

Liaison Committee
8 June 2006

09H30 – 13H00

Present:

President, Mrs/Mme Françoise SAUVAGE: *International Federation of University Women*

Mr/M. Fulgence KONE: *Catholic International Education Office*

Mrs/Mme Monique FOUILHOUX: *Education International*

Mrs/Mme Yseult KAPLAN: *Soroptimist International*

Mr/M. Jean-Luc De PAEPE: *International Council of Philosophy and Human Sciences*

Mr/M. Bernard DERVAUX: *Rotary International*

Mr/M. Diégo GRADIS: *Traditions for Tomorrow / Traditions Pour Demain*

Mr/M. J.N.T. van ALBADA : *International Council on Archives / Conseil International des Archives*

Mr/M. Zobel, IMCS Pax Romana

Ms/Mme Simona Costanzo SOW (replacing Nigel WATT / CCIVS)

UNESCO: Mrs Marie-Ange THEOBALD

Introduction

The President explained the reason for the meeting taking place in two stages: the first meeting of the Working Group on the Sexennial Report convened by President Lakatos took place on Friday 9 June and several members of the LC were invited.

175^e meeting of the Executive Board

The Committee on NGOs is to meet on 28 and 29 September 2006. The provisional agenda includes a Round Table on the morning of Thursday 28 and an open forum on Youth issues in the afternoon. Friday 29 will be devoted to general information, to the classification of the NGOs and to the work of the Working Group on the Sexennial Report.

For the Open Forum on Youth, a CD Rom on good practices in relations between NGO Youth and UNESCO is to be prepared by UNESCO's "Section for Youth". An official letter on the subject will be sent out shortly.

The Joint Programme Commissions and Working Groups

A draft protocol has been reviewed by a small group. It will be presented for approval by the LC in September and then submitted to the presidents of the JPCs and Working Groups for an opinion.

Report on the JPCs

The coordination committee of the JPC "Youth" met to prepare a whole series of activities for August in relation with the International Youth Day and the "60 minutes" at UNESCO. A whole set of ideas was decided upon and transmitted to Mrs Henriques Mueller. The meeting on 20 June will help to clarify the projects and NGO Committee's project for the round table in September in the presence of the NGOs members of the JPC.

The work of the JPC "Youth" is transversal. Its work is not fixed on one limited issue. The objective is to find bridges with other JPCs.

Mrs Sauvage reminded the Committee that it was important for members to pay careful attention to the work of the JPCs, which they had agreed to follow up. This would help us to better structure their work, where necessary.

The JPCs are not simply opportunities to listen to speakers. That is why those who are invited to speak should not always come from outside; all the NGOs should engage in a reflection process among themselves in order to draw up useful proposals for UNESCO, within the framework of the Organisation's priorities.

The next meeting of the Liaison Committee is fixed for 15 September 2006, all day. Each member of the LC is invited to reflect upon the meaning of collective work in preparation for the meeting in September.

It will be an opportunity to invite the Presidents of the JPCs and Working Groups as well as the focal points in the different sectors. In preparation for this meeting, the presidents will be invited to send their operating reports and also to reflect upon the theme of collective work.

On the morning of 15th, meeting with the JPCs and focal points in order to discuss the meaning of collective work today. In the afternoon, a normal LC meeting.

Update on e-mail addresses

A personalised address with a link to the LC is to be opened for the JPC "Youth". In December 2006, an evaluation of the functioning of this system will be undertaken by the JPC before this option is proposed to other groups.

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14H30 – 17H30

Items discussed

- Sexennial Report
- International NGO Day, 8th December
- Communication
- Budget
- Regional meetings of the National Commissions
- JPC “Youth”

Sexennial Report

Françoise Sauvage reported on meeting that morning of the Working Group set up by the Executive Board’s NGO Committee for the drafting of the Sexennial Report. The NGOs were represented by Françoise Sauvage (IFUW), the Liaison Committee was represented by Monique Fouilhoux (E.I.), Fulgence Koné (CIEO), Simona Costanzo Sow (CCIVS), Huguette Redegeld (ATD-Fourth World) and Carthage Smith (ICSU). The Working Group was chaired by Mrs Dominique Levasseur, Political Advisor to the Permanent Delegation of Canada.

