women in public life. These events had an important indirect effect on the Section, in particular in terms of its credibility among private-sector sponsors who, impressed at the quality of the events organized by the Section in cooperation with NGOs, have subsequently provided regular financial support. Furthermore, working with NGOs enabled target publics to be reached and new ideas and approaches to be tested, in particular with regard to work on HIV/AIDS.

105. The **Section for Youth** cooperates with a large number of youth NGOs both at Headquarters and in the field. Cooperation with youth NGOs is a cornerstone of the Section's strategy "Acting with and for youth", which aims to enable young people to take part in UNESCO's activities at

every level. It was with that in mind that it supported the establishment of JPC on Youth, with which it has regularly and productively cooperated from the outset. One example was the joint organization of International Youth Week (14-18 August 2006), while another was the holding of the Open Youth Forum as part of the meeting of the Executive Board's Committee on International Non-Governmental Organizations at its 175th session.

106. Most of the work of the **Culture of Peace Coordination Unit** is carried out in cooperation with NGOs. From the outset, the Culture of Peace programme aimed to disseminate values linked to the concept among the public at large and, to that end, NGO support has been crucial since it has facilitated an unprecedented dissemination of the programme's message. Culture of Peace is an example of the way in which NGOs can have a multiplier effect on a programme and increase UNESCO's ability to convey its ideals. The mid-term report on the International Decade for the Culture of Peace (2001-2010), submitted in 2005 to the General Assembly of the United Nations, was an opportunity to take stock of the various partners' initiatives and their recommendations for the remainder of the decade. In addition to its international coordination activity, the Culture of Peace Coordination Unit also organizes occasional events together with NGOs, in particular on the International Day of Peace, 21 September, when a very large number of NGOs throughout the world take part.

B. Cooperation for defining programmes and strategies

107. In assessing upstream cooperation, NGO participation in various consultations held by the Director-General must be distinguished from cooperation in highly specific fields. As noted above, NGO participation in consultations on the C/4 and C/5 documents is relatively limited and current arrangements for such consultations are not really adapted to the specific characteristics of NGO/UNESCO relations.

108. Conversely, NGOs participate more readily in programme definition when they can contribute their expertise in specific fields. This is true in respect of the Organization's standard-setting action. A noteworthy example was the participation of many NGOs in the intergovernmental meetings that were held to draw up the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. In addition to such meetings, their participation was also reflected, in the case of particular NGOs, through the establishment of coalitions to promote the convention and action taken to lobby the delegations of some Member States. NGOs also provide important expert advice when the implementation of all standard-setting instruments adopted by UNESCO is being evaluated (see Annex I).

109. Moreover, NGOs are increasingly involved in the informal policy dialogues regularly held on the Organization's priority fields, even at the country level, where they help with the framing of national policies and strategies. The most significant example is cooperation in the field of education for all, in which NGOs act as advisers to governments and form networks to facilitate such action. NGOs also conduct many studies and do research in all of UNESCO's fields.

110. Concurrently, increasingly close cooperation between UNESCO and NGOs has been developing gradually, albeit still on a small scale, when major international conferences take place. That was the case, in particular, at the two World Summits on the Information Society, in 2003 and 2005 (see Annex I), and during preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in 2002. UNESCO has also taken part in the various World Social Forums, demonstrating the Organization's ability to cooperate closely with NGOs, even in less conventional ways that depart from the major United Nations conferences.

111. It must be noted, however, that NGOs' expertise is not being sufficiently exploited in planning programmes and in framing policies and strategies; many NGOs are all too often still perceived primarily as implementation agents. Furthermore, when such forms of cooperation do exist and are successful, they are not always given due prominence in the Secretariat's various reports. Quite

often, only the number of NGOs that have participated is mentioned and no details are provided of their contribution.

C. Collective cooperation

112. One of the goals of the 1995 Directives was to establish collective mechanisms for regular and extensive consultations of NGOs to ensure that their views and proposals are included in UNESCO programmes. Several instruments exist for that purpose, namely the International Conference of NGOs, the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee, the joint programmatic commissions, regional consultations and thematic consultations. In addition, NGOs may also participate in the **General Conference** under arrangements clearly set out in the Directives. They may, in particular, take the floor individually in plenary or commission meetings.

113. The **International Conference of NGOs** is the only mechanism for bringing the entire community of NGOs maintaining official relations together on issues of common interest. It is thus a key forum for meeting and dialogue. It is regrettable, however, that, for financial reasons, all of the organizations that maintain official relations cannot participate in the Conference. The earmarking of resources to encourage participation by representatives from all regions is therefore considered indispensable if the Conference is to become a genuinely representative forum.

114. Furthermore, several NGOs regret the lack of consistency between the agenda of these conferences and that of the General Conference. The dates of those events constitute one of the obstacles to such consistency. In order to work towards improving the involvement of the NGO community in drawing up UNESCO's programme, mechanisms should be found that would enable the opinions and suggestions expressed by NGOs as a whole at their International Conference to be conveyed to the Secretariat when the C/4 and C/5 documents are being drafted.

115. The **NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee** is the standing body that represents NGOs at the Organization. Its roles are to defend the interests of NGOs through representations to UNESCO officials and to coordinate collective activities involving NGOs. During the period under consideration, the Liaison Committee endeavoured to build the NGOs' capacity to speak with one voice, for example, in regard to the adoption of the Convention on the Promotion and Protection of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions and the adoption of the Declaration on Universal Norms on Bioethics. These efforts should be pursued and supported, primarily through operational improvements. Accordingly, it is crucial to improve communication with NGOs that have no representative in Paris, which sometimes feel excluded from the activities undertaken.

116. The **Joint Programmatic Commissions (JPCs)** are joint NGO/programme sector tools for implementing UNESCO's priorities. They are under the authority of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee and act to permit exchanges and debate that throw light on issues linked to their respective themes. During the period under consideration eight JPCs dealt with the following themes:

- eradication of poverty, especially extreme poverty;
- science and ethics;
- follow-up to Habitat II/education for sustainable development in urban settings;
- education for human rights and tolerance (now Human Rights JPC);
- communication and information/communication and new technologies;
- dialogue among cultures for peace (since 2003);
- human rights (since 2005);
- youth (since 2005).

117. JPCs carry out several types of activity, for example the production of publications in partnership with a sector, meetings attended by outside specialists who thus contribute to the commission's discussions, and preparations for major world conferences (WSIS and Durban). They have had mixed success, however, for several reasons: in some cases, there is a

discrepancy between the JPCs' priorities and those of UNESCO owing both to the commission's acting at times too independently for a joint body and a lack of involvement on the part of the programme sector. JPCs also need to be open to representatives from all countries.

