**Survey on the possibility of improving the modalities of dialogue between Member States and NGOs in UNESCO**

**Introduction**

The survey conducted in June-July 2018 and March-April 2019 in the form of an on-line questionnaire was addressed to Member States in French and English. The answers were generally provided at the level of the Ministries, Permanent Delegation or National Commissions for UNESCO distributed across all five geographical regions with a responsiveness in 56 countries as follows.

![Participation by regions](image)

**Question No 1**: In your opinion, in which framework would the strengthening of the dialogue between Member States and NGOs be the most desirable? (multiple answers possible):

![Graph showing participation by regions](image)
**Question No 2:**

Please indicate the priority thematic areas where you would like to further strengthen the dialogue between Member States and NGOs: (multiple answers possible)

**Question No 3:**

You may wish to share here examples of good practices concerning interactions between national institutions and NGOs, developed in your country in UNESCO’s fields of competence (with the involvement of the National Commission where appropriate).

It was not possible to put the different responses in a form of a graph, however if need occurs they could be consulted within the Secretariat.

**International Conference of NGOs and NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee**

The International Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations is an element of collective cooperation expressly provided for by the Directives concerning UNESCO’s partnership with non-governmental organizations (36 C/Res. 108). It brings together every two years NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO to discuss the state of cooperation with UNESCO, conduct collective consultations on the broad lines of UNESCO’s programmes and budget, and facilitate cooperation between organizations with common interests.
Elected by the International Conference of NGOs, the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee is the permanent entity of collective representation of NGOs in official partnership with the Organization. Composed of ten NGO partners from all regions, it must take the necessary measures to ensure the smooth functioning of the partnership between NGOs and UNESCO, and organizes two NGO forums per year on a UNESCO priority issue. It also contributes to the preparation of the debates of the Committee on Non-Governmental Partners (NGP) of the Executive Board (in particular by promoting the participation of a large number of NGOs).

**Question No 4:**

Have you ever attended an International Conference of NGOs?

**Question No 5:** Would you be interested in specific opportunities for exchange between Member States and NGOs in the framework of the International Conference of NGOs?
Question No 6:
If such encounters were to be organized, please indicate which form would be the most appropriate (multiple answers possible):

Most appropriate form of encounters

- Dialogue on the contribution of NGOs to the mandate and priorities of the organization: 38
- Dialogue on the theme of the conference: 32
- Participation of representatives of member states in the debates/panels/round tables of the conference: 29
- Other: 5

Question No 7:
Are you aware of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee’s work?
Question No 8:
Have you already attended and/or been involved in one of the activities coordinated by the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee?

![Pie chart](chart1.png)

Question No 9:
Do you consider that the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee should play a more important role in the framework of the dialogue between Member States and NGOs at UNESCO?

![Bar chart](chart2.png)
Question No 10:

Is the participation of NGOs in governing bodies, as observers, a means of promoting dialogue between Member States and NGOs?

![Bar chart]

Participation of NGOs to the General Conference

In accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, NGO in official partnership with associate status may send observers to sessions of the General Conference. In addition, NGO partners with consultative status may be invited to send observers on the decision of the Director-General acting on behalf of the General Conference, while other non-partner NGOs may also be invited by decision of the General Conference, on recommendation of the Executive Board.

These observers can make statements on matters within their competence in the commissions, committees and subsidiary bodies of the General Conference, with consent of the presiding officer; they may address plenary meetings of the General Conference on particular matters of major importance that fall within their competence, with the authorization of the General Committee of the Conference.

In addition, an "NGO Space", located in the heart of the public spaces of the General Conference, is organized by the Secretariat in close cooperation with the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee at each session of the General Conference. It is an information point and an informal meeting place, which aims in particular to facilitate the participation of NGOs in the work of the General Conference.
Question No 11:
Are you aware of the “NGO Space” in the General Conference?

Are you aware of the “NGO Space” of the General Conference?

- No
- Yes

Q
tuestion No 12

Have you ever visited the “NGO Space” or participated in one of its activities?

- Yes
- No

26

28
Question No 13

Would you be interested in informal opportunities for exchange between Member States and official NGO partners in the framework of the General Conference?

![Bar chart showing the response distribution](chart.png)

Participation of NGOs in the Executive Board

In accordance with regulations in force, two main mechanisms govern the participation of NGOs in sessions of the Executive Board:

- The Committee on Non-Governmental Partners (hereafter NGP Committee): created in 1966, it is part of the permanent subsidiary bodies of the Executive Board. In accordance with its Terms of Reference (203 EX/Dec. 12), this Committee studies issues relating to UNESCO’s cooperation with NGOs and foundations, and in particular supervises the implementation of the relevant Directives. The Committee may also hold thematic debates on the participation of non-governmental partners in the work of the Organization. NGO partners may take part, as observers, in meetings of the NGP Committee and speak after the Member States, with the approval of the Chairperson, in accordance with the provisions of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board.

- In order to be able to participate, as observer, in plenary sessions and meetings of other commissions and committees of the Executive Board, an NGO in official partnership must submit a specific written request subject to authorization by the Chairperson of the Board.
Question No 14
Do you follow the work of the NGP Committee regularly?

- 16 responses: Fully
- 11 responses: Somewhat
- 11 responses: A little
- 2 responses: Not at all

Question No 15
Are you a member of the NGP Committee for the 2018-2019 Biennium?

- 83% responded Yes
- 17% responded No
Question No 16
Do you consider exchanges with NGOs during meetings of the NGP Committee as satisfactory?

Question No 17
Since 2014, the organization of thematic debates has been severely limited (due to the reduced frequency of the NGP Committee and budget restrictions). Would you be interested in relaunching these thematic debates?
**Question No 18**

Should such debates be organized, please indicate the theme(s) you would consider as most appropriate: (multiple answers possible)

**Approbrite themes for debates**

- Specific theme (to be defined) [16]
- Contribution to the 2030 Agenda [32]
- Items on the agenda of the Board session [7]
- Specific aspects of UNESCO’s cooperation with NGOs [30]
- Other [2]

**Question No 19**

Would you be in favour of extending the participation of NGOs in official partnership as observers to the sessions of the Executive Board (plenary and committees), on a systematic basis (beyond the NGP Committee)?

**Survey results**

- 15 respondents in favour
- 4 respondents against
- 10 respondents neutral
- 7 respondents undecided
- 12 respondents do not know
Question No 20

Should such an option be considered, what type of participation would you deem most appropriate?

The most appropriate participation

- Participation of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee as an observer: 18
- Participation of a limited number of NGOs in official partnership as observers: 14
- Participation of all NGOs in official partnership as observers: 9
- Other: 2

Question No 21

Would you be interested in the organization of NGO hearings in the framework of the Executive Board’s work, in order to allow NGOs to share their expertise and formulate observations related to the session agenda or to a specific theme?

Interest level:

- 5 = Fully: 13
- 4: 10
- 3: 9
- 2: 2
- 1 = Not at all: 15
Question No 22

If such hearings were to be organized, what would be, in your opinion, the most appropriate context? (mutiple answers possible)

THE MOST APPROPRIATE CONTEXTE FOR SUCH HEARINGS

- Committee on Non-Governmental partners (NGP)
- Plenary session of the Executive Board
- Other Committee and/or Commission of the Executive Board according to the topic
- Other:

20
16
10
3