The following calendar was adopted:

15 June - proposals for modifications to the questionnaires by members of the Group (by e-mail)

20 June – questionnaires are sent out

20 September – questionnaires are returned by the NGOs, National Commissions, Field Offices and Sectors.

The Secretariat prepares Parts I and II (general considerations and legal base) of the Sexennial Report

Between 16 and 20 October – next meeting of the Working Group

Between November and December – other meetings of the working Group are planned

January 2007 – the Report must be ready for translation and production in order to be presented at the Executive Board meeting in spring 2007.

The President, Monique Levasseur, said she hoped the Sexennial Report would be shorter than the 2001 Report (20-30 pages instead of 50)

The Liaison Committee engaged in a discussion with a view to making modifications to the questionnaire for the NGOs. It was also decided that the Liaison Committee should invite the NGOs to complete the questionnaires they receive within a given time and send a copy to the Committee if they so wish, and that it should provide information on the site about the importance of completing the report. Those that might have difficulty in remembering the type of relations they have with the Organisation will be advised to consult UNESCO’s web page devoted to NGOs.

International NGO Day: 8 December 2006

Jean Luc de Paepe hoped that a working group would be set up within the Liaison Committee in order to finalise arrangements for this event whose theme of reflection was concerned with dignity of the human being. It was agreed that there should be a main speaker who would launch the subject (a possible candidate put forward by the ICPHS was Giovanni Filoramo, Professor at Turin and member of the FISP).

Provisional programme

10 – 13h	<p>10.00 Introduction, President, report on activity since the last International Conference</p> <p>11.30 Keynote speaker “Dignity of the human being” / “Dignité de la personne”</p> <p>12.15 questions from the audience</p>
13h – 15h	Lunch
15h – 18h	<p>15h – 17.15</p> <p>Workshops: (12-min presentation followed by case studies and discussions)</p> <p>Themes to be explored:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1. Hd and physical identity (liberty, euthanasia, handicap, sexual mutilation), - 2. Hd and one’s cultural dimension (dialogue, faith, spiritual dimension) - 3. Hd and one’s social dimension (what links individuals to their environment, poverty, living conditions, migration, slavery, conflicts between the individual and the collective interest) <p>NGO to contact in order to name a speaker and a moderator per theme:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Inclusion International, ICA (Int Council of Archives) for Hd and physical id, (the head of the “World March for Women” has not been chosen because this NGO does not have relations with UNESCO; if “Inclusion” is not available, another women’s NGO could be invited, FAWE (African Women) 2. Pax Romana, ICPHS, Traditions for Tomorrow 3. ATD Fourth World, Reporters without Borders or Journalists <p>At least two persons to be chosen for the workshop (one 12-min. talk and a moderator).</p> <p>17.15 – 18.00 return to plenary and conclusions</p>

The question was raised as to the possibility of including the Division for Social and Human Sciences: for example, Frances Albernaz, who is organising a colloquium in Morocco on the same theme in October 2006. Jean Luc De Paepe put forward the idea of trying to make the Division take charge of a certain number of persons going to the meeting in Morocco who would then be involved in the International Day on 8 December. Fulgence stressed the importance of including the Division in order to foster cross fertilisation.

A Preparatory meeting of the Working Group is planned for 23 June.

Communication

The CCIVS would agree to commit itself to looking after of the Liaison Committee's internet site on condition it is housed on the UNESCO server and set up with software that does not require html. The Liaison Committee agreed with this proposal and mandated the Committee to proceed in this direction. The CCIVS thanked all those that have worked to ensure the existence of a site and its regular maintenance.

Budget

Françoise thanked Jean Luc de Paepe, the Treasurer, and his collaborator Janet, made available by the ICPHS. Jean Luc briefly presented some elements of the finances; 50 NGOs have paid their fees to date. A reminder would be sent out before the summer.

Regional meetings of the National Commissions

Regional meetings with the National Commissions: Africa (13 – 17 June, Angola, Fulgence Koné representing the Liaison Committee); Latin America (3 – 6 July, Diego Gradis representing the Committee).

What is the aim of our presence and what messages do we want to get across?

- to take into account the diversity of the NGOs in activity in the countries
- to advocate that the national or local branches of the NGOs accredited by UNESCO should have contacts with the National Commissions of the countries in which they are present.

JPC “Poverty”

Françoise Sauvage reported briefly on the extraordinary meeting of the JPC “Eradication of Poverty”, regretting the way in which the meeting had proceeded, without any solution emerging from the discussions for an immediate resumption of work.