118. It would appear that these JPCs play an important role in raising NGO representatives' awareness of the Organization's programmes and approaches, yet it is still difficult for the Secretariat to benefit in return from the NGOs' expertise. This raises once more the issue of the representativeness of the NGO members participating in these JPCs and the influence that they can exert on their organizations.

119. It is all the more necessary for JPCs to become genuinely joint working tools because participation in these mechanisms is the only means through which some NGOs cooperate with UNESCO. It is therefore important that the joint programmatic commissions be clearly recognized as such by NGOs and by the programme sectors and that the mechanism be appropriated by both parties.

120. To offset these difficulties, the Liaison Committee is currently drawing up rules on the establishment and operation of JPCs, which should be discussed at the next International Conference of NGOs. One paragraph deals with the establishment of specifications defining each JPC's themes, scope of work and forms of cooperation. The document also provides for an evaluation every two years in conjunction with the Secretariat in order to decide whether they should be renewed for the next biennium.

121. In regard to **regional consultations** and despite the initial determination to strengthen them, especially in Africa, such consultations, initiated in the 1990s, have been discontinued owing to the lack of sustained financial support. Solutions involving NGO participation in regional consultations of National Commissions as part of preparatory work on the C/4 and C/5 documents are emerging. Indeed, a small number of NGOs have been taking part in such consultations since 2004, but that has not given rise to regular invitations. In future, and in line with the rationale of decentralization, regional consultations of NGOs could be held on the occasion of the biennial consultations. Furthermore, subregional consultations at the cluster office level could also be considered as one of the components of triangular partnerships.

122. **Thematic collective consultations**, initially designed to enable the sectors to benefit from the NGOs' expertise and mobilizing capacity, have not developed significantly. After the collective consultation on women was discontinued in 2002, only two such consultations remain: one on education for all (see Section E, qualitative example in the field of education) and the other on higher education. These two consultations are regarded as successes in view of the number and representativeness of the partners whom they spur into action and the quality of the exchanges and inputs that they contribute to UNESCO's programme. It is to be noted, however, that the programme sectors sometimes hold their consultations in a more informal setting than that provided for in the Directives.

123. Lastly, it is to be noted that the revitalization of the **Executive Board's Committee on International Non-Governmental Organizations**, initiated at the 174th session of the Executive Board, has been received very enthusiastically by the NGOs. That revitalization is the outcome of the implementation of resolution 92 adopted by the General Conference at its 33rd session pursuant to the recommendations of the ad hoc working group on relations between the three organs of UNESCO. The working group had suggested in its recommendation R.19 that "the role of the NGO Committee should be revitalized and focused on the role and contribution of NGOs to the work of UNESCO".

124. That has led to the allotment of one additional day to the Executive Board's Committee on International Non-Governmental Organizations and the adoption of a Plan of Action (174 EX/Decision 31) aimed at strengthening interaction with NGOs. The measures adopted include in particular the organization of a series of thematic round tables to discuss good practices

in the field of cooperation and the lessons learnt therefrom and to provide a forum for discussion by Committee members and the NGOs on selected topics. At the 175th session, the Committee successfully launched the series of round tables on the themes of education for all and youth.

D. National, regional and field cooperation

125. The contributions of all stakeholders at this level (NGOs, field offices and National Commissions) reveal a great profusion of activities even though it is difficult to have a comprehensive view. The overall impression is that there is genuine cooperation at those levels, but it is not sufficiently known or highlighted.

126. Many NGOs do recognize that it is difficult to have a clear image of their national members' cooperation, which does not mean that it is non-existent. For example, some NGOs report that they do not cooperate with field units and/or with National Commissions, while the latter report, in their contributions, that they do cooperate with branches of these same organizations. To explain this discrepancy, NGOs point to the independence of their members. This feature argues in favour of the decentralization of the Organization's relations with NGOs regionally and nationally in order to permit direct exchange with the UNESCO officials in charge of setting priorities and programme planning at that level.

127. Communications from field offices and National Commissions show that there is substantial cooperation with NGOs that do not maintain official relations with UNESCO and that they are mainly national, but also international, organizations. For some NGOs maintaining official relations the latter point must be tempered by the fact that national and regional members do not have the same name as the international organizations to which they belong, which may give rise to misunderstandings. To ensure genuinely vertical relations between the international level and the national or field level, tools must be developed urgently to enable field offices and National Commissions to know precisely the members and experts of NGOs maintaining official relations who are in their country or region. In that regard, it is worth emphasizing that 70% of NGOs that replied to the questionnaire stated that they had contacted the National Commission, but the outcome of such contacts varied from country to country.

128. One instrument of cooperation at this level is **triangular partnership** between National Commissions, field offices and NGOs. The aim of such partnership is to reproduce at the national level the triangular structure that already exists at the international level in order to strengthen direct cooperation, having regard to UNESCO's ongoing decentralization policy, on the one hand, and to the need to concentrate and rationalize strategic partnerships, on the other. It may be noted here that all of the consequences that the implementation of the recommended system-wide United Nations "Delivering as One"* policy will have on cooperation between UNESCO and civil society are as yet unknown.

129. In regard to the assessment of triangular partnerships, the results must be analysed with care, since only 37% of National Commissions replied to the questionnaire on the sexennial report and approximately one third of that number did not answer this question. The assessment is broken down as follows: 39% consider it unsatisfactory and 33% consider it satisfactory. In regard to field offices, 63% of which replied to the questionnaire, 48% considered it unsatisfactory and 33% deemed it satisfactory, while 18% did not answer the question. Furthermore, 37% of National Commissions of Western European countries did not feel concerned by this question, given the particular pattern of field offices in that region.

130. Before turning to the analysis of difficulties linked to triangular partnerships, emphasis should be laid on the generally satisfactory appraisal of bilateral partnerships (NGOs-National Commissions and/or NGO-field offices) and recognition of their importance. Furthermore, the

* Report of the High-level Panel on United Nations System-wide Coherence in the areas of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment, United Nations, 20 November 2006 (A/61/583).

replies to the questionnaires contain several examples of successful tripartite cooperation, even though such cooperation is still marginal. In some cases, several replies point, however, to difficulties relating to competition for scarce resources, over politicization in certain countries or a lack of mutual trust among those concerned. Furthermore, attention is drawn to National Commissions whose very structure exceeds the notion of partnership for, in their case, civil society and, in particular, NGOs are included in the membership of the Commission. They then act as resource persons and substantially enrich the National Commissions' reflection on UNESCO programmes.

