

**Webinar for Africa and Arab States regions on
Cooperation with Associations and Clubs for UNESCO**

Tuesday, June 8, 2021

(1:00 - 2:30 p.m. / CET)

On Tuesday, June 8, 2021, the National Commissions Unit of the Priority Africa and External Relations Sector, brought together online 33 National Commissions from the Africa and Arab States regions and members of their respective Associations and Clubs. Following the global meeting of April 6 on the same theme, this meeting was part of a series of regional webinars with the main objective to share experiences and strengthen cooperation at the regional and interregional levels.

It was structured around the following three topics:

- I. Legal Framework, followed by the presentation of the Algerian National Commission**
- II. Use of the UNESCO logo, followed by the presentation of the Kenyan National Commission**
- III. Exchange of ideas for potential activities at regional and interregional level**

Introduction

In her introductory presentation, Ms Assel Utegenova, Deputy Coordinator of the National Commissions Unit of the Priority Africa and External Relations Sector, recalled the importance of the dialogue established with National Commissions on Associations and Clubs and underlined how they bring a fresh approach to defending the ideals of UNESCO and strengthening its visibility.

I. Legal Framework

The legal framework provided by the Regulatory Framework was adopted by the General Conference in 2017 and amended in 2019. It provides Member States with general guidelines for Associations and Clubs for UNESCO and their accreditation, supervision and evaluation.

In 2020, a special survey was conducted to assess the progress of implementation of the Regulatory Framework in Member States. Of those with clubs for UNESCO, 13 out of 21 Member States in the Africa region and 6 out of 11 Member States in the Arab region responded to this survey, reporting a positive experience often facilitated by Federations established under the auspices of their respective National Commissions. The survey provided a count of the number of clubs for UNESCO in these two regions: there are currently 1708 clubs in 21 African Member States and 88 clubs in 11 Arab Member States.

Presentation by the Algerian National Commission for UNESCO on the legal framework

Ms Nadia Bouhara, Acting Secretary General of the Algerian National Commission and Mr Abdelkader Missoum, National Coordinator of the Network of Associated Schools and Clubs in Algeria, presented their experiences of cooperation as well as their Network, addressing the following four points:

1. Establishment of the national network of Clubs for UNESCO: established since 2015 and consisting of associations recognized by public authorities, each Association and Club initiates activities in the areas of competence and promotes the values of the UNESCO charter.

2. Club categories :

- Schools ;
- Universities ;
- Civil societies.

3. Examples of Club projects:

- Training sessions for Club members;
- Commemorations of International Volunteer Days, Living Together in Peace;
- Within the framework of the Participation Program: creation of legal capacity building projects to help women and children victims of violence;
- Gender equality projects in environmental conservation, green economy and sustainable development.

4. Proposals :

- To adopt the provisions of the new 2021 Club Manual;
- To encourage strategic choices related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a priority;
- To schedule program capacity building sessions in the area of environmental preservation, human and women's rights, education for sustainable development and good cultural practices;
- To set up a platform dedicated to Associations and Clubs for UNESCO;
- To support the organization of regional and international online forums;
- To strengthen international evaluation systems;
- To create certificates of participation for large-scale activities;
- To establish a system of validation by UNESCO of university recognitions of the training and experiences of young successful members of UNESCO clubs.;
- To encourage the creation of regional or international associations and/or federations;
- To assist Clubs for UNESCO in developing their participation and self-financing programs.
([Link for the PPT presentation, only in French](#))

II. Use of the logo

The use of the UNESCO logo is subject to strict regulations detailed in the Regulatory Framework. For Associations and Clubs, National Commission is the entity that ensures the proper use of the UNESCO acronym and logo. According to the Regulatory Framework, Associations and Clubs and National Federations are asked to use the UNESCO logo following authorization from National Commission, only in the form specified in the Regulatory Framework (para. 5.1 and para. 6.4). Thus:

- Associations and Clubs may not use the acronym "UNESCO" in their name;

- Associations and Clubs and National Federations may not use the acronym "UNESCO" in their website and e-mail address.

If this is not the case, necessary changes should be made in accordance with the Regulatory Framework. National Commissions are requested to identify and correct any discrepancies with the Regulatory Framework.

Presentation by the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO on the use of the logo

Dr Joel Ongoto, Director of the Social and Human Sciences Programme at the National Commission, on behalf of Dr Evangeline Njoka, Secretary General of the Kenya National Commission, presented the activities of the National Commission on the use of the UNESCO logo in cooperation with 400 Associations and Clubs for UNESCO in the country. He stressed the need to include the activities of the clubs in the strategic plan of the Kenya National Commission (KNATCOM).

KNATCOM has helped to:

- Raise awareness of club activities for UNESCO;
- Register approximately 10 clubs per year in 47 counties across the country;
- Support the activities of the Kenya Federation of UNESCO Clubs and Associations (KEFUCA);
- Ensure the proper dissemination of UNESCO materials including the logo.

