Informal Summary of Contributions from Member States

A. “Structure, composition and methods of work of the Governing Bodies (General Conference and Executive Board)” (Sub-Group 1)

Proposed dates for the meetings of Sub-Group 1

Proposed by the Bureau of the Working Group and approved on 1 April 2016 by the Working Group:

- 2 June 2016
- 23 September 2016

Overarching issues

- Balance of decision-making powers between the two governing bodies according to their constitutional mandates
- Enhanced and institutionalized dialogue and cooperation between General Conference and Executive Board
- Relations between the General Conference, the Executive Board and the Secretariat of UNESCO.
- Governance reform to focus on effectiveness and efficiency
- Cost-cutting approach is not an aim *per se* (move beyond)
- Small delegations to contribute to all reforms
- Participation of all Member States and the governing bodies of the international and intergovernmental entities of UNESCO in the drafting of the C/4 and C/5
- All proposed reforms should be costed
- Ensure visibility of the work of the Organization and its Governing Bodies

1. General Conference:

- Timing/schedule and flexibility of Commissions – possibility of permanent Commissions
- Simplification of agenda items, grouping of items and taking note items. Annotated agenda
- Review the National Policy Statements to provide guidance to the Executive Board and the Secretariat in the formulation of the C/5 and to focus on key programme areas and on selected items (cf: dedicated round table of Ministers/Ministerial Round table on the preparation of future C/5)
- Role of the Bureau and distribution of minutes of Bureau meetings
• Proposed amendments to the Rules of procedure of the General Conference on Rule 82 on voting rights (document 38 C/WG/1/4)
• Large participation and geographical balance in reform decision-making

2. Executive Board:

• Limitation of (consecutive) terms
• Review the Executive Board’s own reforms of its structure and working methods
• Organizational meetings at the beginning of the two-years cycle to determine provisional agendas and programmes of work, open to all Member states
• Increased participation of all Member States in the debate of the C/5 programme design
• Reduction of agenda items, reduction and grouping of items, taking note items, annotated agenda
• Reduction/Abolition of the general debate for national statements
• Open ended informal consultations on proposed draft decision before discussions in Commissions and Plenary
• Role of the Bureau and distribution of minutes of Bureau meetings
• Improved reporting by the Executive Board to the General Conference on its own activities and on programme implementation, including the Board’s evaluation
• Thematic Debate during and outside the formal session of the Executive board
• Interactive sessions of dialogue between the DG and the Executive Board on the report on the programme implementation
• Review the debate on staffing issues
• Participation and geographical balance in reform decision making

B. “Structure, composition and methods of work of UNESCO’s international and intergovernmental bodies (IIBs)” (Sub-Group 2)

Proposed dates for the meetings of Sub-Group 2

To be agreed

Overarching issues

• Coherence with the Organization’s Programme and priorities
• Enhanced visibility of results
• Streamlining activities of IIBs to contribute to C/5 expected results
• IIBs to address UNESCO’s role in the implementation of the 2030 agenda
• Coherence and synergies, noting different geneses and legal status of various bodies and independence of some of them
• Balance between equity and efficiency in participation of Member States
• Each IIB to review the recommendations of the external auditor in line with resolution 38 C/101
Harmonization of methods of work

- Harmonization of working methods and of Rules of Procedure
- Streamlining reporting formats
- Common practices and procedures
- Clarification of the mandates of Bureaus versus main organs

Alignment with C/5 and overarching priorities

- Involvement of IIB in the preparation of UNESCO’s Programme and Budget - Consultation of IIB in the preparation, in particular on the format and timing
- Contributions of IIB to deliver the C/5 and the expected results once approved by the General Conference - Presentation of the approved C/5 to IIB, planning of activities of IIB based on the consideration of the approved C/5 and IIB reporting on contribution to the Expected Results of the C/5.
- Priority setting mechanism
- Development of result framework – a theory for change of the IIB.

Efficiency of results delivery

- Annotated agendas with discussion points
- Reinforced use of ICTs and availability of documents online
- Measures to enhance transparency of the work of IIBs
- Visibility and communication on respective mandates
- Improving efficiency of meetings (length, participants, technical aspects, dissemination of results)

Enhanced coordination with and among IIBs

- Merging IIBs with similar or related programme focus.
- Regular meetings of the presidents of treaty bodies
- Harmonization of the global calendar of meetings over the biennium
- Relation between IIBs and the General Conference, including reporting

C. Date of the forthcoming meeting of the Working Group

- 3 October 2016