131. Several types of difficulty arise in the implementation of triangular partnerships.

- First of all, there is a lack of reciprocal knowledge on the part of the various stakeholders and difficulty in identifying the roles of each one clearly. This shortcoming should be resolved by the implementation of the Guidelines for Interface and Cooperation between UNESCO Field Offices and National Commissions for UNESCO noted by the Executive Board in 2006 (174 EX/34). They define the way in which National Commissions and field offices should work together, in particular, in respect of consultations on the C/4 and C/5 documents and the role of the National Commissions vis-à-vis civil society. The guidelines should also be brought to the knowledge of international NGOs so that the role of these two partners would be made clear to them too.
- One practically chronic problem remains in terms of communication and exchange of information. All stakeholders complain individually about a lack of communication from other partners and call for the establishment of bodies to permit mutual exchange.
- All stakeholders also point to the lack of not only financial but also human and technical resources. That sometimes has adverse effects: NGOs turn away from the National Commissions of developing countries which do not have sufficient financial resources to meet the NGOs' many demands. Ignorance of UNESCO's tasks and functions on the part of national NGOs, which wrongly identify the Organization as a funding body, lies at the root of this misunderstanding.
- Lastly, some National Commissions do not yet consider themselves to be potential partners of NGOs. Yet, they are one of UNESCO's main intermediaries in its outreach to national civil society and their role should not therefore be limited to endorsing NGO participation in UNESCO programmes or evaluating the relevance of a project in order to support it under the Participation Programme. They do have a vital role to play as catalysts for cooperation at the national level in regard to needs identification, programme planning and the implementation of activities. Advantage should be taken in future of the training meetings held for new Secretaries-General and members of National Commissions regularly held by the Secretariat so as to draw their attention to this partnership.

PART FOUR ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

I. Overall appraisal of the evaluation

132. This assessment rests on the lessons learned from the overall report based on replies to questionnaires sent by partners (National Commissions, Secretariat at Headquarters and in the field, and NGOs), various consultations of stakeholders concerned, the relevant sections of the Cardoso report and examples drawn from current practices in other intergovernmental organizations set out in Part I of the report.

A. Overall assessment of the effectiveness of the system

133. Emphasis should be laid, first of all, on the generally positive assessment, made in the replies to the questionnaires, of the forms of cooperation set out in the Directives concerning UNESCO's relations with NGOs. Mention should also be made of the importance and quality of partnerships established with NGOs maintaining formal associate relations which are now the Organization's key partners and contribute fully to the accomplishment of UNESCO's missions. It will be necessary in future to take greater advantage of such partnerships by focusing such cooperation on the formulation of joint long-term strategies.

134. In that context, possible improvements would relate more to the development of a genuine partnership culture, which would include providing effective tools to the various partners, on the one hand, and to the effective implementation of the Directives as a framework for cooperation activities, on the other. Furthermore, better knowledge and more effective application of the spirit and letter of the Directive would make it possible to rationalize current cooperation with the NGOs.

135. The first task to be accomplished is to disseminate the Directives widely and to inform all the partners involved, some of whom seem to still be unfamiliar with them, of the primarily collective mechanisms contained therein. For that purpose, the Section for Non-Governmental Organizations plans to publish a practical handbook for all the partners involved in cooperation activities (National Commissions, NGOs, field offices and the Headquarters Secretariat).

136. To make progress in the adoption of a genuine partnership culture and ensure that UNESCO benefits from the NGOs' many programmes and activities, it is necessary, as emphasized in the Cardoso report, to move beyond the texts and begin to change the attitudes and practices of all the actors concerned. Three main courses of action should thus be pursued:

- ensuring that the concept of an open, dynamic and equal partnership is championed at the highest echelons of the Organization and NGOs and that it is identified as one of UNESCO's main lines of action in the medium-term strategy and programme and budget documents;
- providing more information and training to UNESCO staff at Headquarters and in the field, NGOs and National Commissions for UNESCO in regard to their respective roles, the relevant mechanisms, good partnership practices and the existence of accredited partners, on the basis of the network of organizations maintaining official relations with UNESCO;
- adopting follow-up and evaluation mechanisms involving staff, representatives of Member States and non-governmental organizations with a view to learning lessons from existing partnerships, disseminating their results widely and improving existing mechanisms.

B. Opening cooperation to a greater number of NGOs, selection, monitoring and evaluation

137. The purpose of including operational relations in the Directives was to establish a simple and flexible mechanism for official working relations with all civil society organizations active in UNESCO's fields of competence at whatever level. A review of the various contributions made shows that significant cooperation is developing with NGOs that do not maintain official relations with UNESCO internationally and nationally, including the field offices, in which it has become apparent that no skill must be neglected. Such cooperation could in several cases have been made official if the Directives had been better known and applied by the various stakeholders.

138. To provide a more effective framework for cooperation, while preserving flexibility and efficiency, it would be desirable to return to the letter of the Directives which provide that "[t]he Director-General may, if he deems it useful for the implementation of UNESCO's programmes,

cooperate with any non-governmental organization in a type of relations known as 'operational relations'".

139. Sustained and regular cooperation with an NGO on the implementation of UNESCO programmes, as is the case in all of the sectors and many field offices, constitutes *de facto* admission to operational relations. This type of cooperation should therefore lead systematically to the establishment of operational relations, which would be formalized by a mere exchange of letters and the requisite documents between the Director-General or Assistant Directors-General or Directors of field offices and the NGOs concerned. The Section for Non-Governmental Organizations should be kept regularly informed of any such cases so that the Director-General may bring the information to the notice of the Executive Board. Furthermore, any NGO request for admission to official relations with UNESCO should be accompanied by a specific cooperation project drawn up with one or more programme sectors or field offices, as indicated in Section VI.4 of the Directives.

140. Accordingly, the implementation of all of the provisions under Section II of the Directives (admission to and termination of relations) should make it possible to determine the actual state of cooperation with NGOs and to coordinate the forms of such cooperation. It would also permit a response to the Executive Board's constant concern to improve accountability in the context of financial cooperation with NGOs, which would thus be governed by Section IV of the Directives and existing arrangements established by the Executive Board.

C. Reinforcement of cooperation at the regional and national levels

141. The most striking aspect to emerge from the analysis is the system's over-centralization. Initiatives and implementation mechanisms are still too highly concentrated at UNESCO Headquarters. In the current context of globalization, various hubs of activity are emerging, especially at the regional, national and local levels. Despite its decentralization policy, UNESCO's current practices do not take that aspect sufficiently into account.

142. The main consequences of this situation are the under-representation of organizations from developing countries and the lack of visibility of activities carried out at the national and regional levels. Furthermore, encouragement is still expected to flow from Headquarters to the field when it comes to developing relations with NGOs maintaining official relations or admitting NGOs that are regular partners to official relations. Consideration must therefore be given to decentralizing some mechanisms to the regional and national spheres and to ensuring that programme officers in the field have a better knowledge of the Directives.

143. To that end, it would be worthwhile to apply in full the provisions of the Directives relating to the use of operational relations to develop cooperation with partners at the national and regional levels and to include arrangements for cooperation with NGOs in the *Guidelines for interface and cooperation between UNESCO field offices and National Commissions for UNESCO*.