To adopt the new provisions of the Regulatory Framework for the logo, KNATCOM :

- Hired a legal consultant to draft the Federation's constitution;
- Invited the World Federation of UNESCO Clubs and Associations and the President of the US Clubs to exchange best practices on the management of Clubs for UNESCO;
- Strengthened the capacity of Clubs for UNESCO;
- Adapted the practical guide for Clubs and Associations for UNESCO;
- Ensured the proper use of the UNESCO logo by its clubs;
- Ensures that the activities of its Clubs are relevant to UNESCO's fields of competence, programs, priorities and values before authorizing them to use the UNESCO logo;
- Ensures compliance with UNESCO's graphic charter.

KNATCOM faces certain challenges, such as :

- Funding, which is mostly taxpayer-driven, which raises the question of the financial sustainability of clubs and their projects lacking long-term visibility;
- Clubs misusing logos.

[\(Link for the PPT presentation\)](#)

III. Exchange of ideas for potential activities at the regional, interregional level

Activities reported by some Member States during the 2020 survey:

- **Egypt, 2019:** An Arab workshop on the cultural rights of children in the light of the sustainable development goals 2030;

- **Lebanon, 2014:** Conference of Clubs for UNESCO of both shores of the Mediterranean: "The role of Clubs for UNESCO in facing the challenges of the modern world".

International projects mobilizing Clubs which were presented at the Asia-Pacific Regional Webinar on Clubs on May 6:

- **China, 2017, 2018, 2019:** International Youth Forum on Creativity and Heritage along the Silk Road, with participation from 65 countries from Africa, Arab, Asia-Pacific, and Europe regions;
- **Kazakhstan, annually since 2018:** International Festival "The Planet of Art" art is the festival of creativity for children and young artists from 35 countries of Asia Pacific, Europe and Arab regions.

2022 will mark the 75th anniversary of the Clubs movement and the Secretariat invites National Commissions to share their ideas on how this anniversary can be celebrated with regional federations, Clubs and Field Offices.

Ms Utegenova announced the upcoming publication of the [Practical Guide for Associations and Clubs for UNESCO](#) in Arabic and Spanish. In addition, the information on the UNESCO logo for Clubs is available in 10 languages on the [online platform of National Commissions](#). National Commissions can request its translation in their own language, but also to send their examples of good practices and material in order to increase the sharing of cooperation and experiences between National Commissions and Associations and Clubs through the platform and especially on its [forum](#).

Open Discussion:

Mr Stephen Oyuru, Head of the Club for UNESCO in South Sudan, pointed out that in South Sudan there was still no National Commission officially in place but that the clubs had been established since 2014 with the support of the Ministry of Education.

Mr Fuad Pashayev, Head of the National Commissions Unit of the Priority Africa and External Relations Sector, assured following Mr Oyuru's intervention that the process of establishing the South Sudanese National Commission was underway and that UNESCO was in contact with the authorities for this process.

Mr Esteban Giudici, Legal Officer of the Secretariat's Legal Affairs Office, underlined the relevance of actions of the Algerian National Commission, and recalled that the Secretariat is available for any questions related to the implementation of the Regulatory Framework, so that to strengthen the cooperation of Member States and to promote unity among the diversity of National Commissions.

Ms Christiane Jeitani, National Coordinator of the Clubs for UNESCO Network in Lebanon mentioned that the Arab Federation founded by Lebanon, Egypt and Tunisia was unfortunately inactive for the moment. However, the Clubs in the Arab region are very active at the country level. Ms Jeitani suggested that the National Commissions should help the Clubs especially in communication regarding youth programs but also offer more trainings dealing with leadership, entrepreneurship, and SDGs.

Mr Said Alzaklaoui, President of the Omani Society of Writers presented his organization which was established in 2006 and expressed his willingness to be part of the Clubs for UNESCO movement.

In response to Ms Christine Jeitani's question about the latest update of the new UNESCO logo standards, Ms Utegenova said that Clubs should follow the guidelines included in the new [2021 Practical Guide](#) regarding the use of the logo. Furthermore, she reminded that a two-year transition period would be given to all UNESCO networks to comply with the new regulations regarding the use of the logo.

Conclusion:

In his closing speech, Mr Dov Lynch, Chief of the Section for Relations with Member States of the Priority Africa Sector and External Relations, thanked National Commissions and Clubs for their participation. He recalled that each meeting was an opportunity to shed new light on the cooperation between National Commissions and Clubs and Associations for UNESCO by the scale of the actions undertaken. He assured that the importance of this movement for UNESCO's mandate should be the object of continuous awareness, of a constantly increasing visibility and of a dynamic reflection to ensure that UNESCO is present in the hearts of citizens through the sharing of information and experiences.