144. UNESCO should also take better advantage of existing partnerships with NGOs maintaining formal relations which, on account of their geographical representativeness, could play an important role nationally and regionally, especially in regions in which the Organization has no field offices.

D. Effectiveness of collective consultation and cooperation mechanisms

145. The Directives provide an entire arsenal of tools to cover all needs in the areas of consultation and collective cooperation. It must be admitted, however, that the tools are not being used to their full potential.

146. In this context, the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee can play a key role in coordinating the measures needed to improve cooperation and representation systems so that greater account will

be taken of NGOs' visions and positions. To that end, the Committee should, in consultation with the entire NGO community, consider establishing mechanisms that will give a greater voice to NGOs and guarantee them greater legitimacy.

147. First of all, NGOs should be encouraged to make better use of existing collective mechanisms to defend common positions and recommendations, in particular, at international conferences and summits. Secondly, NGOs could create their own tools for evaluating and monitoring these mechanisms. If NGOs took such measures, their statements would become weightier, since a greater number would be speaking in unison, and more effective, as it would be possible to evaluate the progress made by the various collective bodies.

148. In addition, it is essential to reinforce the joint programmatic commissions (JPCs), whose potential is not used to the full. Partnerships should be formed in the commissions, which can serve as tools for debate, joint planning and identification of implementation partners, thus fully discharging their function as a permanent collective cooperation tool.

149. The joint programmatic commissions and the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee will also be required to rise to the challenge of opening cooperation up to NGOs that are not represented in France. There are several possible solutions. For example, regional focal points could be established for NGOs working in close cooperation with field offices in areas covered by the joint programmatic commissions. Another course of action would be to use electronic tools to establish mechanisms to consult the NGOs concerned. The NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee could generally make better use of skills and resources available within the community of NGOs maintaining official relations with UNESCO to support its action.

150. Lastly, it would be desirable to extend the thematic collective consultations, as with those in the Education Sector, to all UNESCO sectors.

E. Financial arrangements

151. Although new management tools (FABS and SISTER) were introduced during the period under review, there are still difficulties owing to the lack of overall consistency in their use. To ensure that, for the sexennial report, comprehensive and specific information on contractual financial arrangements, in particular contracts for the funding of activities and fees, is readily available, it will be necessary to cooperate with the relevant administrative services and not only rationalize the referencing of NGOs in the system but also improve training for system users.

F. The Secretariat's role in coordinating the implementation of the Directives

152. During the period under review, the **Section for Non-Governmental Organizations** was responsible for the coordination of all official relations with NGOs. The Section has been contributing, since 2006, to activities aimed at reviving the Executive Board's Committee on International Non-Governmental Organizations, in particular by holding round tables and open forums.

153. The Section has responsibility for all aspects of cooperation relations between UNESCO and NGOs and foundations pursuant to decisions taken by the governing bodies and the relevant Directives. It plays an important role of liaison with the Secretariat at Headquarters and in the field, with Member States, the governing bodies and non-governmental organizations, in order to foster NGO involvement in the programmes, facilitate collective cooperation and monitor joint activities. Its main functions are the following:

- acting as the secretariat of the Executive Board's Committee on International Non-Governmental Organizations, including the organization of round tables and open forums;
- drafting documents for the governing bodies;
- supporting NGO participation in major UNESCO conferences;

- coordinating and supporting collective consultation mechanisms, including for the drafting of the C/4 and C/5 documents;
- centralizing data, including regular management of NGOs' databases;
- in conjunction with the programme sectors, reviewing of NGO files for admission to official relations and evaluating cooperation with NGOs;
- exchanging information and overseeing consultation with the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS);
- providing communication and information.

154. Moreover, the network of **sectoral focal points** has already significantly improved the coordination of activities with NGOs and the centralization of information. The focal points will be required to play an important role in improving their colleagues' knowledge of the Directives, in facilitating the admission of NGOs to operational relations and in fostering intersectoral cooperation with NGOs.

155. Greater effectiveness in implementing the Directives and action aimed at promoting a partnership culture would lead to an increase in the Section's task and those of the focal points. The resources available to them should therefore be increased so they can discharge their respective responsibilities.

156. The identification of regional focal points in the Organization's field offices would prove all the more necessary, if these functions are to be supported, particularly in the context of the United Nations reforms.

G. Proposed amendments to the Directives

157. The amendments proposed in this section are minimal. They seek, first of all, to bring all the parts of the Directives concerned into line with the amendments made in 2001 and, secondly, to harmonize some articles with existing practices and revive their initial spirit.

158. The first amendment should be to Section I.6.1 on the modification of the category of relations maintained with an NGO which, by using the word "downgrade", runs counter to the spirit of the Directives, which sought to eliminate entirely the notion of a hierarchy of organizations.

159. Pursuant to the amendments made in 2001, Section II.4.1(f) should be amended to delete the reference to participation by NGOs maintaining operational relations as "observers" to the Conference of International Non-Governmental Organizations and to the Standing Committee, since they are full members.

160. The reference to participation "as observers" by NGOs maintaining operational relations in various collective consultations does not seem to be in keeping with the aim of the consultations, especially as the article on such consultations makes no distinction between the types of relations (Section III.2.1). It is therefore proposed that the reference be deleted from Section II.4.1(d).

161. As was apparent in the analysis of financial arrangements, contracts are now the principal form of financial cooperation with NGOs since subventions are no longer being used. The reference to such subventions should therefore be deleted from Section IV.3.1(iii).

162. Section VI.1 of the Directives provides that the Executive Board shall rule once a year, at its spring session, on matters within its mandate relating to the establishment of relations with NGOs. As the date of the Executive Board's spring session has been brought forward, the deadline for the submission of requests in that regard should also be brought forward to 30 September. That would give the Secretariat the necessary time to examine the applications and inform the Executive Board in due course. Section VI.3 should therefore be amended accordingly.

H. Key points in the report on the evaluation of NGOs as UNESCO's programme delivery mechanisms

163. The evaluation of NGOs as UNESCO's programme delivery mechanisms was entrusted to the Internal Oversight Service (IOS) under the Evaluation Plan for 2004-2005 (32 C/5, Appendix IX). The evaluation dealt entirely with NGOs as programme delivery mechanisms and did not address other aspects of cooperation between UNESCO and NGOs. The conclusions of the report were submitted to the Executive Board in document 175 EX/23.

164. Although it contains interesting information, the document fails to mention the existence of the 1995 Directives, which contain many of the improvements proposed. The recommendations contained in the document submitted to the Executive Board addressed the following aspects:

- developing and expanding of UNESCO's cooperation with NGOs, whose fields of competences and commitment to the Organization's values are vital assets;
- improving the selection of NGOs with a view to the implementation of the Organization's priorities;
- strengthening the mechanisms for evaluating cooperation with NGOs with a view, in particular, to identifying and disseminating good practices.

165. The proposals, set out at the end of this report, in regard to the development of a genuine partnership culture and implementation consistent with the letter and spirit of the 1995 Directives, in regard, *inter alia*, to selection and the financial and material forms of cooperation, are consistent with all of the recommendations set out in the IOS report.

II. Recommendation of the Executive Board to the General Conference

166. The Executive Board may wish to recommend that the General Conference adopt the following resolution:

The General Conference,

Having examined the sexennial report submitted to it by the Executive Board on the contribution made to UNESCO's activities by non-governmental organizations from 2001 to 2006, in pursuance of Section V.3 of the Directives concerning UNESCO's relations with non-governmental organizations adopted in 1995 at its 28th session (28 C/ Resolution 13.42),

Considering that the participation of non-governmental organizations in UNESCO's action is a crucial element in the achievement of the Organization's missions and goals,

Recalling that such cooperation is based on Article XI of the Constitution of the Organization and is governed by the above-mentioned Directives, which constitute the framework for its implementation,

1. *Thanks* the National Commissions, the non-governmental organizations maintaining official relations with UNESCO, the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee, and all Secretariat units at Headquarters and in the field, which have contributed widely to this evaluation and reflection exercise;
2. *Reaffirms* the basic goals of the Directives, in particular the revitalization and diversification of partners and the strengthening of cooperation to benefit developing countries and countries in transition;

3. Stresses the importance of the development of strategic partnerships with non-governmental organizations in order to take up the many challenges facing the Organization in a changing world;
4. Recognizes the need to develop a genuine partnership culture as a process aimed at improving the efficiency of UNESCO's action, having regard to both the definition of policies and the operational implementation of projects, and involving all the parties concerned, in particular the non-governmental organizations with which the Organization maintains special ties;
5. Adopts the following recommendations:

(1) Recommendations to the Secretariat

(a) Promoting a partnership culture at the highest level:

- (i) include the partnership culture as one of UNESCO's main lines of action in the C/4 and C/5 documents;
- (ii) wherever possible, organize meetings or events involving representatives of NGOs maintaining official relations when the Director-General or Assistant Directors-General make official visits to Member States;

(b) Ensuring coherence with the United Nations system:

as part of the ongoing reform within the United Nations system (in particular the recommendations in the "Delivering as One" report), ensure the sustainability of the cooperation system established with civil society representatives, and keep the latter informed about developments concerning them;

(c) Keeping cooperation partners informed:

- (i) prepare and disseminate to all partners a practical handbook on cooperation and a complete list of NGOs maintaining official relations with UNESCO for the information of the various partners: National Commissions, NGOs, and Secretariat at Headquarters and in field offices;
- (ii) improve the functionalities of the NGO database and develop the existing Internet interface in order to identify members or branches of international NGOs maintaining official relations with UNESCO and active at the national and/or regional levels;
- (iii) develop transparent mechanisms for informing NGOs about the programme sectors' cooperation requirements;

(d) Managing working relations:

apply the provisions of the Directives concerning operational relations in the selection of NGOs and in the management of all regular relations with them; the Section for Non-Governmental Organizations should be kept informed systematically so that the database may be updated in real time, and the Executive Board informed in due course;

(e) Evaluating cooperation and improving its visibility:

- (i) in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Directives and other documents of the governing bodies, ensure a regular evaluation based on

the results of the activities carried out in cooperation with NGOs, especially when such cooperation has financial implications;

- (ii) disseminate the lessons learned from the partnerships that have been undertaken, in particular through information and communication technology tools;
- (iii) systematically include in the reports of meetings and in the reports to the governing bodies the contributions of NGOs to the formulation and implementation of the programme;

(f) *National and regional cooperation*

- (i) widely disseminate the Guidelines for Interface and Cooperation between UNESCO Field Offices and National Commissions for UNESCO, *inter alia*, to international NGOs and their national members, and devise arrangements for undertaking partnerships with civil society;
- (ii) assign focal points in UNESCO field offices for partnerships with civil society;
- (iii) entrust the field offices, in cooperation with the National Commissions and the Section for Non-Governmental Organizations, with producing an inventory of NGOs with expertise that may be useful for the Organization's activities at the national and/or regional levels and incorporate this information in the database in order to facilitate their admission to official relations;
- (iv) promote NGO consultations at the national, subregional and regional levels, *inter alia* on the margins of the Director-General's biennial consultations on the C/4 and C/5 documents;
- (v) build the capacities of national and regional NGOs from developing countries with a view to facilitating their full participation in UNESCO's activities, taking as the main inspiration the experiments carried out under the Education for All (EFA) programme;

(g) *Collective consultations on specific subjects*

extend collective thematic consultations to other sectors by drawing not only on the best practices of the consultations on education for all and on higher education, but also on the consultative mechanisms to be found at other intergovernmental organizations;

(h) *The Director-General's consultations on the C/4 and C/5 documents*

in cooperation with the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee, adapt the consultation documents for NGOs, *inter alia* by simplifying them and paying particular attention to the goals of those consultations;

(i) *Joint programmatic commissions*

increase the involvement of the programme sectors in the functioning of the joint programmatic commissions.

(j) *Financial management tools and funding arrangements*

- (i) improve the use of computerized management systems to facilitate inclusion in the sexennial report of an accurate and comprehensive evaluation of the various contracts concluded with NGOs;
- (ii) submit for adoption by the Executive Board at its 179th session a revised version of the financial and material arrangements for cooperation with NGOs (154 EX/Decision 7.3), taking into account the evaluation carried out in connection with the sexennial report and its recommendations.

(k) *NGO focal points and the Section for Non-Governmental Organizations:*

strengthen the role and the resources of the NGO focal points in the programme sectors, and those of the Section for Non-Governmental Organizations and the Sector for External Relations and Cooperation, in order to improve and facilitate the effective implementation of the Directives;

(2) Recommendations to NGOs

(a) *Enabling more effective involvement of the NGO community maintaining official relations with UNESCO in the formulation of the Organization's programme*

- (i) taking into account the existing consultative mechanisms, bring the dates of relevant NGO meetings, including that of the International Conference of NGOs, into line with UNESCO's programming cycle, so as to facilitate the transmission of the collective recommendations by NGOs to the Secretariat when drawing up the Draft Medium-Term Strategy (C/4) and the Draft Programme and Budget (C/5);
- (ii) at the same time, envisage the introduction of appropriate information procedures in order to increase the rate of response to the Director-General's consultations;

(b) *Strengthening the role of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee*

- (i) use modern technologies to improve the exchange of information and communication with all NGOs maintaining official relations with UNESCO;
- (ii) make better use of the expertise and the resources of the community of NGOs maintaining official relations with UNESCO, not only for technical reasons, but also in order to foster greater openness towards NGOs without representatives in France, including by appointing regional focal points;

(c) *Functioning of the joint programmatic commissions*

- (i) organize a working cycle that tallies with UNESCO's biennial programming with regard to planning, follow-up and evaluation;
- (ii) strengthen the link with the programme sectors;
- (iii) explore all possibilities of ensuring greater openness towards NGOs without representatives in Paris, for example through the use of electronic tools;

(d) Participating in the International Conference of NGOs

identify and obtain, with the support of the UNESCO Secretariat, the resources needed to fund the participation in the International Conference of NGOs by NGOs without representatives in Paris, especially regional NGOs;

(e) Participation Programme

- (i) systematically send to the National Commissions that have lent NGOs their support the outcome of their requests and the reports concerning the implementation of their projects;
- (ii) urge NGOs, in particular those already receiving financial support under a framework agreement, to give priority in their requests to projects in aid of developing countries and/or disadvantaged populations;

(3) Recommendations to the Member States*(a) Role of the National Commissions*

- (i) play to the full their role as catalysts for cooperation at the national level and as UNESCO focal points for the purposes of reaching and mobilizing national civil society;
- (ii) encourage the designation of focal points for partnerships with civil society at the interministerial level;
- (iii) in cooperation with the field offices, compile an inventory of NGOs with expertise useful to the Organization's activities at the national level;

(b) United Nations reform

actively promote the partnership culture when implementing the United Nations reform in the field, as recommended by the "Delivering as One" report;

(4) Recommendations to the Executive Board

- (i) continue to revitalize the Executive Board's Committee on International Non-Governmental Organizations, at the Board's two annual sessions, by opening up to NGO representatives the Committee's round tables and the thematic forums it holds with the Member States and the Secretariat;
- (ii) in order to devote more time to these debates, apply Section VI.1 of the Directives, according to which "The Executive Board shall rule once a year on matters within its mandate relating to the establishment of relations between UNESCO and non-governmental organizations" and agree that the ruling shall be made at the spring session; the Secretariat shall provide the relevant documents on time;

6. *Decides* to amend the Directives concerning UNESCO's relations with non-governmental organizations as follows:

Section I – Formal relations

(...)

6. Modification, termination and suspension of relations

6.1 Where the Director-General considers that circumstances make it necessary to ~~downgrade~~ move an organization from one category type of relations to another, he

shall refer the matter to the Executive Board for a decision. (*Remainder of the paragraph unchanged.*)

(...)

Section II – Operational relations

(...)

4. Advantages

(...)

4.1(b) in accordance with the provisions of Article IV, paragraph 14, of the Constitution, the Executive Board may invite them to be represented as observers at specified plenary meetings of the General Conference and meetings of its commissions. (*Remainder of the paragraph unchanged.*)

(...)

4.1(d) they may be invited to participate ~~as observers~~ in various collective consultations of NGOs organized by UNESCO in connection with the implementation of its programme;

(...)

4.1(f) they ~~may be~~ shall be invited to ~~send observers~~ be represented at the Conference of International Non-Governmental Organizations provided for in Section III, Article 1, below; ~~they may attend meetings of the Standing Committee provided for in paragraph 1.3.1 of Section III below, in the same capacity.~~

(...)

Section IV – Financial and material arrangements for cooperation

(...)

3. Forms of contribution

3.1 The various forms of financial contribution shall comprise (i) the awarding of various types of contract (contracts for the implementation of framework agreements; other contracts for the implementation of UNESCO's regular programmes); and (ii) contributions under the Participation Programme; ~~and (iii) subventions.~~

(...)

Section VI – Requests for the establishment or modification of relations

(...)

3. Requests for the establishment or modification of formal relations shall be submitted no later than ~~31 December~~ 30 September of each year.

ANNEX I

Examples of best practices in cooperation between UNESCO and NGOs

I. Cooperation through a collective cooperation mechanism

As the lead agency for the EFA movement, UNESCO must secure and coordinate the participation of all the EFA partners, including those from civil society. CCNGO/EFA is UNESCO's key mechanism aimed at facilitating dialogue, reflection and the implementation of joint activities with civil society for the follow-up of the World Education Forum held in Dakar (2000). This is a thematic collective mechanism, pursuant to Article III.2 of the Directives concerning UNESCO's relations with non-governmental organizations. It enables UNESCO to maintain relations with more than 500 national, regional and international NGOs throughout the world.

The increasingly important role of civil society organizations in the post-Dakar period, both as advocates and as political partners, is undeniable.¹ At the international level, political dialogue between civil society and the bilateral and multilateral partners has intensified, in particular with UNESCO and the World Bank. Civil society networks are represented at all the major international and regional meetings in which EFA strategies are discussed. UNESCO has continuously involved CCNGO/EFA and its partners in political dialogue, technical consultation and follow-up and evaluation activities. Other international partners are now basing their projects on this work.

Since 2001, through activities supported by UNESCO and other partners, in particular donors, CCNGO/EFA has enabled several types of action to be taken:

- national political dialogue with governments and EFA partners,
- capacity-building of civil society to support EFA,
- support for exchanges and the preparation of analytical studies regarding civil society's commitment to EFA,
- consideration of new approaches to EFA,
- preparation of contributions and collective political declarations by civil society,
- establishment of national NGO coalitions by the regional networks working on EFA and by international NGOs.

NGOs have also made a significant contribution to increasing EFA's visibility at the global level. For example, the Global Action Week promoted by the Global Campaign for Education and UNESCO is the most important EFA-related global advocacy event.

II. Cooperation in the field of natural disaster prevention

In the field of natural disaster prevention, NGOs' role complements UNESCO's. At the local level, they develop best practices, the results of which are shared with governments and other stakeholders.

¹ See: *EFA Global Monitoring Report 2003/4: Gender and Education for All: The Leap to Equality*. Paris, UNESCO, 2003; see in Chapter 5, the section on "Participation – is civil society involved?" and Chapter 6 entitled "Meeting our international commitments".

At the same time, their position in the field and the fact that they work in a large number of countries also enables them to provide essential information concerning disaster risks and prevention practices. They also raise issues with decision-makers, for instance with regard to the relevant educational policies to be implemented – issues that are then disseminated worldwide by UNESCO.

The Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015, adopted at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in 2005, placed emphasis on the intersectoral thematic cluster “Knowledge, Innovation and Education: Building a Culture of Safety and Resilience”, in which UNESCO will play a central role. The cluster is a partnership composed of many Member States, intergovernmental organizations and NGOs all working in close cooperation with each other. Examples include a project for promoting natural disaster risk reduction through school projects. This project has been implemented in seven countries in conjunction with local and national NGOs, a number of which also focus on issues related to Education for All.

Another example is the exhibition of educational tools for risk prevention, presented in Davos at the 2006 World Conference on Disaster Reduction. It also benefited from the contributions of a large number of NGOs that presented tools developed, produced and disseminated locally. The information gathered will be disseminated through a virtual library on the UNESCO web page on natural disaster prevention. A list of links to NGO Internet sites will also be available, with a view to enhancing knowledge of the risks of natural disaster prevention and the degree of urgency.

In regard to follow-up mechanisms, there is another example of a multi-partnership involving national institutions, NGOs and United Nations bodies: in 2002 an international consortium was created to promote research and capacity-building in the field of landslides as part of an action plan adopted in Tokyo in 2006. This consortium also coordinates international expertise on risk evaluation and reduction, and is fostering the implementation of a multidisciplinary programme in relation to landslides.

III. Cooperation relating to a world summit

The preparation of the two World Summits on the Information Society (Switzerland, 2003, and Tunisia, 2005) established a new model for the participation of various stakeholders in a major United Nations summit and, consequently, in international cooperation.

From the non-governmental sector, not only NGOs – with their own well-defined fields of competence and activity – but also networks of communities and citizens, development and solidarity associations, groups of various stakeholders, academics, unions and the media all took part in both Summits.

During the four years of the whole Summit process, new practices emerged which, through innovative interaction modes, enabled a wide variety of partners to contribute to the decision-making process. Thus, the Summit provided a laboratory for new forms of governance in the information society and, more generally, for new ways of proceeding in future global negotiations.

The main stages of the integration of NGOs were punctuated by four consultative meetings held with the organizations on the following themes: “Infostructures in developing countries”, “Cultural diversity and public domain of information”, “Freedom of expression in the Information Society” and “Education in and for the Information Society” at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, in February 2002, followed by a fifth meeting bringing together the four groups, in April 2002.

Between 9 December 2002 and 15 January 2003, UNESCO also organized a structured online discussion between various civil society groups, aimed at drawing up proposals for the Draft Action Plan to be discussed at the second meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the Summit (PrepCom II, Geneva, Switzerland, 17-28 February 2003).

Thanks to this preparation, UNESCO helped to build a platform to allow civil society and professional NGOs to take part in the follow-up to the Summit.

Drawing on the non-governmental sector's professional competencies and its ability to mobilize, UNESCO was helped shift the priority of the Summit away from technologies to contents – a shift expressed in the new concept of “Knowledge Societies” introduced by the Organization.

The strategic partnership established with civil society and professional NGOs will be pivotal for the implementation by several stakeholders of the Action Plan adopted by the Summit. This action will provide an authoritative framework for international cooperation in communication and information in years to come.

IV. Cooperation in the field

The pilot project entitled “Breaking the poverty cycle of women: empowering adolescent girls to become agents of social transformation in South Asia” is aimed at empowering young women, particularly out-of-school adolescent girls aged 11 to 18 years. It sets out to address the multidimensional nature of poverty by means of an extensive capacity-building programme (basic education, development of skills through non-formal learning methods, microfinance, health, human rights, and so forth).

One of the challenges of the project was to follow up on and assess the empowerment of the participants and the resulting social transformations. To this end, the UNESCO Section for Youth worked together with several local NGOs in the four beneficiary countries (Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan) with a view to developing the components of a peer-based follow-up and evaluation system. The two main objectives were to enable the participation of local stakeholders directly concerned by the project as youth organizations and to build the capacity of these organizations for project follow-up and evaluation.

This innovative peer-based approach has generated new developments related to the very complex issues of empowerment and has thus confirmed the added value of cooperation with youth NGOs on initiatives targeted at young people. This has also promoted similar approaches among other partners, contributing to closer cooperation with them.

V. Contribution to UNESCO's standard-setting activity

In recent years, standard-setting activity has become increasingly important in UNESCO's cultural programmes. During the period covered by this sexennial report, NGOs contributed significantly to this activity, either as in the past, for instance in the field of copyright or physical heritage, or in a novel way inspired by the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage or the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005). This cooperation can be illustrated by two specific examples: first, the follow-up of the application of the Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist (1980) in the form of the World Observatory on the Social Status of the Artist, and second, the implementation of the programme on the Proclamation of Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity, an international distinction created by UNESCO in 1997 and concluded in 2006 with the entry into force of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, adopted in 2003.

The World Observatory on the Social Status of the Artist

Several NGOs working in the field of arts were involved, from the outset (namely from 1978 to 1980), in drafting and finalizing the text of the Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist, adopted unanimously by the General Conference at its 21st session. In 1997, following the World Congress on the Status of the Artist held at UNESCO Headquarters, a final declaration was approved along with a number of recommendations, including one concerning the creation of a database indexing the practices of Member States regarding the social and economic protection of

artists. This database was started in 2002-2003 and placed on the Internet under the name of World Observatory on the Social Status of the Artist (<http://www.unesco.org/culture/observatoire>). The preliminary work was conducted with the assistance of the same NGOs, several of which maintain official association relations with UNESCO. Others have also made a significant contribution to the Observatory's creative work, above all by providing access to data available to Member States on those legislative, social and cultural measures taken nationally to promote the status of the artist. A considerable amount of information has been gathered through the NGO networks and the surveys conducted among their members. The UNESCO website currently has relevant data on the status of the artist in some 40 Member States.

The programme on the Proclamation of Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity

This programme was started with a view to making a scientific and technical evaluation of the candidature files submitted by Member States to the International Jury. These evaluations turned out to be crucial in that they served as a reference for the members of the jury for gauging the relevance of each candidature. In the course of the three Proclamations (2001, 2003 and 2005), eight NGOs maintaining official relations with the Organization were entrusted with evaluations in their respective fields. Since the first Proclamation of 2001, they have assessed 152 files. Almost one third of the files had to be evaluated twice, owing to the complexity of the cultural expressions or spaces concerned. The contribution made by these NGOs, individually or jointly, made it possible not only to cover every field of the intangible cultural heritage but also, in some cases, to allow a second opinion to be given and new light to be shed. NGO participation went beyond the assessment process per se, since the organizations' practical advice meant that the action plans for safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage were actually improved. In some cases, their contribution even offered a scientific assessment of candidatures venturing into new fields of the intangible cultural heritage.

ANNEX II

LIST OF NGOs THAT RESPONDED TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE SEXENNIAL REPORT ON THE CONTRIBUTION MADE TO UNESCO'S ACTIVITIES BY NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Academia Europaea
African Federation of Associations of Parents of Pupils and Students
Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization
Agency of Francophone Universities (AUF)
Arab Lawyers' Union
Asian South Pacific Bureau of Adult Education
Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union
Associated Country Women of the World
Association for the Promotion of the International Circulation of the Press
Association francophone d'amitié et de liaison
Association francophone internationale des directeurs d'établissements scolaires
Association of Arab Universities
Association of Asian Social Science Research Councils
Association of Commonwealth Universities
Association of European Journalists
Association of Interbalkan Women's Cooperation Societies
Association of Private Committees for the Safeguarding of Venice
B'nai B'rith
Catholic International Education Office
CISV international
Club of Rome
Community of Mediterranean Universities
Consumers International
Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service
Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences
Defence for Children International
Development Innovations and Networks
Dhaka Ahsania Mission
Disabled People's International
Education International
Europa Nostra
European Council for Social Research on Latin America
European Forum for Student Guidance
European Law Students' Association
European Society for Engineering Education
European Students' Forum
Expert-center for taxonomic identification
Fédération internationale des étudiants en pharmacie
Fédération internationale des PEN clubs
Fédération internationale des professeurs de français
Fédération mondiale pour les études sur les futurs
Forum for African Women Educationalists
Hope 87 (hundreds of original projects for employment)
International Academy of Ceramics
International Amateur Theatre Association
International Association for Counselling
International Association for Educational and Vocational Guidance
International Association for Educational Assessment
International Association for Media and Communication Research
International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience

International Association of Academies of Sciences
International Association of Art Critics
International Association of Broadcasting
International Association of Charities
International Association of Democratic Lawyers
International Association of Lions Clubs
International Association of Medicine and Biology of the Environment
International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives
International Association of Students in Economics and Management
International Association of Universities
International Astronautical Federation
International Baccalaureate Organization
International Board on Books for Young People
International Booksellers' Federation
International Cartographic Association
International Catholic Association for Girls
International Catholic Child Bureau
International Catholic Union of the Press
International Cell Research Organization
International Centre of Applied Phonetics
International Coordination Council of Educational Institutions Alumni (ex: corporation Incorvuz)
International Council for Adult Education
International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment
International Council for Engineering and Technology
International Council for Film, Television and Audiovisual Communication
International Council for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, Sport and Dance
International Council for Open and Distance Education
International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies
International Council for Science
International Council for Traditional Music
International Council of Associations for Science Education
International Council of French-Speaking Radio and Television
International Council of Jewish Women
International Council of Museums
International Council of Organizations for Folklore Festivals and Folk Art
International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education
International Council of Women
International Council on Archives
International Council on Education for Teaching
International Council on Monuments and Sites
International Council on Social Welfare
International Cultural Youth Exchange
International Dance Council
International Federation for Home Economics
International Federation for Parent Education
International Federation of Actors
International Federation of Associations of the Elderly
International Federation of Business and Professional Women
International Federation of Catholic Universities
International Federation of Film Archives
International Federation of Landscape Architects
International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions
International Federation of Medical Students' Associations
International Federation of Musicians
International Federation of Rural Adult Catholic Movements

International Federation of Television Archives
International Federation of Training Centres for the Promotion of Progressive Education
International Federation of Translators
International Federation of University Women
International Fellowship of Reconciliation
International Humanist and Ethical Union
International Institute for Peace
International Liaison Centre for Film and Television Schools
International Literary and Artistic Association
International Montessori Association
International Movement ATD Fourth World
International Movement of Catholic Agricultural and Rural Youth
International Music Council
International Network for Cultural Diversity
International Ocean Institute
International Organization of Folk Art
International Press Institute
International Radio and Television University
International Reading Association
International School Psychology Association
International Scientific Council for Island Development
International Secretariat of Human Rights Information and Documentation
International Seismological Centre
International Social Science Council
International Society of City and Regional Planners
International Theatre Institute
International Union for Vacuum Science, Technique and Applications
International Union of Architects
International Union of Latin Notaries
International Young Catholic Students
Internet Society
Internews International
Jacques Maritain International Institute
La Maison de Sagesse
Maison internationale de la poésie
Mediacult – institut international de recherche sur les médias, la communication et le développement culturel
Organisation internationale pour le droit à l'éducation et la liberté d'enseignement
Pan-American Association of Educational Credit Institutions
Pax Christi International
Pax Romana – International Catholic Movement for Intellectual and Cultural Affairs
Reporters without Borders-International
Réseau européen des centres de formation d'administrateurs culturels
Service civil international
Sil international
Simon Wiesenthal Centre
Society for International Development
Solidarity in Literacy
Sorooptimist International
South-East Asia Pacific Audiovisual Archive Association
Trace element - Institut pour l'UNESCO
Traditions for Tomorrow
Union internationale de la marionnette
Union of International Associations
Union of Latin American Universities

Universal Esperanto Association
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations
World Assembly of Youth
World Association for Educational Research
World Association for Small and Medium Enterprises
World Association for the School as an Instrument of Peace
World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts
World Association of Industrial and Technological Research Organizations
World Association of Newspapers
World Catholic Association for Communication (ex UNDA and OCIC)
World Conference of Religions for Peace
World Council of Comparative Education Societies
World Crafts Council
World Family Organization
World Federation of Democratic Youth
World Federation of Modern Language Associations
World Federation of Scientific Workers
World Federation of Trade Unions
World Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations
World Fellowship of Buddhists
World Islamic Call Society
World Jewish Congress
World Movement of Mothers
World Organization for Early Childhood Education
World Organization of Former Pupils of Catholic Education
World Organization of the Scout Movement
World Peace Council
World Social Prospects Association
World Student Christian Federation
World Technopolis Association
World Union of Catholic Teachers
World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations
World Water Council
World Young Women's Christian Association
Zonta International

ANNEX III

LIST OF NGOs WHOSE LACK OF RELATIONS SHOULD AUTOMATICALLY LEAD TO THE TERMINATION OF THEIR OFFICIAL RELATIONS WITH UNESCO

African Social and Environmental Studies Programme
Archives de la littérature latino-américaine des caraïbes et africaine du XXe siècle – Association
des amis de Miguel Angel Asturias
Association for World Education
Association of Portuguese-Language Universities
Association universitaire ibéroaméricaine d'études postuniversitaires
Congrès international de l'enseignement universitaire pour les adultes
Conseil international des medias éducatifs
Conseil pour les échanges éducatifs internationaux
European Federation for Intercultural Learning
Fédération des associations éducatives privées latino-américaines et des caraïbes
International Association for the Development of Cross-Cultural Communication
International Association of Educators for World Peace
International Association of Teachers of Russian Language and Literature
International Community Education Association
International Federation of Educative Communities
International Federation of Non-Government Organizations for the Prevention of Drug and
Substance Abuse
International Federation of Photographic Art
International Federation on Ageing
International Information Centre on the Sources of Balkan and Mediterranean History
International Institute of Humanitarian Law
International Islamic Charitable Organization
International League for Child and Adult Education
International Schools Association
Ligue internationale des enseignants esperantophones
Ligue mondiale d'éducation
Organization of African Trade Union Unity
South-North Network Cultures and Development
Union of African Water Suppliers
United Schools International
United World Colleges
World Academy of Art and Science
World Association for Christian Communication
World Council for Curriculum and Instruction
World Leisure and Recreation Association